



**w  
a  
r  
p  
a  
n  
d  
w  
e  
f  
t**

V  
O  
L  
X  
X  
X  
N  
o.  
10  
D  
E  
C  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
1  
9  
7  
7

## warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August) by  
Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street,  
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$8.00 per year  
Back Issues 85¢ each plus 13¢ postage  
Editor: Russell E. Groff

---

VOL. XXX, No. 10

December, 1977

---

### A Word from the Editor

Yes, the Christmas season is here and you will probably receive this issue about Christmas, or before the New Years.

So, all of us here at Robin & Russ Handweavers, want to wish you the most happy and merry Christmas season ever, and may the new year be filled with many happy hours of weaving.

This past month has been a busy one as your editor took one of the Oregon Trail 8 harness looms down to Southern California, to demonstrate on at the Southern California Handweavers Guild annual tea and sale.

I also had a larger load coming back than when I went down to Southern California as I picked up some table looms, some spinning wheels, and also I purchased a used 10 harness loom, and then sold it on the way back home to Oregon.

Also, I've been working on the plans for the weaving tour that we hope to have in August, 1978 for a three week period. And besides this, we've been working on details for the two weeks summer workshop that we hope to have in the 2nd and third week of July, this coming summer of 1978.

Also, we've been trying to plan ahead for some of our Warp and Weft and Draft and Design bulletins. I must tell you that I put a 6 harness double weave sample on one of the looms in three different color combinations,

and have been so excited with the results, that we will have some of these samples in our Multiple Harness Bulletin, Drafts and Designs, in the near future.

And, I'm still trying to get caught up from my trip to England, writing and confirming orders; checking on the availability of other yarns that we'd like to have, and even making further plans for my yarn search during this coming summer.

We are still having results from my trip this fall. We just had an offer some 1800 kilo's of silk, which is about 3700 lbs. However, I'm afraid that this is one that we'll just have to pass up, as the cost is about \$25,000 dollars, plus shipping and duty. It is an awfully good buy, but one that we cannot financially handle.

Also, we did locate a source for our 2/18's worsted yarns, and we have had an experimental lot spun and dyed for us, and have some of each of the 5 colors we were out of, on the way to us now. We just received the notice on this, that this lot is on the way to us.

And, we've had several offers for some linens since my return, and we have ordered some of this also. I've found out that the only way I make these contacts is by going myself and presenting myself at the door and telling the various companies what I'd like to have.

Also, I've arranged for us to be distributors for a most interesting book that is being printed now. It is a book with 176 patterns from Spain in 1589. There will be complete details for all of these patterns with 23 different categories of garments for men and women.

It will include garments for men and women, the clergy, orders of knights, for tournaments and others. This book was written and appeared during the reign of Philip II of Spain and Elisabeth I of England, when Spanish fashion dominated European dress. There are only two known copies of this original book in existence and this has a translation of this original book. It will have 250 pages, will be 11'x8", and will be clothbound. We are taking advance orders for this book at \$30.00 each, but it will probably sell for \$35.00 when it is finally completed. It should be available in 3 to 4 months at the most.

I'm most delighted to say that we will also have some 5½" plastic bobbins. These are being made for us in Italy, (where I had my pocket picked), and we will probably have these in about 2 to 3 months.

And another thing that I also found was a company to make adaptors for us for the Swedish Hand Bobbin Winders.

So, you can see that besides looking for yarns, I was also looking for various other items, and this was a trip where I had some fairly good success in this line.

Well, I'm rambled enough for now, and so now back to the sample for this month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

## This Month's Book Review

Paula Simmons has become well known as an outstanding hand-spinner, but her other talent is in writing books. She has written a folio, *Articles on Handspinning for Handweaver & Craftsman*, a series of articles on hand-spinning for Warp and Weft and others. These are both available at reasonable prices. Besides these, she has a pamphlet on *Knitting Patterns for hand-spun yarns*, a book on recipes for *Green Tomatoes*, a book on recipes for *Zucchini Squash*, and now, she has come up with one of the most outstanding books on handspinning, that you will find anywhere. It is entitled, "SPINNING AND WEAVING WITH WOOL."

As a background for this book, Paula Simmons had 20 years of experience in raising black sheep, and shearing and hand-spinning this black wool. She is known to the Indians in her home area as "Lady Black Sheep."

She gives complete step-by-step instructions on the carding of fleeces, how to choose a spinning wheel, how to become a proficient spinner of wool, how to handweave with handspun yarns, how to build your own

equipment and many, many other details. There are 6 sets of architectural drawings given in this book, as well as photos and details of 40 available spinning wheels. Also included are directions for knitting and weaving projects, and sources of supplies for such equipment. She gives details on the use of drum carders, how to choose and wash wool, and good details on hand-carding. Then there is a section in great detail telling how a spinning wheel does operate and then has photographs of about 40 different spinning wheels that are available.

There are sections on spinning with a hand spindle; spinning on a spinning wheel; learning how to use the Great Wheel, how to spin fine or heavy yarns, speed spinning, overtwist and other irregularities, and she mentions all of the problems that most hand-spinners will come up against at one time or another. And the last of the spinning instructions is on building a spinning wheel. Then begins the section on the handweaving, with an explanation of weaving terms; an explanation of how to use handspun yarns for warp and for the weft, and then gives details of weaving various projects with handspun yarns. Finally, there is an excellent section on building a floor loom, and the last section of the book deals with knitting with your handspun yarns. In this section are plans for one or 2 projects.

And one of the most important sections of this book is the list of spinning material suppliers, sources of fleeces, drum carders, card clothing, and then a section on all types of accessories and supplies for handweavers.

This book is profusely illustrated with many photographs and line drawings and plans for various knitting and weaving accessories, and I feel that this book is excellent for the beginner in spinning and handweaving, for the intermediate and advanced person in these two fields.

And, it isn't too highly priced, as it is \$9.95 in the U.S.A., and \$10.95 in Canada, plus the shipping charges.

TITLE: *Spinning and Weaving With Wool*  
AUTHOR: Paula Simmons  
PUBLISHER: Pacific Search Press  
COST: \$9.95 in U.S., \$10.95 in Canada, plus shipping charges.  
AVAILABLE: From the publisher or from Robin and Russ Handweavers if desired.

# Sunny Side Up

A cheery design for place mats in your breakfast room. This is a color-and-weave design in a twill threading and treadling.

## THREADING DRAFT

4		X			X
3		OO		OO	X
2	OO		X		X
1	OO		X		OO

## KEY TO THREADS IN THE THREADING DRAFT, AND ALSO SLEYING OF THREADS IN THE THREADING DRAFT

X — 10/2 Linen, New Bossy Brown  
 O — 10/2 Linen, Parakeet Yellow

Please note also in the draft that you have two threads of the Parakeet Yellow together on the same harness throughout the threading draft. These can either be threaded 2 in one heddle of the O thread, or they can be threaded one per heddle. However, WHEN SLEYED THROUGH THE REED, the X — or New Bossy Brown color is threaded one per dent, and the O O two threads of the Parakeet Yellow are also threaded in one dent. Thus, while you have 18 threads in the threading draft, you actually only fill 12 dents in the reed with these 18 threads.

## WARP USED

The warp was made up of 10/2 dry spun linen, in two colors, Bossy Brown and Parakeet Yellow. The Parakeet Yellow linen was used double — two ends in one heddle and in one dent.

## WEFT USED

For weft we used the same two colors of 10/2 dry spun linen that we used in the warp. The Parakeet Yellow Linen was used double in the weft also, with two ends wound on the bobbin.

## TIE-UP DRAFT:

4			0	0
3		0	0	
2	0	0		
1	0			0
	1	2	3	4

O — tie-up for jack-type loom.

## REED USED

A 15 dent reed was used, and it was sleyed in an irregular way. The 10/2 linen in Bossy Brown was sleyed one end per dent, and the Parakeet Yellow was sleyed two ends per dent (the two ends of Yellow in one heddle went into one dent). Thus, there were 12 dents used in one repeat of the pattern — just a little less than an inch.

## Sample



## TREADLING

Treadle as follows:

1. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen Bossy Brown
2. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
3. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
4. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
5. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
6. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
7. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
8. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
9. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
10. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown

11. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
12. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
13. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
14. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
15. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
16. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
17. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
18. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
19. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
20. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
21. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
22. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
23. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
24. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, Bossy Brown
25. Treadle #1 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
26. Treadle #2 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
27. Treadle #3 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled
28. Treadle #4 — 10/2 linen, P. Yellow, Doubled

This is the end of one complete repeat of the pattern. Repeat over and over as desired.

### COST OF THE FABRIC

This linen we have spun and dyed in Scotland especially for us. It comes on one pound spools, in eleven colors, and costs \$6.40 per pound. It has 1,500 yards to the pound. It is wash-fast and sun-fast 10/2 dry spun linen.

In the warp, we used 3 lb. 1½ oz. of the 10/2 linen in Bossy Brown, and 6 lb., 1 oz. in Parakeet Yellow. At \$6.40 per pound, the total cost of the 15 yard warp was \$58.60, for the 40" wide warp.

In the weft, we used 1 lb., 9½ oz. of Bossy Brown, and 5 lb., 1 oz. of Parakeet Yellow. The total cost of the weft was \$42.60.

WARP COST PER YARD .....	\$3.91
WEFT COST PER YARD .....	\$3.04
FABRIC COST PER YARD .....	\$6.95

### ABOUT THE FABRIC

This design was inspired by one of the samples in the traveling exhibit of fabric samples from the Bobbinwinders of Covina, California. The sample in the exhibit is a coat fabric in mohair and orlon and it has a different treadling sequence. Here is their treadling sequence using the yarns that we used, as an alternate treadling for this set-up:

1. Treadle 1 — 10/2 Linen, Bossy Brown
2. Treadle 2 — 10/2 Linen, Bossy Brown
3. Treadle 3 — 10/2 Linen, Parakeet Yellow
4. Treadle 4 — 10/2 Line, Parakeet Yellow,  
Doubled

This is one complete repeat of the pattern.

There are several uses for this fabric, and one of these is for placemats. We think it would make good upholstery also. Below, we will give you a threading plan for placemats, 14" wide on the loom.

### THREADING

4	X		X		OO		X
3	X		OO		OO		X
2	X		OO		X		X
1		OO		X		OO	
To Balance		REPEAT 17 TIMES					

This is a draft for placemats which would be just three dents short of 14 inches wide. The design is balanced with Bossy Brown linen at either selvage.

The only problem in weaving this fabric was with the knots in the linen, which would not go through the reed. I tried splicing the ends and joining them with fabric cement, but the 15 dent reed was just too fine and the glued ends stuck in the reed too. So every time I came to a knot, I replaced the end with a length of yarn, pinned in at the weaving line and hanging with a weight down the back of the loom. Then, when I had woven a few inches I replaced the original end and wove about an inch to overlap the ends with a needle.

One way to get around this problem, which really slowed down the weaving, would of course be to make sure that there were no knots in the warp. Another thing to try would be to sley this into an 8 dent reed, with two ends of Bossy Brown per dent and four ends of Parakeet Yellow per dent. This would make weaving much easier, cut down on the fuzzing, and eliminate the problem with the knots. However this would spread the fabric out some, and we liked it sett the way it was, so we left it in the 15 dent reed.

You may find, depending on how you throw the shuttles, that one end at the selvage does not weave in. You can try throwing the shuttles in different sequences (e.g. begin two shuttles at opposite sides) or you could simply rethread the end on a different harness.

I used a medium, even double beat, once with the shed open, and once again after changing to the next shed. No special selvage

was used, and there were no broken warp ends. The warp was 41 inches wide in the reed and wove down to about 39½ inches. From the 15 yard warp, we received 13 yards 28 inches of finished fabric.

On this fabric do not beat with your shed closed. Always make sure the shed is open when you pull the beater forward or push it back.

I wound the two ends of Parakeet Yellow 10/2 linen on an industrial winding machine and encountered no problems. However, as you will be using a hand or electric bobbin winder, be sure to get enough tension on these ends, or you may wind up with one end longer than the other.

The samples have not been washed. You could machine wash your finished fabric, on a short cycle, in cool water. After the water has been extracted, allow to drip dry and then steam press.

As this is dry spun linen, there was a lot of fuzzing. The loom and the floor around it were covered in yellow lint. This fuzzing is a characteristic of dry spun linen. Lint will come off in the washing, too, but after the first or second washing, it will stop fuzzing.

### This Month's Second Project

For this month's second project, I thought you might like to try an original, miniature overshoot pattern, designed, and made up by your editor.

I'm going to suggest that you use this miniature in weaving bookmarks for gifts. I've called this pattern, **CIRCLE OVERSHOT**.

Warp: 20/2 Egyptian Cotton, Seal.

Weft: There are two threads in the weft. One is a perle 3 cotton, or a double quick cotton, or a 10/3 cotton thread in a rose-pink for the pattern. And the tabby or binder thread is the same 20/2 Egyptian Cotton, Seal Brown.

## CIRCLE OVERSHOT, A MINIATURE

4		x	x	x		x		x	x	x
3	x		x	x		x	x			x
2	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x
1		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x

Plan for Bookmark:

1. Thread 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 — rt. selv. .08 thds.
  2. Repeat pattern 3 times . . . . . 1.8 thds.
  3. One thread on harness 1, to balance . . .01
  4. Selvage 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1. Lt. selv. .08 thds.
- Total No. of threads to set-up bookmark  
 . . . . . 1.25 thds.

**REED USED:** Used a 15 dent reed, and double sley, 2 ends per dent or 30 per inch.

**WIDTH OF BOOKMARK:** 4-1/6" in reed.

**WIDTH AFTER WOVEN:** 3 to 3½"

**LENGTH OF WOVEN BOOKMARK,** 9" plus fringe.

**Tie-up, IS STANDARD**

4			X	X		X
3		X	X		X	
2	X	X				X
1	X			X	X	

1 2 3 4 A B

### TREADING SEQUENCE

A 20/2 Egyptian Cotton, Seal Brown is used as tabby throughout this treading sequence. Also, first, you want to treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 and then start treading the pattern. Here is the sequence for the pattern.

1. Treadle #1, 2 times
2. Treadle #2, 2 times
3. Treadle #1, 1 time
4. Treadle #4, 5 times
5. Treadle #3, 1 time
6. Treadle #2, 1 time
7. Treadle #1, 2 times
8. Treadle #2, 1 time
9. Treadle #3, 1 time
10. Treadle #4, 1 time
11. Treadle #1, 4 times
12. Treadle #4, 1 time
13. Treadle #3, 1 time
14. Treadle #2, 1 time
15. Treadle #1, 2 times
16. Treadle #2, 1 time
17. Treadle #3, 1 time
18. Treadle #4, 5 times
19. Treadle #1, 1 time
20. Treadle #2, 2 times

Repeat this pattern over and over for the desired length, and then end with Treadle #1, 2 times to balance. Then treadle 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1 for selvage.



To make this bookmark more interesting and a little more glamorous, you could use a supported gold metallic thread for tabby, or perhaps one of the variegated metallic threads for a tabby, with a smooth thread, about the size of 10/3 cotton for the pattern thread. You could also use a shiny, glossy, floss type rayon for instance for the pattern thread. I think that you'll really enjoy weaving these bookmarks.

### **This Month's Cover Photograph**

This month's cover photograph was a piece that was woven by TERRI ALBRIGHT, and I believe that she is a student or was a student at San Jose State University in San Jose, California when she wove this piece.

This is a combination weave, as it is a double weave, and it is a pickup weave. I think that this is one of the most striking pieces of this technique that I have ever seen. It is exciting to look at, it is very dramatic, and shows whoever designed it had quite a bit of design ability.

And, this must have taken a good while to weave, and by this I would say, many, many, many hours.

This particular technique is sometimes called "Finnweave." And it was also done quite a bit by the Aztecs and Incas in their weaving and sometimes it picks up a different name when from that area.

As most of you know, Finn-weave is a free double weave, with both layers of the weave woven in tabby or plain weave. The pattern is usually completely independent from the way the loom is set up. It is quite commonly done on a 4 harness loom, with the loom tied-up and threaded for a double weave.

This piece was on display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in 1977, and was part of an exhibit from San Jose State University.

#### **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

**Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$6.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.**

---

#### **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HANDWEAVING**

By Stan Zielinski has finally been reprinted. This is an excellent reference book, and this time it has been done in paperback and is \$4.95 plus postage. It is most pleasing to have some of these long out of print books back in print. Available from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

---

#### **EARLY AMERICAN WEAVING AND DYEING**

is also back in print. This book by J. & R Bronson (whom the Bronson weave is named after) also had a second title which was THE FAMILY DIRECTORY IN THE ARTS OF WEAVING AND DYEING. This is a historic, and most interesting paperback edition. The price is \$3.50 plus postage. Available from Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

#### **CHUNKY BUTTERMILK #2**

This is a combination of tussah silk and rayon in a single ply thread somewhat similar to a thread we used to have. This is the natural tannish tussah silk spun with a shiny white rayon, and is available in both a single ply yarn, and a 2 ply yarn. Slubby is the word for this thread, and interesting is another word for it. The single ply has 520 yds. per lb., and the 2 ply has 260 yds. per lb. Available on cones of 1 to 1½ lbs. each, the price is \$6.80 per lb. We are using the 2 ply in a warp, but the single ply is primarily a weft thread. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

#### **NEW PAPERBACK DYE BOOK**

Natural Dyes from Northwest Plants is \$5.95. Uses dandelions, walnut hulls, chicory, hemlock and about 50 others. Beautifully organized book to make it easy to use dye and research the art. Color plates of dyed yarns and plants. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

#### **MONOGRAPHS BY HARRIET TIDBALL ARE AVAILABLE AGAIN**

It's been a long wait for some of these excellent paperback booklets to be reprinted. We have all 28 again now and most of them have increased in price by 50¢, some by \$1.00. For a complete list, write to Robin and Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

#### **ANNOUNCING, A TAILOR'S PATTERN BOOK, by Juan de Alcega, from Spain in 1589.**

This is a facsimile edition with translation, and extensive notes based on original research, of 23 categories of garments, or 163 different patterns from Spain during the reign of Philip II of Spain and Elizabeth I of England. It is an invaluable source book for dress historians and costume designers. It will be clothbound, about 250 pages, size 11" x 8" and will sell for approximately \$35.00. Pre-publication orders are being taken at \$30.00 a copy. They will be available in 4 to 6 months. Available from ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

#### **THE RECIPE BOOK**

By Mary Meigs Atwater is an excellent project book for many different projects. It has patterns for both the 4 and 6 harness weaver, and has approximately 130 recipes for different projects. Price is \$10.00 plus shipping. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

#### **6/4 GREY SWISS LINEN RUG WRAP**

This linen is on about 500 gram tubes (1 lb. and 1 oz. each), and it has 450 yards per lb. Because it is 4 ply, it is very strong, and is excellent for warp or for weft. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

---

