



# warp and weft

Vol. XXXI, No. 1

January, 1978

## warp and weft

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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### A Word from the Editor

We're behind a little again, and this time, no fault of ours. This last two issues have been delayed by the printers and so, this month, we're trying to get caught up, by writing it before the new year begins, and getting it to the printer a couple of weeks earlier than usual.

Janice (my daughter) just finished weaving the sample for January, and so I've spent the whole day, writing this issue, and trying to get all of the details together and ready to go to the printers on December 29th. I've yet to assemble it, and can't do so, until I finish this last column, so here goes.

Christmas is over, but New Year's is almost here, and business is also about non-existent. The reason being that everyone seems to purchase most of their orders long before Christmas, so they can weave and complete their projects for Christmas.

It usually takes us about a full day to answer the day's mail, and sometimes longer, but the last few days, it has been done in an hour or less.

However, it is nice to have this slowdown, and not as hectic a pace as usual. And, we are doing the job that all of us dislike so much, that of doing the inventory, so Uncle Sam will know

how much he is going to tax us. This is a task that takes a long time and is very slow and tedious. However, it has to be done.

This Christmas, I splurged, and gave Robin and myself a week's trip to Hawaii. Robin wanted me to write to one person in Hawaii who has been very much a subscriber to Warp and Weft, ever since we started it. So, I wrote, and to my great pleasure and surprise, she called us from Hawaii, and has arranged for us to meet with some of the handweavers in Hawaii, so it will be fun for both of us to do this. And I'm desperately trying to get this finished as we leave tomorrow morning at 9:30.

We've just received word that our first big shipment of yarns that I ordered in September in England is now ready and has been shipped and will arrive in Portland about January 22nd. We will have one thing I'm very much looking forward to in this shipment. I purchased a lot of 50% silk, 50% polyester, in a 3 ply yarn, and I had about 15 colors dyed to order for us in England. Wait until you see these colors. I think they are scrumptious. And there was some nice linen in this shipment, some natural novelty twist wool, and a few other items.

Also, we have received samples of our 2/18s dyed and spun to order for us to match the colors we already had, and this will be in the same shipment. The samples are an excellent match, and we are very pleased, so are looking forward to receiving this first big shipment.

And after this one, there will be about four other shipments during the next four months that will be arriving, and it will be just like Christmas, each time a shipment comes in. It is fun to open the cartons of yarn, and see if they all come up to your expectations. And to ooh and aah myself, and think of the many different projects that I'd like to personally weave with the threads I've located.

And, during this slow period, we've made out a day by day itinerary for the weaving tour I hope to lead in August, and we've been working with the travel bureau and getting all of the details ironed out.

We will have our preliminary brochure on the trip in about one week, and we will have the completed details by the end of January.

All of you who have written and said that you were interested will receive both the preliminary and the final brochures as quickly as we receive them from the travel bureau.

And, we've already been working on our summer workshop for the two weeks in July, planning on what looms will be available, and trying to work from the directions that Mr. Womersley has sent us from England.

So, from all this, even though business is slow, you can see that there is a lot to keep us occupied. Now back to this month's sample.

Russel E. Groff, *Editor*

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

We thought you might like a bit of whimsy to start off the New Year, so you might enjoy the kitten and mouse on our cover photograph.

This tapestry was on display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference, and was woven by Bernice Stelling, and I believe the title was "Cruikshank."

I felt the weaver did an outstanding job on this tapestry, and thus our reason for photographing it.

### **Miniature Shuttle Pins**

We have been unable to get delivery from the supplier in the U.S.A., so on my last trip to Switzerland, I talked one company into making these for us. We have 500 on order and due in here in January. They are beautifully made of either Zebra wood or Palisander wood, each has a miniature bobbin in it, which will hold thread, and a pin on the back to fasten to your coat or blouse.

These will sell for \$5.95, but I think will be worth it. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### **This Month's Book Review**

Another book on bobbin lace has just recently been printed, and I heard one teacher say that it was the best book on the subject that she had seen. And two teachers from England wrote of this book that it is the best book on the subject in print.

The book we are talking about is entitled "BOBBIN LACEMAKING," by Doris Southard.

Instead of my actually reviewing the book, I'd like to quote to you from the cover. This is from the dust cover or jacket on the outside of the book. I will skip a portion of this, but give you in exact details the next paragraph:

"Although it looks difficult, it is really easy to learn and relaxing to do bobbin lace. Furthermore, it does not require expensive equipment — just a pillow, bobbins, and pins to hold the interlacing threads in place as the lace-maker follows the pattern. The instructions in this book are clear, fully illustrated, and quite practical for a beginner. The lessons progress from simple to more advanced, as the reader gains practice and confidence. Many patterns are given, and many uses for handmade lace are suggested."

In thoroughly checking over this book, I feel that it is an exact description. I might mention that the diagrams, directions, and photographs are outstanding, and the text looks like it is simple to follow, and the directions seem to be very clear and very concise.

She has a history of bobbin lace, a chapter on how to get started, and a description of the pillow and bobbins that are used. Then she proceeds to give 12 thorough, step-by-step lessons with excellent diagrams.

Then she has a chapter on things to make, washing bobbin lace, and a little on bobbin lace designs.

TITLE: BOBBIN LACEMAKING

AUTHOR: Doris Southard

PUBLISHER: Charles Scribner's Sons,  
New York, N.Y.

PRICE: \$14.95 plus shipping

AVAILABLE: Direct from the publisher or from  
Robin & Russ Handweavers

# Death Valley Sands

This broken twill or Dornic weave reminds me of the sand in Death Valley in two or three places, and thus the name for this fabric.

## TIE-UP DRAFT

4	X	X	O	O	X	O
3	X	O	O	X	O	X
2	O	O	X	X	X	O
1	O	X	X	O	O	X
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					A	B

X — tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.  
O — tie-up for Jack-type looms.

## THREADING DRAFT

4		O	O	X	X	X	A	A	B	B	B
3		O	O		X	X	X	A	A	B	B
2		O	O	O	X	X	A	A	A	B	B
1	O	O	O		X	X	A	A	A	B	B

## KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP

- O — Bisquit Beige, 2 ply linen and rayon
- X — Tawny Tan, 2 ply linen and rayon
- A — Yellow Gold, 2 ply linen and rayon
- B — Brookside Brown, 2 ply linen and Rayon

## WARP USED

We have a new line of linen and rayon in a 2 ply yarn, that we have not yet even advertised, which we have used for the main warp in the fabric. Here are the four colors we used.

- O — Bisquit Beige
- X — Tawny Tan
- A — Yellow Gold
- B — Brookside Brown

We have seven colors in all in this yarn, and we plan on it being a regular stock item, as long as the manufacturer continues to stock it. It is sold to us as 50% linen, 50% rayon, and it has a slight brown inject in it, at irregular intervals.

## WEFT USED

Two threads are used in the weft. One of these is the new, 2 ply linen and rayon thread in the color called "Yellow Gold."

And the second weft thread is another new thread, which we call Chunky Buttermilk #3. It is a combination thread of Tussah Silk and Viscose, and it too is sold as 2 ply, and as 50% silk and 50% viscose yarn.

## Sample



## REED USED

We used an 8 dent reed, and double sleyed it, 2 ends per dent for 16 threads per inch.

## WIDTH WHEN SET-UP AND AFTER WOVEN

Our warp was sett 40" wide in the reed, and after woven, the finished fabric was 38 to 38 1/4" wide.

## More About the Pattern Used

The pattern used is a Dornic twill. It is sometimes spelled Dornick, and sometimes Dornock (from Dornock in the Northern Part of Scotland). The main characteristic of this weave is that in this weave, you have diagonals going in two different directions, and when they meet, they do not form a point, and thus longer floats in corners (as in a regular twill) are avoided, and thus the fabric is more durable in uses such as upholstery, drapery, and table linens, etc. Dornic twill as I know it, has also been called "A Broken Herringbone."

This has always been an interesting weave to use.

## TREADLING USED

1. Treadle #1 — 2 ply yellow gold
2. Treadle #2 — 2 ply yellow gold
3. Treadle #3 — 2 ply yellow gold
4. Treadle #4 — 2 ply yellow gold

Repeat this 3 times until you have 12 shots.

13. Treadle #A (5) — 2 ply silk and rayon
14. Treadle #B (6) — 2 ply yellow gold
15. Treadle #A (5) — 2 ply yellow gold
16. Treadle #B (6) — 2 ply yellow gold
17. Treadle #A (5) — 2 ply yellow gold
18. Treadle #B (6) — 2 ply yellow gold
19. Treadle #A (5) — 2 ply yellow gold
20. Treadle #B (6) — 2 ply yellow gold
21. Treadle #A (5) — Tussah silk and rayon

This is the end of one complete pattern repeat (21 shots). Repeat over and over as desired.

## MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED

The 2 ply, 50% linen, 50% rayon is available in seven standard colors. It has approximately 1150 yards per lb., comes on about 1¼ lb. cones, and the colors are all good fast colors. It is priced at \$6.00 per lb. Sample sheets of these are being prepared, and will be available shortly.

Also, we used the Chunky Buttermilk #3 thread, which is a 2 ply Tussah Silk and Viscose combination. It has come to us on about 1¼ lb. cones, and is \$7.60 per lb. It has about 225 yards per lb. It is also available in a single ply, and has 450 yards per lb., and the single ply is \$6.80 per lb.

## COST OF THE FABRIC

Our warp was 40" wide, and we had a 14 yard warp. We used 1 lb. and 14 oz. of each of the 4 colors in the warp. So, 7½ lbs. of the linen and rayon at \$6.00 per lb., comes to \$45.00, so the warp cost was \$3.22 per yard.

From this 14 yard warp, we received slightly over 12 yards of finished fabric. In this amount, it took 4 lbs. and 8 oz. of the yellow gold. And it took 2 lbs. of the 2 ply Tussah Silk and Viscose. So, our total weft cost for 12 yards of finished fabric was \$42.20. This makes the weft cost per yard come to 3.52 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide	.....	\$3.22
WEFT COST PER YARD, 38" wide	.....	\$3.52
FABRIC COST PER YARD	.....	\$6.74

## MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC

This one is surprisingly easy to weave. You do use a firm, even, double beat, and my suggestion is to beat with the shed open, change to the next shed, and then beat again. This helps open the shed, and particularly if any of the threads seem to cling together. And, as this is a blended thread, there is a slight tendency for this to happen.

In the 14 yards of warp, or actually in the weaving, I was delighted that we did not have one broken thread, nor did any threads pull apart. So, it is an excellent thread for both warp and weft.

We did not have any special selvage, and had no problems with frayed threads on the fabric edges.

When you start weaving this, you may have one thread that does not weave in. If you will cut your weft, and start it from the opposite side, then you will catch this single thread, and it will weave in. Of course, if you reversed the treadling, you would have a floating thread for a

portion of your treadling. And by reversing your treadling, I mean that we treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, for 12 threads, and if you reversed and treadled 4, 3, 2, 1, then you would have one thread not weave in on the edge.

And, in this fabric you will notice that we did a combination of dornic treadling, and plain weave treadling. Also, notice that the dornic portion has 12 shots, and that 7 to 9 shots of plain weave weave as much width as 12 shots of dornic. Thus, you will note that if you wove the fabric on an all Dornic treadling, that you would use approximately 25 to 35% more yarn than by combining it with the plain weave.

I think that there are a multitude of uses for this fabric. I think that it would make excellent upholstery, and very attractive drapes. I also think it would be ideal in tablecloths, and in placemats. In placemats, with just a 14" width, the fabric would weave firmer and tighter than when you weave it on a 40" width, and thus, for placemats, it would be even more acceptable. It would be attractive in lampshades, and make nice bags, so it is a very versatile fabric.

### **This Month's Second Project**

Our daughter, Janice, just finished a rug that was very pleasing, and so I wanted to tell you about it.

The warp was a 10/6 linen rug warp, and was sett at 2 ends per inch. And the weft was a 6 ply rug wool, tripled or 3 ends together as one on the shuttle, and in natural, beige, and dark brown.

The rug was set up, 40" wide on the loom, and wove down to about 37" when finished.

The warp was divided into 3 equal sections, and was threaded 1, 2, 3, 4, for 1/3, and then 3, 2, 1, 4 for the 2nd third, and then 1, 2, 3, 4 for the last third. So you have a point twill threading draft.

And then, the colors were all woven in sequence, treadles 1 for natural, 2 for beige, and 3 for dark brown, and then 4 was natural, 1 was beige, and 2 was dark brown, and then 3 was natural, 4 was beige, and 1 was dark brown, and 2 was natural, 3 was beige, and 4 was dark brown. There are 12 threads in each pattern repeat, and you repeat over and over as desired.

Our tie-up on this rug was a standard tie-up.

This rug takes an unbelievable amount of weft, and yet, when finished, it is very thick, and very attractive. We were most pleased with it. It used about 8½ lbs. of the 6 ply rug wool in the weft, 1/3 of this in each of the three colors.

It seems sort of flimsy when in the weaving process, but off the loom it is firm, thick, rich looking, and very striking. We took the warp ends and knotted 6 together at the end, and then with the same 6 ply wool in the 3 colors, we braided a fringe, using 6 ends of rug wool, in with the 6 ends of linen.

I wish that I could show it to you, and if possible, I will take a picture of it, and use it for a future Warp and Weft cover. It has an Indian appearance, and is so thick and rich that it would make extra nice saddle blankets also.

Perhaps you might like to try something like this.

### **1978 SUMMER WEAVING TOUR of ENGLAND and of SWITZERLAND**

Final details of this weaving tour are being worked out now, and a complete day by day itinerary is being worked out and will be available by the first of the year.

The trip will be approximately 3 weeks or 3 weeks and 2 days, and there will be approximately 2 weeks spent in England and Scotland, and then about one week in Switzerland.

Full details as to costs and the day by day itinerary are being worked out and will be available about the first of the year.

If you are interested, send your name and address and we will send you complete details as soon as they are available.

The tour will be scheduled for three weeks in August, 1978, probably starting about August 2nd or 3rd, 1978 for 22 or 23 days.

### **1978 SUMMER WORKSHOP**

Robin & Russ are pleased to announce that Mr. Jack Womersley, Weaving Instructor from Bradford College of Art, in Bradford, England, will conduct a 2-week workshop for beginners and intermediates in weaving the 2nd and 3rd week of July, 1978 at the Robin & Russ Handweaving Studio. There will be limited enrollment in this two week session, and there will be about 8 to 10 different techniques taught in this workshop. There will be a loom for each individual student, and you will rotate from loom to loom, as you learn one of these individual techniques. The price will be \$150.00 for the two week workshop, and will include the warp threads. You will either pay for or bring your own weft threads. It will be on a first come, first served basis, and a 1/3 deposit will reserve you a space. Classes will be from July 10th through July 21st. More details will be available at a later date.

#### 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.

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#### 2 PLY, 100% ALPACA IN STEEL GREY

This dark heather grey alpaca is a 2 ply thread, and is excellent for warp or weft. It has approximately 1600 yards per lb., comes on 1 lb. cones, and is a good price at \$6.00 per lb. About 45 lbs. available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

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#### 2 PLY, 50% LINEN, 50% RAYON THREAD IN SEVEN COLORS

This thread has 1150 yards per lb., and the colors range from natural to brown, with one exception of the yellow gold color. We are preparing sample sheets. Free upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### 8 COLORS IN VARIEGATED BRUSHED WOOL and MOHAIR BLEND

We've had most of these before, but have 2 or 3 new colors. We are winding this on 1/2 lb. tubes of 500 yards each, and the price is \$8.00 per 1/2 lb. tube. The colors are most beautiful, and we will have sample sheets made of these soon. We have some individual ones already made up for those interested in a hurry. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### LINEN THREAD TESTERS

This is an excellent linen thread tester. You put a piece of fabric under it, and it has a space for one square inch of fabric. It magnifies the fabric 5 times its regular size, so you can easily determine what threads are used, what the pattern is, and how many threads per inch. I think these are outstanding. Price is \$9.95 plus postage.

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#### PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER ON A TAILOR'S PATTERN BOOK FROM SPAIN IN 1500s

We figure this book we are co-publishing with a firm in England will sell for \$35.00. We are taking pre-publication orders for \$30.00 each. This will be a cloth bound book of 250 pages, and will contain some 163 patterns from Spanish Fashions of 1589. This book was first printed in Spain in 1589 and only 2 known copies are available in the world. The person I will co-publish with has worked for 2 years on a facsimile edition with an excellent translation. This is the first known tailoring book ever printed, and the title is "Libro De Geometria," by Ivan de Alcega. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### WEAVES AND PATTERN DRAFTING

I highly recommend this basic introduction to understanding weaves and drafts. A clear, concise text is accompanied by line drawings and photographs of finished fabric. Sections include: plain weaves, twills, overshot weaves, color and weave, and a very useful explanation and table of counts and suggested setts for typical fabrics. A very good book to have around your studio. By an English designer and teacher, John Tovey, this book sells for \$11.95. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128/

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#### 4 BABY COLORS IN A FINE COTTON BOUCLE

We have this fine cotton boucle with a finer rayon twist in white, baby blue, baby pink, and yellow. This can be used for lightweight blankets or crib covers, and is very washable. Comes in 1/2 lb. tubes, and the price is \$2.00 per tube, or \$4.00 per lb. Just limited amounts of these threads are available. It has about 4,000 yards per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### COTTON AND WOOL NUB BLEND

This yarn is available in 5 colors. It is a dark blue with natural nub, yellow with natural nub, white with natural nub, and red with a natural nub. It has a sort of salt and peppery feeling on all 4 colors, except for the natural and white. Price is \$4.80 per lb. It has approximately 2500 yards per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### STITCHERS AND EMBROIDERERS ATTENTION

We have available, some nice novelty yarns in small 50 yard skeins for use as accents in weaving, embroidery, or stitchery. Most reasonable price also at 25¢ per skein. Try an assortment of colors or textures for \$3.00 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### NATURAL WOOL, FLAKE FLAMME.

Fairly heavy, this natural 2 ply flake wool is from England. It comes on about 1 lb. cones, has approximately 500 yards per lb., and is \$8.00 per lb. Can be used for either warp or for weft. I've used it for warp mixed in with other threads. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### HEAVY RAYON BOUCLE IN 5 COLORS

On about 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes, we have 5 nice colors in this. It has about 500 yards per lb. and comes in Sagaro Sage, Creamy Yellow, Gringo Gold, Poplar Osage Orange, and Bargain Basement Brown. Price is \$3.20 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### SUPPORTED GOLD AND ALSO SILVER IN 1/32" METALLIC

On plastic spools weighing about 12 oz. each, this means it has 8 oz. or more per spool of metallic thread. Price is \$4.00 per spool, and this is a good buy. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### 40/2 BLEACHED RAMIE

With 6,000 yards per lb., and a very, very, good price at \$8.00 per lb., this is excellent for fine table linens, and napkins, as well as placemats. It came from Switzerland on about 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes, and is slightly fuzzy in appearance, but this disappears with the first washing. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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#### RAMIE TOPS, SPUN INTO A SINGLE PLY, SOFT TWIST ROVING

This is primarily a weft thread for weavers, and is an excellent accent thread in many fabrics. Has about 250 yards per lb., and we've been winding it off on to 1 lb. tubes. Price is \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.



# The Weaver's Marketplace

**warp and weft**  
 533 NORTH ADAMS STREET  
 McMinnville, OREGON 97128

*John Tovey's*

**WEAVES AND PATTERN DRAFTING**

This is an excellent study for the serious weaver, with outstanding directions for understanding various weaves and pattern drafting.

**\$11.95 plus shipping**

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS  
 533 N. Adams St. McMinnville, Oregon 97128

*Paula Simmon's*

**RAISING SHEEP THE MODERN WAY**

One of the most interesting and informative books you will ever find on this subject. Most interesting reading, even to those not interested in raising sheep. This soft-covered book is most outstanding.

**\$5.95 plus shipping**

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS  
 533 N. Adams St. McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Compact Folding <b>NORWOOD LOOMS</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Five Widths          16" — 22" — 30" — 40" — 50"          Made of Cherry</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Norwood Loom Co.</b>  <b>P. O. Box 167</b>  <b>Fremont, Michigan 49412</b></p>
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**16 HARNESS PATTERNS**  
**The Fanciest Twills Of All**

Written and compiled by Irene Kl Wood of Minneapolis, Minnesota, this book has 150, 16 harness patterns, a photograph of each, and weaving directions.

**\$8.95 plus shipping**

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS  
 533 N. Adams St. McMinnville, Oregon 97128

<b>BULK RATE</b> U. S. POSTAGE PAID McMinnville, Ore. 97128 Permit No. 12									