

warp and weft

Vol. XXXI, No. 7
September, 1978

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word from the Editor

The trip to Convergence 78 is over, and our two week summer workshop with Mr. Jack Womersley of Bradford College in England is over, and next on the schedule is a 3 week tour to England, Scotland, and Ireland. And after this tour, then I'll spend three weeks travelling and looking for unusual threads for hand-weavers. That will bring us up to September 15th, and it will be time for Warp and Weft to be mailed, so I've finally started on the September issue in late July.

It has been an extremely busy and a hectic summer.

The trip to Convergence was a good one business wise, and very, very tiring otherwise. The day after returning from this trip, I started warping some 15 looms for the workshop the following week. During this week, Jack Womersley and his wife and son were also with us, so when we were not working on warping the looms, we were out sight-seeing with the Womersley's.

We took them to the Columbia river gorge, and Mt. Hood, and up to Idaho and Spokane, Washington, one week-end. Another week-end, we went to the beach, to enjoy the Sand Dunes of southern Oregon coast, and the last week-end, we worked one day, and drove over to the coast to show them Ecola State Park, on the Oregon coast. This, I think is one of the most beautiful places in Oregon, and we hit a day when it was foggy, and hazy, and then clear and sun-shiny. In other words, we hit a day when the gamit of weather made the coast both

mysterious and exciting, and well worth seeing. On the way, we went to admire the largest spruce tree in the world, which is about 8 miles from Cannon Beach, Oregon. And during the workshop, we had picnic lunches, birthday parties for an 11 year old boy, and many other adventures. It has been a hectic and also a very rewarding time, as almost everyone seemed to enjoy the workshop very much.

And next, comes the weaving tour. There are 17 persons going on the tour besides myself, and I hope that I can make it an exciting and pleasant time for all. I'm most grateful that Howard Travel Service, here in McMinnville has handled all of the arrangements, and it will be fun to start the actual trip in about 5 days. And, there seems to be so much to be done before I leave, as I want to have some samples in progress shortly for both Warp and Weft, and Drafts and Designs, and we've been working with the remainder of the warps from the workshop, and trying to come up with many good ideas. We have two Warp and Weft samples designed, and one Drafts and Designs sample also planned and in progress, besides the September issue of each which I hope to finish before I leave.

On my 3 weeks travel after the tour is over, I'll be looking for all kinds of threads that can be used here in the shop. I'll be visiting mills, shops, and yarn brokers, book publishers, museums, and book shops, and other places to find items of interest for the shop. This is an exciting time for me, and a great pleasure when I find a yarn that I feel is most unique, and worth importing.

And, something else, most exciting has been happening this summer. Your over-weight editor has finally gone on a diet, and used some will-power, and to date, with the help of Robin and friends, and the weight-loss clinic in Portland, I've lost some 40 lbs., and have a goal of losing at least 25 more lbs. It will be a job to do this while travelling, but if I can just maintain it, I'm sure that I can lose the other 25 lbs. when I return.

And, with all this, we've trained four different office workers in the past four months, and have not been able to keep any of them. Distance, family problems, and illness has created the problem, and so once again, we hunt for someone who will be with us for a long time to come. I'm almost beginning to think that we're jinxed with these problems.

But, if we have a postal strike as I anticipate, then we'll not even have problems, as we'll not have any business.

I'm sure that all of you can see that being in business for yourself is not always "a great big bowl of cherries," but it is a great challenge, and well worth the effort. I wouldn't trade it for anything else.

Also, our new house will be started I hope while I'm in England and I'll be on pins and needles to hear of the progress when I'm gone. Robin and the architect will be the busy ones, making sure that the contractor follows the plans.

And, a few words about Robin. Most of this summer would not have been the good time it has been without Robin handling many of the details, and planning meals, and cooking, and home-making in the small duplex we have moved into. Just wanted you to know what a hard-working wife and home-maker Robin is, and yes, it would not have worked as smoothly without her. Back to the sample for this month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review

A new spinning book, entitled, "THE COMPLETE SPINNING BOOK," by Candace Crockett is one we have chosen to review this month.

This is a big book in size, with outstanding photographs, drawings, and illustrations, and should be of great interest to the beginning weaver.

This book is very appealing. The writing is good, the directions are clear, concise, and well written, and the illustrations are so good that they make you want to read more of the content of the book, and become more acquainted with the craft of handspinning.

There are 10 major chapters in the book. The first chapter is on the history of spinning, and is most interesting and also educational.

The second chapter deals with the use of the hand-spindle in spinning, and it is a very good chapter on this subject.

Next comes a chapter on the spinning wheel, with illustrations of many of the different wheels available.

Many different photographs or drawings of various types of wheels are given, with an explanation of each of them.

There are some old, traditional wheels illustrated as some of the more modern. Included are box wheels, indian spinners, and

other types besides the more or less conventional "saxony" type wheel, or the small castle type wheel. The indian spinner head for heavy threads is discussed, illustrated, and in the next chapter, there are plans for making your own.

The fifth chapter is devoted to the plans for making a spinning wheel, and they seem quite complete and very well done.

Besides the plan for making a spinning wheel, the next chapter gives good directions for fibers that are now being used in hand-weaving. In this chapter, there is an excellent discussion on carding machines with drum carders, as well as directions for the use of hand-cards.

Next comes a chapter on wool and other animal fibers. There is an excellent discussion of wool, it's chemical and physical properties, and how it is prepared for the hand-spinner. Besides just wool, there is a discussion of the mohair goat, cashmere, camel, llama, and one or two other animals.

There is a discussion of spinning the animal fibers from any of the various odd animals, like afghan hound yarn, silk and silk blend yarns, and that is about all that is covered in this discussion.

And next comes the chapter on vegetable dyes, and it is a most interesting one, and you will find it very exciting to find discussions on pineapple fiber, on jute or sisal, on the musa plant and others.

Chapter nine is devoted to an interesting discussion on cotton and other fibers, and how they are handled in the hand-spinning field.

Next comes a description of the most interesting subject, that of silk.

How it originally appears in color, and illustrations of many of it's use's are covered, as well as the various stages of preparation for silk.

And last, but not least is an excellent Bibliography of the sources of spinning wheels, and the various supplies needed for the handweaving.

Perhaps you might like to borrow or own a copy of this book. Here are the details as to the availability and cost.

TITLE: THE COMPLETE SPINNING BOOK

AUTHOR: Candice Crockett

PRICE: \$18.50 plus shipping

PUBLISHER: Watson-Guption, Inc.

AVAILABLE: Available from Robin & Russ Handweavers or directly from the publisher if desired.

An Upholstery Fabric of Ramie and Wool

Sometimes, you wonder how different types of thread work together, and in this one, we have combined both Ramie and 2/12's worsted in both the warp and the weft, in equal, even amounts in a definite progression, without too many threads of one being featured before you mix in the 2nd type of thread.

Actually, this sample was inspired by one of the samples in the new Swedish Swatches, Green Series, by Malin Selander.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

KEY TO THREADS USED IN THE WARP

- X — 2/12's worsted, color #38, Vicuna Tan
- A — 2/16's Ramie, color #52, Fog Grey
- O — 2/16's Ramie, Black

WARP

There are three threads used in the warp and they are as follows:

- X — 2/12's worsted, color #38, Vicuna Tan
- A — 2/16's Ramie, color #52 Fog Grey
- O — 2/16's Ramie, Black

WEFT

There are three threads used in the weft and they are as follows.

1. 12/2 Worsted, color #12, Lt. Avocado
2. 16/2 Ramie, color #69, Orange
3. 16/2 Ramie, color #54, Rusty Brown

REED USED

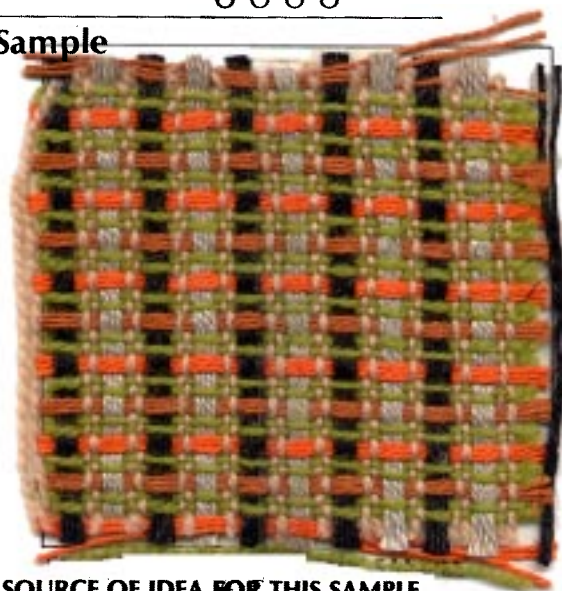
A 12 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, 2 ends per dent or 24 per inch.

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.

Sample



SOURCE OF IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE

We were inspired by one of the samples in the new Selander, Swedish Swatches, Green Series, and so taking a completely different range of colors, and changing the draft and treadling slightly, this is what we came up with this month.

WIDTH OF WARP, AND LENGTH OF WARP, AND THE RESULTING FABRIC

Our warp was set-up 40" wide on the loom. It wove down to about 39" width. Also, we had a 14 yard warp, and from this, we received slightly more than 12½ yards of finished fabric.

TREADLING SEQUENCE

In our treading sequence, one thread is repeated 3 times in the same shed, in 2 different colors. So, when you see something like 6,6,6, that means there are 3 shots of the same thread on treadle #6, and you should throw the shuttle, beat lightly, bring your shuttle up and over the 2 outside top threads of your shed, and back into the shed and throw it across.

Here is the treading sequence for one complete pattern repeat.

1. Treadle #5, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
2. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
3. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
4. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
5. Treadle #5, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
6. Treadle #6, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
7. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
8. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
9. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
10. Treadle #6, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
11. Treadle #5, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
12. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
13. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
14. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
15. Treadle #5, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
16. Treadle #6, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
17. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
18. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
19. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
20. Treadle #6, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
21. Treadle #5, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
22. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
23. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
24. Treadle #6, Orange Ramie
25. Treadle #5, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
26. Treadle #6, 2/12's Avocado Worsted
27. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
28. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
29. Treadle #5, Rusty Brown Ramie
30. Treadle #6, 2/12's Avocado Worsted

End of one complete pattern repeat. Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC

Yes, this fabric is very easy to weave, and there seemed to be no problems with the mixture of threads in the warp and weft.

This fabric was designed as an upholstery fabric, and should be very satisfactory for this purpose.

You do want to use a firm, even double beat, at all times, when weaving yardage such as has been done here.

It is a little slow because you do have 3 shots in the same shed, at intervals, and this slows down the weaving somewhat.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED

The 16/2 Ramie comes to us on about 2½ lb. cones from Switzerland. We do wind it off onto 4 oz. tubes of 600 yards each. There are 23 different colors that are available. It is normally so white, when grown, that to get a natural, we have to have it dyed natural. This is the one we call eggshell natural. The price is \$2.50 per 4 oz. tube, or \$10.00 per lb. The colors are sold to us as both wash-fast, and sun-fast, and the only one we've ever had trouble with in the colors is the eggshell natural, getting lighter in color, even when exposed to the sunlight.

The 2/12's worsted comes to us from England, and is normally on 1/2 lb. tubes. However, the last shipment came on about 1 lb. cones. It has 3360 yards per lb., and is priced at \$9.60 per lb. We have 22 colors available in this, and as soon as our shipment which is being held up in customs, is received, then we will have all 22 colors in stock. Our shipment in customs has been held up for 2 months now, as the papers to clear through customs have been lost in the mail, and to date, with much effort, we have been unable to get all the necessary copies from England to clear this shipment through customs. As a result, it is sitting there, and storage charges are being put on it, until the papers do come in.

COST OF THE FABRIC

In the warp, we used 2 lbs. each of the two colors in Ramie. In the 2/12's worsted, we used 10 oz. of the Vicuna tan in the warp. Thus, our total warp cost for the 14 yard warp, 40" wide, came to \$44.25. Breaking it down to the cost per yard, it comes to \$3.16 per yard.

In the weft, we used 1 lb. 4 oz. of each of the 2 Ramie yarns. And we used 1 lb. 6 oz. of the 2/12's Light Avocado Worsted, color #12. This makes our total weft cost for 12½ yards of finished fabric come to \$38.40, or breaking it down to weft cost per yard, it comes to \$3.70 per yard.

The total cost of the fabric is the warp cost of \$3.16, plus the weft cost of \$3.80 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide	\$3.16
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$3.80
FABRIC COST PER YARD	16.96
WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide	\$3.16
WEFT COST PER YARD	\$3.80
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$6.96

This Month's Cover Photograph

On display at the last Northern California Handweavers Conference in San Jose, this tapestry was on display in the exhibit of the Creative Handweavers Guild.

The weaver was Joanne Jones, and she has entitled this tapestry, "NATURE'S BANDITS."

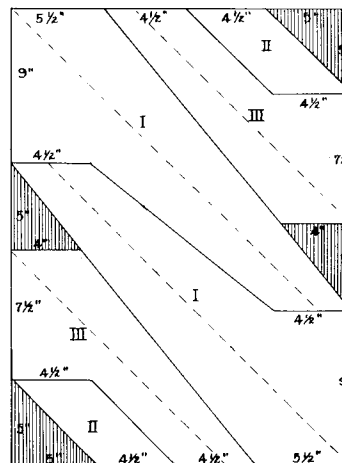
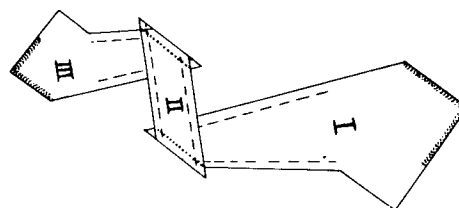
The inspiration for this small tapestry was a cover of the Arizona Highways magazine, and of course you recognize the subject matter of 3 foxes.

Also notice that it looks as though this was woven on a circular ring of either wook or metal. I thought it was very, very well done, and enjoyed it immensely.

This Month's Second Project

Neckties woven in tartans are most interesting, and I suggest our 2/18's worsteds for warp at 24 or 30 per inch. Use a tartan pattern from *Setts of the Scottish Tartans* by Stewart (\$25.00) or *The Sett & Weaving of Tartans*, by Mary Black (\$2.00). We suggest making 2 ties from a woven piece 20"x27" Thread 21" wide to allow for take-in or even 22". Weave a light-weight, firm fabric with the same number of weft threads per inch as is the warp. And, the quality if the tie will depend upon how exact you cut and make it up. You can use our pattern below, or there are several tie pattern available from companies that sell dress-making patterns. You could also weave a 40" wide piece, and cut on the diagonal, and have very little waste from a much larger piece of fabric, and less problems in cutting and assembling. To make the handling easier, you can steam-press you fabric first, and then steam press while you are sewing it. It helps to hold the fabric together, so there is less unravelling while sewing. We have 39 colors in the yarn available, so you can make a wide range of tartans.

You should use identical warp and weft threads. And of course, they are easier to make if in a plain weave rather than a tartan. Why not weave a tartan for a skirt, and then weave some extra material for ties for the rest of the family. The diagrams given are suggestions for cutting if you have just a small piece of fabric, but I really do recommend a wider piece. If I remember correctly, you can average 5 ties from a yard of fabric, if woven 40" wide on the loom, and if cut on diagonal.



If a tartan, 40" wide, at 30 per inch, you can get approximately 4 yards of warp, 40" wide from 1 lb. of 2/18's, and it should take exactly the same amount or less for the weft. Use a standard 1, 2, 3, 4, twill threading. If you do not want a tartan, then you can make very interesting ties from striped material. I have one on now, woven for me by Mrs. Ester Te Selle, of California. It is woven with patterns at various intervals, and the pattern is woven of the wool, with a fine silver supported metallic in the over-shot pattern, It is woven completely in overshoot.

The diagrams for cutting are suggestions, and have worked well for 2 ties, but you might like to make it easier, by weaving the full 40" width, and cutting the ties usually in 2 pieces, on the diagonal, as a professional tie pattern usually does.

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.

STERLING SILVER SPINNING WHEEL PINS OR NECKLACES

These are sterling silver, and are made in a small craft shop in Scotland. There are actually 4 styles available. There is a saxony type pin or a castle type spinning wheel pin. And both of these are also available with a loom to fasten on a chain and to be the main part of a necklace. The price for these "registered" sterling silver, spinning wheels pins is \$22.00 plus postage. Available from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

KRISPIE KRUNCHIE WITH A BROWN INJECT

This is a linen and rayon blend yarn, with about 750 to 800 yards per lb. If all linen, you could call it 2½ lea size. This is approximately 40% linen 55% rayon, and 5% other fibers. It is a textured, slightly slubby yarn, with a brown injected fiber blended with the linen and rayon. It came to us on about 1½ to 2 lb. cones, and the price is now \$6.00 per lb. Excellent weft for many, many uses. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

KRISPIE KRUNCHIE WITH A BLACK INJECT

This too, is a linen and rayon blend yarn, with about 750 to 800 yards per lb. The injected color is black, instead of brown as per the thread above. It is natural linen and rayon blended yarn, with a small amount of black yarn blended in at irregular intervals. Price is \$6.00 per lb., and it is available on ½ lb. tubes at \$3.00 per tube. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NEW SAMPLE SHEET FEATURING NATURAL COTTONS

In a cored yarn, a knot yarn, a flake boucle yarn, and others. There are 10 different yarns featured on this sample sheet. If you are interested and would like to have one, sent us a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and we will sent these to you via return mail. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

MINIATURE SHUTTLE PINS WITH ACTUAL BOBIN AND THREAD

Made for us in Switzerland, these are made of Zebrano or Palisander wood from Africa. Zebrano is blond, striped wood, and Palisander is dark, like black walnut. Price of these hand made pins are \$5.95 plus postage. In stock for immediate shipment. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SHUTTLE GUILD MONOGRAPHS OR STUDIES ON VARIOUS TYPES OF WEAVES, ETC.

There are 30 different ones available, ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$6.00 each. If you would like a listing, we would be pleased to send you one. Most in stock, but if not, usually orders can be filled in 2 to 3 weeks for those out of stock. Studies on Double Weave, Surface Interest, Weaving Inkle Bands, and many others. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WEAVING, by Zielinski

I've used this book for reference many times, and was delighted to see it reprinted in paperback. One of the best reference books the handweaver can find. It is \$4.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

RECORD SHEETS FOR YOUR SAMPLES AND DIRECTIONS

Yes, this is a double page, with room for your samples inside, and all of the directions on the outside. Price for these record sheets is 15¢ each, plus postage. We've been using these same sheets for 10 or 15 years, and find them very satisfactory. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NETTING SHUTTLES

We stock a set of 5 different sizes. Available in 5", 6", 7", 8" and 10" lengths. Used for weaving, or for knotting or netting, for lay, and many other uses. Price is \$1.00 each, or a set of 5 different ones for \$4.50. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEDDLE TRANSFER RODS

These thin, flexible, tempered steel rods, slide inside the heddles while they are on the loom or harness frame. You can slide them off all in sequence, and use them for storage. Price per pair is \$2.00 per pair. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

45/3 SPUN SILK FROM SWITZERLAND,

in small lots of 2 or 3 lbs. of a color in about 35 colors. There is from 1 to about 3 lbs. per color of this smooth, lusterful, spun silk, and the colors are very nice. This will not last long, but it is almost impossible to make up sample sheets, as the amounts of the various colors are so small. Price is \$16.00 per lb., and it is excellent warp. Should be good at 24 to 30 threads per inch. Come and look at it if you have a chance. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL WHITE HEAVY RAYON FRILL-BOUCLE

A beautiful yarn with many many uses. Came on about 1¼ lb. cones, and has 550 yards per lb. Should be excellent in drapery, upholstery, mats, and many others. Price is \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CHUNKY BUTTERMILK, TUSSAH SILK AND RAYON

This fairly heavy yarn is a blend of Natural Tussah Silk and Rayon. It has in the single ply about 520 yards per lb. It is \$6.80 per lb. Also, we had this yarn 2 plied, for warp or weft, and the 2 ply has 260 yards per lb., and is \$7.60 per lb. This came to us on about 1½ lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

60/3 SPUN SILK, GOLSSY, SMOOTH IN A BROWN COLOR

About a medium brown, color is like a cocoa, and excellent for warp, as well as weft. This is on about 3 to 4 oz. tubes, and just came in from Switzerland. I would think it would be good warp at 30 to 40 threads per inch. Price is \$16.00 per lb. for this outstanding silk. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

