



warp and weft

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December, 1978

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A Word from the Editor

Another not quite a month has gone by, and yes, we are gradually catching up, and that is enough about that.

I promised to tell you about some other things on our weaving tour to England in August.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to Peter Collingwood's studio. It was a most interesting visit and well worth-while. Peter was so gracious and demonstrated his shaft switching technique on one of his rug looms for us. And then, he also demonstrated for us, the very, very, interesting technique that he developed for weaving his wall hangings. These sheer wall hangings are beautifully done, and Peter has an excellent photograph of each of the wall hangings that he makes. I believe that several of the persons ordered a rug of his, and quite a few also ordered wall hangings. Then, we were invited into his home for tea and refreshments, and the next hour was most delightful, becoming further acquainted with Peter, his wife, and daughter. We talked of many things, and the one hour stretched into two. Many of the persons also wandered through the village taking pictures, as I believe this area is one of the oldest towns in England.

And then after that, we headed north towards Bradford, England, and on the way, we visited a spinning wheel manufacturer, who had 5 of their spinning wheels assembled and ready for any of our group to try out. This firm was named "Timber Top Tables Company," and their address is 159 Main Street, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, England. They make 5 models of excellent spinning wheels, and I can

recommend them highly. Some of their spinning wheels are made of Yew wood, and the most are made of Quarter Sawed Oak, and are very striking. they work very, very well. If any of you are interested, I'd suggest that you write to them, and ask for prices and their brochure. Tell them that I suggested you write. This family, the Williamsons, were such gracious hosts, and live in an old, old house which they are completely re-building or remodeling. This area of England is famous for their Cheese, so they graciously had purchased some cheese for us to try along with soft-drinks, tea, and coffee. This area is also most famous for it's Pork-Pies, so they had this also for us to try, and I must say that it was most delicious, and several of our tour group wished that we had these available here in America.

So, with the chance to see how these spinning wheels are made, to be able to try them out, and to have almost a meal provided made this a high-light of our trip and well worth while. We enjoyed these two visits so much, that we were very, very late arriving at our hotel that evening, but the visits were both so inspiring.

And, as I'm writing this, we are unpacking our shipment of 10 colors of beautiful wool tweeds that I purchased the next day. I ordered 50 lbs. each of these wool tweeds, and they are gradually arriving, and we are just unpacking 4 colors now.

And, we have been designing samples for future issues the past two weeks, and are very pleased. We have worked out and woven about 4 samples that will make excellent future projects. In fact, we have the warp prepared for one, and will probably wind onto the loom, or dress the loom this afternoon for that project.

And, even though we've had much rain, and already a 2nd snow on the ground this winter, our house on top of a hill is progressing. Today, they are supposed to be shingling the roof and I'll go up tomorrow and see what progress has been made today, even though it has been raining all day today. The walls are up, and they are about ready to set the windows in, and it looks as though in about 60 days, we will be moving into a new home. Hurrah.

And let me tell you something that just happened yesterday that causes your editor to be excited. Yesterday, we made the last payment on our shop, and now it is free and clear. It is hard to believe that this has happened, but it has, and it is a most rewarding

feeling. In fact, Robin and I are so happy about this, that we went out to dinner last night to celebrate this fact.

And, just about 4 days ago, our first large shipment of yarns that I ordered in England last September has finally arrived. There are 22 large boxes here yet to be opened, and it is just like Christmas everytime we open one, to find the treasures of yarns that I had ordered long, long ago, in England. We have just opened one box so far, and it was our new shipment of Scottish Breakfast, 2 ply Tussah silk noil that came in. We sold this silk last year and early this year for \$8.00 per pound, but this time, the same silk cost us slightly over \$9.00 per pound to purchase and have delivered, so we have no alternative but to sell it at \$12.00 per lb. This in part, is due to the continuing devaluation of the American dollar in Europe, and we have just had word that it has gone down more because of the decision to raise the price of oil 14½% and because of our decision to recognize China. Oh well, perhaps some day, the dollar will be stabilized, and slow down or stop this inflation we are experiencing. Enough for now.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review

Just recently published is the book entitled "THE WEAVING PRIMER," by Nina Holland.

The author calls this book, "A Complete Guide to Inkle, Backstrap, and Frame Looms."

This book's main feature is that it has a step by step approach to each of the different types of weaving, Inkle, Back-Strap, and Frame Looms. She tells you how to weave on each type of loom, how to plan a project, how to select your yarns, and how to use these yarns to create a wide variety of weaves.

Essentially, this book is written for the person who wants to try weaving without a large investment. As a result, she does give you the directions for making these 3 types of looms, she tells where you can buy them, and then she tells you how to weave on them.

The author, Nina Holland is the author of two other books, and has written many numerous articles on weaving. She has exhibited her weaving in many places.

Also, she explains the advantages of weaving your own articles, and how the results are

unique, outstanding, and anything similar is not available in any other store.

What is interesting is that every loom described in this book costs less than \$50.00 to buy, but also the author has given you complete directions on how to make your own loom.

She also suggests many beginning projects such as window shades, wall hangings, table mats, etc.

Looking at this book thoroughly, I also enjoyed very much the many, many photographs, the excellent weaving diagrams, and the plans of the different projects that are given. She gives directions for many different textured weaves, for open weaves, and loom-controlled pattern weaves. There is an excellent section on tapestry, on pick-up techniques, and also, there is a most interesting section on how to finish your fabric, and how to put it into a useable fabric form, by the proper finishing.

Perhaps you might like "THE WEAVING PRIMER."

TITLE: **THE WEAVING PRIMER**, A Complete Guide to Inkle, Backstrap, and Frame Looms.

AUTHOR: Nina Holland

PUBLISHER: Chilton Book Company,
Radnor, Pennsylvania

COST: Hardbound \$13.95

Paperback \$ 7.95

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publisher or
Robin & Russ Handweavers

This Month's Cover Photograph

I was very much taken with the tapestry or wall hanging that is featured on the cover this month.

This tapestry was displayed at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in 1978 at San Jose.

This was part of the display of the Mountain Weavers Guild, and was woven by Sally Posner.

It is entitled "ASPENS IN THE MOUNTAINS," and I suppose that I like it particularly well, because this is a very common scene in many areas of the mountains, and also in many of the lower areas along many of the streams in Western Oregon. You can drive from McMinnville, Oregon over to the coast and see the many, many beautiful Aspens that line most of the streams in the area.

ZIG-ZAG UP THE MOUNTAIN

This standard four harness twill is very unusual in appearance because of the uneven number of threads in the warp and weft of each color. It should make nice suiting and clothing material.

THREADING DRAFT:

Please note that there are 20 threads in each pattern repeat.

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

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

○ — Green Heather, 2 ply, Shetland Wool
 X — Seal, Seal, Seal, 2 ply wool and acrylic.

WARP:

There are two threads used in the warp. One, is on sample sheet #220, and is called Green Heather, 2 ply Shetland wool. It is 100% wool, 2400 yards per lb.

The second thread is on sample sheet #219 and is called Seal, Seal, Seal, and is a 2 ply yarn also, which is 50% wool and 50% acrylic. It also has 2400 yards per lb. and is also \$6.00 per lb., the same as the Green Heather 2 ply Shetland.

WEFT:

The same two threads are used in the weft, that are used in the warp. One is the Green Heather 2 ply Shetland Wool, and the other is the Seal, Seal, Seal, 2 ply, 50% wool and 50% acrylic yarn.

REED USED:

A 10 dent reed is used, and it is doubled sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch.

TIE UP DRAFT

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

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

Sample



TREADLING SEQUENCE:

Note that there are 20 shots of weft in one complete treading or pattern repeat.

1. Treadle #1 — Seal, Seal, Seal
2. Treadle #2 — Seal, Seal, Seal
3. Treadle #3 — Seal, Seal, Seal
4. Treadle #4 — Green Heather Shetland
5. Treadle #1 — Green Heather Shetland
6. Treadle #2 — Seal, Seal, Seal
7. Treadle #3 — Seal, Seal, Seal
8. Treadle #4 — Seal, Seal, Seal
9. Treadle #1 — Green Heather Shetland
10. Treadle #2 — Green Heather Shetland

11. Treadle #3 — Seal, Seal, Seal
 12. Treadle #4 — Seal, Seal, Seal
 13. Treadle #1 — Seal, Seal, Seal
 14. Treadle #2 — Green Heather Shetland
 15. Treadle #3 — Green Heather Shetland
 16. Treadle #4 — Seal, Seal, Seal
 17. Treadle #1 — Seal, Seal, Seal
 18. Treadle #2 — Seal, Seal, Seal
 19. Treadle #3 — Green Heather Shetland
 20. Treadle #4 — Green Heather Shetland
- END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN REPEAT. Repeat over and over.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

This is a most interesting pattern, and it is interesting because it is different. Note that in the threading draft, there are 3 threads of one color, and then there are 2 threads of another color, repeated over and over. It takes actually 20 threads to make one repeat because of the 3/2 color sequence.

Also, notice that in the weft, instead of 3 threads of the green, and two threads of the brown, we have reversed it, and we have two threads of the green, and three threads of the brown. It makes a most interesting and staggered pattern with this sequence.

Also, although we do not show it here, we find that four colors used in both the warp and weft are very striking in the same sequence of 3 light, 2 dark, 3 light, 2 dark, in both the warp and the weft.

Actually, one of the English Bulletins that we receive suggested this, and I started experimenting, and after about 8 sample swatches, this is the result.

This fabric is very easy, and very fast to weave. With all of the bobbins wound, and just the actual weaving to do, I sat down and proceeded to weave one yard of it in 45 minutes, and this included also the repair of one broken thread in this time.

We had very few broken threads in this fabric, about two on one selvage edge, and a couple of knots in the warp. It was quite simple and easy to weave. But, I do want to emphasize that I used a firm, even, double beat, beating with the shed open, changing to the next shed, and then beating again before I threw the shuttle.

Both of the threads are two ply, are quite strong, and make excellent warp or weft.

The two ply Green Heather Shetland Wool yarn is 100% wool yarn, and has 2400 yards per pound. It came to us on about 2 lb. 4 to 8 oz. cones, and we do wind off ½ lb. spools for anyone interested in less. It is \$6.00 per lb.

The Seal, 2 ply is 50% wool and 50% Acrylic. It is the same size as the Green Heather above, with 2400 yards per pound, and it too, is \$6.00 per lb. It also is on 2½ lb. tubes for you.

We had a warp, 40" wide, and 14 yards long. We had one of our new employees set it up with supervision, and we were surprised that there were no errors.

We used 4 and 2/3 pounds of thread in the 14 yard warp. So the warp cost was \$28.00, or the cost per yard was \$2.00.

In the weft, we had 13 yards of finished fabric, and we used 5 lbs. 6 oz. of thread in the weft. So, our weft cost for 13 yards was \$32.25, or the cost per yard was \$2.48.

Warp Cost Per Yard, 40" wide	\$2.00
Weft Cost Per Yard	\$2.48
Fabric Cost Per Yard	\$4.48

THIS MONTH'S SECOND PROJECT

We've woven many, many of these Swedish Lace Place-Mats, so here are the details of how we do them.

Warp: 10/2 Linen, Natural, White or Color

Weft: same size and color as the warp.

Reed: 15 dent reed, one end per dent.

Size: We warped these 14" wide on the loom, and we wove them 13" wide x 19" long, plus extra for hems.

There are 3 different blocks used the threading draft, as follows:

A Unit			B Unit			C Unit		
4			4			4	X	X
3			3	X	X	3		
2	X	X	2	X	X	2	X	X
1	X	X	1	X		1	X	

Please note that these units are read from right to left when threading the loom.

If you have a warp 14" wide, 15 ends per inch, you have 210 warp ends. You need to fit the pattern into 210 warp ends.

1. Thread A unit 5 times = 30 thds.
2. Thread B unit 5 times = 30 thds.
3. Thread C unit 15 times = 90 thds.
4. Thread B unit 5 times = 30 thds.
5. Thread A unit 5 times = 30 thds.

Total number of warp ends 210 thds.

The A unit gives you plain weave areas.
The B unit gives you 2" lace band on sides.
The C unit gives you lace band on ends.

When you weave them, you weave with the same weft as warp, and you actually treadle as drawn in. That is, you weave 2" of the A unit for a hem.

“THE WEAVING PLAN”

1. Weave the A unit for 2 inches.
2. Then you weave the A unit, 5 times.
3. Then you weave the B unit, 5 times.
4. Then you weave the C unit, as long as desired for the length of the mat.
5. Then you weave the B unit, 5 times.
6. Then you weave the A unit, 5 times.
7. Then weave A unit for 2 inches.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	○			○
3	○			
2		○		
1	○		○	○

1 2 3 4

- A. Treadle 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1 for 2 inches
- B. Treadle 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1 for 5 times
- C. Treadle 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 1 for 5 times
- D. Treadle 2, 4, 2, 4, 2, 1 for center of mat and as long as desired.
- E. Treadle 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 1 for 5 times
- F. Treadle 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1 for 5 times
- G. Treadle 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1 for 2 inches

This place-mat is very nice and it is actually a mat with a border of plain weave around the outside, a 2" border of lace on both sides and ends of you mat, and then a center of plain weave.

I like this project for many reasons, and often start beginners on this project. It is a one shuttle weave, easy to do, and all you have to do is to be able to count to six, to weave it correctly. Try this one, and I'm sure you'll like it.

After you have woven it with the same color as the warp, then try a different color in the weft other than your warp, and notice how striking this is also.

My favorite thread to use for warp and weft in weaving these is the 10/2 Irish linen, which is a wet-spun linen. It makes an excellent warp at 15 ends per inch.

However, there are many different threads that can be used in the weft. Colored linens look nice on a natural or white warp. What is nice when you use a color is that the lace appears almost as a solid color, while in the plain weave areas, it appears as a half-tone color, half way between your warp and your colored pattern thread.

I've woven many of these mats of resale, and I like this weave, because it is so fast and easy to weave. I've timed myself while weaving these, and with all the bobbins wound and just the weaving to do, I've been able to weave one of these place-mats every fifteen minutes.

And, there are other threading variations that you can use. You can weave this mat with the entire center of the mat in lace, with a plain weave border all around.

This is a unit weave, or a block weave, and another thing that you can do with it is make it into a six harness or an eight harness or a 12 harness weave, and make more elaborate lace areas in the center of the mat. I wove this about 15 years ago with a heavy waxed linen thread, and with fine ramie for weft in an eight harness pattern called X's and O's. I've always remembered this, and wanted to experiment with this weave much more.

And, as this is a one shuttle weave, it is very fast weaving.

I think this is one of the best weaves you can find to use to teach beginners. It is fairly easy to keep a nice edge. It requires one one shuttle, and so is easier to teach the fundamentals of the loom with the use of this pattern.

And it is easy to weave, as it only requires a counting system of 1 to 6.

And, lately, we've been experimenting with varying the block arrangement in the threading draft, and also varying the block arrangement in the treadling, and obtaining some very effective results.

Also, this is a very nice weave to use with fine linens for table-cloths, and napkins. I'd suggest a 40/2 linen as the warp, sett at 32 or 36 per inch, and using a 20/1 linen as the weft for use in table-cloths.

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.

5 CUT, CHENILLE, IN 16 COLORS.

Slightly heavier than usual, this 5 cut polypropylene chenille is available in some very nice colors. Available on ½ lb. tubes, the price is \$2.40 per tube. There are limited amounts of some of these colors, and larger amounts of others. It was either stock all the colors or none of them. You'll like these colors. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

12 FOLD, BLEACHED WHITE LINEN

This is 12 ends wound together to make one thread, and it is an excellent weft thread. Can be handled for warp if carefully done. Has 1600 yards per lb., and is available on ½ lb. tubes. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

DEEP PURPLE WOOL TWEED CALLED BOYSENBERRY PIE, AND ALSO AMARANTH, OR REDDISH, FUSCHIA PURPLE WOOL TWEED.

The deep purple has about 1350 yards per lb., and the lighter colored reddish purple has about 1600 yards per lb. Both are 100% wool, and are striking. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Also, we have 10 new colors of wool tweed gradually arriving. If interested, send us a self-addressed stamped envelope, and we will send you samples. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL, FINE, FLAKE WOOL

We are so pleased to get a fine, thick and thin, flake wool. It is 100% wool, and should dye very well. It is excellent for weft as is, and I feel can be used in a warp other threads if desired. It has about 2100 yards per lb. Came on 2½ lb. cones, but we can wind off ½ lb. tubes for you. Also, this same yarn is available in a Turquoise color. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

DREAM WHITE, SLIGHTLY TWISTED, FINE SINGLE PLY WOOL ROVING

It is elegantly soft, has approximately 1100 yards per pound, and is a fine weight roving. It is the equivalent of a 2/1's worsted, and it is \$6.00 per lb. Can be used in the weft, and perhaps in the warp if mixed with other threads. ½ lb. tubes are available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SNUFF BROWN, 2 PLY ALPACA, 100% ALPACA

This came in a size 2/18's, same as a 2/18's worsted, with about 5,000 yards per lb. Price is \$8.00 per lb. and if handled with care, can be used for warp, although it is probably a better weft thread. We have 50 lbs. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FLUFFY & SOFT, LINEN & RAYON BLEND

A most interesting yarn. It has a sort of beige background, with fluffy flecks of linen. Yardage is 4800 yards per lb., and should be excellent for drapery and upholstery. It came on 3 lb. 8 oz. cones, but we can wind off ½ lb. for you. Price is \$4.80 per lb. About 1000 lbs. available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A HEATHER, SPACE-DYED, BROWN, GREEN & GREY, SINGLE PLY WOOL.

We are weaving a sample for Warp and Weft, with this, and it is most beautiful. It came on cones of 2 to 2½ lb. cones, and seems to have about 1200 yards per lb. We have combined it with a 2/18's worsted. Price is \$6.00 per lb., plus shipping. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

12 PLY HEAVY, NATURAL CARPET WARP

It seems to have 480 yards per lb., and is available on ½ lb. tubes. This is a special price of \$3.20 per lb. And, there are only 50 lbs. available. It came on 4½ lb. tubes, and we can wind it off for you. Excellent warp in rugs, tapestries, wall hangings, etc. Excellent for warp at 4, 5, or 6 per inch. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FIVE (5) CRAZY DUTCH OR IRISH YARNS

Exciting is the word for these 5 yarns. Heavy, nubby, brushed, color blended, in 5 different colors. These sell in the knitting supply houses at \$24.00 to \$30.00 per lb., and because we took a large quantity, we have it at \$12.00 per lb. Colors are Irish Green, Sunset-Orange-Red, Desert Sand, Antique Gold, and Rich-Royal-Blue. These are blends of 40% wool, 60% Viscose, and we have featured them before in Coating Fabric. One of our customers purchased some, and came in with a beautiful corched coat of this in 10 days. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6 LOOP MOHAIRS IN BLENDED COLORS

These are loop mohairs, not loop wools, and there are 5 color blends, and one in natural. It has about 900 to 1,000 yards per lb. These are limited to 50 lbs. or less of each. Once again, the regular price of loop mohair is about \$24.00 to \$30.00 per lb. Available on 1 lb. tubes, and **ON SALE AT \$12.00 per lb.** Colors are Orange & Yellow Gold; Wine Red and Fuschia; Orange & Wine Red, Natural; Brown and Heather Grey; And Blue and Green. These all have a black binder. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

TREMENDOUSLY LARGE, NATURAL LOOP WOOL AND MOHAIR

An exciting, natural yarn, with about 200 to 250 yards per lb. We can furnish you with 4 oz. skeins or about 2 to 3 lb. cones. It is an expensive and beautiful yarn, at \$16.00 per lb. Nuff said, except we have only 35 lbs., and it is from Scotland. Robin and Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE, NATURAL, LOOP MOHAIR

Yes, this is mohair, not wool, and it has 2400 yards per lb., and it came to us on about 3 lb. cones, but we can wind off on ½ lb. tubes of 1200 yards. Price is \$6.00 per lb., or \$3.00 per ½ lb. tube. About 50 lbs. available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLACK, FINE, LOOP MOHAIR

This one has about 2100 yards per lb., and yes, it is a mohair loop, not a wool loop. It too came on 3 to 4 lb. cones, but we can wind off ½ lb. tubes of 1050 yards. Price is \$6.00 per lb. a good price for mohair. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

