



warp and weft

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March, 1976

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A Word from the Editor

Hurrah! This is the March issue, and I'm taking it to the printers early in March. Things are looking up, and there are signs that I'm catching up, and I think that by the first week in July, we'll be all caught up, and I hope that I can stay that way for awhile.

It has been hectic around the shop for this past month. Our new house is slowly progressing, and of course, I call Robin and we sort of drop everything and any time there is some progress, we hurry up to see what changes there are in the house. As of this writing, they have just finished all of the dry walls, and have the furnace going to help dry them out. The next step is the sub-flooring, the finishing of the walls, and then the installation of the hard-wood floors. I asked the contractor the other day for an approximate finish date, and he said 45 days. So, if things go right, we will be moving in about the 15th of April. Cross your fingers and hope for the best for us.

Robin has been extremely busy this past month, as we are planting some 500 trees on our 4½-acre lot, and most of this work has fallen upon her.

And, we had so many new yarns come in during the past 2 to 3 months, that we've had to completely re-organize all of our storage bins, and we have rented a small warehouse space, and are trying to get it

well organized there. Today, I spent 3 to 4 hours at the warehouse, looking for yarns, trying to straighten them up, and putting it in a reasonable order.

It is extremely interesting to us that during the past three months, our most popular threads have been cotton and also silk threads. So, the past several sample sheets, we have tried to make sheets which show the different silks that we have on hand, and we have one in cotton also in progress.

Besides all of this, I've been weaving the sample that will be featured in this issue of warp and weft, so there has not been a quiet moment for a good while. And now, with Janice's help, we've been packing and marking prices, preparing to go to the Southern California Handweavers Conference in Santa Maria, California. Just today, we finished marking the yarns I will take, and this afternoon, three of us spent the time loading a small U-haul trailer, which I will pull behind me down to the conference. We have also set up a loom with a sample display thread, and will take this apart tomorrow, and take it down to the conference for display.

One thing sure, when our staff does leave in the evening, there have been so many varied activities that we are all tired, and welcome the day's end.

As we live in a small town, Robin and I become actively involved in the sports of the high school and college in this area. This year, our high school, McMinnville High School, has gone through the basketball season undefeated, and in three days they enter the playoffs for the state Championship. We're hoping that they will win all 4 games in a row, and emerge as the state champions, and only time will tell.

Well, I've rambled enough with this issue, so I'd better get back to the sample for this month's issue.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Book Review

We have received a book from Davis Publications which we want to tell you about this month. It is entitled "Design Sources for the Fiber Artist," by Irene Waller.

After seeing two other similar books with the same idea in mind, that of finding "Design Sources," all around us, I'm pleased with some of the content in this month's book we are reviewing, but I feel that this particular book does not come up to my expectations.

It has some interesting ideas for designs from nature, and for designs from our environment, but I feel that this book just does not do what the title indicates. It just doesn't give us enough ideas for designs as I feel it should.

There are some outstanding black and white, and color photographs, but on the whole, the photographs are not as sharp and clear as one would anticipate. Perhaps it was because of the quality of paper these pictures were printed on.

The author, Irene Waller, is a prominent textile artist, and she is trying to tell us to look around us, and to absorb what you see, and record what you see by photographs, paintings, weavings, etc. If you look at this text, I'm sure that it will inspire you to further look at all you see, and to use this as a design source for your work.

TITLE: DESIGN SOURCES FOR THE FIBER ARTIST

AUTHOR: Irene Waller

PUBLISHER: Davis Publications, Inc.

PRICE: \$10.95 plus shipping

AVAILABLE: From Davis Publications, or from Robin & Russ Handweavers if so desired.

This Month's Cover Photograph

The cover this month is a tapestry woven from an aerial photograph view of THE LESLIE SALT BEDS, on the way to San Jose, California.

We have a copy of the photograph which this was woven from, and this is an outstanding likeness of the actual scene. This tapestry has quite a story behind it. Esther McKinley did all of the spinning and dyeing of the colors of yarn in the tapestry. And Lois Purdom enlarged the picture, and did the actual tapestry weaving. The purpose of the tapestry is to start a memorial scholarship fund, in honor of Mama Gravander of Mill Valley, California. She was an outstanding spinner and weaver, and I had the privilege of visiting her studio and knowing her fairly well. I'm delighted that the Gravander's Spinners Guild is doing this, and wish them much luck. If any of you knew and enjoyed "Mama" Gravander as much as I did, you might like to add something to this scholarship fund. If so, I'd suggest that you write to Gravander's Spinners Guild, c/o Lois Purdom, 276 East Napa St., Sonoma, California 95476. This tapestry was on display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in 1978, and was a part of the exhibit of the Gravander Spinners Guild.

NINTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF NORTHWEST WEAVERS will be hosted by the Inland Empire Handweavers Guild in Spokane, Washington during the days of June 14 through 17th, 1979. The theme will be "Weaving Unlimited," and they will use the facilities of Whitworth College in Spokane. The exhibits and commercial sales will be open to the public one day on June 16th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The other days will be reserved for the registrants who attend the conference.

MOSSY ROCKS

Our sample this month is another variation of a log cabin weave, and I feel that the texture and the color of the threads used make for a very "exciting" fabric in this month's four harness weave.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

O — Color #25, 2/18's Worsted, Olive
 X — Heather, space-dyed, brown-green-grey single ply wool

WARP THREADS USED:

There are 2 different threads used in the warp. One is color #25, 2/18's worsted yarn in a color called "Olive Green."

The second warp thread is completely different than the first in that it is a single ply, woolen spun yarn which has been space dyed at intervals in an olive green, and this color blends in with natural grey and natural brown wool.

WEFT THREADS USED:

The same two threads that are used in the warp are also used in the weft.

REED USED:

A 10 dent reed was used, and it was double-sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch.

WIDTH AND LENGTH OF WARP:

Our warp was a full 46" wide, and it was 15 yards long. From this, we are getting about 13 1/2 yards of finished 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.

Sample



TREADLING SEQUENCE:

There are 18 shots in one complete pattern repeat. Here is the sequence:

1. Treadle #6 — 2/18's olive
2. Treadle #5 — space-dyed wool
3. Treadle #6 — 2/18's olive
4. Treadle #5 — space-dyed wool
5. Treadle #6 — 2/18's olive
6. Treadle #5 — space-dyed wool
7. Treadle #6 — 2/18's olive
8. Treadle #5 — space-dyed wool
9. Treadle #6 — 2/18's olive
10. Treadle #5 — 2/18's olive
11. Treadle #6 — space-dyed wool

12. Treadle #5 — 2/18's olive
13. Treadle #6 — space-dyed wool
14. Treadle #5 — 2/18's olive
15. Treadle #6 — space-dyed wool
16. Treadle #5 — 2/18's olive
17. Treadle #6 — space-dyed wool
18. Treadle #5 — 2/18's olive

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

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

First of all, this is a fairly hard fabric to weave. The main reason or the two reasons are as follows. One, I think that it would have been easier to weave if we had set the warp at 18 ends per inch instead of 20. It would have allowed the shed to open a little better without the warp threads cling together. As it was, at 20 ends per inch, the warp threads did cling together quite a bit, so I used a triple beat on all of the fabric. I threw the shuttle across, beat; changed to the next shed, and then gave a double beat before I would throw the shuttle again. This would clear the shed, so that we had no warp threads cling together.

The second thing that made this fabric a little hard to weave is that the homespun type of yarn which was space-dyed is not the best quality of wool yarn. It is a little harsh, and actually is a fairly stiff yarn, and because of this, the weft thread of this yarn did not bend properly, and as a result, we had an irregular selvage edge.

And, to make for easier weaving, we did use a 4 thread selvage of a 3 ply wool from Scotland, with a tight twist, and so we had absolutely no breakage either of the selvage threads, nor of the main warp and weft threads.

This space-dyed olive-grey-brown heather yarn is not a very pretty yarn by itself. It needed this olive green 2/18's to give it life. This space-dyed yarn is what does make the fabric so attractive. The yarn is not regularly space dyed, so it does not form a pattern as do some threads. So, with this yarn, the proper blending of another color with it is what makes it such an outstanding fabric.

I've been much amused by the reaction of various weavers as they've seen this fabric on the loom. There are no in-betweens to the persons as they look at this fabric. They either think it is very striking and unusual, or they do not like it at all. There are no in-between expressions, such as well, it's all right. It seems to be either instant liking or instant disliking of the fabric.

I think that this fabric will be much, much nicer if it is washed and pressed. I would suggest that you wash it in luke warm to warm water, rinse very thoroughly, and allow to drip dry. After it is drip dried, then a thorough steam pressing will make it much softer. I doubt if we will do this to this sample, but I wanted to suggest it to you.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

The 2/18's worsted, color #25, olive green, has about 4800 to 5000 yards per lb., comes on about 1/2 lb. cones, and is \$12.00 per lb. It comes on about 1/2 lb. cones, and there are 39 colors of this yarn available.

The space-dyed, single ply wool of green-grey and brown seems to have about 1200 yards per lb. It came to us on about two pound cones, and the price is \$6.00 per lb. It is strong enough for either warp or weft.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

Our warp took 5 3/4 lbs. of the single ply homespun type yarn. And it took 1 lb. 7 oz. of the 2/18's olive green. So the total warp cost for a 15 yard warp, 46" wide, was \$51.75, or the cost per yard was \$3.45 for the warp.

In the weft, we used 4 lb. 14 oz. of the single ply homespun type yarn, and we used 1 lb. 2 oz. of 2/18's worsted olive green. Thus, our weft cost was \$42.75, or the cost per yard was \$2.85 per yard.

Warp cost per yard, 46" wide	\$3.45
Weft cost per yard, 13½ yds long ..	\$2.85
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$6.30

TWO — ONE WEEK WORKSHOPS

with

MALIN SELANDER

Sweden's leading weaving instructor, author, and designer.

First session, July 2nd through July 6, 1979

Second session, July 9th through July 13, 1979

This will be a structured workshop, with all of the looms warped per the directions of Malin Selander.

The subject of the workshop will be "THICK AND THIN WEAVES, or TRANSPARENCIES."

It is on a first come, first served basis for the 2 weeks sessions. Price will be \$100.00 per week, and if any of you would like to take both weeks, you are welcome to do so, but the second week will be a repetition of the first session.

If you would like to register, we request a \$25.00 deposit to confirm your registration, and the balance should be paid by June 15, 1979.

We are so pleased to have Malin Selander again, as she is such an outstanding weaver and designer. She gave an outstanding fashion show to our guild the last visit two years ago, and after the program, the entire audience got up and applauded. This is the first time I had ever seen this at a weaving program.

She is well versed on her subject as she is the author of 6 weaving texts. She has been a guest lecturer in many other countries of the world also, and has conducted workshops in many other countries, as well as the U.S.A. and Canada.

Her books were:

1. Swedish Weaving Patterns
2. Weaving Patterns from Sweden
3. Swedish Swatches, Yellow Series
4. Swedish Swatches, Red Series
5. Swedish Swatches, Blue Series
6. Swedish Swatches, Green Series

All of our books except the Swedish Swatches, Green Series are out of print, but we are working on her, to try and have them all reprinted.

ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS

533 North Adams St.
McMinnville, Oregon 97128
Phone (503) 472-5760

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.

20/2 WHITE DURENE, AND 20/2 BLACK DURENE COTTON

We have about 50 lbs. of each of these, and while it lasts, both are \$4.00 per lb. The black is on cones of about 1 lb. 6 oz. each, and the white is on about 1/2 lb. cones. Remember limited amounts, and a good buy at \$4.00 per lb. Both have 8400 yards per lb., and are excellent for either warp or weft. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

18/2 UNMERCERIZED COTTON, CHINESE RED

This is a very nice color, has about 7500 yards per lb., and came on about 1 lb. 4 oz. cones. This is an odd lot of about 50 lbs., and the price is a good one at \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/10's and 3/10's metric count, BLEACHED WHITE SILK NOIL FROM SCOTLAND

One is a two ply with 2250 yards per lb. And we have it also in 3 ply with 1450 yards per lb. On cones of about 3/4 to 1 1/4 lbs. each, the price is \$12.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

JUTE AND RAYON BLEND, SLUB YARN

We just purchased a large lot of this, as it does seem to be harder and harder to find. It has approximately 1500 yards per lb., can be used for warp or weft, and the price is good, at \$4.00 per lb. It came to us on 3 lb. cones, but we can wind off 1/2 pound tubes for you. Price per 1/2 lb. tube is \$2.00. Excellent for table linens, drapes, and other uses. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

6/2 SPUN RAYON WARP IN TWO COLORS, AT AN OUTSTANDING REASONABLE PRICE

This came on about 1 1/2 to 2 lb. dyetex tubes, and has 2520 yards per lb. We have it available in two colors a sort of goldish tan, and also a light orange. A good tight twist, and excellent for warp or weft. It is slightly finer than a 5/2 or perle 5 cotton, and should be good warp at 15 ends or 16 ends per inch. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

TWO PLY, LAMB'S WOOL, ANGORA RABBIT, AND NYLON, for warp or weft

in a natural color. About the equivalent of a 14/2's worsted yarn in size, it is a two ply for warp or weft. It is 63% lamb's wool, 22% Angora, and 15% nylon. The price is a good one, at \$6.00 per lb. on about 2 1/2 to 3 lb. cones. For lots of 1/2 lb. or 1 lb. or more it is \$3.40 per 1/2 lb. tube. This has about 3500 yards per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 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 2 1/2 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.

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 1/2 lb. for you. Price is \$4.80 per lb. About 1000 lbs. available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams Street, 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 1/2 lb. tubes. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 CUT, CHENILLE, IN 16 COLORS.

Slightly heavier than usual, this 5 cut polypropylene chenille is available in some very nice colors. Available on 1/2 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.

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. 1/2 lb. tubes are available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The book, "THE TECHNIQUE OF WOVEN TAPESTRY" by Tadek Beutlich, is officially out of print, but while in England, I was able to locate 100 copies of it. So, while our last 75 copies are available, the price for this book is \$11.95 plus shipping. If interested, please order directly from ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams Street, 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.

