



warp and weft

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November, 1979

warp and weft

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word from the Editor

The Christmas season is upon us, and we at Robin and Russ Handweavers, are busy filling orders, and opening and restacking new lots of yarns as they come in. From my two recent business trips, we've received two of the shipments, and it is always exciting to open a box and see what the new yarns are.

At one place of business, I was lucky to be able to purchase a complete line of 15 colors of a 2/18's, 100% Alpaca. It is a very nice yarn, and we are pleased to have this many colors. And the price is also a great surprise—it is \$8.00 per pound. This is the end of a regular line one company had, and when it is sold out, no more of this weight will be available; but it is nice while it lasts. And I couldn't have found this unless I had gone on these last two business trips, one to England and Scotland and Japan; and then from a tip given me in England, I went to visit a firm in Rhode Island, and it was here I purchased the Alpaca.

Of course I was gone so long on these trips that everything else suffered, and this means that Warp and Weft and Drafts and Designs is late.

Janice and Robin wonder if I live here in McMinnville, or actually our address is now Amity, Oregon, for our home.

And then after two very hectic and busy business trips, Robin and I, along with two other couples, went to Hawaii for nine days and spent three days each on three different islands. We found this very

stimulating and exciting, and we fell in love with the beautiful flowers and trees in Hawaii. On this trip we forgot all about the business and enjoyed the sightseeing. Four of us went swimming every morning in the ocean at 6:30 in the morning before breakfast, and this was a tremendous stimulus to us.

And on the trip to Hawaii, we saw three beautiful tapestries woven by a person we met two years ago in Hawaii. If you ever go to Hawaii, look in the building where the House of Representatives and the Hawaiian State Senate meet and see the two beautiful tapestries there. They are about 35 feet wide, by probably 75 feet high, and the colors and texture are a feast for any handweaver.

And we've been rearranging our warehouse storage to make room for some of the many new threads that have been coming in, and just today we started opening the boxes and bringing the yarns to the shop for display. There is one natural colored, heavy, cotton flake boucle yarn which is scrumptuous and will probably not last long, but it is a most beautiful yarn. We will start the sample sheets on these soon.

I keep remembering how exciting my visit to Japan was, and wanting to go back. This is why I keep dreaming of possibly leading a hand-weaving tour to Japan next summer; and so along with the other things, I'm working on this. If you are interested or think you might be, drop us a line; and we will send a travel brochure when they are ready from the travel bureau.

Also, when I was in Siam, I ordered a suit of hand-woven silk from a firm there, and some silk shirts. These have just come in, and they also are stimulating and make you want to travel more. I guess I've learned that I have a wander-bug in me, as I look forward to every different trip I make. What I meant to tell you was that the silk shirts tailored to order for me cost just \$11.00 each, and here in the states a regular shirt such as I wear costs anywhere from

\$18.00 to \$24.00. You can see why I was intrigued, and the handwoven silk suit was \$95.00 tailored to order. And in England I found a place where you can have suits for men tailored to order for \$55.00.

I just had a long distance call from England, and in one year we find that the shipping costs have almost doubled in the past two years.

Another thing that intrigued me on the recent trips is that I was able to find once again some 16/3, some 20/2, and some 40/2 white mercerized Ramie, which is on order and should be shipped to us from Japan in December. It is to come to us on 1 lb., cellophane-wrapped cones, which will be very pleasing.

And I was lucky and found a lot of about 800 pounds of silk while in Japan, and that should also be on the way to us in December.

I also found a source of cotton in Siam, or Thailand as it is now known; and I hope to go back some day and investigate this further.

Now that I'm back and all these yarns are either here or on the way, I'm desperately saving so that I can pay for these as they do come in.

Well, you can see it has been a busy past three months, and now I'm trying to get caught up in all of the 1001 details. We have to re-stock our books and our accessories, and I've been working on doing this the past two weeks. Also, when I'm away like this, the staff here saves all of the questions for me to answer when I come back; and so I'm working on the two big boxes that have accumulated while I was away.

I will try to write more about the weaving in the Far East in the next issue, and now I should get back to the sample for this month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review

This month I'm delighted to tell you about a little booklet that I think is quite outstanding and that we have just

published.

The title is BASIC DOUBLE WEAVE THEORY, and it was written by Sara Farrar as a research paper for a weaving class at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California.

I was intrigued with her work when I saw it, so after reading the copy and seeing how clearly double weave was explained, I was most willing to publish it.

She has given excellent basic instructions in 4, 6, and 8 harness double weaves.

She has kept the wordiness at a minimum and has explained the technique so that you can work out creatively the application of the many different techniques she has explained.

She goes into detail on two layers of fabric on 4 harnesses in a plain weave, two layers on 6 harnesses using a 2/1 twill background, and on 8 harnesses a 2/2 twill background. Then she explains 3 layers on 6 harnesses in a plain weave, and 4 layers on 8 harnesses with a plain weave background.

She has a section on extra-wide fabrics, where you can weave a double weave, open it up, and have a fabric twice as wide as what was woven. She also explains how you can have fabrics three and four times the width of the loom you are working on.

Then she explains many different variations of tubular weaving, which makes for many exciting fabrics.

After this, she has an explanation for weaving pockets on 4, 6, and 8 harness looms, and then goes into free design on double weave, pick-up techniques on double weaves, and other such details.

This is a spiral-bound book, can be opened up to use as a workbook at your weaving without fear of the pages turning, and as an aid in following directions.

She gives many helpful suggestions or hints about materials and techniques.

Also, what I like is the fact that we can sell this booklet for \$4.95.

(continued on page 5)

YAK, YAK, YAK

It sounds like a lot of talking is going on, but actually, the main thread is a very nice 100% Yak yarn from Tibet, by way of England. And the warp thread and the tabby threads are also most unusual blends. The warp is called “Carmel Apple Beige,” and is a blended linen and wool thread, and the tabby thread of white is 50% silk and 50% polyester.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

WARP:

Our warp is a 2-ply linen and wool blend called “Carmel Apple Beige.”

WEFT:

Two threads are used in the weft. The darker and main one is the 2-ply, 100% Yak hair yarn from Tibet, by way of England.

And the thread used for tabby is a white, 50% silk, 50% polyester thread from Italy, by way of Switzerland and England.

REED USED:

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

WIDTH OF WARP AND LENGTH OF WARP:

Both before and after weaving.

Our warp was 40” wide on the loom, and in the weaving process it narrowed down to about 38½” width.

In the weft, from a 14-yard length of warp, we had some 12 1/3 yards of finished cloth.

TIE-UP DRAFT AND ALTERNATE TIE-UP DRAFT

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

4			O
3		O	
2			O
1	O		
	1	2	3

O — tie-up is for jack-type looms.

Note: Use the alternate tie-up draft if you want to use or tie-up only 3 treadles.

Sample



This Month's Cover Photograph

This month's cover photograph is that of an 8 harness “Shadow Weave.” What intrigues me about this photograph is how the same color of thread can all of a sudden be made to stand out and outline a pattern as it does here in this fabric. Then, after outlining the fabric, it again merges in with the other threads, and blends so well that you hardly notice it.

Some weavers have called this weave a “Color and Weave” effect, and there have been several other names given to it.

This weave is one that we featured in our bulletin, Drafts and Designs.

MORE ABOUT THE THREADS USED:

First of all, our warp was a linen and wool blend, and this is quite an unusual blend of fibers. Unfortunately, we've sold all of this color and the white we had from England, and are now trying to obtain some more. It was a 2-ply and was excellent warp. It had 3200 yards per pound.

The Yak hair is one we had spun and plied for us in England. We located it as Yak hair and talked one spinner into spinning it for us. It comes on about one-pound cones and has been selling at \$6.80 per pound. We had 200 pounds, but have probably used and sold about 110 pounds of it.

And the third thread is the 50% silk, 50% polyester blend yarn, which has about 2400 yards per pound. It comes on about 1-pound cones, and is \$8.00 per pound.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

It took 3½ pounds of the Carmel Apple Beige Linen and Wool Blend yarn for the warp, and it sold for \$6.00 per pound, so our total warp cost was \$21.00 for the 14 yards of 40" wide material, or the warp cost per yard was \$1.50 per yard.

In the weft, we used 8 lbs. 10 oz. of the Yak, Yak, Yak, hair yarn. It cost \$6.80 per pound, so the cost of this weft thread was \$58.65. The second thread used in the weft was the silk and polyester thread in the winter white color. We used three pounds of this thread, so this cost was \$24.00.

The total weft cost for 12 1/3 yards of finished fabric was \$92.65, so the weft cost per yard was \$7.50.

Warp cost per yard, 40" wide	\$1.50
Weft cost per yard	<u>7.50</u>
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$9.00

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

In the whole 14 yards of warp, we did not have one broken thread in the weaving. It went very easily.

Of course, most of you recognize that this threading draft is one of the many possible **huck** variations.

The Yak hair is fairly heavy, and I like it because it seems to have a blending of

black, brown, and grey hairs, to make it a most interesting color. In the weaving, we felt it would have a lot of ends if we wound it on the 4", 5½", or 7" bobbins, so instead we used a ski shuttle. I think that this did slow the weaving down quite a bit, and if it were done over, I'd use the 5½" or 7" bobbin in the weaving.

Also, please notice that we have a tie-up slightly different. It is called a direct tie-up, when you have one treadle tied to control one harness.

Actually, in the weaving of this fabric, we used only 3 treadles, so you could tie-up your loom with only three treadles, and this would make it easier to weave, and give you a tendency to make less mistakes. If you'd just tie-up the 3 treadles instead of the 6, your treadling would be 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 3. The one and two treadles would always be yak, and the #3 treadle would always be the silk and polyester.

I think that this would be excellent for use in ponchos, jackets, and capes. You could have the items reversible; and if you wanted to be warmer, you could have the Yak side in; and if you wanted to be cooler, you could have the linen and wool blend side inside.

Also notice that #6 treadle is a plain weave treadle; that we do not use the other plain weave or tabby treadle in this particular sample.

This threading draft is one of the basic drafts that you find in the booklet "Four Harness Huck," by Evelyn Neher. I think that that booklet is one of the best studies of any one weave I have ever seen. It is once again available, and I'm pleased to see it on the book shelf again.

This Month's Book Review (continued)

I think I would recommend this booklet highly to anyone interested in double weaves of any kind.

TITLE: BASIC DOUBLE WEAVE THEORY

AUTHOR: Sara Farrar

PUBLISHER: Robin & Russ Handweavers

COST: \$4.95 plus shipping

AVAILABLE: Directly from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

This Month's Second Project

A project that our students have been working on is a place mat using the pattern Italian Diamond, from Davison's Handweavers Pattern Book. We have added a border all around to make it of much more interest.

Warp: 10/2 Natural Irish Linen, set 15 ends per inch, 14" wide, or 210 warp ends.

There are two threads used in the weft. We used the 16/2 ramie in Rusty Brown for the tabby, and we used the 2-ply English Tapestry wool in Creamy Natural for the pattern thread.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

Plan for threading the loom:

- A. Thread 4, 3, 2, 1 4 X = 16 thds
 B. Thread A to C 6 X = 156 thds
 C. Thread A to B 1 X = 23 thds
 D. Thread 1, 2, 3, 4 3 X = 12 thds
 E. Repeat 1, 2, 3 to bal = 3 thds

Total # of warp ends = 210 thds

Plan for weaving:

First of all, I will give you the pattern treadling sequence, and it is understood that you have a tabby thread between each shot of pattern.

1. Treadle 4, 3, 2, 1 — 4 times
2. Treadle #4 — 1 time
3. Treadle #3 — 3 times
4. Treadle #2 — 3 times
5. Treadle #1 — 3 times
6. Treadle #4 — 4 times
7. Treadle #1 — 3 times
8. Treadle #2 — 3 times
9. Treadle #3 — 3 times
10. Treadle #4 — 4 times

Then repeat #3 through 10 over and over for as long as you want to make your mat. Then on the last repeat, to make the pattern balance, do not treadle # 10 four times, but end with #9, Treadle #3, 3 times. Then to balance border at the end, treadle as follows:

1. Treadle #4 — 1 time
 2. Treadle 1, 2, 3, 4 — 4 times
- End of one place mat.

Use a firm, even, double beat on both the 2-ply tapestry wool and the 16/2 ramie in the rusty brown color.

As the loom is set up 14" wide, it does weave down to about 13 to 13½" wide on the loom.

Most finished place mats seem to be these three most common sizes:

12" x 18" 13" x 19" 14" x 20"

We usually do a 10-yard warp, 14" wide and 15 ends per inch. It takes 2100 yards of 10/2 linen warp or about, but not quite, 1½ pounds for warp.

In the weft, two 4-oz. spools of ramie are enough tabby for 8 mats. It will take about 3 to 4 of the 4-oz. skeins or tubes of the 2-ply tapestry wool for the pattern thread.

Several persons have also used this pattern, weaving about 24" lengths, for knitting bags or shopping bags. Some have woven an extra piece for a gusset, and others have not. It is up to the individual.

This color combination we have given you has been a very pleasing one, but you have a choice of 20 or more colors in the ramie, 11 or 12 colors in 10/2 linen, and 35 colors in the tapestry wool.

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.

HEAVY, BEAUTIFUL, NATURAL COTTON FLAKE BOUCLE

This is a very exciting all-cotton yarn, on about 2 lb. cones, and the price is \$6.00 per lb. Free sample upon request. 450 lbs. just came in. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5/2 BLACK MERCERIZED COTTON

This is a very nice mercerized cotton, with 2100 yards per lb., and a good price of \$6.00 per lb., instead of the \$11.95 now being charged by Lily Mills. It is on cones of 13 to 17 oz. each. We purchased the entire lot of 90 lbs. While it lasts, \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10/2 WHITE MERCERIZED COTTON

This is a nice quality cotton, and it looks even nicer than Lily's, and it has 4200 yards per lb. About 45 lbs. available on about 1-lb. cones, at \$4.80 per lb. Cones do vary slightly in weight from 14 oz. to 1 lb. 3 oz. While it lasts, \$4.80 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

200 MULTIPLE HARNESS PATTERNS

With the photograph of each given. Has the list of threads used for each project, as well as full details. Paperback will be \$9.95, and hardbound will be \$14.95. Due in from the printers in last week of December. Features 5 to 12 harness patterns with the emphasis mainly on 5 to 8 harnesses. Being published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NEW BOBBIN LACE BOOK entitled BOBBIN LACE BRAID, by Gilian Dye.

It seems quite interesting. Has 85 monochrome photographs, 7 color photographs, 112 diagrams, and 76 prickings. Price is \$16.95 plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BASIC DOUBLE WEAVE THEORY

An excellent little booklet written by Sara Farrar and published by Robin & Russ Handweavers. This spiral bound booklet is an excellent guide to many types of double weave, and it is so clearly explained that you should have no problems with any of the techniques explained. It gives step by step instructions for 4, 6, and 8 harness double weaves, and includes Layered Fabrics, such as 2 layer, 3 and 4 layers, extra wide fabrics, or double, and triple and quadruple width on 4, 6, and 8 harnesses; teaches one to do tubes, or two tubes, or loom controlled tubes; has a section on 4, 6, and 8 harness pockets. Gives you directions for double weave with free design, and double weave pick-up for single thread and double thread pick-up. Exciting, and not too expensive, it is \$4.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3 PLY, 50% SILK, 50% POLYESTER, WINTER WHITE

We were fortunate to obtain another 500 lbs. of this yarn, 50% silk, 50% polyester in the same winter white color we've had in the past. It has approximately 2400 yards per lb., is on about 1 lb. cones, and the price has gone up slightly and it now is \$8.00 per lb. Excellent for warp at 15 to 20 per inch. Robin and Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

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

This came on about 1½ 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.

2½ LEA, SLUBBY LINEN FROM SWITZERLAND

Yes, we have 13 colors in this most interesting yarn. This is from the only firm we can find anywhere that makes a true slub linen. This is 2½ lea size, has 750 yards per lb., and it is \$9.60 per lb. Makes the most beautiful mats, table-cloths, etc. And we paid extra for the best dyes available, and the colors are exciting. If interested, write for a free sample sheet, as we are making these up now. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

6/2 COLORED LINENS FROM SWITZERLAND

We have these in 11 colors, and it too is dyed with the best dyes available. This has 900 yards per lb., and is good warp at 8 or 10 per inch. Works nicely with the 2½ lea slub linen listed above. Excellent for table linens, for patio and outdoor use, and probably good for macrame. It is on about 1 lb. 1 oz. tubes, and the price is \$9.60 lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE TECHNIQUE OF TORCHON LACE

by Pam Nottingham is enroute to us from England. We will be distributors for this book. It will retail at \$16.95 and should be here by late September at the latest. Looks like an excellent book from the preview of the copy I saw. Postage or shipping will be extra. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NATURAL 100% COTTON FLAKE BOUCLE YARN

This should dye beautifully, and work well in the natural also. It has about 750 yards per lb., and can be used in the warp as well as the weft. Should make nice, soft fabrics. Came to us on about 2 lb. 4 oz. cones, and the price is \$4.80 per lb. while it lasts. We liked this one so well that when we were offered 500 lbs. of it, we took it all. Free sample upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

PAINTED WARPS

Another booklet just re-published by Robin & Russ, this one was written by Hazel Farrow, and discusses many different aspects of painting your warp threads to complete designs. A new and stimulating technique which you should enjoy. Price is \$4.50 plus postage. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

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DRAFTS AND DESIGNS

A monthly, multiple harness bulletin with a large sample swatch in each issue. It is issued 10 times a year, and features 5 to 8 harness patterns. Also, once or twice a year, 9 to 12 harness patterns are also featured. Price is **\$8.00** per year. All subscriptions start with the September issue, so if you subscribe now, back issues from September will be sent to you. Available from: **ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS**, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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