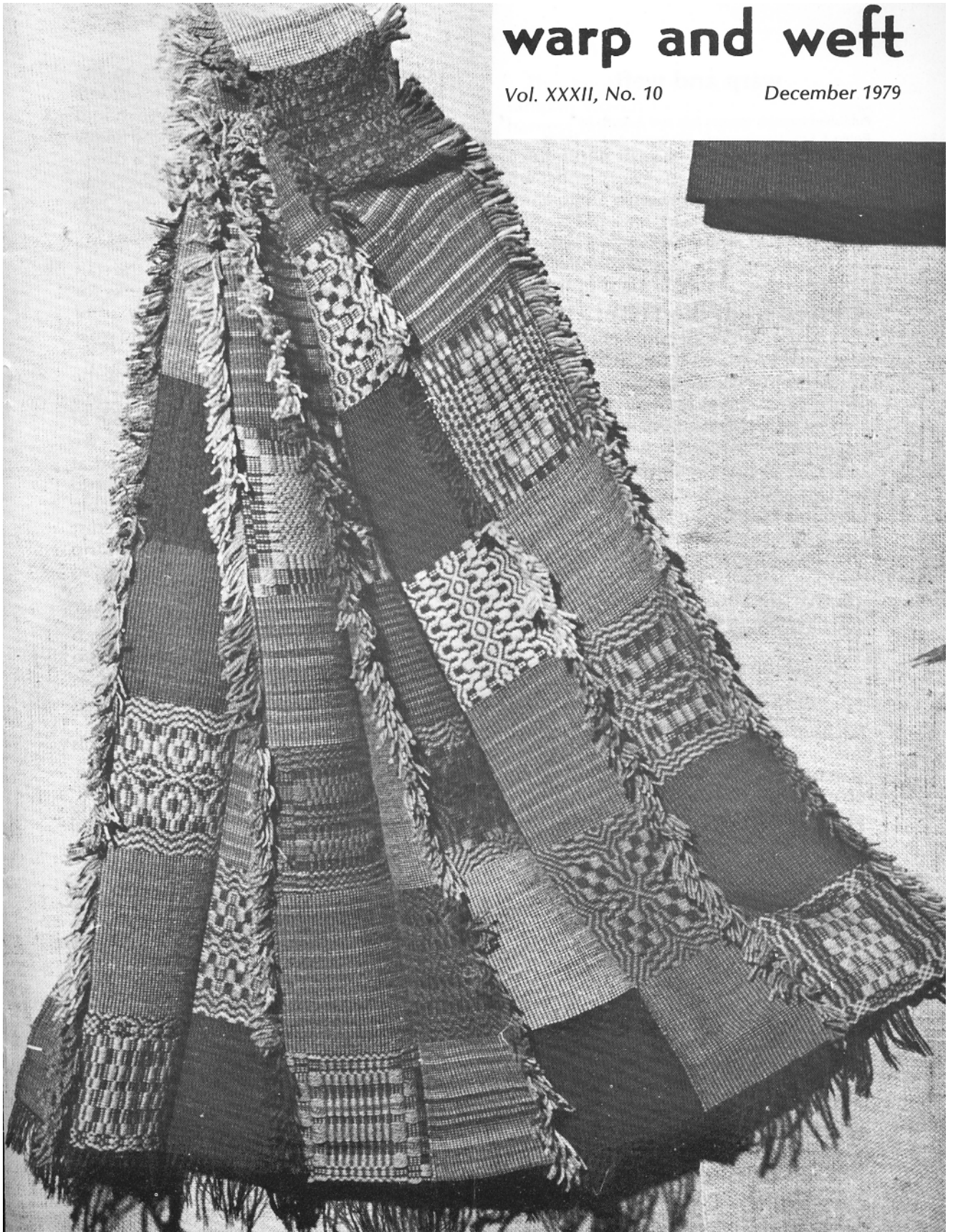


warp and weft

Vol. XXXII, No. 10

December 1979



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Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street,
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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word from the Editor

As usual, we're behind schedule with Warp and Weft, so I'll not dwell much on this except to say, we're working on some future samples and are trying to catch up.

It has been a busy, busy time in the shop since the first of the year. Each day, we have someone or sometimes two or three work for two hours on our inventory. We must have this correct and complete to satisfy Uncle Sam at income tax time. It is a job we all dislike intensely, but it is one that must be done. It is a long, long, time-consuming job. We are about three-fourths finished and have hopes that another week will see us finished.

And, to top this off, the shipments of yarn from three firms have arrived from England. We had for the first time ever, a full container of yarn come from England, and now the struggle starts in the warehouse to open and check the contents of each box, to consolidate and remove some of the empty boxes from past years, and to make room for this new shipment of yarns.

And besides this, we had two shipments come in from suppliers back east of about 2,000 lbs. each of yarns that we are trying to open, advertise, and stock on our shelves.

We are lucky to have the warehouse space we do, to store these yarns.

Also, in the shop we have had to make some new arrangements. We had a lack of wrapping space, so we're rearranging and building some new counters to make more room for wrapping and invoicing. We have some poles at intervals down the center of the room, so we're building a new counter and workspace for me around one of these

poles, and then giving my space to the persons in the office part to use for orders and for wrapping and invoicing. We should have done this several years ago, and finally took the initiative and are having it done.

Besides this, we had our new book come in from the printers, and putting away 2500 books is quite a project. To our amazement, we had about 200 back orders for this, so for the past two weeks, the staff has been wrapping all of these books for shipping; and finally, we've gotten all of the back orders out. What a relief, and what a job this is.

Over the Christmas holidays, starting the day after Christmas, Robin and I went on a business trip to California. We took four of the looms we manufacture, and we delivered these, and then we stopped at eight other places on the way back, and picked up benches, spinning wheels, table looms, bobbin winders, and other items; and we had a full load on our return trip also. We made twelve stops in ten days, so you know it was a hectic trip.

Now, for about three or four months, no trips are forthcoming, and I can concentrate on samples for our two bulletins and do some weaving myself, as well as try to handle all of the day-to-day problems.

We, too, are being caught up in this terrific round of inflation we are having. Almost every time we order accessories made to order for us now, we are having price increases, and the same is true with all of the ready-made accessories. I worry for fear we are pricing ourselves out of the market on many items, but I guess this is true of all business, and not just ours.

And I'm working on a new catalogue which will take another two months for me to finish. And it is amazing how many things are not available now that used to be, and how many new items and books and publications there are.

When I get down to the shop, I despair of getting much done as there are so many interruptions, so I'm now trying to stay home in the morning once or twice a week to try and do such work without interruptions.

We are pleased also with the new books and booklets we've had published, but now we have to stop for awhile and recoup some of the cost so we can do one or two more books we have planned. When we can handle it, our next publication will be a book of 100 miniatures, which is the original work of Marian Powell, who wrote the shadow weave book which we published.

Well, now you are aware of some of the activities of Robin and Russ; and I must stop now and put together this December issue of Warp and Weft in late January. I have a sample started on the loom for the February issue, so will concentrate on this as soon as I take this to the printers.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

Woven by Mary Anderson of the Contemporary Handweavers Guild, this patchwork skirt is quite effective.

This was done a little differently than usual.

It looks like the weaver wove about 8" strips, using traditional overshot patterns for one square and then different wefts in plain weave or somewhat similar to plain weave in the next square. Of course, the change in color in each square is quite important.

After weaving these strips about 8" wide, then the weaver fringed each piece and sewed the pieces together to make the skirt. She allowed the fringe to all stick out on the one side, to make for a much more interesting overall effect on the outside of the skirt.

So, you have a most unusual and very effective patchwork skirt if you do it in this manner. This one takes a lot of planning for the right colors in the right places.

This Month's Book Review

This month, your editor is reviewing a book that he has worked on for 20 years.

The title is "200 PATTERNS FOR MULTIPLE HARNESS LOOMS," and the sub-title is "5 to 12 Harness Patterns for Handweavers."

This book is the result of 20 years of samples woven for our monthly multiple harness bulletin, Drafts and Designs.

All of the 200 patterns have a picture of the fabric. However, the only drawback to some of the patterns is the picture. We had only 4"x4" swatches to use to take the pictures, and some of these had had scotch tape over the sample, and thus they are not as clear in some areas as one would wish. However, I think that the firm that did print them did an excellent job from the copy that they had.

We had one sample a month for 10 months of the year in our multiple harness bulletin. These 200 projects are the samples that we wove for this bulletin and were all done over a 20-year period.

The warp threads and weft threads used are all described, and the threading, treadling, and tie-up for all patterns are given.

It was my intention to do this, for pattern suggestion, for your own choice of color and texture of thread, and not to be strictly followed as given in the book. Many of the threads used in these samples are very hard to find today, but there are others with about the same sizes and textures and colors that can be used to weave all of these different projects.

The book is available in a paperback edition at \$9.95 and in a hardbound edition at \$14.95. Shipping is extra on all orders.

I'm sure that there is a great deal of material in this book of interest to the multiple harness weaver.

TITLE: 200 Patterns for Multiple Harness Looms.

SUB-TITLE: 5 to 12 Harness Patterns for Handweavers.

AUTHOR: Russell E. Groff

PUBLISHER: Robin & Russ Handweavers

COST: \$ 9.95 paperback
\$14.95 hardbound

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers

NOTE: Shipping charges extra

14. Treadle #4 — winter white
15. Treadle #3 — winter white
16. Treadle #2 — winter white
17. Treadle #1 — winter white
18. Treadle #4 — coffee brown
19. Treadle #3 — coffee brown
20. Treadle #2 — coffee brown
21. Treadle #1 — coffee brown
22. Treadle #5 — coffee brown
23. Treadle #1 — coffee brown
24. Treadle #2 — coffee brown
25. Treadle #3 — coffee brown
26. Treadle #4 — coffee brown
27. Treadle #3 — coffee brown
28. Treadle #2 — coffee brown
29. Treadle #1 — coffee brown
30. Treadle #5 — coffee brown
31. Treadle #1 — coffee brown
32. Treadle #2 — coffee brown
33. Treadle #3 — coffee brown
34. Treadle #4 — coffee brown

END OF ONE COMPLETE PATTERN
REPEAT. Do repeat over and over as
desired.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

This 3 ply silk and polyester yarn is a blend of 50% silk and 50% polyester. As a result of this blend, it should be quite durable and long-wearing. It has approximately 2400 yards per lb., and we have a good stock of the winter white and the coffee brown. We have limited amounts of colors called "Switzerland's Gold, Tangerine Rust, and Buttercup Yellow." Originally, we had 11 colors, but it was quite popular, and these are the colors we have left. It comes on about 1-lb. cones or tubes. \$8.00 per lb. for the winter white, and \$8.80 per lb. for coffee brown.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

The winter white silk and polyester is \$8.00 per lb. We used 1 lb. 14 oz. of the winter white in the warp. And we used 1 lb. 15 oz. of the coffee brown at \$8.80 per lb. Our total warp cost for the 14-yard warp, 40" wide, was \$32.05, or the cost per yard is \$2.29 per yard.

In our 13¾ yards of finished fabric, we used 1 lb. 12½ oz. of the coffee brown, and

we used 1 lb. 11½ oz. of the winter white. Thus, our total weft cost was \$29.32, and the cost per yard of finished fabric for the weft was \$2.14 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide \$2.29
WEFT COST PER YARD, 37" wide . 2.14
FABRIC COST PER YARD \$4.43

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

We were delighted that in our 13¾ yards of finished weaving, we did not have one broken warp thread.

This thread is easier to weave with than most threads, and the results seemed quite pleasing. One thing about silk is that I always seem to be more pleased with the finished fabric than I expected. It is like weaving with a tartan pattern; that is, the finished results always seem to give you a lift, being nicer than expected. And also, it helps your sense of achievement.

After weaving 4 or 5 yards with the tie-up given, we changed the tie-up to a walking tie-up, and found that this helped make the weaving easier, faster, and also less tiring. I find that a walking tie-up is much more satisfactory when weaving on a loom where the treadles are fastened in the front rather than the back of the loom. It seems easier and faster to weave. This is just a personal observation, and some of you may not agree with this.

This Month's Second Project

We have been working with one of our students with huck variations, and we used the following set-up and threads in the weaving, and came up with a most interesting variation for striking place mats.

Our warp was 10/2 natural Irish linen, at 15 e.p.i., and 14" wide on the loom, plus 3 more ends or actually 14 1/5" wide on the loom.

Here is the plan for the threading for the loom with the 213 threads.

A—1,2,1,3,4,3 — thread these 6 a total of 11 times. $11 \times 6 = 66$ thds.

B—1,2,1 — thread one time to balance $1 \times 3 = 03$ threads

C—3,4,3,4,3,1,2,1,2,1 — 10 threads, thread 7 times. $10 \times 7 = 70$ thds.

D—3,4,3,4,3 — One time to bal. = 05 thds.

E—1,2,1,3,4,3 — thread these 6 a total of 11 times. $11 \times 6 = 66$ thds.

F—1,2,1 — thread 1 time to bal. = 03 thds.

TOTAL NO. OF WARP ENDS . 213 thds.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

There are two threads used in the weft. One is the 10/2 natural Irish linen, same as the warp. The other is a 6/5 half bleached linen for a heavy rib thread.

The treadling sequence is a very simple one, using 6 shots in all, 3 each of the two threads used in the weft. Here is the sequence:

1,3,1, using 6/5 half-bleached linen.

2,4,2, using 10/2 natural Irish linen.

Repeat over and over as desired.

This really makes a very striking mat, with a small, heavy rib along both sides of the mat, and a wide, heavy rib down through the center of the mat. If you do not have a 6/5 linen in half-bleached like we used, you can take a 10/2 bleached linen and wind three threads together to act as one weft thread, and use it for the rib. Also, we have a 12 fold, bleached white linen on 1/2-lb. tubes which also works well for this heavy rib thread.

If set-up slightly over 14" on the loom, these weave down to about 13", and so you make the length of the mat 19" long, plus hem or fringe. If you do a woven hem at the end, use the 10/2 natural Irish linen for the hem.

A Handweaving Tour to Siam and Japan

Plans are progressing for our handweaving tour to Siam (Thailand), Hong Kong, Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, Bangkok, and also to Singapore, and a final

stop in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the way home.

The dates have been established. We had to change from August to September, as most of Japan is closed during August because of hot weather and vacations, and so we will officially leave September 1, 1980, and return 25 days later on September 25.

We will fly directly to Japan and spend 5 days in the Tokyo area, and then we will take the bullet train (125 miles per hour) to Kyoto, the main weaving center of Japan.

We are working now on the technical visits for these days, and are working with a tour group in Japan, and also with the vice-president of the Ramie Company that I visited last summer. We plan to visit a Japanese textile school, to visit a working museum where they have samples of the various types of looms (all being demonstrated upon), to see the fingernail weaver so famous in Japan, and to visit one of the most outstanding handcraft centers I have ever seen. We will also visit an "Obi" weaver, and we are trying to make arrangements to visit a Japanese home and also an outstanding Japanese office that I visited. We are working on details also for Singapore, which is now considered the lowest cost place in the world for shopping. And in Hawaii, we hope to visit the two outstanding tapestries which hang in the House of Representatives and also in the Senate building, and visit a nice handweaving studio there.

Breakfast and dinner will be provided as part of the tour as well as lodging and gratuities, and transportation.

A brochure on the trip will be available within a month, and all of the finances will be handled by Howard Travel Service in McMinnville. Cost for the whole trip is to be about \$3,375.00.

It will be most exciting, and I figure that this tour will cost you 35 to 50% less if you go on a tour than if you go individually. For more details, write to Robin & Russ Handweavers.

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.

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.

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.

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 STRAND COTTON FLOSS AVAILABLE IN 2 COLORS

These are close-outs from a company that has about 90 colors in this 6 strand cotton floss. It normally sells for about \$16.00 per lb. now, but these two close-outs are \$6.00 per lb. One of the colors is Wine-Plum, and the other color is Sherwood Green. And, besides this, we have a 7 STRAND COTTON FLOSS IN NATURAL and a 12 STRAND COTTON FLOSS IN NATURAL. Both of these are \$4.80 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

50/3 MERCERIZED COTTON IN DARK ECRU AND IN WHITE

Those of you weaving miniatures will like this excellent quality cotton. 6,000 yards per cone, the price is \$7.00 per cone. This can be used also for sewing thread on your sewing machine, and will save you \$15.00 to \$20.00 over buying the small 100-, 300-, or 500-yard spools. We wove some beautiful lace weaves with this thread and have an 8 harness huck in progress now in the dark ecru. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

INTENSE SUNSET PINK 20/3 MERCERIZED COTTON

This 3 ply cotton is available on about 1 lb. cones, is excellent for either warp or weft, has about 6400 yards per lb., and has a price of \$4.00 per lb. About 50 lbs. available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLUE FOX, A 70% WOOL, 15% FUR, 15% NYLON

in a flake yarn. This is a blue that I like, because of its color, and also its texture. Could be used as a warp thread in with other threads, but it is made as a weft thread. Would be very nice if knitted also. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Came on about 4 to 5 lb. cones, but we will wind off onto ½ lb. tubes. About 1250 yards per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

CREAMY SAND, SINGLE PLY, 100% WOOL, HOMESPUN TYPE YARN

A nice, single ply, smooth, high quality wool yarn for warp. In ½ lb. skeins, 2400 yards per lb. \$6.00 per lb., and about 50 lbs. on hand. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A SEED, LINEN AND RAYON BLEND YARN CALLED CHECKERBOARD SQUARE RICE CHECKS.

We had this before, and this natural grey linen and creamy rayon blend is always striking. It has a twist which makes a nub, which we call a seed. Excellent for table mats, tablecloths, for use in drapes and in upholstery. 45% linen, 55% rayon, with about 2300 yards per lb. Comes on 1½ to 2 lb. cones. Price is still reasonable, at \$4.80 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

16/2 UNMERCERIZED, MUSTARD YELLOW COTTON

It is getting harder and harder to find unmercerized cottons, so we were delighted to obtain this. Almost like a drapery cotton, but with just a little more twist. Can be used for warp or weft. 6500 yards per lb., on about 1¾ to 1½ lb. cones. \$4.80 per lb. and about 50 lbs. on hand. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
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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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