



warp and weft

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Editor: Russell E. Groff

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A Word from the Editor

Hurrah! One issue is being prepared for mailing; I'm writing the May issue; and we have samples being woven for both June and the September issue, so we are catching up. Now, if I do catch up, the problem once again will be to stay in that situation, and that means more planning and sampling in advance on my part. So, I'm making a determined effort to plan four or five more samples for both bulletins this summer, so that I can stay ahead, even for those periods that I am away.

Also, it looks as though our hoped-for trip to the Far East leading a weaving tour will not materialize. We had eight persons signed up the last I heard, and 15 are required. So, there is another tour going to the same places about the same times, so I'm hoping to go on that; and there is a chance that some of the eight who had signed up will also go on this tour. We can take advantage of reduced travel expenses and reduced hotel accommodations and also have our meals included, so it will mean a little more expense in getting to the different weaving places, but I'm so eager to go that I'm willing to do this.

I think that the reason we did not have more sign up is a combination of several factors. One of these is the fact that we are going in September rather than in the summer months. However, my main contact in Japan said not to come in August, as most of the businesses were closed from about the 4th to the 23rd, and also that it was the hottest time of the year; and that is why he specifically said not to

come in August. That is why we did change our schedule to September. Now, we think that if we had planned it for the middle of June or the first portion of July, that we would have had more interest.

Also, I feel it is a sign of the times, that people are more reluctant to spend as much on vacations, and as our inflation is so great, there is unease about doing such trips.

My reason for wanting to go on a tour was that it is so much less in cost than if you go as an individual. I think that this trip we had planned at \$3,100 for 25 days and including all meals except lunch, and hotels, trip gratuities, etc., is about one-half of what you would spend if you go as an individual. I went by myself on this trip last year, trying to scout out the places to visit, etc., and my ticket alone was about \$2,650, and that did not include any hotels or meals.

So, we're tentatively planning on offering this trip again for next year for the last two weeks of June and the first portion of July. Anyhow, we'll see what happens.

Your editor is staying at home more this year than in past years. Only one convention has been attended, and no summer workshop was planned, so we are getting more done in the shop. One thing that we are going to tackle in August is painting the whole outside of the shop. I'm sure that this will be a great task, but it will be one that we feel must be done.

And, we've been doing quite a bit of work in our warehouse storage that we use. We have been repacking any torn and damaged boxes, taking inventory of what is stored there, finishing opening the boxes from our large shipment from England, and sweeping and cleaning as much as possible.

Also, we have small, narrow sample warps on about eight different looms now, and we are trying and experimenting with different yarns to see what samples we will have in future issues. It is great fun to experiment like this, and sometimes I'm

very pleased with the results; and other times, I discover what I've tried has been a wasted effort.

Also, we've had a few new yarns come in during the past month that are quite interesting. One is a natural white velour chenille which is quite exciting, and I want to experiment with it before it is all gone. We had some most unusual metallics come in. These are quite heavy and are a braided rayon or synthetic yarn with a metallic braided around the outside of this core yarn. It was just so unusual that I had to try it, and I'll do some experimenting with this for one or two future samples also.

We have ordered an interesting new linen, a 45/3 natural or raw grey yarn which is exciting. We have been offered some exciting yarns, but with such high prices that I don't think that I'll stock them. When prices of yarns get above \$15.00 per pound wholesale, you know that one can't afford to stock many of them.

It has been vacation time the past month for many of the staff, and Janice has been off for two 1-week periods. You don't realize how much you can miss one person until you try to do that job yourself, and then you are conscious of what the other one does. I found that Janice is a much more systematic person than I am, and that this makes her job of filling the orders, stocking the shelves, and putting away new yarns, etc., an easier job when she is systematic.

Robin has not been working in the shop so much, but has been doing more of the outside work at our home on top of the hill, trying to get it in shape, while I've concentrated on working at the shop. We are so pleased with our new home; it is hard to tell you how much. We quite often eat dinner out on the porch and look out over the valley, and observe the changes from day to day. About a month ago, we could look out and see some beautiful red fields of 50 to 300 acres of red clover in full blossom. It is raised for seed here in this valley, and is always fun to see where it will grow. They seem to change the locations of

the fields where this is raised every year.

Now the valley is beginning to turn golden yellow as the wheat, barley, and oats start to ripen.

The cherries have just been picked in the many orchards in the area, and now the deer are looking for something else that is sweet to eat, now that the strawberries and cherries are gone for this summer. When the plums are ready, you will always find them near the plum orchards and peach orchards. Going home from work each night, one must drive with care, as the deer appear at the most unexpected places. Two of the last three evenings on the way home from work, deer have jumped out of the cherry orchards right in front of my car; and luckily, I wasn't speeding, or there would have been a collision.

Enough for now. See you in the next issue.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

One of the techniques that you do not see used very much is that of painting your warp threads while on the loom. The coat on the cover of Warp and Weft is a beautiful coat which was done with a painted warp technique.

This was displayed at the Northern California Handweavers Conference this spring in Fresno, California.

This coat was woven by Carol Huntington of the Carmel Crafts Guild, Carmel, California.

The coat was woven of all cotton threads, and I'm not positive, but I believe the colors in the coat ranged from wine to yellow.

This technique has always intrigued me, and it was because of this interest that we here at Robin and Russ Handweavers republished the booklet entitled PAINTED WARPS, by Hazel Farrow, about six months ago. It is available from our shop, and is \$4.50 per copy.

This is another of the many "By-ways of Handweaving," that have shown a marked revival of interest the past couple of years.

pulling out of the shed about 1/16". So these are 9/16" at one end and tapered down to about 8/16" (or 1/2") at the other end.

Then I started the fabric by first of all putting in a heading of any thread you might desire to use, until all of the threads were straight and parallel to one another.

Then, on the plain weave treadles, #5 and #6 or A and B, all of the following was woven.

First, you have one shot of the cotton lace. Then you have 24 shots of the size 20/2 white Egyptian cotton. Then you have one shot of the cotton lace.

Then you take the two pieces of cardboard. You open the shed for the next weft thread and insert the cardboard strips, one in on each side, with the 9/16" end in, and allow the strip to stick out on the selvage edge about 1/2". So, then you change to the next shed and weave with the cardboard in the shed. You weave 1 shot of yellow cotton flake, 12 shots of the 20/2 Egyptian cotton in popcorn yellow, and one of the yellow cotton flake. Then pull each piece of cardboard out of the fabric, and change to the next shed and insert them again. As you leave them in when you are weaving the next pattern repeat, you keep them at the constant same width of openings.

As these pieces of cardboard you put in the shed are 9/16" on the first end inserted, and tapered back to 8/16" or 1/2", as they are tapered, they pull out fairly easily. So, then you insert them again when next you need them.

I found that this gave a uniform width of skipped threads in the weft, and was the easiest way to handle this. You cannot do this by using the eye to judge the width of skips, and so you have to use some mechanical means (as we did) to keep these skips all the same width.

Another interesting thing is that in our original sample, we tried the cotton flake in the yellow as the warp thread, and the slubs

kept coming off and wrapping around the other warp threads and causing breakages. After this happened several times, then we substituted the 5/2 medium dark yellow cotton as the warp thread, and we used the cotton flake thread as a weft thread. It did not present any problems then.

I do think that if you do weave these and decide to use them for curtains, that it would help much if you would starch the fabrics heavily, and then they would not slip apart from one another in the warp or weft.

COST OF THE THREADS USED IN THIS SAMPLE:

The natural cotton lace used in this sample has 1800 yards per pound, comes on about 3-lb. cones, and is \$6.00 per pound. We will wind off for you 1/2-pound cones, or rather tubes, of this cotton.

The 20/2 white Egyptian cotton and the 20/2 popcorn Egyptian cotton both sell for \$13.00 per pound, and come on 1/2-lb. tubes of 4200 yards each.

The bright yellow cotton flake used in the weft comes only in rust, spring green, yellow, white, and black on 1/2-lb. tubes, and it is \$4.80 per pound.

The last thread is the 5/2 mercerized cotton in medium dark yellow. It does normally sell for \$13.50 per pound on the 1-lb. cones, but we have a small odd lot of this which is on about 14-oz. cones, and which we are offering at \$6.00 per pound.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

In our warp, it took 3/8 pounds of the 20/2 popcorn yellow Egyptian cotton, and it took 5/8 pounds of the bleached white Egyptian cotton. At \$13.00 per pound, this comes to 1 pound, or \$13.00. We also used 4 ounces of natural cotton lace, and this is \$6.00 per pound, so the cotton lace in the warp was \$1.50.

Also, we used 4 ounces of the 5/2 dark yellow cotton in the warp. This is \$13.50 per pound, so our total weft cost for these four items was \$16.20. So the cost per yard for the 14-yard warp was \$1.16 per yard.

In the weft, we used 4 ounces of the natural cotton flake, 4 ounces of the bright yellow cotton flake, 10 ounces of the white 20/2 Egyptian cotton, and 5 ounces of the yellow popcorn 20/2 Egyptian cotton. We find the flake was \$1.50, the yellow cotton flake was \$1.20; the 10 ounces of white and the 5 ounces of yellow Egyptian cotton comes to \$12.75 for the two. Thus, our total weft cost is \$15.45, so the cost per yard from 13½ yards of finished fabric was \$1.15.

WARP COST PER YARD \$1.16
 WEFT COST PER YARD 1.15

Fabric cost per yard \$2.31

WIDTH AND LENGTH OF ORIGINAL WARP, AND WIDTH AND LENGTH OF FINISHED FABRIC:

Our warp was set up 40" wide on the loom with a warp length of 15 yards.

The finished width when off the loom was 36" to 37". There is quite a bit of narrowing of the fabric when you take it off the loom. Under tension on the loom, it measured about 38"; but immediately we took it off the loom, it came down about another inch to two inches.

From our 15-yard warp, we received just 2" shy of 14 yards of finished fabric.

This Month's Book Review

This month I'll tell you just a little about a book that we have just recently published. It is entitled, 200 PATTERNS FOR THE MULTIPLE HARNESS WEAVER, and was written by your editor.

Actually, this book sort of wrote itself, as it is a compilation of the samples that we wove for the first 20 years of our monthly multiple harness bulletin, which is called DRAFTS AND DESIGNS. Actually, what we did was to reduce all of these patterns to one page; and just gave the basic details, as warp, weft, reed used, threading draft, the treadling, and other details such as solving any problems encountered in weaving these patterns.

We had a 3"x3" swatch of all of the

samples woven for this bulletin, and so from this we took a picture of each of the 200 fabrics; and as a result, there is a picture of the 200 different patterns also given, one on each page.

The patterns which are featured are those that range from five harness to twelve harness patterns, with about three-fourths or slightly more of them being five to eight harness patterns.

I honestly feel that it is a wide variety and an interesting collection of weaving projects. One group that came in the shop purchased a copy for each member of the group, and they are even using it for a project book for the study group in that Weaver's Guild.

We had it published in both paperback and in a hardbound edition. The paperback edition sells for \$9.95, and the hardbound edition is \$14.95. Shipping and handling charges are extra.

TITLE: 200 PATTERNS FOR THE MULTIPLE HARNESS WEAVER

AUTHOR: Russell E. Groff

PUBLISHER: Robin and Russ Handweavers

COST: Paperback edition, \$9.95, plus the postage and handling.

Hardbound edition, \$14.95

Shipping and handling are extra on ALL ORDERS.

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers, or from your near-by weaving shop.

NOTICE

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE INCREASE

As of September 1, 1980, WARP AND WEFT subscriptions will be \$12.00 per year for the U.S.A., and will be \$12.50 per year for Canada and foreign subscriptions. Renewals up to that time will be honored at the old price of \$8.00 per year. As of September 1, all letters post-marked September 1 or later will be at the new rate.

Also, our multiple harness bulletin, DRAFTS AND DESIGNS, will be a new subscription price of \$10.00 per year.

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.

FOR SALE: 70-year-old oak loom:

Four harness, counter-balanced, needs little work; good antique investment. \$300.00 plus shipping. Call or write Cathy Jones, 24 E. 17th - #206, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119. Phone (918) 587-3713 after 5:30 p.m.

CASTLE TYPE, SPACE ENGINEERED SPINNING WHEELS, WITH A LAZY KATE, AND 3 EXTRA BOBBINS

Made of teak wood, we have 3 of these spinning wheels, which are the most outstanding we have ever had made. Two pounds of steel put inside the rim of each wheel (hidden inside the wood), which helps make it one of the easiest to treadle spinning wheels we have ever had. \$350.00 plus packing and shipping. These have a large orifice so you can spin either fine or heavy threads. We've sold about 75 to 100 of these in the past 7 to 10 years, and have never had a complaint about them. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE, ROUND GOLD METALLIC

This gold metallic is on about 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes, and it is a fine gold wrapped around cotton core. Good for warp or weft. We have 50 lbs. on sale at \$8.00 per pound while it lasts. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

50% NATURAL TUSSAH SILK, 50% WOOL IN A SINGLE PLY YARN.

We have two weights of this yarn on hand. The heavier has 1450 yards per pound, and the finer has about 2400 yards per pound. Can be used for warp or weft. On 2 to 3 lb. cones. Price is \$6.80 per pound. It has the natural tussah silk color. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

60/2 RAW GREY IRISH LINEN

We have about 100 pounds left of the shipment of this we received by way of Japan. This linen can be used for warp or weft, has 9,000 yards per pound, and is on cellophane-wrapped tubes of about 13 to 16 oz. each. Price is most reasonable at \$12.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

VELOUR NATURAL WHITE NYLON CHENILLE

This is a beautiful, very tightly woven nylon chenille. Would be outstanding for knitting as well as for weaving. On tubes of about 1 lb. 4 oz. to 1 lb. 8 oz., and we have about 50 tubes of this. Price is \$8.00 per pound, while it lasts. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
