



# warp and weft

Vol. XXXIV, No. 3

March 1981

## warp and weft

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### A Word from the Editor

Well, I did all right on the first two issues, but this one, the March issue, is going to the printers about one week after the January and February issues. This was delayed a week because of illness; but hurrah, it goes to the printer tomorrow; and then tomorrow, we do some experimenting on the three samples we want to try out for April, May, and June.

One of the ladies here in the shop is putting the samples in the January issue, the February issue will be ready to go out next week, and this issue the following week—so progress is being made.

And believe it or not, business is also picking up a little. And I will be going to the Northern California Handweavers Conference in two weeks to try to stimulate it a little more.

One of our employees who has worked here for about four years has announced that she will get married in July, and so now the hunt is on again for a replacement. Yesterday I interviewed six persons, and we have narrowed our choice down to two. We will talk to each of them again, and hopefully have one come in to start training and help in handling the mail, the orders, the invoices, etc.

There has been a tremendous rash of flu going through our shop this spring. I know that I've been down and out of work at different times during the past four weeks,

and the same symptoms just seem to come back to each of our staff again and again. Hope that we are all over this soon.

We have been very pleased lately to find some excellent new Swedish weaving text books with good color plates and directions becoming available. Even though the text is in Swedish, if you can learn about 20 basic words and terms, you can follow any of these patterns. There are two on rag rugs, one devoted to curtains and drapes, one devoted to towels and towelling, and a big general, all-purpose book also. They seem to be well liked by all who see them.

And we have been looking for some fine cotton threads for bobbin lace, as it is getting harder and harder to find. We located some beautiful #70 cotton in Switzerland and just had a part shipment come in to see if we can use it. And we had a new Dutch bobbin lace book come in, but the price is so much I doubt if we will sell many.

Would you like to hear of a pickle your editor was in last week. I was in bed with the flue and really not feeling too well. I got up one time and tripped over the cat, of all things, and hurt my foot so bad I could not walk on it. And then that night my jaw started hurting, and—you guessed it—a toothache, and a tooth that had to be removed the next day. That really was a lost week.

And we have been able to have our plans for our two 1-week summer workshops all worked out, and the brochure for this is at the printers; and we will have them to mail out next week.

We have three conventions that I will be participating in in May and June, so I want to get this finished, and hopefully, the next issue written before I get too involved with this.

Hurrah! Hurrah! Another of our weavers has just sent us a box of her weaving, and

she has finished the sample for our April issue of Warp and Weft; so hopefully, I will get the April issues to the printers before all of the May and June activities begin.

Back to the sample for this month.

*Russell E. Groff, Editor*

## **This Month's Book Review**

I am very impressed with a new book which has just become available. With all of the interest in loom-shaped garments and woven clothing of all kinds, this is a good project book for 24 garments, designed so there is a minimum amount of cutting and shaping. This new booklet is entitled *TREADLED TOGS*, by Kerry Evans. She has a sub-title which is very descriptive, and it is "A Pattern Book of Loom-Fashion Clothing."

The author states that she had insulated her house with wall hangings and rugs, and it was time for greener pastures. So, after much deliberation, she decided to weave clothing. However, she has a fear, which many weavers have, which she calls "CUTAPHOBIA," and she feels that many weavers are afraid to cut their fabrics after they have perhaps woven enough for a Vogue or Butterick pattern. So, she decided to design loom-fashioned clothing that required minimal cutting, and which were at the same time, both fashionable and fit well. So she spent the next two years designing and making the 24 different garments which are featured in the book. Each of the 24 garments has been photographed, and the complete directions for layout and making of the fabrics is included. She has not given the threads she used, nor the patterns of treadlings she has used, but has primarily been concerned with the layout of the finished fabric, and the directions for the making of each of these 24 pieces of clothing with the least possible cutting and shaping that she could do. She has designed these garments so that size

changes can be easily made. She says that the weaver may want to change lengths of woven items, and the dimensions she has given are those of the fabric after she has taken it off the loom.

There are sewing directions when necessary, an explanation of the patterns, and a layout sheet giving the dimensions for each of the 24 patterns, plus a full page and sometimes more of how to make up each of these pieces. And of course, there is a photograph of each of these 24 clothing fabrics.

I was quite impressed with the work in this publication, and feel that it is one of the better booklets on the subject of creating hand-woven clothing.

TITLE: *TREADLED TOGS*

AUTHOR: Kerry Evans

PUBLISHER: Kerry Evans of Milwaukee, WI

COST: \$9.95 plus shipping 7 handling

AVAILABLE: Direct from the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers if desired.

## **This Month's Cover Photograph**

This month's photograph is by a weaver I have been meaning to feature for a good while. I believe that this is a sea-scape somewhere in the Big Sur area of California, and it was woven by Jewell Hall of Los Altos. She is a member of the Glenna Harris Weavers Guild of San Jose, California. I'd like to give you some details from a letter from her.

A seascape is a painting, right??? It is unless you happen to be Jewell Hall, weaver.

She has created a technique for weaving seascapes. Through the blending of fibers and colors, she weaves wall hangings which realistically show the water, sky, and mountains of California's coastline.

*(continued on page 6)*

# PUMPKIN, ORANGE, AND GOLD:

I've been having fun experimenting with the cotton floss, tapestry wool, and a plied metallic, so we thought you might like this month's upholstery sample, which combines all three of these.

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.

## THREADING DRAFT:

4					X						X
3						O					O
2			A	B				A	B		
1	A	B					A	B			

## KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

1. A - #13, Orange 6-strand cotton
2. B - #12, Melon 6-strand cotton
3. O - #33, Fools gold tapestry wool
4. X - #30, Pumpkin tapestry wool

## WARP:

There are four different threads used in the warp. They are as follows:

- A - #13, Orange 6-strand cotton floss
- B - #12, Melon 6-strand cotton floss
- O - #33, Fools gold tapestry wool
- X - #30, Pumpkin tapestry wool

## WEFT:

In the weft, we had 5 threads used in a specific sequence. Here are the thread names and numbers.

- A - #13, Orange 6-strand cotton floss
- B - #12, Melon 6-strand cotton floss
- O - #33, Fools gold tapestry wool
- X - #30, Pumpkin tapestry wool
- G - A KNITTER'S DREAM, 4-PLY GOLD BOUCLE

## REED USED:

A 10-dent reed was used, and we had a special slewing of the reed. Here is the special slewing:

- 1st dent: One end Pumpkin wool
- 2nd dent: One end Fool's gold wool

Sample



3rd dent: One end each of #44 Orange and #45 Melon, 6-strand cotton floss.

4th dent: One end each of #44 Orange and #45 Melon, 6-strand cotton floss.

REPEAT OVER AND OVER IN THIS SAME SEQUENCE.

## TREADLING SEQUENCE:

We have a standard tie-up, and we used the plain weave or tabby treadles, #5 and #6 for the weaving of this fabric. It does not give us a true plain weave, but it is close to it.

*(continued next page)*

Treadle as follows:

- #5, #33, Fools gold, tapestry wool
- #6, #30, Pumpkin tapestry wool
- #5, 4-ply gold metallic, doubled on the bobbin
- #6, #44, Orange floss doubled
- #5, #33, Fool's gold tapestry wool
- #6, #30, Pumpkin tapestry wool
- #5, 4-ply gold metallic, doubled on the bobbin
- #6, #45, Melon 6-strand cotton, doubled on the bobbin

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

**MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:**

Easy, and pleasing to weave, and in this case, the combination of cotton and wool worked very well. I think that the cotton floss, doubled, was close enough to the weight of the wool that this is one reason why we had no trouble.

Use a firm, even, double beat. The metallic was no problem, although it is a little stiff. If you have problems with this, use a closed-bottom shuttle, and put a little wrinkled-up tissue paper in the bottom of the shuttle and enough so that it puts a little drag on the bobbin, and then it will not unwind as fast, and thus will not be a problem.

Also, with the 2 colors, or rather the 2 ends of one color, of cotton floss being woven together, sometimes if you wind it on the same bobbin, it gives troubles with one end being longer than the other. In this case, if too great a problem to handle, then you can use a double bobbin shuttle, and this should make this portion of the weaving easier.

Actually, this was not a problem with us, so I'm just giving you a warning that it could possibly be a problem.

There were no problems other than these mentioned, so really, it is quite easy weaving.

**COST OF THE THREADS USED:**

The 2-ply tapestry wool is a standard stock item. It comes in about 40 colors, and we have most on hand all the time. It is available in 4-ounce skeins of 175 yards per skein, or approximately 700 yards per pound. The price is \$3.95 per skein.

The 6-strand cotton floss is a special item with us right now. While our current stock lasts, it is \$8.00 per pound, has about 2080 yards per pound, and we have about 32 colors on hand now. Of these, 9 are on skeins of about 1/2 lb. each, and the balance of 23 colors are available on 1/2-lb. tubes, at \$4.00 per 1/2-lb. tube.

The 4-ply gold luminex has about 2400 yards per pound, and is available on 4-oz. tubes of 600 yards each. It is \$3.50 per 4-oz. tube, or \$14.00 per pound on cones of about 1 lb. 11 oz. or 12 oz. each. I was so lucky to be able to get this gold luminex 4-ply for us and still be able to sell it at this most reasonable price.

**COST OF THE FABRIC:**

Our fabric was set up 30" wide on the loom, and we had a 13-yard warp. In our warp, we used almost 2 pounds of the 6-strand cotton floss at \$8.00 per lb., and 2 lbs. 13 oz. of the tapestry wool at \$15.80 per lb. Our total warp cost was \$60.60, and that means that the cost came to \$4.66 per yard.

In the weft, we used slightly less of each of the two wools. Our total weft cost was \$68.00, so the cost per yard was \$5.67 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 30" wide .	\$4.66
WEFT COST PER YARD .....	5.67
<hr/>	
FABRIC COST PER YARD .....	\$10.33

**WIDTH AND LENGTH OF WARP,  
BOTH BEFORE WEAVING AND  
AFTER WEAVING:**

Our warp was set up 30" wide on the loom, and we had a 13-yard warp.

From this 30"-wide warp, we had 12 yds. and 3 in. of finished fabric, and it was 29½" wide.

*(continued next page)*

### **This Month's Cover Photograph**

*(continued from page 3)*

She has been weaving for 14 years and started weaving seascapes about 8 years ago, inspired by the gift of a watercolor ocean scene. She tries to use yarns to repeat or duplicate the natural action of the sea. The finished fabric gives a dimension of mobility that a painting does not have.

The materials used in the warp vary. A fine, strong warp is a must. Egyptian cotton, fine linen, or ramie is what she uses. Cotton, to her, seems to produce a sturdier base. No pattern or draft is used on the warp. The scene develops as the weaving is wound around the beam. The land or sea is woven at the bottom of the warp and ends with the sky.

Many different yarns are used in the weft. Colors and shadings are chosen carefully to give the desired natural shadings of the sea, clouds, etc.

No two hangings are alike, but each has its own special quality, tranquility or

dramatic action of the waves beating against the rocks. She was awarded three ribbons for her work at the 1978 Northern California Handweavers Conference.

She works on two 4-harness looms that she has, but states that her type of weaving could be done on a 2-harness loom. In joining the different yarns, many tapestry techniques are used. Some are smooth dovetailing, some bulky interlocking to give added texture. Seldom are they uniform. It is a constant form of creating. As a painter uses brush strokes of color, so is the color of the yarn introduced into the weaving.

Sizes vary. The hangings produced so far range from 12 inches square to 3 feet by 6 feet. She also does other weaving, but always comes back to her seascapes, which have proven to be both relaxing and engrossing to make, and inspirational to view.

This cover photograph was made from a 35 mm color slide by having a negative made and then enlarging from that.



Jewell Hall, weaver, of Los Altos, California, with one of her creations, a "SEASCAPE." She also wove the one featured on the cover.





**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.



**WHEATINA WHITE AND NATURAL**

This is a natural linen which is blended with a white rayon which has a small nub in it. It is a combination we found very popular a couple of years ago. Good for upholstery, drapery, clothing, and other uses. It is on 2-lb. cones, and seems to have 3200 yards per lb. Price is \$6.00 per lb., and we can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes for you. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**CHARMING ORANGE COTTON CHENILLE IN A 3 TO 3 1/2 CUT SIZE**

It is not a bright, intensive orange, but sort of a soft, muted orange, on 1-lb. tubes. A good price at \$4.00 per lb. Good for accents, for place mats, for bathroom mats, for use in cotton rugs, etc. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**BEIGE LOOP WOOL, WITH MEDIUM TOWARD LARGE LOOP.**

A very nice quality yarn, on cones of about 1 1/2 lbs. each. About 1,000 yards per lb., we have a special price of \$9.60 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**25% SILK, 25% LINEN, 50% RAYON IN A BLENDED YARN, NATURAL COLOR ONLY.**

This is a very nice textured natural, probably with about 4,000 yards per lb. Only about 30 lbs. available. Price is \$8.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**BOILFAST CARPET WARP.**

800-yard, 1/2-lb. tubes. We have this in natural, white, and 10 colors. Beige, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange Rust, Chocolate, Red, Purple, and Black. Price is \$3.00 per 1/2-lb. tube of 800 yards. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**45/3 NATURAL GREY, IRISH LINEN.**

A good, strong, 3-ply linen which we have a special price on of \$8.80 per lb. On cones varying from 12 oz. to 1 lb. 2 oz. in weight, this linen is good for warp or weft. It has 4500 yards per lb., and we've used it mixed in with ramie in the warp in 2 projects. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**2/4'S SOFT, FLUFFY, NATURAL WORSTED YARN**

A beautiful, soft, all-wool yarn, with 1120 yards per lb. Should dye beautifully. Available in skeins only, at \$8.00 per lb. Soft, fluffy, and thick, it is one you will like. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**A FINE, NATURAL, COTTON KNOT & FRILL YARN**

This is all cotton, has 3750 yards per pound, and came to us on 4-lb. cones. We can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes of this one. The price is \$4.80 per pound. It is on one of our latest sample sheets. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**4/4 NATURAL CARPET WARP**

Available on about 2-lb. cones, this is twice as heavy as the regular carpet warp. It has 800 yards per pound, comes on 2-lb. cones, is sold by the cone only, and is \$4.80 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**16-PLY HEAVY, NATURAL COTTON**

This comes on about 2-lb. cones, and it has 275 yards per lb., or 550 yards per 2-lb. cone. Price is \$4.80 per pound, and it comes on 2-lb. cones only. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**FINE NATURAL WOOL NUB WITH SILVER TWIST**

We have about 40 pounds of this natural nub wool with a fine silver metallic twisted around it. Should be nice in clothing. Comes in skeins of from 4 to 8 oz. each, and the price is \$9.60 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**TRAM SILK, WHITE BOIL-OFF, 100/2 PLY**

This is a beautiful slubby silk, with a sheen, and while it is 2-ply, it is slightly slubby, quite fine, with about 7000 yards per lb., in skeins. The price is \$16.00 per lb. Would make beautiful weft on many different silk or cotton warps. Comes in 2 to 4-oz. skeins. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**8/4 NATURAL KNITTING WORSTED**

This is an extremely nice, soft, quality worsted available in skeins, with about 1100 yards per pound. Price is good also, as it is \$6.80 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

**RAYON CHENILLE, FINE 8-CUT IN ABOUT 10 COLORS.**

We have limited amounts of these colors, not enough to put out a regular sample sheet on them. So if you are interested, send for a sample sheet which we especially make up, and see the colors. It has from 900 to 1050 yards per lb., depending on the color. It is a nice quality; and once again, amounts are limited. Price is \$6.80 per lb., and we've wound it onto 1/2-lb. tubes. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

**GREEN-GOLD 8/1 LINEN**

A single ply, slubby linen, with a green gold color which tends toward a khaki green, with 2400 yards per pound. Price is \$4.00 per lb. It is quite strong, and would be a good occasional warp thread in with others. On about 2-lb. tubes. We can wind off 1/2 lb. if desired. And if we do, then it is \$4.80 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

