



warp and weft

Volume XXXV, No. 6

June 1982

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Published monthly (except July and August) by
Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street,
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$12.00 per year U.S.A.
\$12.50 per year Canada
\$13.00 per year foreign
Back issues, \$1.25 each plus 20¢ postage

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A Word from the Editor:

I'd better not say anything about catching up, as it just hasn't happened. However, I will say that it has been a hectic summer and fall, and I've had to be away so much. I've recruited Janice to help, and hopefully another weaver soon will help, and that is all I will say.

We did locate some most beautiful yarns when I did go back east, and they have been gradually coming in. You should see the beautiful, soft, 3-ply alpaca in 4 natural shades that just came in. It is about the size of a 3-ply fingering yarn, and should make the most beautiful sweaters, scarves, etc. The regular wholesale price of this yarn is normally \$32.00 per pound, and we are able to sell this one for \$24.00 per pound.

And I found a very nice wool, 4-ply knitting worsted, and we have it in natural, light yellow, tawny taupe, rich chocolate, and bleached. And at an exceptionally good price for all wool, as it is \$6.80 per pound.

Another lot that I was most delighted to find was a black brushed wool from Phoenix Yarns. I purchased some 200 pounds of just the one color, black; and we will have it on special at \$16.00 per pound. The regular price is about \$32.00 per pound.

While I was back east, I went and took a class on how to repair winding machines, as we cannot find anyone on the west coast now who can repair the universal winding

machines that we use to make small spools from large cones. We've had to do a lot of work on our seven winding machines, and without having any formal instruction, we were having problems keeping them working properly. Don't know whether I'm any smarter or not, but we have not had as much trouble since my return as we had had earlier. I took this class in South Carolina; and went from Providence, Rhode Island, to Columbia, South Carolina, on my trip; and I did this all in 10 days, so you know it was a hectic trip.

Business has slowed down more and more, and we now have four less persons to help. Janice and I have tried to assume the duties of some of the staff that are no longer with us, and we do not seem to be able to catch up with everything as we had hoped to.

I did weave the sample for this issue, and Janice is now weaving the one for the next issue.

Russel E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

This blouse was on display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference at Sacramento this year, and it was very nicely done.

It was very pleasing to see the combination of handweaving and crocheting to make this an outstanding piece. The blouse is woven on a multiple harness, point twill, and it was woven by Susan Ringle of the Shasta Weavers Guild.

The fabric has a sheen like it might have been silk, but I will not specifically say that this is what it was.

We have a book which we published with 150, 16-harness twill variations in it, and with a photograph of each. This is very similar to these, although I've woven something very similar on both 8 and 12 harnesses, as well as on 16 harnesses.

This Month's Book Review

At long last, Peter Collingwood's long-awaited book, *The Techniques of Tablet Weaving*, is now available here in the U.S.A.

This is an outstanding book on tablet weaving or card weaving.

Peter has delved greatly into the history, and it makes for most interesting reading. I knew quite a bit of this, but his research was much more thorough.

He has a section of the different terms used in card weaving and then a description of current and ancient tablets. He has discussed several different methods of tensioning, the types of yarns that work best, and then he has also given a thorough discussion of how the cards are set-up. There is a thorough discussion on how the cards or tablets are threaded, how they are turned, and what results when they are turned.

There is an interesting chapter on the weaving of one of these bands, with a discussion on the start, on how to narrow or widen the width, and then how to finish the weaving of the band.

Next, there are eight extremely thorough chapters on many different ways these bands can be woven, and he has four or five different parts in eight of these chapters. It would be kind of difficult to tell you of all of the different things that one can do; he makes it most interesting, and his descriptions of what to do to make many of these different techniques work. They give interesting effects in the weaving. He explains such things as weft patterns, different types of twining, using a non-twining technique, using warp and also weft twining. This series of chapters is the meat of this book, and they are clearly explained and thoroughly discussed.

Another thing that I particularly like is the available drawings, and the excellent photographs which are given in this text. They are all clearly drawn, and just as

clearly explained. He even has a chapter on other different things that you can try that he has thought about.

And I was intrigued with the bibliography, which was quite thorough and most interesting to read.

This was a monumental work by Peter, and I would recommend it highly. It is expensive, but I feel well worth the cost of \$35.00 per copy.

TITLE: *The Techniques of Tablet Weaving*
AUTHOR: Peter Collingwood
COST: \$35.00 plus shipping & handling
PUBLISHER: Watson-Guption Publications
AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers, if you desire, or direct from the publishers.

This Month's Second Project: A rug to be proud of, durable and long wearing.

This rug that I'm going to tell you about is finished size 39"x60" plus fringe.

We set-up the loom 40" wide with 8/5 linen rug warp, set at 6 e.p.i. We threaded it in a plain 1, 2, 3, 4 twill. As there is a lot of take-up in the weaving in this, we did a warp three yards long. It took 1½ pounds of the thread for the warp. It is now priced at \$15.20 per pound, so our total warp cost was \$22.80.

We then proceeded to weave this with the heavy German rug wool, which is natural with injected colors blended into the natural at sort of irregular intervals. It comes in natural with brown, or natural with black, natural with yellow, and natural with brown and blue. There may be from 15" to 30" of all natural rug wool before a little color appears, and then it may be 15", or 24" or so, before a little more color appears. Besides the rug wool, we used a 2-ply fine tapestry wool in between each shot of the heavy rug wool. This heavy rug wool has a jute or linen core, and the wool is

(continued on page 6)

RUSSELL'S FAVORITE:

This color blending is one of the favorites of your editor, and I designed and wove the sample for this month. It was planned for a man's sport jacket. It is a basket weave threading, with three different twill variations in the treadling.

TIE-UP IF ONLY 6 TREADLES AVAILABLE:

4				0
3			0	
2		0		
1	0			
	1	2	3	4

THREADING DRAFT:

									Start
4	XX	00	XX	00	AA	XX	AA	XX	
3	XX	00	XX	00	AA	XX	AA	XX	
2	XX	00	XX	00	AA	XX	AA	XX	
1	XX	00	XX	00	AA	XX	AA	XX	

WARP:

Our warp is 3 different shades of brown, English wool tweed in slightly different weights.

- X — dark brown English tweed
- 0 — medium brown English wool tweed
- Z — lighter brown tweed with flecks

End

4	00	AA	00	AA
3	00	AA	00	AA
2	00	AA	00	AA
1	00	AA	00	AA

WEFT:

Our weft is the same three colors as was used in the warp of dark brown, medium brown, and light brown English wool tweed.

REED USED:

An 8-dent reed was used, and it was double-sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 16 threads per inch.

TIE-UP IF 12 TREADLES AVAILABLE:

4			0			0	0		0	0	0	
3		0			0	0		0	0	0		
2	0			0	0			0	0		0	
1	0			0			0	0		0	0	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Sample



TREADLING SEQUENCE IF YOU HAVE 12 TREADLES

After designing this sample on a loom

with a direct tie-up, one harness to one treadle, I decided it would be much easier to weave if it could be done on a loom with 12 treadles. So, I set up the warp on an 8-harness Oregon Trail loom with 12 treadles, and of course, only used 4 of the 8 harnesses. The treadling was quite simple on this one, with myself treadling 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 with the darkest brown wool tweed. Then I treadled 5, 6, 7, 8, 5, 6, 7, 8 with the medium brown, and finally, the last 8 shots were 9, 10, 11, 12, 9, 10, 11, 12 with the lightest brown with more colored flecks.

TREADLING SEQUENCE WITH ONLY 4 TREADLES

There are three parts to this treadling, and on the first part, you just treadle 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4 with the darkest brown.

Then, you step on two treadles at a time and you treadle 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 4-1 with the medium brown. Then on the last portion, you have to raise 3 harnesses or step on 3 treadles at a time. You treadle 1-2-3, 2-3-4, 3-4-1, 4-1-2, 1-2-3, 2-3-4, 3-4-1, 4-1-2. Yes, you are actually stepping on 3 treadles at one time for 8 shots. There are 24 shots each in one complete pattern repeat.

Actually, the treadling is just three different twill variations. The first is a 1-3 twill, the second is a 2-2 twill, and the third is a 3-1 twill, and it gives a very pleasing effect in the overall fabric.

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

When designing this tweed for a sport coat, I wanted it to appear unbalanced and have an irregular repeat. I was able to achieve this by having a 6" pattern repeat. In this 6" pattern repeat, the three warp colors were repeated in a random sequence, and it is this which makes this a unique fabric. Your sample in Warp and Weft this month will give only a portion of this 6" repeat, but it will give enough of the three colors to give you an idea of the overall fabric. That is why there are 96 threads in one complete pattern repeat.

This was a great challenge to warp, and very easy to weave once I had it warped. I did this via sectional warping, and warped 20 sections with 32 threads per section. I had to change the color sequence 3 times during the warping of this fabric. I had the 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19 sections all the same color sequence. Then I changed and had the 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 20 sections all the same. Then I changed the sequence on the spool rack again and had sections 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18 all the same. I warped 24 yards so we could do two different 12-yard fabrics on this set-up, as I had experimented and made about 20 different samples on my original samples.

You will like the second project which is now in process on the loom. I've woven about eight yards of it and think I like it just about as well as this sample. Our treadling in our second sample is completely different than this month's sample and will be featured in our next month's issue.

This is a single ply wool tweed that I used for Warp and Weft. I was so pleased with the weaving, as I did not have one single broken thread in the 11 yards of finished fabric. I am now on a second 11-yard project, and have not had a broken thread with this, either. Many persons are afraid to use a thread like this wool tweed for warp, but we have been very pleasantly surprised with the results.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

The wool tweeds used in both the warp and also in the weft are imported from England. It comes on about one-pound cones, and we have about 50 pounds of each color available. The price is \$6.80 per pound. You will note that they do vary a little in weight, and the yardage seems to range from about 1100 yards per pound for the heaviest, to about 1500 yards per pound for the finer ones. We have about 15 colors that we have never advertised on any sample sheets yet. If you are interested, send us a self-addressed, stamped

envelope, and we will send you the samples of these 15 tweeds. We also have about 8 others that are slightly heavier than these, and we will include these also. All are the same price of \$6.80 per pound. And also, we have three other ones which are \$8.00 per pound. One is a two-ply, and the other three are all single-ply. Nice color blendings in all of these.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

The wool tweed yarn costs \$6.80 per pound. I did a 20-yard warp, and it took 12,800 yards of 9¼ pounds of the wool tweed for warp. Averaging it out at 1400 yards per pound, our cost would be \$3.14 per yard.

In the weft, we used slightly more per yard than what it took for the warp. Our weft cost would average out at about \$3.65 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD \$3.14
 WEFT COST PER YARD \$3.65

FABRIC COST PER YARD \$6.79

This Month's Second Project
 (continued from page 3)

wound around this circularly, rather than combing it parallel and twisting it around. It is one of the most durable rug wools you will ever find. I saw some on the floor in a restaurant in Germany, and it had been on the floor 10 years with no sign of wear.

In the weaving, we did it on a plain weave, or tabby, and we alternated one row of the heavy German rug wool with one row of the finer tapestry wool, which was a brown that blended in with the color that was the inject in the German rug wool.

For our 60" length, it took one 4-ounce skein of the 2-ply tapestry wool, and it took 4 lbs. 14 oz. of this heavy German rug wool.

I also forgot to tell you that the German rug wool costs \$12.00 per pound.

Also, when off the loom, we took six of the warp ends, divided them into groups of two, and then braided these three groups

into one braid. This was how we finished the rug after taking it off the loom. It will wash nicely if ever this is needed.

Also, I wanted to tell you that if you do weave it in a twill, rather than a plain weave, I would just alternate the two threads in the twill. This will take about one pound more of the heavy rug yarn in the weft, than if you do it in a plain weave.

Because of its weight, this rug will lie flat very easily on the floor. Also, there are many different ways of finishing the fringe than I did by braiding. So, I would suggest that you look at the book *Finishing Touches for the Handweaver*, by Virginia West.

One more thing you should know is that I suggest an extra firm, double beat in the weaving of this rug. It helps the warp sink into the weft, and thus it does not show as much.

I used a ski shuttle for the heavy German rug wool, and a regular boat shuttle for the 2-ply English tapestry wool.

At both the beginning and end of this rug, we had a heading of the 8/5 linen rug warp as the weft, and we had 12 shots of this at each end.

When I mention that this is a heavy German rug wool, I do mean heavy. It has approximately 18 to 20 yards per pound.

Also, as it was threaded on a 1, 2, 3, 4 twill, if you wish, you could also weave it on a twill variation; and the warp would probably show less than it does in the plain weave or tabby.

The fine thread in between each row of the heavy rug wool seems to make this rug wool stand out and show its beauty more than if you used just the rug wool for weft. It is an extremely durable and heavy rug, and very pleasing to the eye.

WARP COST: 1½ lbs. of 8/5 linen \$22.80
 WEFT COST: 5 lbs. heavy wool .. \$60.00
 One 4-oz. tap. wool \$ 3.95

COST OF ONE FINISHED RUG .. \$86.75

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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.

20/4 NATURAL IRISH LINEN (same size as 10/2)

1450 yards per pound, on 1/2-lb. tubes. Special price while current stock lasts at \$8.80 per lb. This is not the raw grey linen, but is the softer, boiled color. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 EXTREMELY HEAVY SINGLE PLY WOOL BERBER YARNS. 6 SINGLE PLY FINER BERBER.

All single ply yarns on about 1-lb. cones, and it is just \$6.80 per lb. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

5 Ply, NATURAL, SMOOTH COTTON AND RAYON

A little rayon has been blended in with this cotton to give more sheen, and it is an excellent warp thread. On about 10- to 11-oz. cones, and about the size of a perle 3 cotton, it is \$6.00 per lb. From England. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LOOMS—46", 4- AND 8-HARNESS JACK-TYPE

Are you familiar with our Oregon Trail loom? We are very proud of our own beautifully crafted jack-type loom. Here are some of its features:

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15. One-year guarantee on all parts.

For a free brochure, write to Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

DRAFTS AND DESIGNS:

This is our monthly bulletin for the multiple harness weaver and features patterns mainly of 5 to 8 harnesses. We also do one or two samples a year, which feature 9-, 10-, 11-, or 12 harness patterns. A large, generous sample swatch is included with each issue, accompanied by complete directions for weaving, including suggested uses, finishes, costs, and variations. Subscription is \$10.00 per year in the U.S.A., \$11.00 per year in Canada, and \$12.00 per year for foreign subscriptions. All subscriptions start with the September issue. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

30/2 BLEACHED WHITE MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

Some like to weave with a fine thread, so I took a chance and purchased a 200-lb. lot of this 30/2 bleached white, mercerized durene cotton. It is a very nice quality, has 12,600 yards per lb., and came on 2- to 3-lb. cones. Price is most pleasing for this fine cotton at \$6.00 per lb., by the cone. It takes so long to wind it off, that if you want less than a 2- to 3-lb. cone, then it is \$8.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

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12/2 NATURAL, MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

This is durene, and is an excellent quality. Has 5040 yards per pound, came on 2 1/2-lb. cones. Price, by the cone, is \$4.80 per lb. If we have to wind off on 1/2-lb. tubes, then it will be \$3.00 per 1/2-lb. tube. About 100 lbs. on hand. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3-PLY, 100% ALPACA. Top quality Indiecita BABY ALPACA from Peru.

This is a top-quality alpaca, with about 1,800 yards per pound. We have it in natural, in a natural black, in silver tan, and in polished steel. All 4 of these are natural colors and are not dyed. It is on sale at \$24.00 per pound. It came on 2- to 2 1/2-lb. cones, but we can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes for you. If everyone does not like the softness of this most beautiful quality yarn, I will be surprised. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLACK BRUSHED WOOL FROM PHOENIX OF IRELAND AND HOLLAND

A most beautiful yarn, with approximately 1,000 yards per pound. It came on about 2- to 4-lb. cones. We can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes for you. Price is extra special at \$16.00 per lb., or \$8.00 per 1/2-lb. tube. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

2/10's NATURAL SHETLAND WOOL

Spun in Belgium by their most outstanding spinner, we have it on about 2-lb. cones. Price is \$8.00 per lb. This is also called 2 and 3/4 run yarn. Could be used for warp at about 16 to 20 e.p.i. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams, McMinnville, Or 97128.

2/10's SMOOTH, SPUN MOHAIR, WORSTED SPUN

It is so seldom that you find a smooth, spun mohair anymore, that I was delighted to find this lot of 75 pounds. It seems to have about 2700 yards per lb., came on about 2-lb. tubes, and is \$8.00 per lb. An extremely good buy. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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We have 5 colors available at \$6.80 per lb. Natural, tawny tan, white, light yellow, and chocolate brown. Price is \$6.80 per lb. Limited amounts of some of these. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

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