



# warp and weft

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OCTOBER 1984

## warp and weft

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### **A Word from the Editor**

The fall season is upon us, and now the leaves are falling, and changing color; and as the weather disintegrates toward winter, we spend more time inside doing such things as weaving, knitting, and other indoor crafts.

This is the time of the year when our business picks up (we hope) and it continues good until about December 10.

From December 10 until about January 1, business is once again very slow, as most weavers have purchased their yarns much earlier to make presents for the Christmas season. Then when school starts again in January, we experience another resurgence of interest in our yarn business.

So, you can see the times we have more of a chance to design and weave samples, etc. Of course, we should work on this all the time; but we seem to slow down on the designing and weaving part when the yarn business is good.

I had purchased quite a few yarns on my buying trip last June, and believe it or not, we have just received the last of the yarns that I ordered at that time.

During this last buying trip, I purchased quite a few knitting yarns which can also be used for weaving. Among these was the beautiful soft 3-ply Alpaca yarns we have in four colors. Also, I located and purchased some of the brushed wool and mohair blend yarns in about 22 colors. These are solid colors and not space dyed, but we have the most reasonable price you can find for this brushed wool-mohair blend, \$16.00 per pound. This is in 50-gram balls, or 500-gram bags of 10 balls,

and this comes to about 1 lb. 1 oz. As I stated, \$16.00 per pound is the price, and we are paying more for this wholesale now in the space-dyed colors than what we are selling the solid colors for.

I am writing this the first week in October and hope to finish today; and hopefully, we will still stay on schedule. Then when this one is out of the way, we must concentrate on designing some more fabrics and getting them woven. As of now, we do have many woven in advance, as we had been trying to do.

We have had another two members of our staff get married and leave to make new lives elsewhere, and now we have to find some new full-time workers to help out in the shop. It is a job to train new workers in the shop as there are so many items to try to remember about packing, shipping, making invoices, waiting on customers, restocking shelves, etc., that I've just enumerated a few of them here. We had about six applicants that I have interviewed so far. I give them a small test of nine problems in math and extending the cost of yarns. There are nine items listed with the cost per pound, and I ask them to figure out the cost of the yarn and total it up. The last one missed on the correct total by \$290.00 and missed eight of the nine items, and did get one correct.

The one whom I interviewed before did not know how many ounces there were in a pound; and when I did explain this, she still made a mistake on all nine items.

Another told us she could figure these all out if she had a computer, so I gave her a computer to work on; and she still missed getting six of the nine items. Sometimes I wonder what they teach in high school. Then we find one who is outstanding and we forget all about these problems, until we again start our search.

We have received some striking yarns in lately, some that I ordered months ago. There is a black and white seed yarn with a gold metallic twist which I think is one of the most beautiful we have ever had. And we have the

same yarn in all white, with a gold metallic twist. I can picture so many striking evening garments made of these. And cotton flake has been so popular lately, and we have been able to purchase many different colors in this yarn. I am always so very pleased when I see one of our yarns being used in a public demonstration. And the ultimate is that we have a space-dyed cotton flake in shades of lavender and purple. When I went to the annual sale of handcrafts at Bush Barn in Salem recently, they had four handweavers demonstrating in different sales areas, and all four of them were using this space-dyed lavender yarn which I had purchased. I thought for awhile I was crazy to have purchased 250 pounds of it, but it is selling very well.

Enough for now. See you next month.

*Russell E. Groff, Editor*

## **Our Cover Photograph**

Is Princess Diana on our cover because she is a handweaver? No, and she probably doesn't knit, either; but she's been responsible for inspiring not a few fashion trends, one of which involves a yarn we carry. The sweater princess Diana is wearing on our cover is knit with Superspun Superwash wool from England.

This special yarn has several characteristics which set it apart from others. It is 100% wool, but it has been treated so that it is machine washable. That means that articles knit or woven of this yarn can be cared for as easily as synthetics while retaining all the good qualities of wool. The machine washability is a distinct advantage for baby blankets, baby clothing, and children's sweaters and jackets.

The yarn is also guaranteed not to shrink or pill and has been treated with an anti-tickle finish, another advantage for babies and others with sensitive skin.

We carry a wide selection of colors in the 4-ply sportweight, which has 1850 per pound. The price is \$20.00 per pound.

The sweater princess Diana is wearing on our cover (courtesy of Rex Features, London) is made on a knitting machine. It has rainbow stripes across the chest and down the sleeves while below a white cloud peeks out from a pocket.

There is another sweater, however, that Princess Diana has made famous. It has rows of white sheep on a red background. All the sheep are white except for one, which is black. The sweater was a combination of hand and machine knit of Superspun Superwash wool by Marjorie Ashby of England. Diana has been photographed wearing her sheep sweater several times, and other celebrities such as David Bowie and Penelope Keith own copies. It has become so popular that this fall there are copies of the sweater in every department store across the country.

Perhaps this would be a good time to discuss the differences between knitting and weaving yarns. They are often used interchangeably, but on the whole their differences lie in the loft and the twist of the yarn.

Knitting yarns tend to be fluffier and have a lower twist than weaving yarns, which have to stand up to the stress of the heddles and reed.

Knitting yarns also tend to be spun of softer qualities of fibers, such as merino or shetland wools, while wool used for weaving yarns cover the range from soft to medium to coarse, depending on the end product. If the end product is to be carpeting, a coarse wool will be used; if it is to be outerwear, a medium wool will be used; and so forth. So, there is more variety in the coarseness of weaving yarns.

Knitting yarns are usually sold in softly wound balls or skeins to maintain their loft. Each ball or skein is relatively small so that the customer needn't over-buy for an individual project. Weaving yarns are more often likely to be put up for use in industry and thus come in larger amounts on cones or tubes. If they are made expressly for the hand-

(continued on page 6)





4. Treadle 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 3, three times.
5. Treadle 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 3.

End of one complete repeat. Repeat as desired.

Weave each blanket 44-48" long, beginning and ending with a tabby hem using treadles A and B.

We hope you enjoy this project.

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

### *TITLE: The Folk Arts of Japan*

With our lives filled with an ever-increasing number of mass-manufactured items, attention has turned again since the mid-twentieth century to those articles produced by hand for home and family use. Urban man finds in these folk crafts a freshness and simplicity lacking in his industrialized world. The interest in folk art stems from an appreciation of the art of simple rural people whose directness of vision and honesty of purpose seem spiritually refreshing and artistically appealing. That this appreciation and revival of interest comes at a time when folk art has all but died out is symptomatic of the nostalgia for a lost paradise. Yet for the folk who created the art, their work was utilitarian; decoration was an attempt to add color and variety rather than to make something self-consciously artistic. Their designs were closer to them because they made them for themselves.

The designs used in folk art are almost always abstract, emphasizing geometric patterns and stylization instead of naturalism. This love of simplicity corresponds to the contemporary desire for functionalism and honesty of material and craftsmanship.

Throughout the world, industrialization has all but destroyed folk art, though pockets survive. Even now, these pockets are being exploited for the tourist and collector market by those wishing to glean the last of the traditional handcrafts from the rapid encroachment of the plastic society.

In Japan, Dr. Soetsu Yanagi was a pioneer in spreading knowledge and increasing ap-

preciation of the handcrafts of his homeland. In 1936, he established the Folk Art Museum as well as a magazine devoted to the subject.

For Yanagi, true beauty could only be found in the handwork of those craftsmen whose names and careers are unknown, but who, nevertheless, are true artists. Their work is for utilitarian purposes, combining beauty and usefulness; and it is in this dual quality that its uniqueness lies.

*The Folk Arts of Japan* covers by chapters each of several important folk arts, including pottery, basketry, lacquerware, toys, and textiles. Written in 1958 and reprinted recently, this book gives an overview of the spirit of folk art and descriptions of each of the major types.

The textile section covers warp and weft-dyed *kasuri*, stencil-dyed *bingata*, embroidered *kogin*, and striped and plaid fabrics. The most beautiful and original textiles come from Okinawa, the reason being that the prevailing social system demanded tribute in textiles rather than money or rice.

This is a classic book on folk art, very well written and illustrated. It is a timeless book.

TITLE: *The Folk Arts of Japan*

AUTHOR: Hugo Munsterberg

PUBLISHER: Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc.

PRICE: \$29.50

AVAILABLE: From the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams, McMinnville, OR 97128.

### **Our Cover Photograph**

(Continued from page 3)

weaver, they will be skeined as the Scandinavian yarns are. Yarns for the machine knitter are likely to be put up on cones for ease of use on the machine.

Knitting yarns used for weaving make a softer, spongier fabric. They are usually more stretchy than weaving yarns and one must avoid over-beating them, which stiffens the fabric. The Superspun Superwash wool does not have too much stretch, and it is fine and smooth to use for weaving. Check the sample we used in May 1984 to see how it works up.

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**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.

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**BLACK SEED AND NATURAL WHITE SEED TWISTED TOGETHER WITH A GOLD METALLIC TWIST.**

This one has about 1850 yards per lb., and it did come on about 3-lb. cones. We have been winding off 1/2-lb. tubes, and it has about 1800 to 1900 yards per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**NATURAL WHITE RAYON SEED WITH A GOLD LUMINEX TWIST.**

This one has about 1850 yards per lb., and I talked the manufacturer into putting this on 1-lb. cones. Price is \$13.60 per lb., and it is sold by the cone only. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**COTTON FLOSS IN ABOUT 5 NEW, EXCITING COLORS.**

As you know, we have about 35 colors in this now with the new exciting colors. It has 2080 yards per lb., is excellent for warp or weft, and I like it for warp at 16 to 20 ends per inch. Price is \$8.00 per lb. while it lasts. Also, we have 3 colors in this space-dyed, one in shades of blue, one in shades of yellow, and one in the shades of red. These 3 are \$9.60 per lb., and are beautiful. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

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**ONE NEW WOOL TWEED FROM FRANCE. IT IS SHADES OF BEIGE, WITH FLECKS OF BLACK, ORANGE RUST, NATURAL, AND NILE GREEN.**

A most attractive wool tweed, I purchased 100 lbs. of this because I liked the color and the price. We are selling it at \$6.80 per pound, and it is on about 1 1/2-lb. cones. Slightly finer than many wool tweeds, it should make beautiful suitings and coats and skirt material. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**12 EXCITING HEAVY WOOL BOUCLES.**

This was spun in England for a German sportswear manufacturer. It has just 560 yards per lb., comes on about 1-lb. cones, and is priced at \$12.00 per lb. It has a heavy core yarn of a different type, so that it will not shrink much when washed. These are slightly heathery colors, these 12 colors. We have just finished sample sheets of these if you would like one. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**20/2 MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON, CORDOVAN BROWN**

This is a nice cotton warp. It came on 2 1/2- to 3-lb. cones, and by the cone we have it on sale at \$4.80 per lb. If you want 1/2 or 1 lb., and we have to wind it off, then it is \$6.00 per lb. 8400 yards per lb., excellent warp at 24 to 32 ends per inch. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**60% WOOL, 40% CASHMERE YARN IN A HEATHERY TAN BROWN COMBINATION.**

2-ply for warp or weft. It has about 1750 yards per lb., and is \$12.00 per lb. It is on 2 1/2-lb. cones, but we can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes if you wish. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**5-PLY, 100% CAMEL HAIR YARN**

On about 1 lb. 4 oz. cones, this is a nice quality. It is not the best, but it is a nice quality camel hair, and the price is \$12.00 per lb. We have about 40 lbs. on hand. About 1450 to 1500 yards per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**HEAVY FAWN-COLORED 4-PLY EXTREMELY SOFT MOHAIR**

This is used in rugs, throws, etc. Probably has only about 200 to 300 yards per lb., and the price is \$12.00 per lb. Extremely soft and nice. About 1-lb. skeins. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**13/1 NATURAL, 75% SILK, 25% POLYESTER.**

We have two lots of about 50 lbs. each of this silk and poly blend. One is slightly nubbier than the other. Price is \$8.00 per lb., and this came on about 1 1/2-lb. cones. It should have about 6000 yards per lb. or more. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

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**NATURAL 4-PLY PATERAN TAPESTRY WOOL.**

This is on about 1/2-lb. skeins, and we can offer it at \$8.00 per lb. Normally, it is about \$18.00 to \$24.00 per pound. Used in many tapestries, rugs, and wall hangings. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**ABOUT 4 EXCITING NATURAL COTTON FLAKE YARNS.**

We have received a shipment of about four kinds of cotton flake. Most interesting textures. From 800 to 1600 yards per lb. Free samples upon your request. Price is \$6.00 per lb. All should dye well. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**CELADON YELLOW GREEN COTTON BOUCLE, AND ALSO GEMINI GOLD.**

These two colors are nice. Should be very absorbent, and make nice towels, bath towels, and the like. It has about 2400 yards per lb. and came on 2 lb. 4 oz. cones, and is priced at \$4.80 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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**INKLE WEAVING**

by Helene Bress. Hurrah, hurrah! Back in print at last. We had probably 100 orders for this in a 2-year period, right after it went out of print. We finally discarded those back orders; and now, lo and behold, it has been reprinted in a paperback edition. It is \$11.95 plus shipping & handling. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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## The Weaver's Marketplace

### 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 \$10.00 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.

**An outstanding handspinning book** is the one recently re-published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, entitled *Spinning Wheels, Spinners, and Spinning*, by Patricia Baines. Printed in England, this new paperback edition is **\$10.95.**

**Robin & Russ Handweavers**  
533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

### NEW SWEDISH WEAVING BOOKS

We have about 25 to 30 new Swedish weaving books on hand. Prices vary from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per copy, except for one super book from Finland which has full-page color plates of projects throughout the book, and is \$79.95 per copy. About 5 new ones on rag rug weaving, one on weaving clothing, and one on all of the clothing at a wedding, one with 43 projects on a black warp. For more details and costs, write to Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

### SPUN SILKS ON HAND

**All with a sheen, and good quality**

- 2/53 W.C. SPUN SILK, GOOD WARP OR WEFT  
14,000 ypp, \$28.00 lb.
  - 2/60 W.C. SPUN TUSSAH SILK WARP  
Warp or weft, 16,000 ypp, \$24.00 lb.
  - 3/45 NATURAL SPUN SILK  
Nice sheen. On about 3-lb. cones, and we can wind off 1/2 lb. \$32.00 per lb.
- ABOUT 10 OTHER spun silks available.

**Robin & Russ Handweavers**  
533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

**warp and weft**  
533 NORTH ADAMS STREET  
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

