

warp and weft

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warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

Well, as we indicated in the issue you have just received, this one is going to the printers just a couple of days later.

It is a week until Christmas, it is 24 degrees fahrenheit outside, and it is snowing lightly and sticking on the ground right now. I do not think we will have a white Christmas, but we are having a white week before Christmas. On the way home there is one hill that I have always wanted to sled ride upon. Maybe this year I will get the chance to do this, even at the age of 60.

Janice has been pushing me to get samples going for future *Warp and Weft* projects, and so we have the loom set up and partially woven with samples for two forthcoming issues. And we are doing a nice pique pattern for a forthcoming *Drafts and Designs*.

During this past month I received a call from a school that had some looms for sale. As a result, I went and picked up one 46" jack-type loom to display and try to sell in the shop. These looms were used very little, only for one workshop and one class. We have them on sale at \$750.00, which is a very good price. Also, they had twelve 22-inch table looms at \$175.00, which is also a very good price, and we are going to try to sell them. They are all of maple with a nice finish, and the only thing is they sat in that classroom for ten years and were never used. If any of you are interested, please do let us hear from you. If we sell these, then we will try to dispose of the rest of their looms. There are two 8-harness looms besides these 46-

inch 4-harness looms. A comparable loom today sells for about \$1,100 to \$1,200, or perhaps even more.

Gee whiz! The snow is now about one inch deep outside. So far, it has not hindered traffic, but if it continues, it will be a problem soon. I'm glad that I have chains in my car, as I might need them to get home this evening.

Hopefully, I am planning a trip to England in February, and will look for some new threads at that time. Also, I've been informed that a tartan book that we have been trying to get printed for about two years is now in progress, and it will be ready at the publishers in England about the time I will be there. This was written by a handweaver from Scotland who took over the business of Donald Stewart, who had written the guide *THE SETS OF THE SCOTTISH TARTAN*, which is about the only good guide for handweavers that has been available. We have about 25 more copies of this and it will then be out of print, I'm sorry to say.

This new tartan book will have a written section discussing the problems of weaving tartans, and it will also have the set of about 150 tartans, so we will have a new tartan book which will sell for \$14.95, if I remember correctly, in February.

And also among the books we are the co-publishers of is one that just came in entitled *THE CRAFT OF TATTING*, by Bessie M. Attenborough. It does seem like an outstanding little book, and we are delighted to have it among our textile craft books that we sell. It is \$9.95 and really contains a wealth of information.

Also among our latest books is one for the bobbin lacer with the *TECHNIQUES OF CLUNY LACE*, which we co-published with a firm in England. And we do have in progress and due in June another bobbin lace book entitled *A VISUAL INTRODUCTION TO BUCKS POINT LACE*, by Geraldine Stott. So, you can see that the publishing end of the business has been keeping us busy lately.

I often think of how fortunate I am to have this business and job to work in. I enjoy it so

much. One of my good friends in California worked for the Navy for 36 years, and I know that he hated to go to work every day, and yet he did stick it out until he retired about six months ago.

Enough for this time. See you next month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Book Review

This month we want to tell you about our little new tatting book, which is entitled *THE CRAFT OF TATTING*, and which was woven by Bessie M. Attenborough.

Bessie M. Attenborough has been a demonstrator and teacher of tatting in England for quite a few years, and I think this is an outstanding little book. It is chock full of good basic directions for tatting, tells what equipment is needed, tells of the terms used in tatting, and then goes into great detail and gives good directions for about twenty different tatting projects.

It is a well illustrated booklet giving good drawings for directions for tatting and has lots of good photographs of both the projects and the directions for tatting. I was very impressed with this before, so am delighted that we now have it available.

Title: *THE CRAFT OF TATTING*

Author: Bessie M. Attenborough

Publisher: Bell and Hyman in England, and Robin and Russ Handweavers for the U.S.A. and Canada

Price: \$9.95 per copy plus shipping

Available: Direct from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

There is a good bibliography of the many sources of thread for this craft, both in England and the U.S.A.

Hope you will try this booklet. I think you will like it.

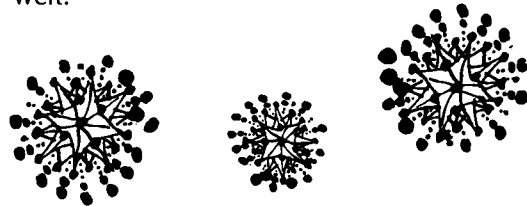
Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photo

Last month, our project for *Warp and Weft* was a honeycomb or waffle weave, and I wanted to show you a multiple-harness UN-DULATING WEFT effect which was on display at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in 1979, 1980, or 1981. I do not have the name of the weaver, but I was greatly impressed by this way of weaving, and the choice of color and texture was outstanding. There is so much movement in this sample that I wanted to share it with you in this issue.

If you are interested in this type of weave, there is an excellent monograph by Harriet Tidball which is entitled *UNDULATING WEFT EFFECTS*. It is \$6.95, although I understand that all of these monographs go up in price starting with the first of January, 1985.

I'm hoping that someone might recognize this fabric and write and tell us more about it so that we can give full credit to the weaver. This is an 8-harness undulating weft effect in this cover photograph, and it is interesting because of the choice of different threads for weft.



USED 46-INCH 4-HARNESS JACK-TYPE LOOMS

These have not been used very much. Have been sitting in a school room for about ten years. Made of maple. Extra sturdy, strong. As is. They are \$750.00 each. Has many nice features, and, actually used only once or twice. Six of them, all the same. One is on display at our shop. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LEMON CHARTREUSE:

This fabric was designed to be used in something like patio placemats, so we are giving you a plan for placemats here with this sample. It is a nice placemat project, as the lace is all surrounded by areas of plain weave, and it makes it quite striking.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4		○		○
3	○			○
2		○	○	
1	○		○	
	1	2	3	4

○ — for jack-type looms

THREADING DRAFT:

4	X		X			X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3		X	X				X	X									
2				X	X				X	X							
1			X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

WARP:

Our warp is a 6/2 linen from Switzerland. The color is called Lemon Chartreuse, and it is one we had dyed to order for us in Switzerland. We do have it in 10 different colors.

WEFT:

Our weft thread is exactly the same as the warp.

REED USED:

A 12-dent reed was used with a special sleying of the reed. There are 28 threads in each pattern repeat, and they are all sleyed one end per dent except where in the pattern you have two threads together on the same harness, and these are then threaded both together in one dent. So, with 28 threads in a pattern, if you sley the reed as directed, it will be exactly 2 inches wide in the reed.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

On the sample as we wove it here, there are 22 threads in one repeat. I am going to

SAMPLE



break up the treadling into groups of 3 or 4 threads to make it easier to remember when you are weaving. It will be 3 threads in each group in the plain weave, and 4 threads in each group when weaving the lace.

1. Treadle 1, 2, 1,
2. Treadle 2, 1, 2,
3. Treadle 1, 4, 4, 1,
4. Treadle 2, 3, 3, 2,
5. Treadle 1, 4, 4, 1,
6. Treadle 2, 3, 3, 2.

End of one complete repeat as in our sample.

WARPING PLAN FOR PLACEMATS:

This is a plan for a 15" wide warp, which would probably weave down to about 14" wide when off the loom.

- A. Thread pattern, 7 times = 196 threads
- B. Thread 1st 12 thrs of pat = 12 threads
15" width on loom equals 208 threads

Also, you have to be sure to thread the two threads together on one harness through just one dent of the reed to act as one thread in the weaving.

And if you can possibly have two values of the same color in your warp and weft thread, I would suggest a slightly darker thread for the first 12 threads of the pattern, and then a slightly lighter for the next 16. I would do this in both the warp and the weft, and then the lace units would be set off by the darker areas of plain weave (close to plain weave) surrounding the lace areas. This would make for a much more outstanding mat, rather than having it all one color. This we discovered after we wove the sample.

I would suggest that you check the width after you start weaving, and if it is 14", that you should make your place mats 20" or 21" in length, plus extra for hem on both ends. Most mats are 12 x 18, 13 x 19, and 14 x 20 or 21" in length.

With the double slewing of some dents, and using a 12-dent reed, we actually come out to having 14 threads per inch on this project.

I want to mention here that if I were doing placemats or runners, that I would have 12 threads of plain weave in between the lace units. I would treadle it:

1. Treadle 1, 2, 1,
2. Treadle 2, 1, 2,
3. Treadle 1, 2, 1,
4. Treadle 2, 1, 2,
5. Treadle 1, 4, 4, 1,
6. Treadle 2, 3, 3, 2,
7. Treadle 1, 4, 4, 1,
8. Treadle 2, 3, 3, 2.

This is the treadling that I would use in placemats. We have just added 6 more

threads of near plain weave in between the square units of lace.

Also, in this project you have a double thread in the weft. You can do this two different ways. You can have one shuttle with a single weft thread, and one with a double weft thread. Or the second method is a little more complicated. You use a shuttle with a single weft thread, and where a double thread is called for, you throw the shuttle through the reed, beat, and then take the shuttle and go up and over the first two threads in the top part of the shed, bring the shuttle down through and into the shed, and throw it across. This is sort of extra work, but I do think that you will have nicer edges if you do it this way.

SOURCE OF IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE:

We were intrigued with a sample in the Wisconsin Federation of Handweavers, and it was from this that we received the idea for this project.

Their project was done in brown linen. We wove a sample first in a bright red, and yes, our sample of the narrower piece is much tighter than is our sample which was woven 42 inches wide.

And of course, you could make it out of many different threads. You could use a perle 3 or 5 cotton, or a size 10/3 cotton; and we have a natural mercerized 12/4 cotton which is \$6.00 per pound which would work very well on a project like this, using a slightly finer reed. Normally, you would use the same weft threads as you have used in the warp.

COST OF PLACEMATS:

This 6/2 linen is \$10.80 per pound in the ten colors we have in stock which were dyed to order for us. It has 900 yards per pound and came on about one-pound tubes, and we paid \$3.00 per pound for the dyeing alone on this, so we could have the best fast colors available.

Say you put on a 10-yard warp of this linen, it would take 2,080 yards, and this would take about 2 lbs. 5 oz. of the linen. Thus, your total warp cost would be \$24.98, and this should be enough for about 16 placemats. If you receive 16 mats from this, the warp cost per mat would be about \$1.56 per placemat. The weft would cost slightly less, so it should come to about \$1.45 per mat; so you can say it would come to approximately \$3.01 per mat made out of this Swiss linen. It would probably cost less with some cottons, but some of the cottons actually cost more than this linen does now.

To tell the truth, we wove our sample with this color because we noticed that we have more of it left than any of the other colors.

Also, if you weave placemats out of this, the weft will pack in a little tighter than it does on the 40" width material, so it should be firmer and tighter than our sample.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

We set up the loom with a 10-yard warp, and it was 42" wide on the loom. From this we received 8 yards 12 inches of finished fabric. When off the loom, we found that it had only come down to 41½" in width. Yes, the heavier your warp threads are, normally the wider the fabric will weave.

This 6/2 linen has 900 yards per pound, and we also have the same colors in the 2½ lea, slubby linen. It is the only company in the world that I can find that makes a true linen slub like this one. This linen is used in Switzerland in all of their outdoor cafes for the napkins and tablecloths in the restaurants. The 2½ lea has 750 yards per pound. The colors are beautiful ones, coming a rich cherry, a good pink, bright red, a copper, a yellow gold, this chartreuse, dark brown, beige, a good medium dark blue, and a very clear aqua blue. We have all these colors in the slub 2½ lea linen also, plus natural in this very heavy slub linen. The price is \$10.80

per pound, and this is a very good price for linens today.

Our 40-inch width fabric would make very durable and long-wearing cardtable covers, and it should work very well in tablecloths and the like. It will be prettier with more use and continued washings.

In weaving this fabric, I would suggest a firm, even, double beat. Beat first with the shed open, change to the next shed, and beat again before you throw the shuttle again.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

In our 42-inch wide warp, 10 yards long, we used 5 lbs. 14 oz. of this 6/2 linen. At \$10.80 per pound, our total warp cost comes to \$63.45, or the cost per yard, 42 inches wide, comes to \$6.35 per yard. We used approximately 4 lbs. 12 oz. of the linen, so our weft cost for 8½ yards comes to \$51.30, or the cost per yard is \$6.16 per yard.

Warp cost per yard	\$ 6.35
Weft cost per yard	<u>6.16</u>
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$12.51

**Never used, 10 years old
22" 4-HARNESS
TABLE LOOMS**

A very good buy on these at \$175.00 per loom. These, also, were sitting in an empty room above the weaving room, and I do not think these were ever used. Now about 10 years old, in good condition. One is on display at ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

32-PLY YELLOW GOLD SILK NOIL
It is good for warp or weft, has about 500 to 600 yards per lb., and came on cones of about 1 lb. 4 oz. to 1 lb. 8 oz. each. While it lasts, a very good buy at \$9.60 per lb. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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.

2/60'S, SPUN TUSSAH SILK

A beautiful quality fine, fine spun, tussah silk in skeins, 16,000 yards per lb. Excellent for warp or weft. Skeins of about 2½ to 4 oz., and it is \$24.00 per lb. One of our best buys in a silk with a sheen. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/3/60'S, SPUN TUSSAH SILK

Can also be called a 60/6 SPUN TUSSAH SILK. This is the fine 2/60's SPUN TUSSAH, which we had 3-plied. It has 5,600 yards per lb., and it was also steamed to set the twist. It is \$32.00 per lb. It took so long to be plied that the plying cost was 3 times what it usually costs us. EXCELLENT FOR WARP at about 24 threads per inch. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/45'S SPUN SILK WITH A HIGH SHEEN OR LUSTER

We have about 20 lbs. of this one left. It is a very nice quality silk with quite a sheen. It has about 7500 yards per lb., and makes a good warp at 24 to 30 ends per inch. I like 30 epi best. On about 1-lb. cones, price is \$32.00 per lb. while it lasts. Most places this would be about \$42 to \$50 per lb., so this is a good buy. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2-PLY, TUSSAH SILK, DYED A DARK TAN

It has about 2500 yards per lb., and it came on 2½ to 3-lb. cones. Can be used for warp or weft. We can wind off ½-lb. tubes for you. Price is \$13.60 per lb. while it lasts. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

13/1, 75% SILK, 25% POLYESTER

We have about 50 lbs. each in 2 different lots. One is slightly more slubby than the other. Ideal weft on clothing of many different kinds, for use in drapes and upholstery, and it is a very nice quality. Came on about 2-lb. cones, and is for sale at \$8.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3-PLY SILK NOIL FROM FRANCE

In a 3-ply. The two colors available are Meadow Lark Brown and Succulent Green. It has 1100 yards per lb. and can be used for warp or weft. It has a tweedy look. On about 1-lb. cones, it is \$13.60 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/10'S, 40% SILK, 60% WOOL, 3-PLY

It came from England and has about 1600 yards per lb. Color is natural. About 30 lbs. left on hand. A good price per lb. at \$12.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ANGELFOOD, 80% SILK, 20% POLYESTER

On about 1-lb. cones, it has about 750 yards per lb. It is so unusual that I purchased some more when it was last offered to us. Has a very soft hand. Price is the same as last time, \$13.60 per lb. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/9'S TUSSAH SILK NOIL

We have this in four colors, Cinnamon, Brown, Taupe, or Natural. It has about 1550 yards per lb. Came on about 2 to 3-lb. cones. We can wind off ½ lb. or 1 lb. for you of any of these. Price is \$16.00 per lb. 3-PLY FOR WARP. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ITALIAN SLUBBY, HALF BLEACHED TUSSAH SILK

This is a most exciting slubby tussah silk. We have two different lots. It is on about 2-lb. cones and one has a little more texture than the other. One, with less texture, has 2200 yards per lb.; and the other, with more slubs and texture, has 2300 yards per lb. It is \$12.00 per lb. We would prefer to sell it by the cone rather than wind off. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

FINE SILK CREPE YARN

Two colors only, natural and pink. On about 1-lb. cones and about 2000 to 2500 yards per lb. We have about 10 lbs. of each. Price is \$12.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5/3/6 SPUN SILK

Based on a worsted count, this 6-ply spun silk has a nice sheen. It has about 4900 to 5000 yards per lb., and it came to us on about 4-lb. cones. Price is \$32.00 per lb., and we can wind off ½-lb. or 1-lb. tubes for you. Suggest warping it at 20 to 24 ends per inch. Makes nice clothing. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/9'S SPUN SILK

Based on a worsted count, it has 2500 yards per lb. It is a slubby silk, not a smooth one, with a very nice sheen — but, oh, the price! I hate to tell you, but it is \$55.00 per lb., and we just stocked a few pounds of it because of the high price. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BLACK AND DARK BEIGE TRAM SILK

It is an exceptionally fine silk, with a very high luster, and it is used as both warp and weft in the Orient. It is \$16.00 per lb. while it lasts. It has about 20,000 yards per lb., and comes in skeins of about 3 to 8 oz. each. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/20 METRIC COUNT 3-PLY SILK NOIL

On about 1-lb. cones. It has about 2900 yards per lb., and can be used for warp or weft. Price is \$13.60 per lb. Suggest about 20 ends per inch for warp. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

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The Craft of Tatting

An out-of-print book, by Bessie Attenborough, has just been reprinted; and Robin and Russ Handweavers are the USA distributors. Price will be \$9.95, plus shipping and handling. **ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.**

MORE THAN FOUR

by

Mary Elizabeth Laughlin

Robin and Russ Handweavers are now the owners, publishers, and distributors of this book, having purchased it from the Laughlins. In his review, Peter Collingwood recommends this book highly. Price is \$12.95, plus shipping, and this is a book designed for the multiple-harness weaver.

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS

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warp and weft
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MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

