



warp and weft

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September 1985

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A Word from the Editor

I am writing this early for *Warp and Weft* because it has been and still is a hectic summer, with so many activities.

We just finished our workshop with Mr. Jack Womersley from Bradford, England, a week ago, and it was one of the best workshops we ever had. We had 15 students from California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; and everyone seemed to enjoy making their samples. We found that everyone in the class, with the exception of two persons, wove at least 15 different samples during the week.

The two weeks before were also hectic, as we had 15 looms to set up for this workshop. We did not make any money on the workshop, but we did sell a good bit of yarn to the workshop members. We even had two persons who took a workshop with him seven years ago who came to this one, and we had about five other members of his workshop seven years ago either call or come to visit with Mr. Womersley, as they had enjoyed the previous classes so much.

On the last day of the class, we had a luncheon together, and to the great pleasure of Jack and myself, they brought in a cake with a loom on it and with this wording on the top of the cake: "For two great men, Jack Womersley and Russell Groff, thanks for a wonderful workshop." I think we shall treasure this memory always.

I must say that on Sunday at eight o'clock in the evening the night before the workshop began, while we two were still setting up

looms — at that point, we doubted if anything would work out as well as it did.

Have been to three weaving conferences this summer already, and tomorrow I go to a bobbin lace conference for four days; and then one week later, I will go to the Intermountain Weavers Conference. So you can see that it really has been a hectic time. We are now packing for both the bobbin lace show, and also the weaving conference, today and all day tomorrow. Preparations for the weaving conference in Albuquerque will continue for the next week and a half.

Mr. Womersley (Jack) is still with us, and we will take him to the lace show in Seattle; and there some members of the weaving workshop have volunteered to take him around to see some of the Seattle area for the four days we will be there.

We have also received our second shipment from England of books and yarns, and have just lately unpacked and put these away. Our spun silk in size 2/14's came in, and it is most beautiful. There is a rose, a pink, a mauve, a navy, a bleached white, and, I believe, a grey in this 2/14's. It has a high sheen and has 3,900 yards per pound. It is a 2-ply, excellent for warp or weft, and the price on these is \$32.00 per pound, a good price for this silk.

We are trying to write both *Warp and Weft* early and see if we can get them both out (including *Drafts and Designs*) on the first of September, and then try to stick to a mailing schedule of the first of every month.

After the workshop was over, Jack so kindly wove us a few samples on all of the looms, so we have some new ideas for future samples of *Warp and Weft* and *Drafts and Designs*.

We have had several new books come in that we are distributing, and we are having such a tremendous response to two spinning books, that I must review them so that you will know more about them. These are both written by Mabel Ross from Scotland, and one is a manual entitled *THE ESSENTIALS OF*

HANDSPINNING; and the other one, which has been selling very well indeed, is entitled *THE ESSENTIALS OF YARN DESIGN FOR HANDSPINNERS*.

These are a result of my earlier trip to England this year, and we have been most pleased with them.

And at long last, our tartan book is on the way to us, and we do have one copy here. It has color plates for 142 tartans, with their thread counts, and then 86 thread counts for other tartans, with a total of 228 of these. It is entitled *THE TARTAN WEAVER'S GUIDE* and is written by James D. Scarlett, a handweaver from Scotland; and the best news of all is that we will be able to sell this for less than we had anticipated, and the price will be \$9.95 per copy plus shipping and handling. Enough for now.

Russell E. Groff, editor

This Month's Book Review

We have been so delighted with the response to this spinning book which is entitled *THE ESSENTIALS OF YARN DESIGN FOR HANDSPINNERS*, by Mabel Ross. Her former book was *THE ESSENTIALS OF HANDSPINNING*, which we also handle.

This is very well illustrated, and a clearly written, practical handbook for spinners who wish to improve their skills and widen their knowledge of this particular handcraft. She has a good section on raw materials and on the basic yarn styles of woolen and worsted.

Such chapters as control over yarn design, control of twist, amounts of suitable twist for various threads, different spinning techniques, plying techniques for novelty yarns of all kinds, and many others, keeps one busy learning from her instructions. She has a chapter on goat and camel hair, spinning with silk and vegetable fibers, and an index on yarns which should be quite helpful. She has charts of various sheep breeds and

the quality and uses of their wools, and it is so well organized that it should be most helpful to those interested spinners. If any of you are planning a trip to England, she has an excellent list of suppliers, tells about the Bradford Wool Board, and many other details.

She actually has help for those who do not know how to use the yarn they spin, and she tells you how to plan and spin specific yarns for specific projects for knitting, crocheting, and weaving.

She describes in detail how to make many kinds of yarns from thick, soft ones to fine gossamer, and from simple yarns to the fancy fashion yarns which are so expensive to buy but simple to make when you have such clear and explicit directions as she gives in this book.

Title: *THE ESSENTIALS OF YARN DESIGN FOR HANDSPINNERS*

Author: Mabel Ross

Publisher: Mabel Ross

Distributor in both U.S.A. and Canada, Robin and Russ Handweavers

Cost: \$11.95 plus shipping and handling

Available: From Robin & Russ Handweavers

Also available: *THE ESSENTIALS OF HANDSPINNING*, by Mabel Ross

Cost: \$6.95 plus shipping and handling

This Month's Cover Photo

Double weaving is always interesting, and our cover photograph is no exception.

The afghan featured was woven by Priscilla Felt of the Tamalpais Weavers Guild. It is an 8-harness double weave, woven with shetland wool, and it was stuffed with pelon fleece for more thickness and also for more warmth. It should be nice and lightweight, even though it is a stuffed weave.

FLAMING TWILLS:

A sort of exciting fabric, with a beautiful space-dyed rayon in shades of red on 4 harnesses.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	O			O	O	
3	O	O				O
2			O		O	
1		O	O			O
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					A	B

Tie-up draft for jack-type loom.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

WARP:

Our warp is the 6-strand cotton floss in black. It has 2080 yards per pound, is \$8.00 per pound, and comes in skeins of about one-half pound each.

WEFT:

Two threads are used in the weft of this fabric. One is the same as the warp, the 6-strand cotton floss in a good rich black. And for color and accent, we used a rayon which was space dyed and is called Blazing Embers, space-dyed 1.61 rayon. It has about 1,050 yards per pound, and is \$6.00 per pound, and came on about 2-pound cones. It is sold by the cone only.

SPECIAL SLEYING OF REED AND HEDDLES:

The threads on harnesses 1, 2, and 3 are all threaded one per heddle; and the two threads on harness #4 in the threading draft are both threaded through one heddle. And in the reed, they are threaded the same; that is, all threads on harnesses 1, 2, and 3 are all threaded one per dent, and the two threads together on #4 are threaded as one thread, through one dent of the reed.

SAMPLE:



REED USED:

A 10-dent reed is used, and it is sleyed 1 per dent for all threads on harnesses 1, 2, and 3. Then the 2 threads on harness #4 in one heddle are threaded through just one dent.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

We have an unusual procedure in our treadling sequence. Here is the explanation:

You step on treadle #4, hold it down, and then you treadle 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, using the Blazing Embers for these 6 shots. Then we

double the black 6-strand floss on the bobbin, and we treadle #6 and then #5 with the black floss. Repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

This fabric when woven is very much like a bound weave. This gives you a recessed cellular effect, set off by the black warp and tabby. This also allows the space-dyed rayon thread to pack in a little more tightly, and this gives more body to the fabric. It also helps intensify the colors of this space-dyed yarn, and gives a most pleasing effect.

This type of fabric should be very useful as pillows, for accents for covering objects such as wastebaskets, books, and other related objects.

It is nice to have a slightly different effect than normal, and we have done this in this sample.

Our thanks go to Karen Gartner, as this fabric was designed from a fabric that she designed and wove several years ago. It would be nice on lampshades; and, for instance, it would make a nice border if you wove a dress or skirt fabric in a solid color. And, of course, there are many other threads you could use besides this space-dyed red thread.

This fabric was extremely easy to weave, and there were no broken threads in the warp.

Once in a while the rayon space dyed thread would pull apart, but this was very rarely.

This Month's Second Project

One of the projects which was so popular in our workshop was a light-weight, all-wool dress fabric in a small plaid.

Our warp was 2/40's worsted, sett at 48 ends per inch. One repeat of our pattern was one inch. In our warp, we had 16 ends of dark blue, 16 ends of light blue, 15 ends of mid-blue, and one end of rose-beige in the warp.

This one repeat comes to one inch in size. Here is the threading draft:

THREADING DRAFT:

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

Sometimes we call this a broken twill, and sometimes it is called a dornic twill.

TIE-UP DRAFT:

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

Our treadling sequence is a little different than our warping sequence. You treadle:

- 3,2,1,4 — 12 shots Light Blue
- 3,2,1,4 — 12 shots Mid Blue
- 3,2,1,4 — 12 shots Dark Blue
- 3, — 1 shot Rose Beige
- 2,1,4,3 — 12 shots Light Blue
- 2,1,4,3 — 12 shots Mid Blue
- 2,1,4,3 — 12 shots Dark Blue
- 2, — 1 shot Rose Beige
- 1,4,3,2 — 12 shots Light Blue
- 1,4,3,2 — 12 shots Mid Blue
- 1,4,3,2 — 12 shots Dark Blue
- 1, — 1 shot Rose Beige
- 4,3,2,1 — 12 shots Light Blue
- 4,3,2,1 — 12 shots Mid Blue
- 4,3,2,1 — 12 shots Dark Blue
- 4, — 1 shot Rose Beige

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

REED USED:

We used a 16-dent, 3 ends per dent; but if you do not have a 16-dent, you can use a 12-dent reed, 4 ends per dent for 48 threads per inch.

This 2/40's worsted does come in a limited number of colors, but it is a superior quality

worsted yarn. We did not have any broken threads in the weaving of our samples in our workshop.

One of our customers for this worsted has woven dress lengths of this wool yarn and is very enthusiastic about it. She is Sharon Alderman, and she does quite a bit of writing for Handwoven, and she is a weaving teacher.

When your yardage is finished, I would suggest that you wash it in lukewarm water, allow to drip dry, and then steam press. Then make up your garment.

Also, from the treadling that we have given here, there can be many different variations. You can elongate the squares with more shots of any one color or all colors, and you can reverse the direction of the twill in alternate blocks.

I might mention that while this 2/40 worsted does last, it is \$8.00 per pound. We used to stock it about 10 years ago as a regular stock item, and at that time the regular stock colors were priced at \$24.00 per pound, so our cost of \$8.00 per pound is an extremely good one. We have it in black, natural, about five shades of blues, two greens, beige, navy, and rose. We are now in the process of trying to find another source of a standard stock line, as the first manufacturer in England did go out of business.

This weight of worsted yarn is most popular in England. A check or tartan like our sample described here makes a most beautiful men's shirt, and I have seen several men's suits in England made of fabric of this weight.

Hope you will be brave and bold and try this thread at 48 ends per inch.

Most of the colors that we have in stock come on about 12- or 13-ounce cones, with the exception of the navy, which seems to be on about 2-pound cones. This 2/40's worsted yarn has 11,200 yards per pound, and Jack Womersley has indicated that in England the most common set for this is 56 ends per inch, although 48 ends per inch is quite often used.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

A Handweavers' Tour of England, Scotland, and Switzerland

Several persons have indicated interest in having another handweavers' tour of the British Isles and Switzerland as we did several years ago.

We have tentatively been working with a travel agent on this, and we have tentatively set the dates as the first three weeks in July next year.

If any of you think you might be interested, we would like to hear from you as soon as possible so we can determine whether we should proceed with this project.

We would plan to spend one week in England, one week in Scotland, and one week in Switzerland. We will have our own private bus in all three countries. We have already talked with about five places in England and Switzerland about this, and there seems to be a great deal of interest in having us again.

4 COLORS IN 2-PLY, HEAVIER WOOL TWEED FROM ENGLAND

On about 1-lb. cones, this tweed probably has about 550 to 700 yards per lb. Good colors. All have nicely blended colored flecks and basic colors or background of the four are wine, blue-grey, grey-tan, and brown. Nice colors. \$8.00 per lb. On about 1-lb. cones. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEAVY, HEAVY SEED RAYON IN BLACK AND WHITE

Probably about 500 yards per lb., this yarn came in about 1-lb. skeins, and we have about 25 lbs. left. Price is \$9.60 per lb. Alternately black and white seeds on a textured background. On about 1-lb. skeins, and sold by the skein only. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE TECHNIQUE AND DESIGN OF CLUNY LACE

By L. Paulis. It was translated and enlarged by M. Rutgers. I believe this is the first book on the subject of Cluny Lace. Looks like it is quite thorough. I believe it was originally in French and translated into English. Price is \$16.50, plus shipping and handling. 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.

2/14'S SPUN SILK, DYED, WITH NICE COLORS

This spun silk has 3,900 yards per lb., almost the size of a 10/2 cotton, and we have limited amounts of a rose, grey, navy, pink, mauve, and white. It is on about 1/2-lb. to 1-lb. cones, and the price is \$32.00 per lb. It should be good warp at 20 ends per inch. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

ENGLISH 80% WOOL, 20% NYLON, on about 1-lb. cones in solid colors

I purchased these because of the colors. We have cherry, wine, purple, grey, rosewood, navy, and white in this yarn. It is \$8.00 per lb. on about 1-lb. cones. Free samples upon request. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE ESSENTIALS OF YARN DESIGN FOR HAND-SPINNERS, and also THE ESSENTIALS OF HANDSPINNING

Both by Mabel Ross. Are in stock for immediate shipment. *THE ESSENTIALS OF YARN DESIGN FOR HANDSPINNERS* is \$11.95, and the *ESSENTIALS OF HANDSPINNING* is \$6.95. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

AN EXCITING 3-PLY COTTON FLAKE YARN FROM ENGLAND

We had this one spun to order for us in England. It is 3 flake cottons all spun together. About 1,680 yards per lb., and it is \$8.00 per lb. Called 3/6's Natural Cotton Slub. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

RAYON CHENILLE IN 6 NEW COLORS

This is an 8-cut rayon chenille with about 1,100 yards per lb. We have these colors: Prussian Blue, Tropical Green, Berry on Ice, Dewey Fern, Carnation Kiss, and Violet Bloom Purple. We are so pleased to have this at our regular price of \$6.80 per lb. Available on 1/2-lb. tubes or about 2-lb. cones. Price is \$6.80 per lb. A good price, much less than normal. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3/10'S W.C. TUSSAH SILK NOIL YARNS in about 25 colors

The WC stands for Worsted Count, and to find the yardage per lb., you divide 3 into 10, and you get 3 1/3, and multiply this by 560, and this gives you yardage per lb. Good for warp or weft. On about 1 lb. 2 oz. cones or so, and the price is \$16.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SPUN SILK AND TUSSAH SILK, BOTH SMOOTH, PLYED TOGETHER

This is an elegant silk, 2 kinds of good quality silk twisted together as one thread. It has about 1950 yards per lb., can be used for warp or weft, and is \$32.00 per lb. Only 25 lbs. left out of 40. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

LATE NIGHT ELEGANCE

A fancy name for a beautiful fancy yarn. It is black and white rayon seed yarn, with a gold metallic twist. Dominately dark with gold, it is very rich appearing. Spun to order for us. Price is \$16.00 per lb. have seen this almost identical in knit shops for \$4.95 per 1 1/2 ounce, so our price is good. About 1,800 yards per lb., it came on 2-lb. cones. We can wind off 1/2-lb. tubes. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2-PLY FINER, SLIGHTLY SLUBBY SPUN TUSSAH SILK WITH A SHEEN

Size 2/27's WC, with 7,500 yards per pound. Our best buy in silk at present, I think. Excellent warp at 24 to 30 epi. And the price is right, \$20.00 per lb. On about 1 lb. 2 oz. cones. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

2/15'S, SPACE-DYED RAYON AND COTTON BLEND

We have about 4 colors in this, and they are beautifully blended colors. Most are on about 1 1/2-lb. cones, and it is \$6.00 per lb. One is shades of brown, one in aqua, one in blues, one in natural and yellows, one in greens and rust and natural. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

FANTASY COTTON IN NATURAL ONLY

A most unusual cotton in a loop nub and soft twist. Gives a beautiful effect in weaving, like a very nubby knitted top. On about 1 1/4-lb. cones. Spun to order for us. It has 1,000 yards per lb. Makes nice scarves, blouses, and dresses. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 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 7,500 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.

BROWN AND TAN LOOP MOHAIR AND WOOL BLEND WITH A NYLON BINDER

This is a space-dyed yarn, loop yarn, with 900 yards per lb. An extremely good price as we are offering it at \$9.60 per lb. We have 150 lbs. of this yarn. Mostly mohair and wool, with a fine nylon binder. price is \$9.60 per lb., and 1/2-lb. tubes may be ordered. It came to us on about 3-lb. tubes. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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3/10's WC TUSSAH SILK NOIL in 25 colors

1,650 yards per lb. — \$16.00 per lb.
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7,800 yards per lb.
On about 1-lb. cones

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THE TARTAN WEAVERS GUIDE

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142 tartans in color, with
historical notes, 228 thread counts,
and guidance for weavers.

Written by a handweaver

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