



warp and weft

Volume XXXVIII, No. 8

October 1985

warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

Yes, it is the October issue that I am writing now, and here it is the fifth of September. As you can see, thanks to my daughter's prodding, we are trying to keep *Warp and Weft*, and also *Drafts and Designs* on a regular schedule.

I hope most summers are not as hectic as this one has been. It was just about two weeks ago that I returned from the Intermountain Weavers Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and I've been working at catching up ever since.

When I arrived home, I found the shop in turmoil, as Janice had started what is to be an annual summer sale. We have probably 50 to 75 items that we have reduced to clear at \$1.60 per pound, and many other items like wool yarns, etc., which we have at half price or even less. At these prices, business has been good, and we are clearing out many of our different, smaller, odd lots of yarns. Just to give you an idea, our shipping charges via U.P.S. for the past two weeks went up from the normal \$150.00 to \$200.00, and for two weeks it has been \$600.00 per week. It is delightful to dispose of some of the yarns, the smaller lots, which have been sitting here for a couple of years.

The weavers are happy, and we are happy. If you have not received any of our sales sheets and would like to have about four of them, send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope with 39 cents postage on it, and we will send you the four latest sale sheets. Our business is usually very slow in August, but

thanks to the sale originated by my daughter, we have been quite busy.

And, having been home about one month, I am taking off early next week to visit an international yarn show. It is mostly a yarn show for knitting suppliers, but every once in a while we find a nice yarn for handweaving at a decent price if we can purchase from the manufacturer. And this is a manufacturer's show with companies from Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, France, England, and from several countries in South America. These are manufacturers trying to sell primarily to knitting yarn distributors.

I have received notice from several of the companies that I buy yarns from that they will have a booth there. So, I'm trying to cram an extended-time travel trip into a three-day show, with all of the manufacturers in one place. Do not know how it will work, but there always has to be a first time. It is like Mr. Brown, a good friend of ours who worked with us and passed away, told me one time, "You will never know unless you ask"; so that is why I am going to this show, to ask if they have yarns for handweaving.

Then after this show, I will take about a week to visit with my mother in Pennsylvania and see if there is anything I can do to help her prepare for the coming winter. Also, we will visit all of the relatives in Pennsylvania and Ohio in the one week I am there.

Then after my return, I will be home two weeks and then attend a bobbin lace day, and then a weavers guild Christmas sale, both in Southern California.

Also, I might mention that just yesterday we ordered a large stock of cotton flake yarn in a range of eleven beautiful colors. This nice textured, 2-ply cotton has 3,000 yards per pound and is a good warp or weft thread. We have ordered Peach, Coral, Medium Pink, Rose, Light Blue, Bluebell, Blue Aster, Aqua Pearl, Jade Green, Lilac, and Iris. There will be just 35 pounds of white coming, but in these colors there will be at least 100 pounds or more of a color. It is a line that we will be pleased to have. We have been

offered four more colors, but there was so much of each that I did not think I could handle them. You will like these when you see them, and they will sell for \$6.00 per pound, a most reasonable price for this quality of cotton in colors.

Also, I do not know whether I mentioned it or not, but our one-week workshop with Mr. Jack Womersley from England was such a great success that we could not believe it. Everyone seemed to enjoy the class, and I think that every person in the class was able to weave at least 15 different samples during the week.

Well, I've meandered enough in this column, so more next month.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Book Review

I thought this book might be of interest to the handweaver, as it is a book on what I as a 60-year-old person would call far-out clothing. The title is *KLADER*, and it was first printed in Sweden in 1983 and then translated and printed in English by Lark Publications in 1984. There is a sub-title to this book, and it is "Creating Fantastic Clothes." It was written by Nina Ericson.

This book has a wide, wide variety of clothing and some patterns on how to make some of the various styles. The clothing shown run the gamut from very traditional to very unusual. It has sections on Japanese-type clothing, classic unisex clothing, clothes from upholstery fabrics, white clothing, clothing with detachable parts (such as a sweater with detachable sleeves), clothes made from many small pieces, blouses, dresses, appliqued patterns, a pattern usable for a complete wardrobe, blankets, vest, apron and skirt patterns, and many, many others. It has patterns inspired by circus costumes, mosaic style clothes, clothes inspired by African clothes, and many, many others.

The book is very full of photographs, and it is available with many color suggestions, as well as color photographs of clothing. If

you are into making unusual and different clothing, then I feel this is a book for you.

TITLE: *KLADER, Creating Fantastic Clothes*

AUTHOR: Nina Ericson

COST: \$17.95 plus shipping and handling

PUBLISHER: Lark Publications

AVAILABLE: Directly from the publishers, or from Robin and Russ Handweavers if you desire.

A Second Book Review

Those of you who are bobbin lace makers should enjoy this little booklet by Mary McPeck. It is entitled *STUDIES IN CANTU BOBBIN LACE*.

Many of you might not know it, but this is a type of bobbin lace peculiar to the small town of Cantu, in northern Italy above Milan. This town specializes in furniture and lace-making.

They make many different kinds of lace, but they have one kind of lace that is very distinctive, and it is named for the town of Cantu.

Very little has been written about this. This is written by Mary McPeck, and the directions given are the result of many years of study, teaching, experimenting, and searching to find out about this lace. There really was very little written about it until this booklet came into being.

She tells the characteristics of this particular lace so that you can recognize it, and then she goes into great detail, giving excellent directions on how to make this type of lace.

She has a section on general directions, and then starts out with a "Narrow Edging" as the first project. Directions are excellent, and the pattern is marked on one of the pages. Then the next major project is "A Round Motif." And her third and last project is for a "Collar." Then there are several pictures of much more elaborate projects, but no more directions. You are on your own after the three projects she gives. Finally, there is a
(Continued on page 6)

GREEN AND BLUE, JUST FOR YOU

Our 4-harness sample is what we call a "BOUND" weave, and some people call it a "DOUBLE ROSEPATH."

TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	0			0		0
3			0	0	0	
2		0	0			0
1	0	0			0	
		1	2	3	4	A B
					5	6

THREADING DRAFT:

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

WARP USED:

We used a size 10/2 Scottish Dry Spun Linen for the warp in this project. It was set-up 42" wide and 8 threads per inch, 1 per cent in an 8-dent reed.

WEFT:

Our weft was a 3/2 worsted in three colors. This wool was from England, and it is a worsted with about 850 to 950 yards per pound. According to my figuring, a 3/2 worsted should have 800 yards per pound. The colors used were Tide Pool Green, Sea Urchin Purple, and Kelly Green.

REED USED:

We used an 8-dent reed, and with one per cent, we had it 8 ends per inch.

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

1. Treadle #1 — Tide Pool Green
2. Treadle #2 — Kelly Green
3. Treadle #3 — Sea Urchin Purple
(Repeat 3 times until you have 9 threads total)
10. Treadle #2 — Tide Pool Green
11. Treadle #3 — Kelly Green
12. Treadle #4 — Sea Urchin Purple
(Repeat 10-11-12 three times, until you have 9 shots of 2, 3, 4.
19. Treadle #3 — Tide Pool Green
20. Treadle #4 — Kelly Green

SAMPLE:



21. Treadle #1 — Sea Urchin Purple
(Repeat 19-20-21 three times until you have 9 threads of 19-20-21)
28. Treadle #4 — Tide Pool Green
29. Treadle #1 — Kelly Green
30. Treadle #2 — Sea Urchin Purple
(Repeat 28-29-30 three times until you have 9 shots of 28-29-30)

Please note that there are 36 shots in each complete pattern repeat.

Please note that our treadling is not the traditional one that you find with this set-up, but it does make a very interesting chevron pattern.

MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

First of all, we want to tell you that we did use a selvage on this sample, and this was not enough to keep edge threads from breaking. So we started using a stretcher or temple. As soon as we did this, we had no more trouble with broken warp threads. So I feel a temple or stretcher is a must when you weave this type of pattern.

Secondly, our warp was 42 inches wide. On this width, we could not weave as tightly and cover the warp thread, and we could do this and cover most of the thread when we were weaving a saddle blanket 24 inches wide. In other words, the narrower the fabric, the tighter you can weave it.

Also, I almost feel that a woolen spun weft thread would beat in tighter than a worsted spun weft thread. So, you can make it tighter, but it would not be quite as durable as if you used a worsted yarn.

Also, this does require a firm, even, double beat; and I would recommend this highly.

One more thing that I thought about. Our warp is a 10/2 natural linen. I kept thinking that if we used something like a 6-ply floss for warp, that it would cover better than the linen; but also, it would not be as durable as the linen. So, you have to make your own choices as to the warp and weft threads that you use.

I also felt that if we had had a 3-ply worsted, perhaps one-third heavier than the 3/2 worsted I used, that it would also have packed in tighter.

Most rug yarns have a tighter twist, and as a result, do not beat in as tightly as some of the softer twisted yarns.

COST OF THE THREADS USED:

The 3/2 worsteds from England are on about one-pound skeins, and it is \$8.00 per pound. We have about five colors on hand, and I believe it has about 800 yards per pound.

The 10/2 natural, dry-spun linen comes on about one-pound tubes, and we had it spun to order. It has about 1,500 yards per pound, and is \$8.00 per pound while it lasts.

COST OF THE FABRIC:

Our 42-inch-wide warp took 2 pounds 4 ounces of the 10/2 linen warp. At \$8.00 per pound, and with a 10-yard warp, we had a total warp cost of \$18.00. So our warp cost for this was \$1.80 per yard length, 42 inches wide. We used about 4 ounces of the 18/3 nylon stitching twine for selvages, and this came to \$7.00, or a cost of 70 cents per yard.

And the big cost was in the weft, as this weave packs in fairly tightly, and as a result takes a lot of weft. We had a 10-yard warp, and from this we had 8 yards of finished fabric. It took 9 pounds 12 ounces total wool in the weft, divided equally among the three colors we used. So our total weft cost for eight yards was \$78.00, or the cost per yard came to \$9.75 per yard. And our finished fabric was 40 inches wide from our 42-inch-wide warp after it was off the loom.

Warp cost per yard, 42" wide	\$1.87
Weft cost per yard, 40" wide	<u>9.75</u>
FABRIC COST PER YARD was	\$11.62

This Month's Cover Photo

This nightshirt was part of a display by the Missoula Weavers Guild at the Pacific Northwest Weavers Conference in Bozeman, Montana, in 1983. The weaver was Coby Johnson, and evidently both warp and weft were 8/2 cottons in this "nightshirt."



ATTENTION! WEAVING SHOPS!

Our new book list is just back from the printers, and we will be pleased to send you one free of charge. We have 52 different textile books which we sell retail from our store and which we wholesale to qualified weaving shops and studios.

ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS

533 No. Adams St.

McMinnville, OR 97128

2nd Book Review

(Continued from page 3)

bibliography and a reference section for instructions.

I might mention that we have been stocking for about 15 years the cotton used by the lace makers in this area. It is "Cantu" cotton, mercerized and gassed, in size 30 and 40, and in natural and white. It is \$5.50 per 50 gram skein.

TITLE: *STUDIES IN CANTU BOBBIN LACE*

AUTHOR: Mary McPeck

PUBLISHER: Mary McPeck

PRICE: \$7.50 plus shipping and handling

AVAILABLE: from Robin & Russ Handweavers

Mohair, Some Information About What It Is, Where It Comes From, etc.

Believe it or not, mohair comes from Angora goats that are believed to have originated in the Himalaya mountains of Asia. They found their way to Turkey, where the name Angora was derived from Ankara, the name of the province where the goats thrived. Angora goats were highly regarded and jealously protected from exportation until the nineteenth century.

In the U.S.A., the first Angora goats were brought in as a gift from the Sultan of Turkey in gratitude for experimental work to improve Turkish cotton.

These goats seemed to thrive on the range in central and southwestern Texas. Some went to Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico; but 90 percent of them are now found in Texas. Many of these goats are now part of the Navajo sheep herds, and they are often crossed with native or Spanish goats, and this results in a little more color in their mohair. California and Oregon also have some small herds of these, and usually this mohair goes into the Texas warehouse system. In Texas, the goats are not herded, but are allowed to roam free, restrained only by net-wire pasture fences.

The Angora kids, or young goats, are usually born in about Mid-February and March and into April.

These goats are sheared twice a year. There is a spring shearing in February and March, just before the young are born; and the second shearing is in July - August. Their hair grows about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch per month, making the adult hair coverage about 4 to 6 inches.

Texas mohair is unsurpassed in quality over any. Two other major areas where mohair is produced is in the area of Asia around Turkey and also South Africa. Back to the quality — there is less than 2% of kemp (dead hair) or medullated fiber content in the shearing. This is as good or better quality than any other in the world.

Most mohair has been scoured, carded, and combed overseas because of labor demands, government regulations, and environmental regulations in the U.S.A. San Angelo and Brady, Texas, are where most of the remaining facilities for processing are found in the U.S.A. Mohair is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times stronger than wool and will outwear it.

Most foreign mohair is sheared only once a year and is nine to twelve inches long. However, because of climate, it tends to fall out if allowed to go a year without shearing in the U.S.A. An average Texas fleece is $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and the average Oregon fleece is about 4 pounds. The fibers from the fleeces are very strong, high in luster, whitish in shade, fairly soft to handle, and straight in staple appearance, and possess good uniformity.

Some of the better quality mohair is used in beautiful suits for men and in overcoats for men and women. It is very durable and long-wearing. It takes dyes very well, and has been one of the most desired threads with the handweavers during the past fifteen years.

Bernat Klein, one of England's leading textile designers, has designed many of the space-dyed colors that are so popular today. He was hired by British Mohair and Phoenix Yarns of Ireland and Holland to plan their

color range for them. It is these yarns that have been so popular with the handweavers for the last 15 years.

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.

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.

10/3 NATURAL, HIGH QUALITY UNMERCERIZED COTTON

This is one of the nicest cottons we have ever used. It has 2,800 yards per pound, and is an excellent warp at 16 to 20 ends per inch. It is available as a regular stock item on 2- to 2½-lb. cones, and the price is \$6.40 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

12/2 NATURAL, MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

Another stock item. We just had a new lot of this excellent natural cotton warp come in. On about 2½-pound cones, it has 5,040 yards per pound, and it is \$6.80 per pound. Excellent warp at 20 to 24 ends per inch. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 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 1½ ounce, so our price is good. About 1,800 yards per lb., it came on 2-lb. cones. We can wind off ½-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.

12/4 NATURAL, MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

Not a regular stock item, but we purchased 200 pounds of this as it is such a nice warp or weft thread. It is 4-ply and is an excellent strong warp. 2,520 yards per pound on about 2-lb. cones. The price is \$6.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

20 x 2 x 3 NATURAL, UNMERCERIZED COTTON WARP

This is an excellent warp at a most reasonable price of \$4.80 per lb. It is on 8- to 12-oz. tubes, and mostly about 12 oz. It is a 6-ply, so is excellent warp. Not mercerized, and not as high a quality cotton as the 10/3 we have. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

20/2 Super Sackel, MERCERIZED AND GASSED EGYPTIAN COTTON

Natural, white, and 50 colors available. 8,400 yards per pound. Excellent warp at 24 and 30 ends per inch. On ½-lb. cones. 4,200 yards per cone. Price is \$7.00 per cone, or \$14.00 per pound. A regular stock item. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/14's SPUN SILK. SMOOTH AND WITH A HIGH LUSTER

This is a top quality yarn, and it is a 2-ply and an excellent warp. It has 3,800 to 3,900 yards per pound, and we have natural white, navy, sunset pink, a light mauve, a pale blue, and a ruby red. Price is \$32.00 per lb. while it lasts. Limited amount of all colors. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

11 COLORS IN A VERY NICE 2-PLY FLAKE COTTON, with 3,000 yards per pound

The colors we will have are French Peach, a very nice Coral, a Medium Pink, a Fuchsia Rose, Light Blue, Bluebell or Medium Blue, Blue Aster or Darker Blue, Aqua Pearl, Jade Green, Lilac, and Iris. We think this will be excellent for warp or weft, and price is to be \$6.00 per lb. It will be in here about the time you get this issue of the magazine. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

The Weaver's Marketplace

THE TARTAN WEAVERS GUIDE

by James D. Scarlett

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

Written by a handweaver

\$9.95 plus shipping and handling

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

1,650 yards per lb. — \$16.00 per lb.

On about 1 lb. 2 oz. cones

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7,800 yards per lb.

On about 1-lb. cones

Special price \$20.00 lb.

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