

# warp and weft

Volume VIII, No. 7

September, 1955



## warp and weft

Published monthly (except July and August) by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

*Subscription:* \$2.50 per year.

*Back Issues:* 25c each, plus postage.

*Editor:* Russell E. Groff, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

*Assistant Editors:* Robin Groff, Frederick Brown, Marie Berggreen.

---

---

Volume 8, No. 7                      September, 1955

---

---

### A Word from the Editor

Vacation time is almost over, and ours, this year, was a most enjoyable one. It was not a weaving vacation this year, but a bicycle tour through the Canadian Rockies. Yes, you read right, it was a 325-mile bicycle trip from Jasper, Alberta, Canada, through Jasper, Yoho, and Banff National Parks, ending at Banff. It will serve as an inspiration for the year to come, as we look at our color slides from time to time.

Well, back to our weaving again. We have had many requests for the complete set-up on the Whig-Rose place-mats pictured in our last *Warp and Weft*, and we will try to give this in full in our next issue.

This month will see the beginning of the series of articles on various looms that are available throughout the North American Area. We will not be able to tell about every loom that is made, and undoubtedly we will miss some good ones, but we will try to give you our unbiased thoughts on the best known of the many looms that are made, and tell you where they are available, and other such information.

Also, a surprise for our subscribers will be the presentation in one of our forthcoming issues, of an additional 4 pages. We have hopes of eventually making this a permanent addition to *Warp and Weft*,

and if plans work out satisfactorily, at no extra cost to the subscribers of *Warp and Weft*. We'd like to hear from you what you would like to see and hear about in the to-be-added contents, so give us a hand please, and help us to make *Warp and Weft* a weaving magazine that pleases you.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

### Book Review

Yes, another book that is an outstanding weaving text is the new English book, "Designing on the Loom," by Mary Kirby.

Why is it outstanding you might ask? The answer would be for several reasons, and the first of these reasons would be an outstanding choice of fabrics as the center of discussion for this book.

The photographs of these fabrics are very good, and there is an explanation of every one of the photographs.

Most of the patterns are 4 harness patterns, but the latter section of the book has some fabrics and patterns that will fit the looms of the multiple harness weaver, as some are for 6 harnesses, and a few for 8, 10 and 12 harnesses also.

The title of the book, "Designing on the Loom," is a good one, as there are some very good instructions for planning a fabric; discussions on plain weave and how to make the most of it; a section on tweeds, woolens, and worsteds; lots of information on drapes and upholstery; notes on the finishing of the various fabrics that are discussed; these are a few of many of the subjects covered.

I personally feel that this hard-covered book is well worth its reasonable cost, and for the weaver who is interested in the unique and unusual, it is one of the most interesting books available on the market.

*Title:* "DESIGNING ON THE LOOM."

*Author:* Mary Kirby.

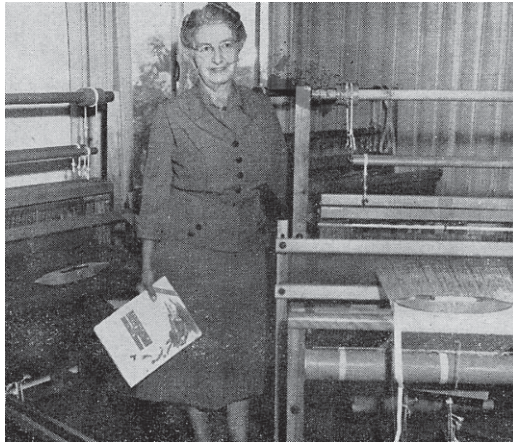
*Publishers:* The Studio Publications of London and New York.

*Cost:* \$5.00 plus 17c pp. and ins.

*Available:* Robin & Russ Handweavers.

## Weavers from Here and There

It is our intention, each month, to present a short article about various well-known weavers from various parts of the country. If you know of someone exceptional in your area, please let the editor know about it.



ADA K. DIETZ  
of Yucaipa, California

We are pleased to present to you this month, a weaver well known throughout the country, because of her unusual approach to weaving.

Ada K. Dietz, of Algebraic Expression fame, is the subject of this month's profile.

Miss Dietz has a thorough background for her particular interest in weaving, being a graduate from the University of Michigan, taking both her B.A. and her M.S. in the field of biological sciences.

She studied weaving at Wayne University with Nellie Sargent Johnson, and at the Banff School of Fine Arts with Mary Sandin and Ethel Henderson. Then she also studied with Lou Tate of the Little Loomhouse fame, in Louisville, Kentucky.

The basis for most of Miss Dietz's weaving is *Algebra*. Given an algebraic expression, she has applied it to the loom, and has come up with some quite unusual texture and pattern effects. The samples that she sent us to see were quite unique

and stimulating, and she tells us that using her given algebraic expression, she can apply it to the loom so that you can weave overshot, M's and O's, Bronson, Summer and Winter, or any other weave. We hope in a future issue to have a photograph of one of her fabrics, and to give you the complete set-up, that you might try your hand at "Weaving to Algebra."

Miss Dietz does, I know, give talks on her particular field of weaving, and has a pamphlet out on the same. If any of you would like to contact her, you can find her at this address: Ada K. Dietz, Route 4, Box 700, Yucaipa, California, near Riverside.

## This Month's Cover

The cover this month is a piece of tapestry, using the French Gobelin techniques in the weaving. The warp is of 4 ply cotton, similar to a heavy grocer's string. Weft is a 2/18's wool, 2 ply, about the size of fabri or comparable yarns. The yarns were all hand-dyed, and the background is about 4 or 5 tones of dark blues and greens. The leaves are mellow greens and the flower is a variety of rose and cream tones.

This particular technique can be, and was, done on a 2 harness, 2 treadle loom.

We are indebted to Mr. Elmer Hickman of the Homecraft Weaving Studio in Emlenton, Pennsylvania, for the photograph and the information on the fabric as he wove it himself.

Silk Warp	At last, a strong 2 ply silk warp thread at a reasonable price. 9/2 (2 ply) spun douppioni silk 7500 yards per lb. natural color only on cones Price is only \$4.00 per pound while it lasts	Silk Warp
<b>ROBIN &amp; RUSS HANDWEAVERS</b> 632 SANTA BARBARA STREET SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA		

Sample on next page.

## FLICKERING SHADOWS

(Sport coat material for your husband, and skirt and suit material for yourself.)

### COLOR KEY FOR COLORS IN WARP

- A. Palomino Beige
- B. Sandy Sand
- C. Chocolate Brown
- D. Charcoal

Threading Draft:

ONE REPEAT

4	DD				DD											
3	CCC		CCC		CCC		CCC									
2	B B B B B B B B B B								A A A A A A A A A A							
1	B B B B B B B B B B								A A A A A A A A A A							

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	

Treadling Sequence:

1. Treadle—A—then B—18 threads (using Woodpecker No. 149)
  2. Treadle—A—using triple thread of chocolate brown (3 ends wound together on a bobbin.)
  3. Treadle—B—using double thread of Charcoal (2 ends wound together on a bobbin)
  4. Treadle—A—using triple thread of chocolate brown (3 ends wounds together on one bobbin)
  5. Treadle—B—then A—18 threads (using Woodpecker No. 117)
  6. Treadle—B—using triple thread of chocolate brown (3 ends wound together on one bobbin)
  7. Treadle—A—using double thread of Charcoal (2 ends wound together on one bobbin.)
  8. Treadle—B—using triple thread of chocolate brown (3 ends wound together on one bobbin)
- Repeat (over and over)

I might mention right here, that while I normally had 18 threads of the woodpecker yarn to balance the blocks, this will depend upon the individual weaver,

as it might take one person 16 threads to balance the block, while another will take 18 or 19.

I will also mention right here, that the woodpecker yarns (because of their construction) might vary with the color in the number of shots to balance the blocks.

Reed Used:

Threading Sequence (sleying the reed)

- A. A 12 dent reed was used, sleying two (2) ends per dent, except for chocolate brown which was sleyed 3 ends per dent.

Warp:

1. Warp used was entirely french-spun worsted, size 2/18's, and in 4 different colors, namely:
  1. Sandy Sand
  2. Palomino Beige
  3. Chocolate Brown
  4. Charcoal

Yardage is 5000 yds. per lb. on ½ lb. cones.

Weft:

1. Weft was primarily Woodpecker yarn, actually a tweed yarn. This comes in a range of about 30 different color combinations—with flecks of different colors on a main thread. It is a wonderful material for sport coats, suits, and over-coats for both men and women. It is available on 2 oz. spools in these colors.



## Sample Facts and Figures

### COST OF MATERIALS IN PROJECT

- A. *Warp*: The warp is considered one of the best worsted yarns available on the market and the price is \$7.50 per lb. parcel post prepaid, minimum ½ lb. of a color. (40 colors available)
- B. *Weft*: The weft is called Woodpecker Yarn and is an imported thread from Scotland. Available in 30 color combinations. Price is \$6.25 per lb.
- C. *Cost of Warp per yard*: We had 28 threads per inch on this material, and it was set on the loom 40" wide. You can get a 4½ yard warp, 28 thds per inch, 40" wide, from 1 lb., so thus your warp costs \$1.65 to \$1.75 per yard.
- D. *Cost of Weft per yard*: It took approximately 8 oz. of each of the 2 colors of woodpecker, or 1 lb. to weave 4 yards. So, the weft cost approximately \$1.60 per yard. This does not include the very small amount of 2/18's (warp) that was also used in the weft.
- E. *Cost of fabric* is approximately \$3.35 per yard for a full 40" width fabric.

### MORE ABOUT THE SAMPLE:

We wove this sample twice to get exactly the fabric we wanted. The first was a 5 yard warp of a different color combination, and we must say that it turned out beautifully also. We used in the warp, a gold, pale yellow palamino beige, and charcoal. For weft, we used a green grey (very light) woodpecker and a second light grey heather effect with a slight red fleck.

Our second sample was a 15 yard effort and this is what resulted as you see the sample attached herewith. We liked it so much that we hope to have a sport coat made out of what is left after cutting up 1600 sample swatches.

We might mention the finishing of this fabric. After taking off the loom, we took it and put it in an automatic washing machine, and washed it 3 times. When it came out it was very soft. We have heard an occasional person say that the Woodpecker yarn is too harsh or stiff, but the results here certainly indicate differently. Actually, I don't think that you would need to wash it more than once (using soap) and rinsing accordingly.

Here is an idea of the shrinkage, etc. We had a 5 yard warp on the loom, and by squeezing, we were about to get a good 4 yards of finished fabric. Then after washing in machine 3 times, we measured it again, and the 4 yards came down to 3¾ yards of actual fabric.

Another note about using this for sport coats is first of all to check and see who you are going to have make up the coat. A tailor usually prefers about 27" material, whereas, we has a dressmaker make up one coat for myself, and she used 40" width material, so don't forget to plan this part in advance.

We might also mention that after the washing machine treatment, we took the fabric and using a steam iron, gave it a good steam pressing.

The sample here we have just pressed, but it was our first 5 yard effort that was washed and steam pressed.

In your planning, don't forget a yard for the loom set-up, and then also make an allowance for shrinkage.

### MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE

1. The French spun worsteds and the woodpecker yarns are available from Robin and Russ Handweavers.
2. The woodpecker yarns for this sample were furnished by Hughes Fawcett, Inc., and are available directly from them or from their approximately 25 distributors throughout the country.



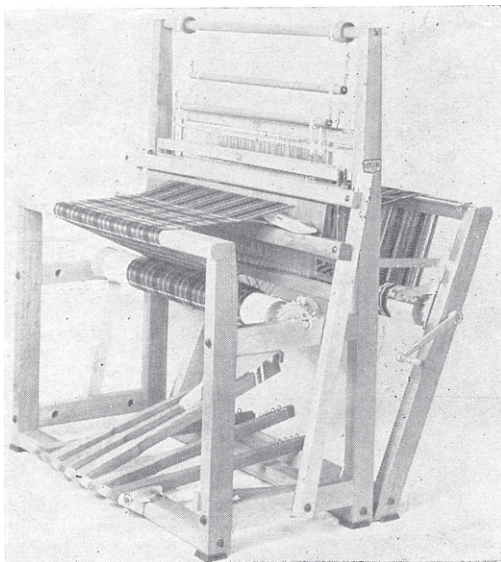
## The LeClerc Loom

For our first loom description, we have chosen the LeClerc Loom, one that is made in Canada.

It is a counter-balanced loom, and comes in either a rigid or folding model loom. It is sturdily constructed, and is made of Canadian Red Birch, and has a smooth, slick finish.

It is an easy to operate loom, and as mentioned above, counter-balanced. It comes in a variety of sizes, in a 27", 36", 45" and 60" sizes. The 27" and 36" are available in 4 harnesses only, while the 45" and 60" are available in 4, 8 or 12 harness combinations.

The 8 and 12 harness looms are made so that they use the contra-march tie-up, which is characteristic of so many looms from Europe and Scandinavia.



We have personally used this loom and find it easy to operate, and like its action. Also, during the past four to five years, we feel many improvements have been developed for the loom. One of these is a shed-regulator to give an always even width and uniform shed. Another accessory is in the form of a 5th harness for the 4 harness loom, and this is used to make different kinds of surface patterns.

Also, lately, the LeClerc Loom Co. has developed a jack-type loom, just recently on the market, and also, they have table looms and various other accessories.

We might also mention that LeClerc is the largest manufacturer of looms in North America, and that they also manufacture fly-shuttle equipment, and I'm sure do special to-order work on the larger width looms.

If you'd like to know more about LeClerc looms, why not drop a line for literature, list of agents, and prices to:

Nilus LeClerc, Inc.

L'Isletville 23, Quebec, Canada.

## A Second Book Review

Probably many of you have heard of the Porfolios being put out by Mr. Elmer Hickman of Emlenton, Pennsylvania. For those not familiar with these folios, they are in for a treat, as the latest one available, "NEW WEAVES FROM OLD," by Mr. Hickman, Folio No. 6, is quite unusual and worthwhile.

This folio is a collection of about 20 to 25 swatches of materials, all quite unique and different from the ordinary. The choice of colors, the various textures used, and the various pattern adaptations are extremely well chosen.

Complete instructions are given for each of the sample swatches, and tips are given about the weaving of each sample. The source of materials is given, and so with all this information at your fingertips, it gives many ideas to the handweaver.

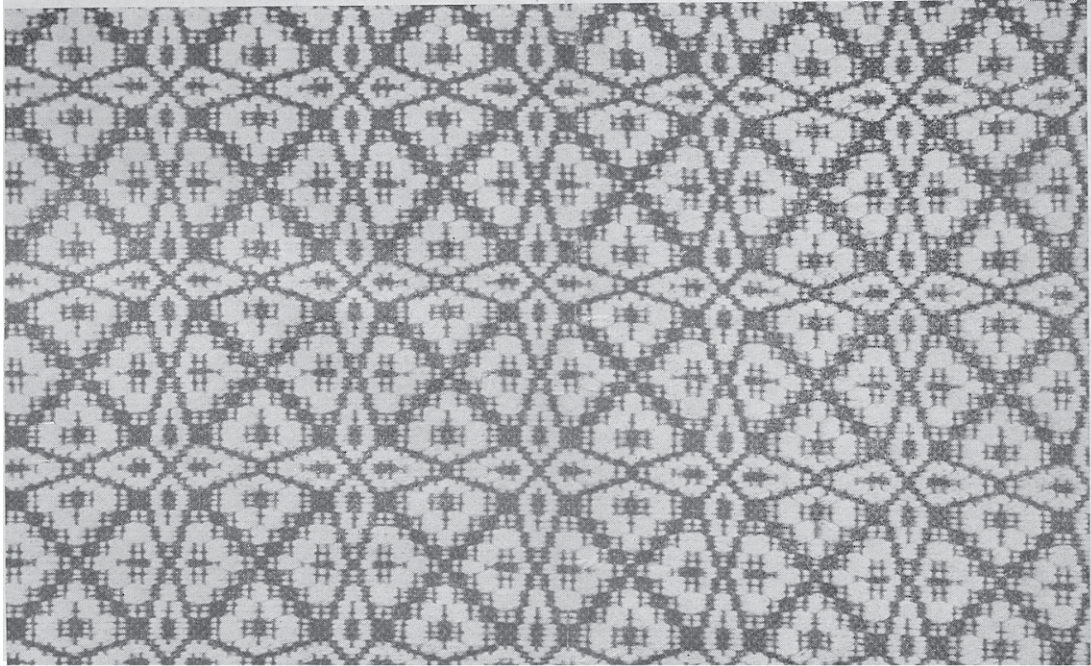
A wide range of fabric uses is planned in this portfolio as some are table linens, others drapery and upholstery, some are suitings and dress material, and so I think you would very much enjoy this folio.

*Title:* New Weaves From Old, Folio 6.

*Weaver and Publisher:* Mr. Elmer Hickman, Homecraft Weaving Studio, Emlenton, R. 2, Pennsylvania.

*Price:* \$0.95 p.p. prepaid.

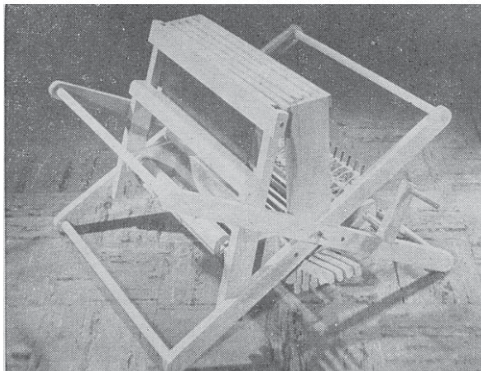
*Available:* Robin & Russ Handweavers or Mr. Hickman.



**Geometrical Designs:** Notice all the various triangles, diamonds and other figures in this picture. We will feature this threading draft in a future Warp and Weft sample.

## The Key to SIMPLIFIED - PRACTICAL HAND-WEAVING

(Pat. Applied For)

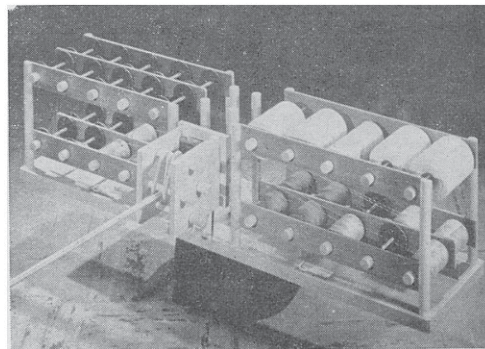


The "CRUSADER" Table Model

A sixteen inch, four harness, jack type loom. Has a one inch SECTIONAL warp beam -- sturdy cloth beam -- 400 eight inch steel heddles Lock Hooks -- Apron Stick -- Solid beater with 15 dent reed. Fast and easy warping with the SPEED-WARP. All maple construction.

Shipping Wgt. 50 lbs.

PRICE \$52.50



Introducing The  
**NEW VARI-TUBE SPEED-WARP**

Equipped with 40 self-winding spools. Uses 40 Lily 2-oz. tubes or 20 standard 8-oz. tubes or any combination. Has a 10 dent reed in tension box for color control. Thread guide plates. Tension box is removable. Solid construction, use with any sectional beam loom.

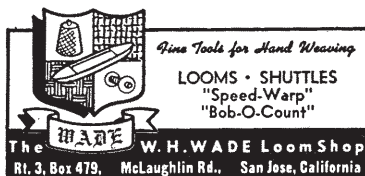
Shipping Wgt. 25 lbs.

PRICE \$34.00

### ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS

are distributors for Wade looms & Equipment

Address communications to Dept. A  
Send for free loom catalog





# THE Weaver's Marketplace

Why be satisfied with less than the best?

OWN A

## NORWOOD LOOM

Rigid, Yet Folds for Convenience  
RISING SHED SECTION BEAM

22"      30"      40"      50"

4 to 12 Harnesses

Write to your Agent or

**NORWOOD LOOM COMPANY**  
Box 272                                  Baldwin, Mich.

## Old Hampshire Yarns

For:

Hand Weaving  
Hand Knitting  
Rug Hooking

Special prices on 20 lbs. and over quoted on request. Send for a sample folder. Special attention is given to institutions and schools for arts, crafts and therapy programs.

**Thomas Hodgson & Sons, Inc.**  
Department Y  
Concord, New Hampshire

## ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS present

### The 6th Annual Travelling Exhibit

Contains approximately 40 pieces of woven materials, with set-up and directions, size, type, and cost of threads used, and other related information for each fabric.

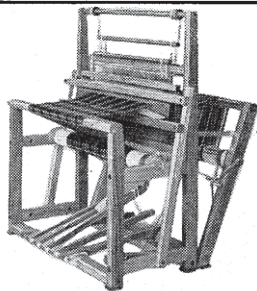
Available to interested individuals or to Weaving Guilds, for 10 day periods through 1956, January 17 to December 1.

For further information write to:

**ROBIN & RUSS**  
632 Santa Barbara Street  
Santa Barbara, California

Buy the Best

Buy "LeCLERC"



The world's largest hand-loom makers  
**NILUS LeCLERC, INC.**  
L'isletville 23, Quebec, Canada

**warp and weft**  
632 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Return Postage Guaranteed

**BULK RATE**  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**1 1/2 c. Paid**  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Permit No. 440