

Borders – Continued

by MARY M. ATWATER

At some time or other in his weaving career every weaver has the desire to make a piece with a pattern border on all four sides of a plain center. This effect is chiefly desired for linen lunch-cloths and place-mats, bridge-table sets and the like,—and also for window-drapery. Sometimes for shawls and baby-blankets. Just how best to do the thing may present a problem.

On a loom with more than four harnesses the problem is comparatively simple. An overshot pattern, for instance, is threaded in the ordinary way on four harnesses and the pattern for the side borders is set in the warp, arranged to weave in warp-face effect. A two-block pattern such as "Monk's Belt" can be woven this way on six harnesses. A four-block pattern requires eight. A four-harness summer and winter weave pattern may be threaded on one set of four harnesses for the side borders and on another set of four harnesses for the center of the piece. The tie-up may then be so arranged that the pattern weaves all across for the top and bottom borders and weaves across only the side sections for the body of the piece, the center being tied to weave blank or solid in color.

Some time ago I was asked for a simple "Pine-Tree" pattern to weave as a border around a center as plain as possible. The pattern shown on Diagram No. 1 was the result. This pattern appeared first in the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin and was also included in the Shuttle-Craft Recipe Book. It is reproduced here for readers of the WEAVER. Many people have enjoyed using it, and the effect is very good when worked out in linens for a table cover, or done in worsted yarns for a small blanket.

However—though the use of multiple-harness looms is on the increase—the majority of hand weavers are still limited to four harnesses, and it will probably be most useful to consider our problem from the four-harness angle.

There are two very simple ways of weaving a border in pattern around a plain center, using a four-harness loom. The first method is to weave the piece in three strips. On the Structo 20" loom, for instance, a 40" square lunch-cloth may be made as follows: Thread the pattern in the ordinary manner; weave a strip the full width of the loom, putting in 10" in pattern weaving on each end and weaving 20" of plain tabby for the body of the piece. Now divide the warp at the center, and using two sets of shuttles weave two strips in pattern, 40" long. When the three strips are sewed together the result will be a square cloth 40" each way, with a ten inch border in pattern on all four sides of a 20" square center in plain weave. This is an entirely practical procedure, and the seams show very little,—coming as they do at the edge of the pattern border. If a narrower border is desired,—say an 8" border—weave the center strip as above but weave only eight inches in pattern at the top and bottom. Take out four inches of the threading in the center, leaving eight inches on each side, and weave the side strips as above, but make them 36" long instead of 40". This, of course, wastes a little warp. If preferred the middle strip may be woven and then a special warp the width of the border strips may be set up and the border strips woven separately instead of at

the same time. There is no great saving in weaving time in making the two strips together but there is one advantage—it is certain the strips will match if they are made this way.

While the method described is excellent for table pieces it is not a good way to make some other things, such as window drapery. Curtains in Egyptian cotton scrim with a deep border at the bottom in pattern weaving, a narrow band of pattern weaving at the top, and a pattern border lengthwise along one edge are extremely attractive, especially for a room graced by a hand-woven coverlet. For such pieces: warp in Egyptian cotton 24/3 at a setting of 24 ends to the inch. Weave the bottom border in the usual manner, as deep as desired. Then determine the part of the threading to be used for the side-border. This section of the threading should include a complete figure, and should be set in two inches or so from the edge. With crayon or charcoal darken two threads on each side of the proposed border. Weave the border by carrying the pattern weft back and forth across the border section only, weaving the tabby all across in the ordinary manner. The colored threads serve as a guide in bringing the pattern shuttle up out of the warp and keep the edges of the border even.

This is not in the least difficult to do, and does not take much more time than ordinary weaving. The effect is excellent. Of course a border in this technique may be woven along both edges if desired, though this is a bit more work. Two pattern shuttles are then used, one for each border, and a single tabby shuttle.

This technique may also be used for linen pieces and other things, of course. I once made a very handsome table-cover in blue and natural tussah silks, weaving on opposites, in this style: For the top and bottom borders I treadled as follows: pattern shot, blue; opposite shot, natural; tabby, natural. For the side borders I used two pattern shuttles and treadled the same way, weaving the blue pattern shot across the two borders only, using separate shuttles, and weaving the "opposite" and the tabby shots all across. The result was a border with the pattern in blue against the opposite in natural, and the center showed the opposite pattern in natural against a natural tabby. The effect was quite beautiful.

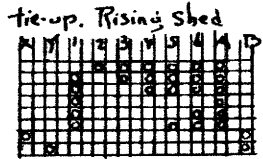
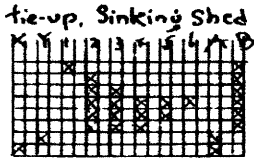
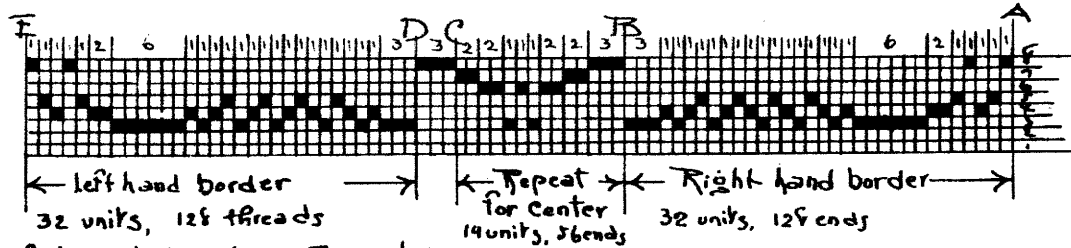
It is necessary, of course, to choose the pattern carefully for these border effects. For pieces woven in the method described first it is important to choose a threading that makes a good corner, and of course this corner pattern should be woven at each end of the side-strips. If the two side-strips are to be woven at the same time it is also important to have a pattern that divides agreeable at the center of the warp. The pattern given on Diagram No. 2 is a modernistic arrangement in crackle weave designed for use on a 20" loom. It illustrates the point I wish to make.

For window drapery in a room with a coverlet, the threading used for the curtains should not repeat exactly the pattern of the coverlet. To use the same threading might result in a painfully "patterny" effect, and moreover as the warp for the curtains is set further apart than for the coverlet, the figures would be larger than the figures in the coverlet,

Diagram No.1

Series V, No.3

A "Pine-Tree" Design for Linens, - Summer & Winter Wear



Material: Warp ²⁰ line linen, at 36 ends to 1" Tabby, like the warp pattern, linen "weaver", or similar

For a Table-Cover 37" square, warp 1332 ends thread as follows:

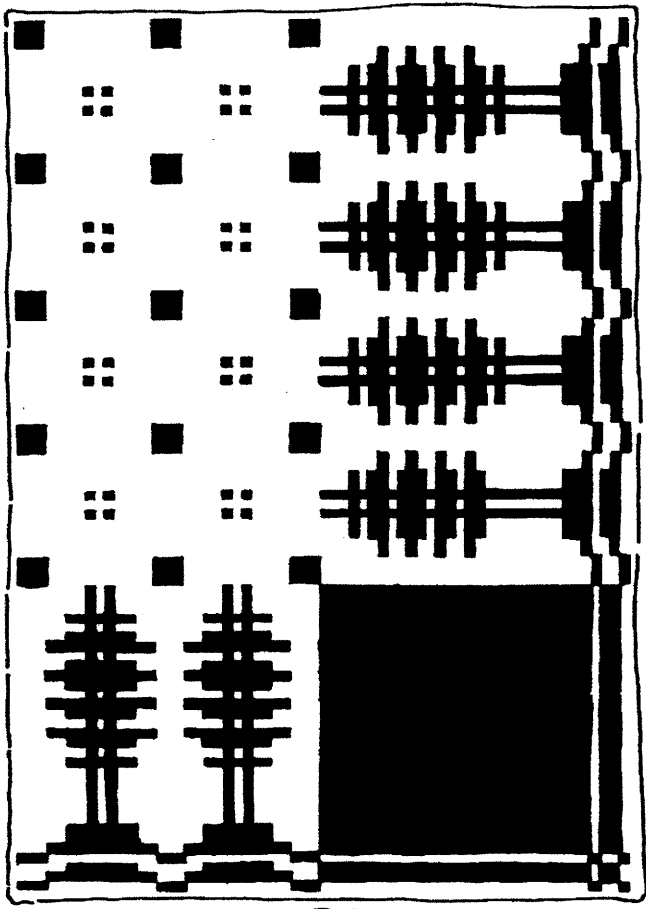
A-B	128 ends
B-Z - repeated 13 times	1064 "
C-D	12 "
D-E	128 "
	<hr/> 1332 "

Weave as follows:
 Bottom Border
 Treadles X-1, once; Y-1, twice; X-1, once (unit a)
 " X-2 " Y-2 " X-2 " (unit b)
 " X-3 " Y-3 " X-3 " (unit c)
 Repeat (a), once; (b), once, (c), twice
 Treadles X-4, once; Y-4, twice; X-4, once (unit d)
 Repeat six times for Trunk of tree
 For the branches treadle the units in the following order, - once each - (c); (d); (c); (b) (d); (c); (b); (d); (c); (b); (c); (d); (c); (b); (c); (d); (c)
 Repeat (d) three times for top of tree.

Square block: unit (a) three times

* Side Borders
 Treadles X-6, once; Y-6, twice; X-6, once (unit f)
 Repeat twice
 Treadles X-5, once; Y-5, twice; X-5, once (unit e)
 Repeat twice
 (d) once; (e) once; (d) once; (e) twice
 (f) twice; (a) three times
 Repeat from * as required for the body of the piece
 For the top, repeat the border in reverse.

(this pattern may be used for a crib blanket in fine wools, or for a small coverlet.)

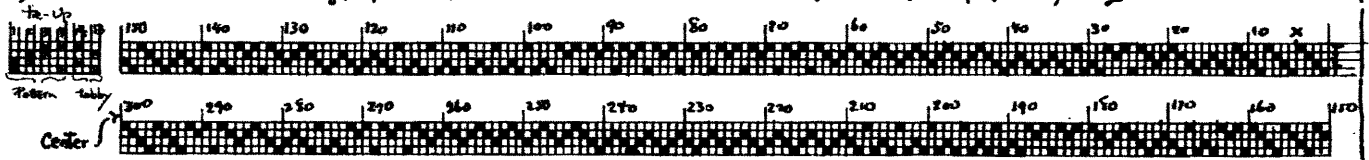


Sketch of Pattern.

M.M. Atwater, Boston, Mass.

Diagram No. 2.

"The Whirling Spindle"—a Crackle-Weave Pattern in the Modern Manner, Specially designed for the Weaver."



For a 60" Lunch Cloth on the Studio² Loom: head the draft as written, and repeat from (5)—omitting first four threads of the draft. End: (2, 3, 4).

For the middle strip, weave as follows:

Head: 1, once; 2, once; 3, once; 4, once — repeat four times

" 1, 7 times; 2, 5 times; 3, 5 times; 4, 5 times

" 1, 9 " 2, 19 " 3, 29 " 4, 19 "

" 1, 9 " 2, 5 times; 3, 5 times; 4, 5 times; 1, 5 times

" 2, once; 3, once; 4, once; 1, once — repeat three times; 2, once

" 3, 5 times; 4, 5 times; 1, 5 times; 2, 5 times

" 3, 9 " 4, 19 " 1, 29 " 2, 19 " 3, 9 times

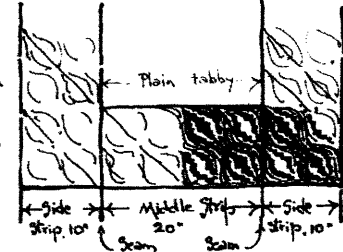
" 4, 5 " 1, 5 " 2, 5 " 3, 5 " 4, once

0 1, once; 2, once; 3, once; 4, once — repeat twice

(This border should measure 10")

Weave 20" plain tabby; then repeat the pattern as given above, but weave only two repeats of the first four shots and end with line (0) repeated three times.

For the two side strips divide the warp at the center, and—using four shuttles—weave both pieces at the same time, repeating the pattern headling four times. On the repeats, omit line (0) and end with the first line, repeated three times. Care must be taken to make the side strips match the middle strip exactly in length. It may be found easier to do this if the side strips are woven first and then the strip for the center.



which would be unpleasant. An arrangement made of a small figure from the coverlet pattern usually gives the best results.

Some years ago the Ladies' Home Journal published a double page of color prints showing the "handwoven" room in the White House. Many weavers clipped this sheet at the time and have it in their weaving scrap-books. Those who missed it can probably find it, if interested, in the magazine files of the local public library. I refer to these pictures because they serve better than any number of words to show the unhappy effect of using too much of the same pattern. The pattern used was one of the classic Colonial wheel-figures,—"Sun, Moon and Stars", unless my memory fails me. In this room in the White House the same figure was woven for the coverlet of a large fourposter, for several rugs, for window drapery, etc., all in precisely the same form. The effect of all these hundreds of blue wheels is, in my opinion, extremely distressing. Such a misuse of pattern produces a monotony of decoration that is far worse than a monotony of plainness. Pattern, like color, adds enormously to the joy of life, but like color it must be handled with a certain economy in order to be effective and to give pleasure.

In addition to the two methods of making borders described above, the four-harness weaver has a number of other ways of accomplishing the desired effect—by the use of special weaves. The Scandinavian open work weave, for instance can be used to make a lace-like border all around a plain center. An arrangement of this type is shown on Diagram No. 3—a pattern for linens reproduced from the Shuttle-Craft Guild Recipe Book. This is handsome for a luncheon set, and the same pattern also makes beautiful window drapery. I made curtains once in this weave, using heavy linen floss in "natural" for both warp and weft. The warp was set at 15 to the inch for the plain hem and at $7\frac{1}{2}$ to the inch for the rest of the fabric. The bottom hem was woven at 15 shots to the inch and the rest at $7\frac{1}{2}$ shots to

the inch to correspond with the warp-setting. The effect was excellent, and the curtains, woven some fifteen years ago, are still in use. They do not appear to have deteriorated in the least.

A weave, suitable for border effects for afghan and baby carriage blankets, is shown on Diagram No. 4. Germantown yarn set at 10 to the inch is suitable material.

The Spanish lace-weave can be used for linen pieces, with borders all around,—as elaborate as one chooses. And the Finnish double weave, the "Finnweave", can also be used to produce the desired effect. A simple Finnweave pattern is shown on Diagram No. 5. Directions for this weave were given in THE WEAVER some time ago. For those who missed this issue a leaflet containing the directions and a number of good patterns is available. Price, \$1.00.

It should be noted that in making a piece in Finnweave with a border and a plain center it is advisable to weave a small dot at intervals through the plain part. As in this weave the upper and lower fabrics are entirely separate, unless this is done the large plain spaces tend to become "baggy" in time. If for some reason it is desired to keep the center entirely plain the two fabrics may be woven without catching them together and when the piece has been taken from the loom one of the fabrics over the center may be cut out with scissors and the edges hemmed down.

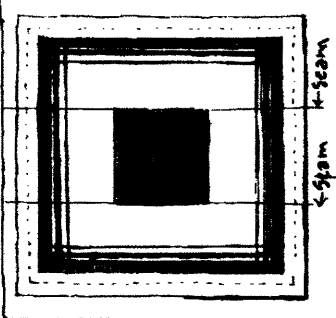
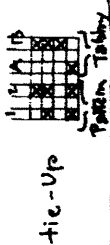
The Finnweave can be used for coverlets and blankets, heavy drapery, table covers, and so on. I do not advise it for all-linen pieces but it is excellent in cotton, wool, silk, or combinations of these materials. Very free and spirited patterns are possible in this weave.

There are, of course, many other ways in which borders may be woven around a plain center, but the methods described above are the ones that seem to me most practical, and the ones that offer the most interesting range of possibilities.

Shuttle-Weave Recipe for Lunch-Cloth and Mats in Lace-Weave (by Special Request)

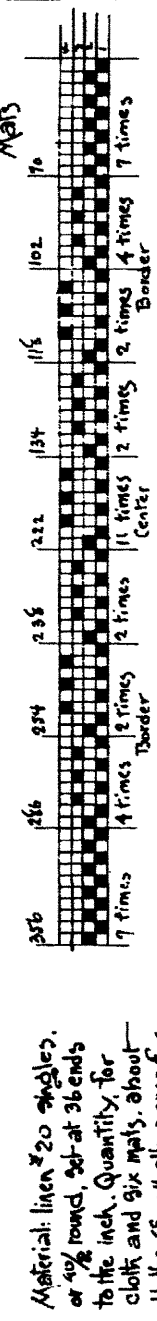
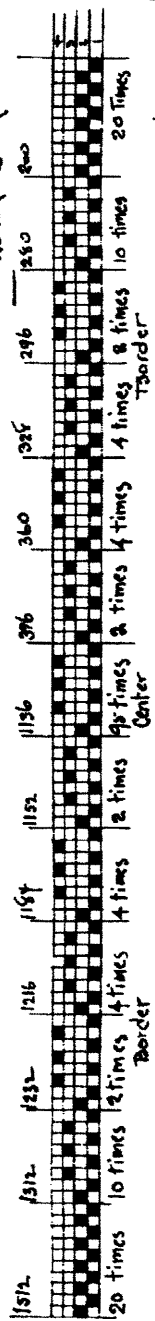
Series V No. 2.0

Diagram No. 3.



For a large lunch-cloth - 56" square, finished on the Shuttle loom, thread Border 20 given, 376 threads Center, 28 times 224 600

Weave two strips - in the sides - using the tread-sling as given for the 36" cloth; but weave (d) for 60" For the middle strip rethread the first 200 threads to a pattern unit: 1, 4, 1, 1, 4 (1, 2, and repeat. Weave as follows: Hem: 6" plain Tabby (a) Ten times (b) Tabby, 32 shots (c) four times Tabby, 64 shots (d) twice; for 10" for 20"; Tabby 10" Repeat border from (*) in reverse



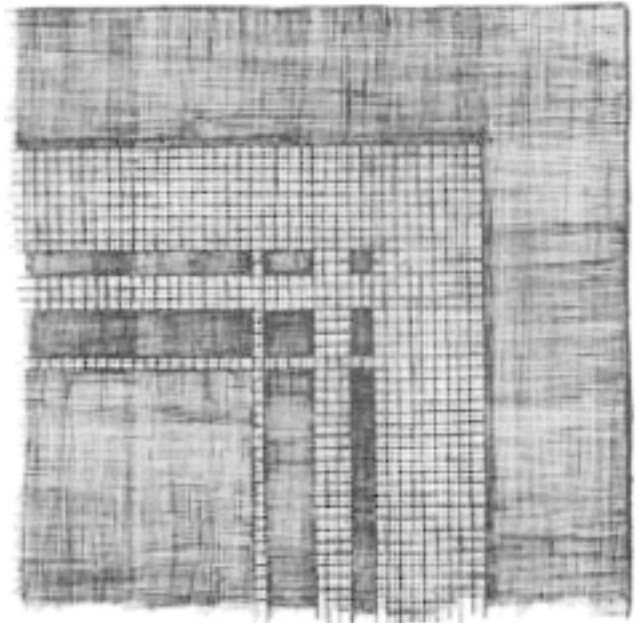
Material: linen 20 angles, or 40 round, set at 36 ends to the inch. Quantity for cloth and six mats, about 1 1/2 lbs. (Small allowance for wastage). Cloth 42" wide in the reed, to be finished with a 3" hem all around. Mats 10" in the reed to have 1" hem.

Thread as indicated, weave the Lunch Cloth as follows:
 Border: Tabby, six inches - bottom hem
 (a) Treadle 2 once; 0 once - three times. A once, B, once
 Repeat Ten times
 (b) Treadle, 1 once; B, once - three times. A once, B, once
 Repeat twice
 Weave (a) four times
 " (b) " "
 " (c) twice
 " (b), 9 1/2 times (Body of piece)
 Border: (a) twice; (b) four times; (c) four times;
 (b) twice; (a) ten times; Tabby, six inches

Weave Mats as follows:
 Border: Tabby, two inches; (a) four times; (b) twice;
 (a) twice.
 Center: (b) Eleven times
 Border: (a) twice; (b) twice; (a) four times; Tabby, 2"
 Hem all around. Wash thoroughly, and iron dry.

This pattern may also be used for curtains in fine linen. Set 20 line linen warp about 28 ends to the inch, and beat lightly.

M.M. Wheeler, 1933
 Boston, U.S.A.



Corner of Lunch Cloth

