

Some Weaving Projects in Coarse Materials

BY W. CLYDE DUNBAR

A SMALL pattern in crackle-weave by Mary M. Atwater proved very satisfactory and interesting for rugs, and as some fellow weavers may wish to try this project I will tell of my experience with it in some detail.

The threading draft of this pattern shown at B is for one repeat of the pattern which consists of 92 threads of warp. I used black carpet warp set at 12 ends to the inch in the reed.

Threading: Five repeats of pattern, 460 ends; first block of draft, 25 ends; making a total of 485 ends.

To reproduce the rug illustrated, which was made of carefully prepared cotton rags with shadowy figures in soft pink on a white ground, weave as follows: Heading of black carpet warp in tabby, weave about an inch deep if the rug is to be fringed and about two inches if a hem is used to finish the rug, then two tabby shots of pattern material. Now begin the pattern weaving, using the carpet warp for tabby:

- Treadle: 2, 10 times
 4, 3 times
 3, 3 times
 4, 3 times
 2, 2 times
 3, 3 times
 4, 3 times
 3, 3 times
 2, 2 times
 4, 3 times
 3, 3 times
 4, 3 times
 2, 10 times

This completes the bottom border.

The next three tabby shots in rug may be omitted if desired.

Treadle 4, 24 times, or sufficient to square the large block. Treadle 2, 10 times.

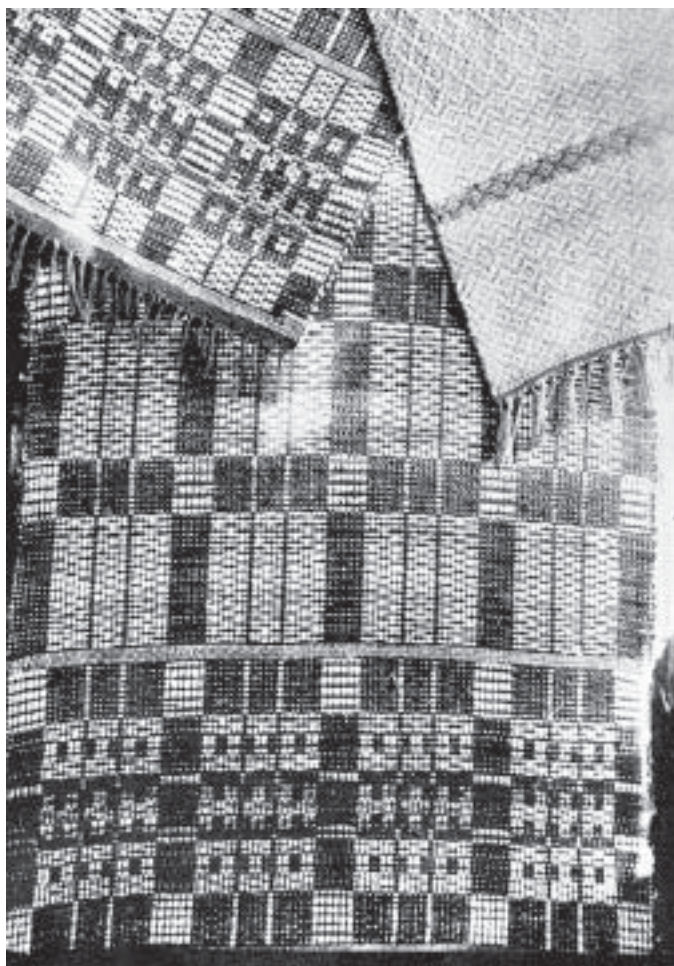
Repeat these last two changes as many times as desired for the body of the rug, and then repeat the border for the other end.

The corner of this rug shown at the top of the illustration shows the reverse side. Either side is pleasing and may be considered the "right" side.

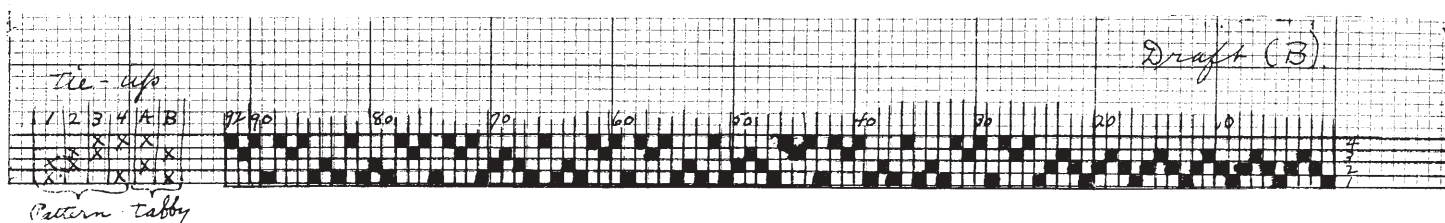
This is but one of the many variations that can be produced from this simple threading. The texture is close and firm, of pleasing appearance and should give excellent service.

This pattern lends itself especially well to the use of several colors, and the rug yarns are particularly good for this purpose.

After finishing the rugs in this design there was a small amount of warp left on the loom. This had been set at 12 ends to the inch. I doubled this setting, making 24 to the inch, and experimented with rather fine yarns, and the piece of weaving described below is a part of the result. (See illustration and draft on next page.) This was very attractive and of unusual interest to Guild members. The yarns used were of about the weight of Zephyr and were in gold, green, plum, lavender,



Rag rug woven by the author



ender, rose and blue — all dull shades.
 Tabby, Shetland yarn, black.

(X)

Treadle: 2, 12 times, gold
 4, 4 times, plum
 3, 4 times, plum
 4, 4 times, plum
 2, 2 times, green
 3, 4 times, lavender
 4, 4 times, lavender
 3, 4 times, lavender
 2, 2 times, green
 4, 4 times, plum
 3, 4 times, plum
 4, 4 times, plum
 2, 12 times, gold

(Y)

4, 4 times, green
 3, 4 times, green
 4, 4 times, green
 2, 2 times, rose
 3, 4 times, blue
 4, 4 times, blue
 3, 4 times, blue
 2, 2 times, rose
 4, 4 times, green
 3, 4 times, green
 4, 4 times, green
 2, 12 times, gold

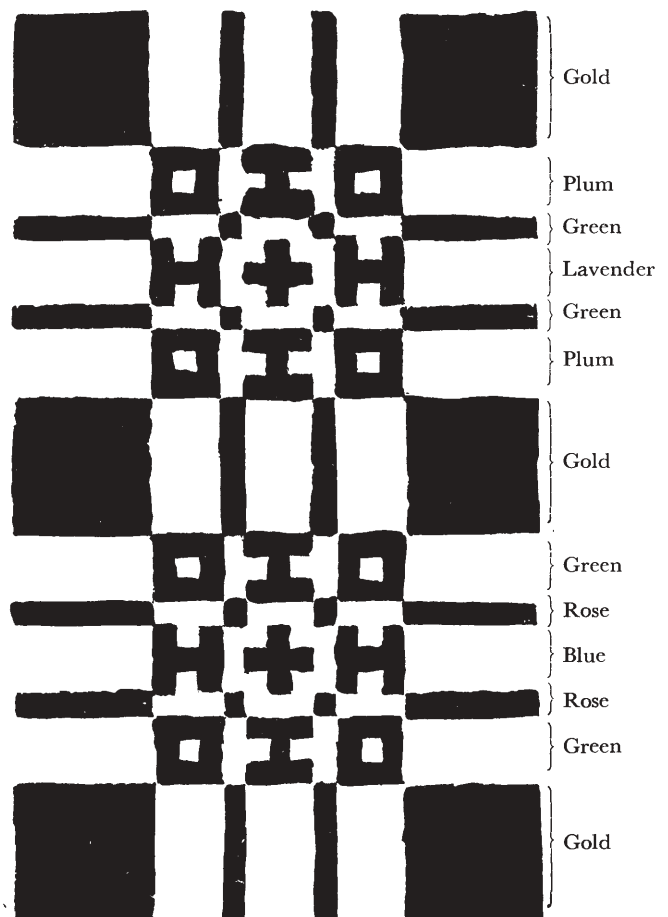
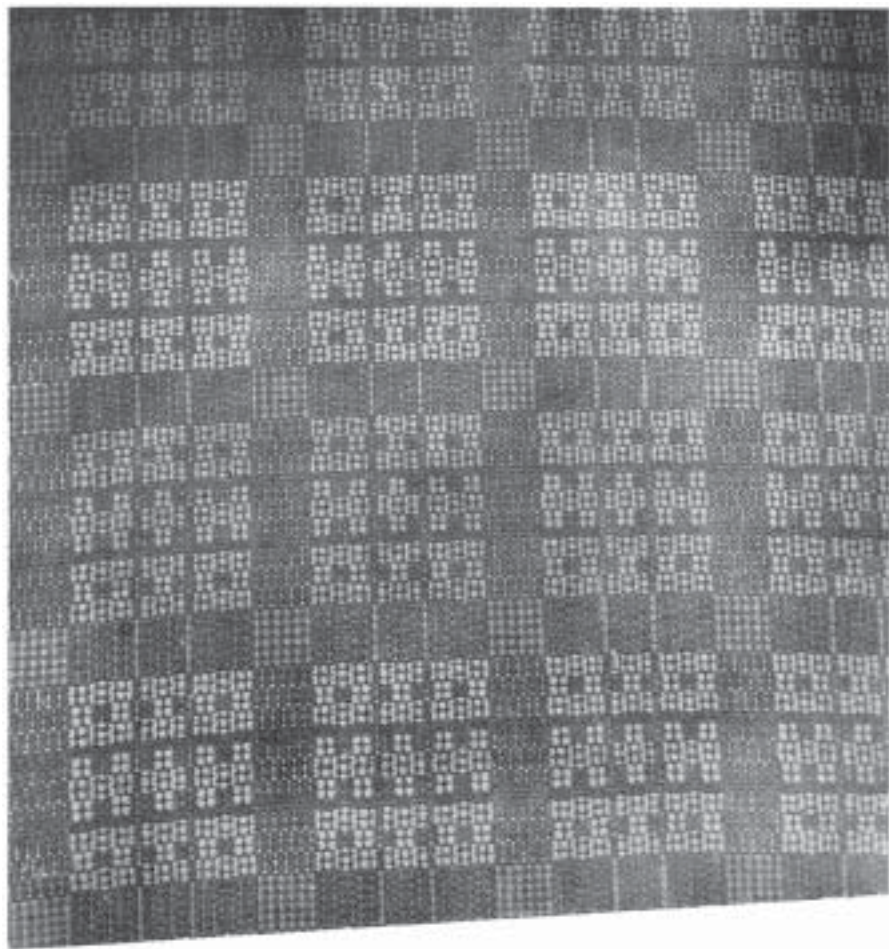
(Z)

Repeat from (Y) to (Z) twice, then from (X) to (Y).

Having come into possession of a quantity of real home-spun yarn of a rather harsh quality that still had something of a feeling of sentiment attached to it, I divided it into two equal portions and dyed part a soft yellow and the other part a dull orange, and used this with black carpet warp set at 15 ends to the inch in the reed and a finer yarn in plum color for the tabby, to make a needed pair of drapes. Casting about for a rather bold type of design in keeping with the coarseness of the materials, I worked out a variation of "Star of the Sea" in Summer and Winter weave on six harnesses. Using this draft as I arranged it, one repeat of the threading with a narrow border on each side made the desired width. The draft as shown at (A) gives the arrangement and number of threading units. Each unit, as is usual in these drafts, represents four warp-ends. On the tie-up as given, the first four units would be threaded one-three-two-three, one-four-two-four, one-five-two-five and one-six-two-six. An experienced weaver will find it easier to follow the treadling from the draft than from written directions, only keeping the proportions and squaring the blocks.

Border treadling:

- (a) Treadle 1, once; 2, twice; 1, once — orange.
- (b) Treadle 3, once; 4, twice; 3, once — orange.
- (c) Treadle 5, once; 6, twice; 5, once — orange.
- (d) Treadle 7, once; 8, twice; 7, once — orange.



Repeat the border treading four times — second time in yellow, third time in orange and fourth time in yellow.

Pattern treading:

(e) Treadle 1, once; 2, twice; 1, once — orange. Repeat six times or until the block is squared.

(f) Treadle 3, once; 4, twice; 3, once — yellow. Repeat eight times or until the block is squared.

(g) Treadle 5, once; 6, twice; 5, once — orange. Repeat nine times or until the block is squared.

(h) Treadle 7, once; 8, twice; 7, once — yellow. Repeat ten times or until the block is squared.

Then (g), once; (f), once; (g), once; (h), twice. Repeat

twice, then (g), once; (f), once; (g), once. Then repeat the square blocks (h), (g), (f) and (e) in this inverse order, and this will complete one repeat of the large figure.

Weave one unit each of (b), (c), (b), and then repeat the pattern treading as above twice, making three repeats of the large figure, then weave the border as at the beginning, but in inverse order. (See illustration.)

This arrangement made drapes three yards long and about a yard wide. This pattern may be woven in many different ways. I also used this same design for wool rugs, making two repeats of the large figure, and for bath mats, using white rags. These mats were out of the ordinary and attracted much favorable comment.



Showing right and wrong sides of drapes

