

GAUZE WEAVING WITHOUT HARNESSSES

By JOSEPHINE MARIE RYAN

(Formerly Instructor in Hand Weaving, Teacher's College, New York City)

SOMETIME ago as I needed new living-room curtains, I began experiments with Gauze or Leno weaving. No harness loom was available at the moment. I tried Mock Leno first but was not satisfied. I wanted the real thing—not a make-shift.

After several failures I discovered to my delight that Leno could be easily and quickly woven on a simple non-harness table loom I owned, of a type similar to the one illustrated. You may wonder why I was so anxious to work out some method of weaving gauze without the use of harnesses. It was because Leno is a most useful weave—ideal for baby things, curtains, bed jackets, boleros and scarves. It drapes well, is very light as well as porous. Incidentally, as very little thread is required, Leno is an economical way to use up the odds and ends of thread, which will accumulate.

The technique which I used is described in the Directions for weaving Scarf (A), Illustration 2.

To weave this scarf, make a warp of 88 threads of sufficient length and warp according to the following color order. Warp II Blue; II Salmon Pink; II Yellow; II Blue; II Lavender; II Salmon Pink; II Yellow; II Lavender. Altho unusual, the rainbow effect is lovely.

The warp threads are threaded through the reed or rigid heddle as follows:—

Thread the first 2 warp threads through adjoining dents as usual. Measure off $\frac{1}{8}$ inch on reed or screen and skip the dents in this space. Thread 3rd and 4th warp threads through the next two dents as before. Skip $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Repeat threading and skipping dents, until all warp has been passed through reed. Tie up for weaving as usual, but be sure that each set of warp threads -2- are tied in front so that they run straight from reed to front roller.

Illustration I shows correct method of threading and tying up of warp. The loom illustrated has no reed used on it. The warp threads are spaced as required by means of a piece of screening, similar to fly screening. The only automatic shed needed is made by means of threading a stick through alternate warp threads and leaving it in a flat position in the warp, when not in use. For weft in Scarf A use a single Lavender thread for a distance of 10 inches; Yellow for 8 inches; Blue for 8 inches; Yellow for 8 inches; Lavender for 10 inches.

Weave (a) 1 row Tabby-weaving. Push into place. Note:—Weft thread must always lie straight across warp — be neither loose nor tight.

(b) To weave the second row:—Take a smooth, thin stick about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, shaped as in Illustration I. Insert point at right end of warp, placing it over first warp thread and under second. Lift second

thread lightly with a finger or crochet hook as shown and lay over stick so that second thread will lie over first warp thread. Drop second warp thread and lift first warp thread in same manner, taking care to leave second warp thread over first warp thread. Remove stick and slip the point under first warp thread, which is still held up by crochet hook or finger of left hand.

Leave stick in place and repeat process until all warp threads have been crossed as described. Then turn stick on edge and throw weft through the opening made by it. Flatten stick and press weft into place. Remove stick from warp.

Repeat (a) and (b) alternately — one row each — until the scarf is required length.

The same technique was used in weaving Scarf B. Instead of leaving a space of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch between each set of two warp threads unthreaded however, the space was $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Although this scarf may impress some as impractical, because of the large open spaces between warp sets of threads, I have worn it for some time folded in half and have found it surprisingly durable as well as comfortable in milder weather when a scarf is needed more for ornament than warmth.

Sampler C (Illustration 2) shows what can be done by varying the Leno weave.

The warp was entered as for Scarf A. Snowflake and Boucle were used both for warp and weft. This combination makes lovely baby throws, jackets and scarves. The three different variations are described separately.

Section R consists of Tabby Weaving:—Boucle used for weft for 4 Rows; Snowflake for 4 Rows; Boucle for 4 Rows.

Section S is woven in the gauze weave used for Scarf A. With Snowflake as weft, weave 3 Rows; then 1 row with Boucle; 3 Rows with Snowflake.

Section P. To weave, 2 warp threads are picked up together, instead of one only as in Scarf A and brought over 2 warp threads.

Weave 1 row with Snowflake; 1 row with Boucle; 1 row with Snowflake.

Many other combinations will occur to anyone who tries this weave and if these directions are followed exactly, the weaving of Leno should be easily mastered.

A fabric consisting of alternate stripes of Tabby and Leno weaving can be woven by threading warp as seen in Illustration I. Sections of warp are threaded closely at intervals throughout the warp and for these sections the warp threads are picked up as for Tabby weaving for all rows instead of being twisted. Gauze sections are picked up as usual.

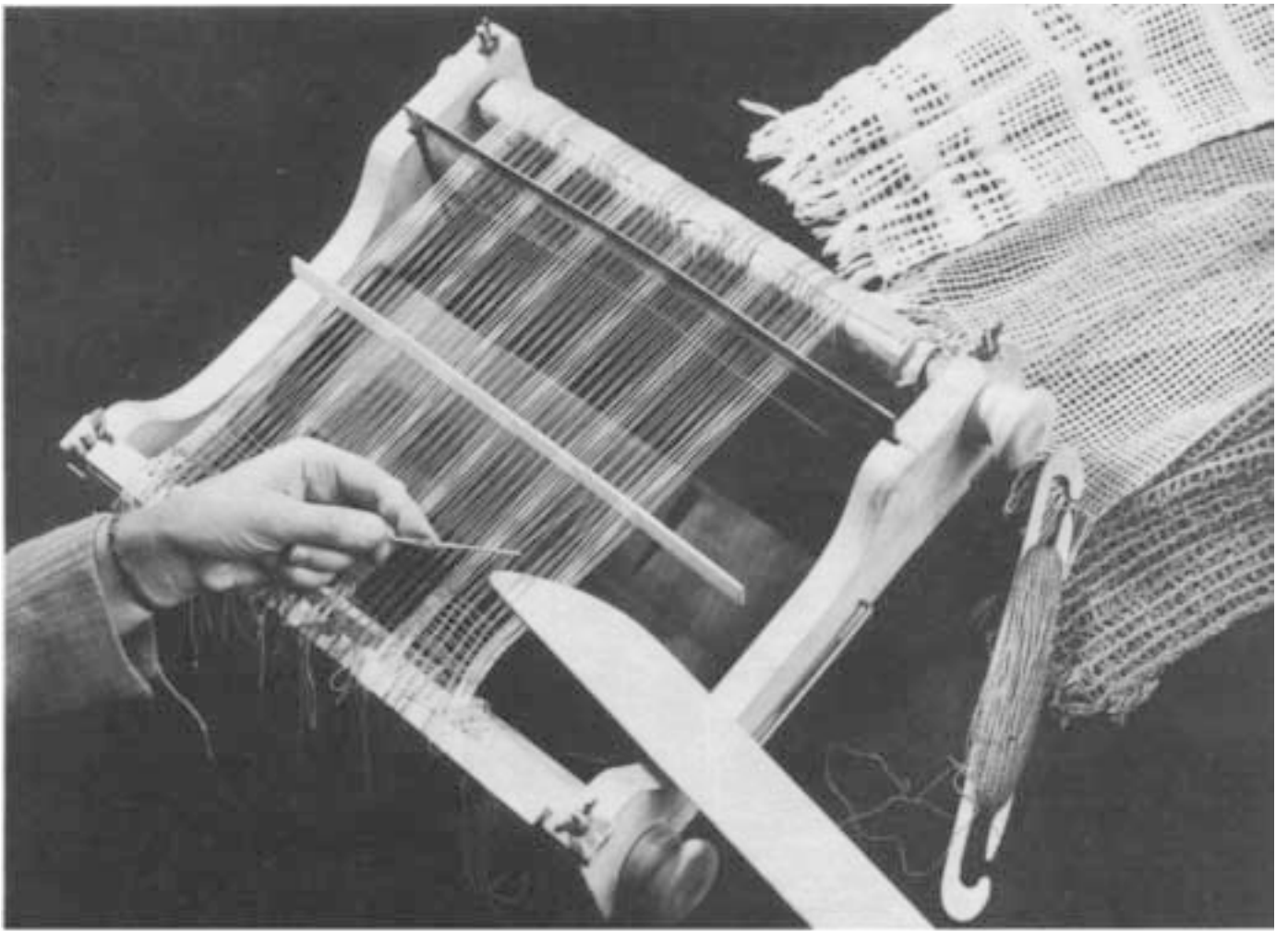


ILLUSTRATION I

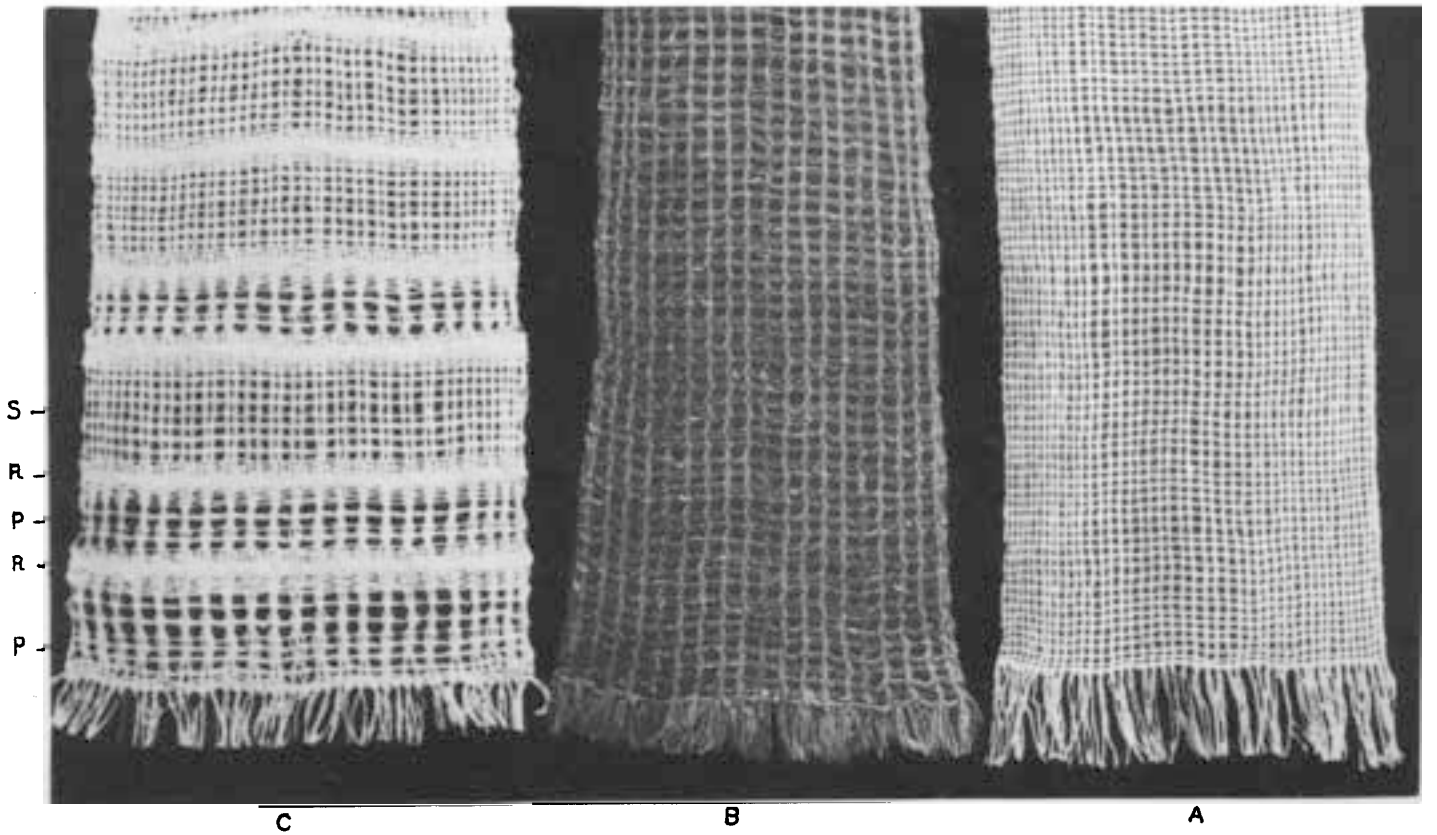


ILLUSTRATION III