

HANDWOVEN CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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I came upon this handwoven Christmas tree quite by accident. I should like to pass along the idea to any of you to use either in making your own Christmas cards, or as a class project for those of you who teach weaving to children either in school or in camp.

My blind students at Perkins have taken great delight in weaving these Christmas trees for their Christmas cards, with greetings in Braille for their blind friends, and greetings written in "square hand" or typewritten for their seeing friends.

The pattern is a very simple one-shuttle design of blocks of twill enclosed by stripes of basket weave. It may be executed on either floor or table loom, and the same threading may be used for a variety of other useful articles.

My loom was threaded for guest towels and luncheon sets. For warp I used seven spools of ready wound cotton, 20's/2, threaded two per dent in a 15 dent reed. The draft is given at A.

For hems in basket weave:

Treadle 4 and 1, two picks. (Pass the shuttle around the outside warp thread after the first pick.)

Treadle 2 and 3, two picks.

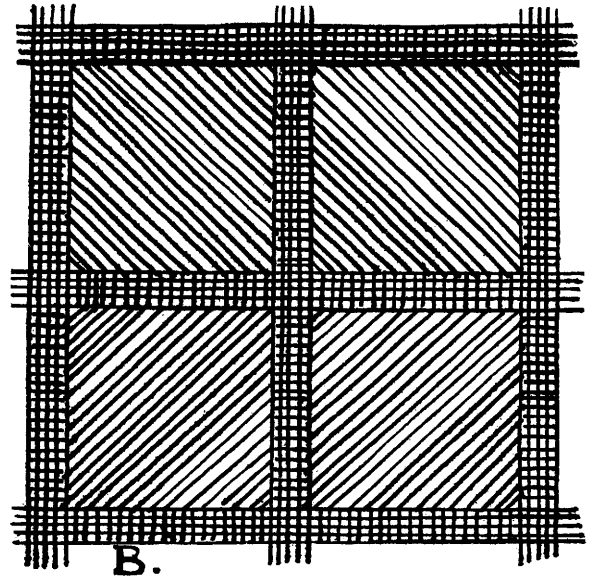
Alternate for as wide a hem as desired.

Now weave twill:

- Treadle 4 and 1 once
- 1 and 2 once
- 2 and 3 once
- 3 and 4 once

Repeat until block is square or slightly longer than square.

Basket weave stripe, same treading as for hem, making stripe same width as lengthwise stripes. (Approximately 14 picks.)

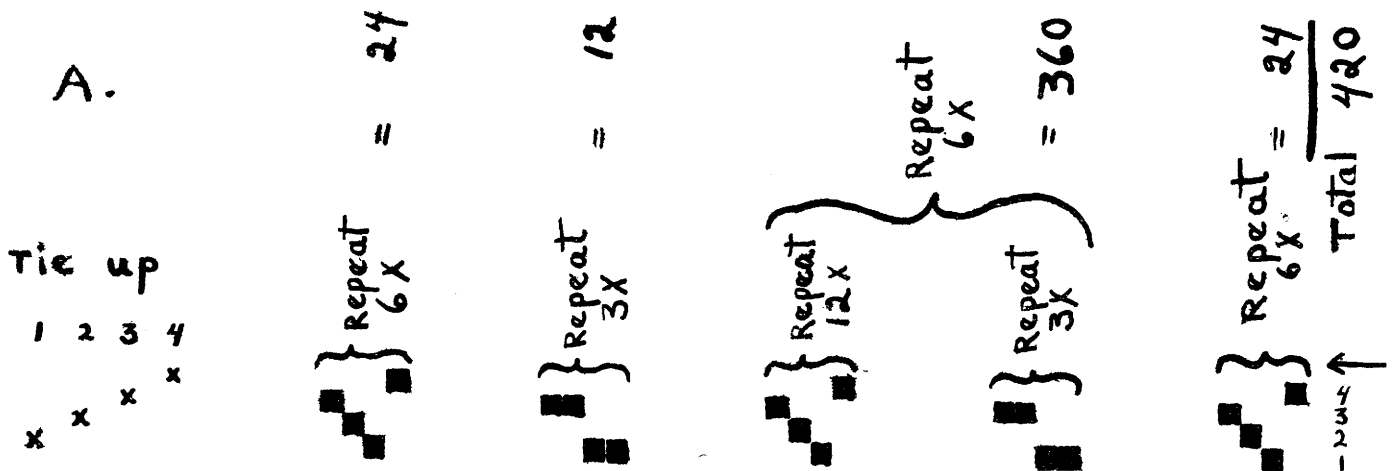


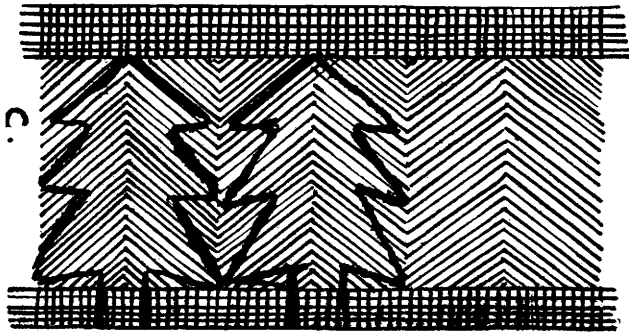
Repeat twill block either as before, or twill line may be reversed by treading 4 and 1 once.

- 3 and 4 once
- 2 and 3 once
- 1 and 2 once

Repeat same number of times as before. See figure B.

The guest towels and luncheon sets were woven with a Linen Special or Linen weaver filling in natural, with colored basket weave hems or stripes.





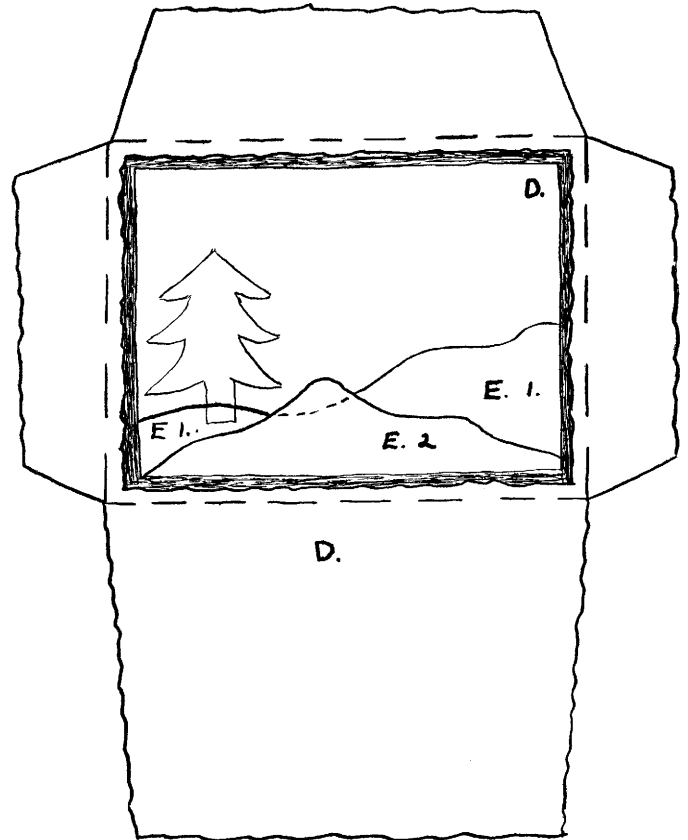
Now for the Christmas tree. One ball of Bernat's Miralaine, green No. 3181, will make material enough for about 25 trees.

Treadle as follows; using the Miralaine:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| A. 1 and 2 once | B. Reverse the twill line: |
| 2 and 3 once | 2 and 3 once |
| 3 and 4 once | 1 and 2 once |
| 4 and 1 once | 4 and 1 once |
| Repeat for about 24 picks. | 3 and 4 once |
| | Repeat same number of picks as before. |

Continue reversing A and B in this manner until the Miralaine is all used. In looking at the cloth from the side, the trees are apparent. See diagram C. A pair of scissors makes the trees a reality. It is best, however, to cut the trees one at a time as they are needed, and glue them on to the cards immediately, using "Grippit" and covering the entire surface of the wrong side of the tree with it. This will prevent raveling.

For the envelope and card I used a slightly grayish charcoal paper which may be bought at a stationers or art store. To obtain the deckle edge, tear the paper against a straight edge instead of cutting. Patterns, actual size, are shown at D. Stiff white paper was used for the snowy hills, one being glued on top of the other. See E. 1 and E. 2.



The printing and edging are red water color, applied with a small paint brush. The card is glued to the inside of the envelope with "Grippit", and I used a Tuberculosis seal to close the flap.

The realistic appearance of the tree is due to the nubby yarn and the reversed twill. The cards were very inexpensive, lots of fun to make, and I had many compliments on them.