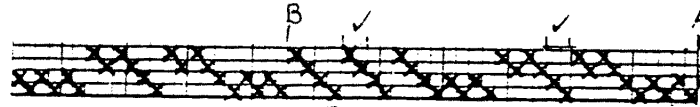
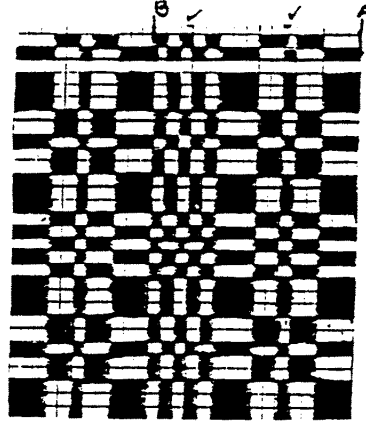


# HANDWEAVING NEWS



DESIGNING FOUR  
HARNESSTHREADING DRAFTS



FOR  
TWO BLOCK PATTERNS.

Figure No.2.

As there has been considerable interest in the designing of patterns, different threading drafts for a two block pattern design will be discussed this month. Logically perhaps this should have been taken up before the planning of the three block patterns as given in the June and July News.

At Figure No.1 is shown a simple "Key Draft" for a two block pattern. This is composed of 3 units for each pattern block. Note that one square of the cross section paper indicates one unit of the pattern. These unit pattern blocks can be written any number of squares one desires to write them, according to the pattern design. The smallest unit that can be written is of course, a one unit block. And the only limit as to the number of units in each pattern block would be governed somewhat by the type of threading draft to be used on the loom. For instance if a Colonial over-shot threading draft is being planned, it must be remembered that unless the loom is set up with a large number of threads to the inch, a block which has more than about 14 threads makes a very long over-shot skip. While if the "Summer and Winter" threading is used, the unit pattern blocks can be as large as one desires to make them, since the pattern weft only makes a three thread skip in any case.

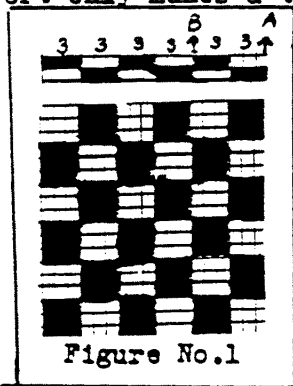


Figure No.2 at the top of this page is the familiar plan for the "Monk's Belt" pattern. Note carefully that the pattern blocks take this order as to the number of units they contain. The first one on the right has 3 units, the second pattern block has 2 units, the third pattern block has one unit, and so on. The important thing to remember is that these units pattern blocks may be written any size desired. At Figure No.3 is shown a "key draft" with quite a number of different sized pattern blocks. The first block has five units, and so is drawn down five units square, the second pattern block has four units, so is drawn down 4 units square, while the third pattern block on the same line as the first is a one unit block. This should make it very plain how to design a "key draft" for a two block pattern.

Planning Threading Drafts for the Key Drafts.

1. Colonial Over-shot Patterns. It is very easy to design Colonial over-shot pattern drafts from these key drafts. It is possible to write four pattern blocks on a four harness loom, but we will only use two of these, namely the 1&2 pattern block, and the 3&4 pattern block. We will use two threads on the 1&2 pattern block for each unit of the key draft on the first line, and two threads on the 3&4 pattern block for each unit of the key draft on the second line. Now refer to Figure No.1, and see that there are 3 units on the first pattern block, and three on the second, so the actual pattern draft which may be written will be 1,2,1,2,1,2, for the first pattern block, and 3,4,3,4,3,4, for the second pattern block. Written out graphically as at Figure No.4, three repeats are given, as in

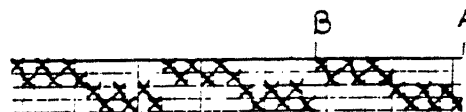


Figure No.4

this manner, it is very easy to understand how the loom is tied up, as it is tied up to weave two pattern blocks 1&2 and 3&4, with the plain weave on 1&3 and 2&4. Over-shot drafts woven in this way give a very sharp clear cut pattern, as there are no one thread skips to bring in a third value of color. And also note there is no overlapping of the pattern blocks as in a regular four block pattern design. Note we are only using two pattern blocks instead of four. This type of design where the pattern blocks are equal, or the same number of threads, is often used for a border, or as a part of a regular four harness pattern draft. When used in this way, it is referred to as a "table". Of course these tables can be written using the number of threads for each pattern block as desired. But if this sort of a table is written, it is woven "on opposites", and it is best to draw down all of the pattern threading, especially if it is written with a regular four block pattern, since the small two thread blocks, or "accidentals" may occur in the wrong places and spoil the effect of the four block pattern. Of course when all of the pattern is woven on two pattern blocks, no "accidentals" occur.

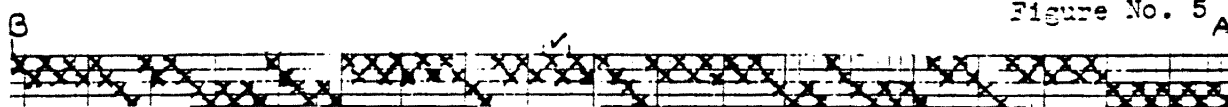


Figure No. 5

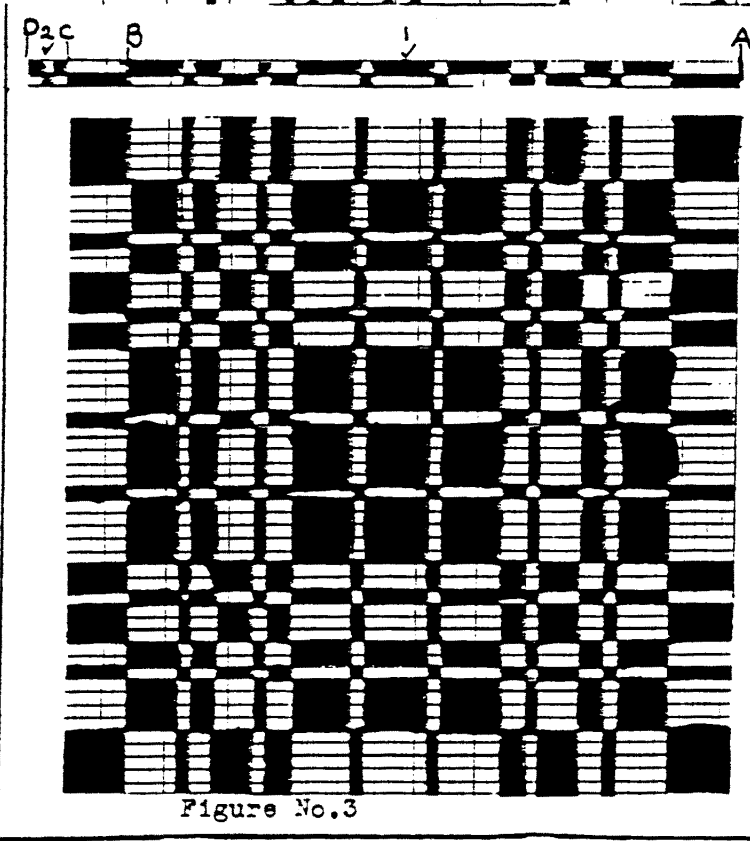


Figure No.3

From A to B on all of the Key drafts indicates one repeat. But in planning these drafts, one must also note carefully the center where the draft should be made to reverse back in the opposite way with the same number of units in each pattern block, so it will balance on each side of the center. A pattern may have several places where it might be centered, or it could be written large, and have only one center for the entire threading draft. For instance at the key draft of Figure No.3, one repeat of the pattern would be from A to B, with the center as checked at 1. Or the first pattern block could be repeated as from B to C, and this be the complete plan for the loom threading, or another center could be made as at 2, and one repeat be from A to D. One repeat of the actual threading draft for the loom is given at Figure No.5. But this is only one repeat of the key draft at Figure No.3, from A to B.

## 2. M's and O's Pattern drafts.

It is possible to use these same key drafts for the so called M's and O's thread-in drafts. At Figure No.6 is shown the M's and O's threading draft reduced to its lowest terms. Note this carefully,- For pattern block No.1, there are four threads for each unit of the key draft, or 1,2,3,4. As each unit of the key draft is repeated 3x, for the actual threading draft to correspond, repeat 1,2,3,4,- 3x as in Figure No.6. When this pattern block is woven,weave one shot of weft on 1&2, the next on 3&4. And continue to alternate these until the block is square. The small dots are put in to show the plain weave, as it comes out when each block is woven. In this weave, it is not possible to get a true plain weave, but the 2&3 and 1&4 pattern sheds can be used as the plain weave sheds would be if desired, although these patterns are generally woven as an all over pattern. The second pattern block is also composed of four threads and these are 1,3,2,4. This is repeated 3x as each unit of the key draft at Figure No.1 which we are using is repeated 3x.

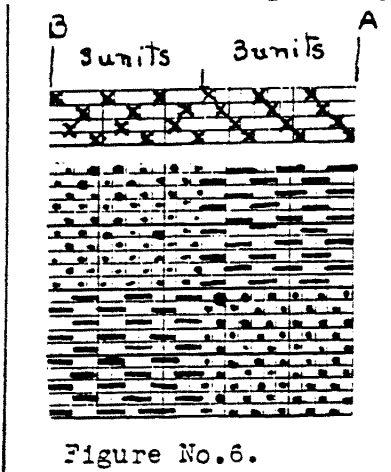


Figure No.6.

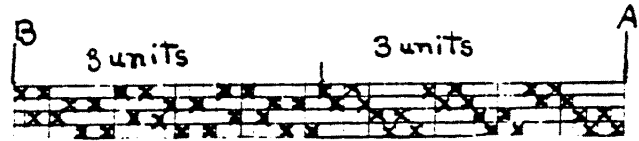


Figure No.7.

At Figure No.7 is a threading draft for the M's and O's pattern as it is usually drafted. Here we have eight threads for each unit of the key draft instead of four as in Figure No.6. It is woven just the same as Figure No.6, but of course the weft thread will have longer skips than in Figure No.6.

At Figure No.8 is the threading for the regular M's and O's following the key draft plan of Figure 2 of the Monk's Belt at the top of Page 1. The numbers under the brackets indicate the corresponding units of the key draft.

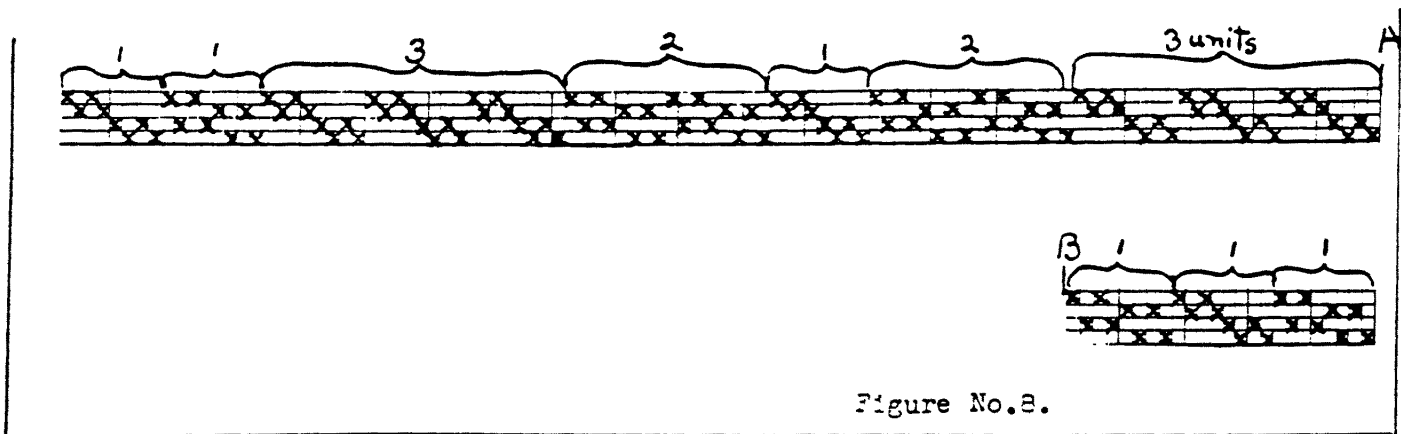


Figure No.8.

The M's and O's pattern drafts were much used for linen threading in the Colonial weaving, and many interesting old pieces are found. I never really understood just why the pattern was called M's and O's, until I saw an old linen table cover at the Museum in Chicago. This had just one unit of 1,2,1,2,3,4,3,4, for the one pattern block, and the 1,3,1,3,2,4,2,4, for the other pattern block. It was woven one shot of weft on 1&2, one on 3&4; repeated until the unit was square, then the other unit was woven one shot on 1&3, and one on 2&4 alternately until that block was square. And the effect showed up very clearly as little M's and O's. This is not so easy to see when other arrangements are made. Palmgren's Book, Vol. II. shows a rug woven on this same plan. It would be possible to design rather handsome ones, and the skips would be short and entirely suited to rug technique. Since I began writing about pattern designing in June, I have had a number of interesting letters. If you like this sort of thing, may I not hear from you also. Write me your questions. And do try out some of these ideas, and let me know what results you have.