



Texture Experiments.

Much emphasis at the present time is being placed in modern textiles on textures. And with the large number of different kinds and sizes of threads, this field can be one of special interest to the handweaver. The material offered in this News is from some experiments carried on by several of my students here at Wayne University, who were interested in seeing what could be done for unusual textures with more or less common threads, and with simple threadings.

Threading drafts. Are very simple, and may be found in Eva Odlund's book Vavbok, one of the Scandinavian books. But the use of these as described below is unusual and interesting and quite different in most cases, due to the variations in sleying the reed, as well as the use of different materials. Each draft will be given and some of the most effective ways we found to use it.

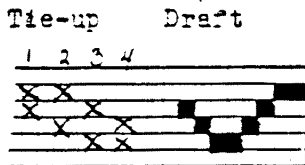


Figure No.1

1. Warp beige carpet warp 18 threads to the inch, one thread in each dent of the reed. Only two treadles used; namely the plain weave harnesses, alternately 1&3 and 2&4, or following the tie-up draft treadles 2 & 3. Weave an inch using just single carpet warp like the warp, then weave 1 1/2" of the carpet warp combined with a heavy hemp thread about the same size, then 3 shots of weft of just single carpet warp, then alternate one shot of carpet warp single and one shot of the hemp single using two shuttles for this. Vary these combinations as desired. Such a material could be used for drapes or coarse place mats. Color could be added if desired, but this as is makes a good neutral fabric of unusual and interesting texture, though very simple and easy to do.
2. Set up same as No.1, but use very heavy mercerized cotton No.0 entirely for the weft. Fabric is interesting on both sides. Could be used for upholstery. For levers of Structo loom, weave harness 1 alone, 2 alone, 3 alone, 4 alone, and repeat.
3. Set up the same as No.1, but use beige or ecru carpet warp like the warp for the weft and combine this for a double weft with 2 threads of 40/2 ecru linen. Weave levers 1&4, 2&4, 3&4, repeat this 2x; then 1 alone, 2 alone, 3 alone. Repeat over and over from the beginning. Both sides of this are of interest, long warp skips on one side.
4. Set up same as No.1. Use all of ecru carpet warp for the weft, weave as follows, - 1&3, 1&2, 1&3, 2&4, 3&4, 2&4, repeat as desired.

5. Set up and threading same as at No.1. For this use ecru carpet warp combined with natural gray hemp for the weft. Weave levers 1&2,1&3,1&4, repeated 2x, then 2&3. Repeat as desired. All of above experiments were woven by a student Blossom Gam.
6. Now try sleying the same warp 12 threads to the inch, using threading draft at Figure No.1 in the variations which follow below. These are all well beaten up and with the exception of those where the directions say beat lightly, would make a firm close weave suitable for upholstery or heavy drapery materials. All directions for these refer to the levers of the Structo loom. Using a double weft of ecru carpet warp and 40/2 white linen, weave as follows, - 1&4, 2&4, 3&4, 1&3. Repeat as desired.
7. Set up same as No.6. Weft the same material. Weave as follows, - 1&4, 2&4, 3&4, 1&4, 2&4, 3&4, 1&3. Repeat as desired.
8. Set up as at No.6. Weft all single ecru carpet warp. Weave 1&3, 1&2, 1&3, 2&4, 3&4, 2&4. Repeat for length desired.
9. This sample was woven the same as No.2 and with same weft. But the set in the reed at 12 threads to the inch makes this very thick and heavy.
10. Weave with ecru carpet warp weft single, 1&2, 1&3, 1&4, 2&3 repeated as desired.
11. Weave with alternate shots of ecru carpet warp and heavy rayon yarn or Mercerized cotton No.3 or No.5 white, as follows, carpet warp on 2&3, rayon 2&4; continue the alternation on levers 2&3, 3&4, 2&3, 2&4, 2&3, 1&3, 2&3, 1&2, 2&3, 1&3, repeat as desired. This is attractive on either side and very heavy, would make an excellent upholstery.
12. Weave one shot of ecru carpet warp as follows, - 1&3, 2&4, 1&3, beat lightly, then one shot only of white candlewick cotton, repeat as desired. Result should be open and suitable for a heavy curtain.
13. Weft for this is white carpet warp, weave one shot on each shed, 1&3, 3&4, 1&2, 2&4; then with rayon bouclé one shot on 1&2&3, with white warp continue 2&4, 1&2, 3&4, 1&3; then with the rayone boucle again one shot on 2&3&4. Repeat as desired. Both sides of this are of interest and either side could be used for an upholstery material.
14. All of carpet warp in ecru like the warp, one shot on each shed, beat up hard. 1&2, 1&3, 1&4, 4 alone, 2&4, 3&4, 2&4, 1&4, 1 alone, 1 & 3, repeat as desired.
15. Weft for this same as No.14. Weave 1&4, 2&4, repeat 6x, then 1&4, 1&3, repeat 6x. Repeat as desired. This should be beaten up hard and close to make a firm fabric. All of above samples from No.6 to No.15 were woven by Mrs. Helen Hill.
16. The following samples were woven on same threading draft as at Figure No.1 but sleyed at 9 threads to the inch. These also were woven by Blossom Gam. Combine one thread of hemp, 40/2 natural linen, and 6 strand cotton pale yellow beige color and weave lever 1 alone, 2, 3, and 4, repeated as desired. This gives a very grassy and unusual texture.
17. For weft with this, use four threads of the following together, one shot on each shed, 1&3, 1&2, 1&3, 2&4, 3&4, 2&4. - ecru carpet warp, gray hemp, heavy mercerized cotton No.0, and gold raw silk. This would make a heavy drapery material. Do not beat too hard.
18. Weave in same order as No.17 but use 3 threads of weft together instead of four as in No.17. The wefts used were white rug chenille, cream mercerized cotton No.0, and the natural gray hemp. If the very heavy mercerized cotton cannot be purchased, it is possible to use 2 strands of No.3.

Many other variations are possible on this threading. Here we have kept to rather neutral color schemes, and some of the textiles have a very grassy texture, and all of them a modern different feeling than much that is generally seen. If you wished to try these, thread your loom up and use the different sets in the reed as is suggested here. Also try out different materials which you may have on hand. Much more can be done with these.

Tie-up Threading

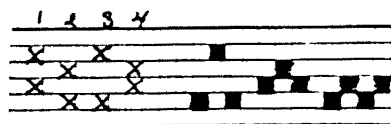


Figure No.2

The threading at Figure No.2 is another one from Eva Odlund's "Vavbok", and this can be used with much variety also through the use of different kinds of threads and sleying reeds of different sizes. In each case though, sley the first four threads of the reed in one dent, skip a dent, sley the next 3 threads in one dent, skip a dent, and then repeat. The 2,1,2,1 will

sley the next 3 threads in one dent, skip a dent, and then repeat. The 2,1,2,1 will weave plain weave, and this may be increased in size if desired.

1. Use a 15 dent reed, sley as directed above. For the 2,1,2,1, use 16/4 linen for warp, and for the 2,3,2, and 1,4,1, use heavy No.1 mercerized cotton white. Do not beat hard. Treadle 1&3;2&4 with mercerized like the warp, then 1&4 with gray linen like warp; 2&4 mer.cotton and 1&3; then 2&3 with linen. This weaving can be varied in many ways with this same material. This fabric would make an excellent simple heavy drapery, and weave up very quickly and easily.
2. Plain carpet warp used for warp and also for weft with the same dent reed, also is very effective and useful.
3. Use carpet warp and sley as directed in either a 9 or a 10 dent reed. Use heavy white rayon or No.1 mercerized cotton for weft, and weave as follows, - 1&3, 2&4, 1&4, and 2&3; repeat this throughout.
4. On the same set-up as No.3 use 1 thread of heavy hemp thread on one shuttle and on another shuttle carpet warp. Weave 1&3 with hemp, 2&4 carpet warp, 1&4 with warp, 2&4 with hemp, 1&3 with carpet warp, and 2&3 with warp. Repeat this as desired. This makes a loose grassy type of fabric also. In this the hemp thread was approximately the same size as the carpet warp.

Tie-up Threading

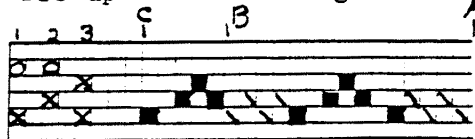


Figure No.3

The threading at Figure No.3 is another similar type. But it is only a 3 harness threading. When setting this on a treadle loom leave the 4th harness on, but of course it is not threaded, and the weaving will go easier if the harnesses are left tied also as indicated by the o's on the tie-up draft. However of course on the Structo looms no trouble would be had with the 4th harness. The 1,2,1,2 's on the threading draft will

weave plain weave, and this block can also be made as large as desired to weave plain weave stripes. These threads can also be of a different color than the rest of the warp if desired. Carpet warp with a 15 dent reed is a good material to try out this threading with. Many arrangements of the threading draft are possible. From A to B of the draft can be used as a border, repeated as desired, and then from B to C repeated for the center. These could be worked out attractively in heavy linen floss for a luncheon set if desired, or another possibility is carpet warp used for all the black squares and cotton boucle' for the /'s as shown in the threading draft. We used this threading with No.20 gray linen set in a 20 dent reed, with No.10 mercerized cotton thread for an interesting stripe of color. The linen was sleyed 3 threads in one dent, skip a dent, and one thread in a dent for the center B to C. And the /'s which were of the No.10 mercerized cotton threads were also one in each dent of the reed. On the threading draft the empty squares indicate skips in the reed.

The order of the weaving for the levers of the Structo loom is as follows, - 1&3 once, 2 alone once, 1&3 once, 2&3 once, repeat this as desired. For a treadle loom the fourth harness can be tied to treadle 1, and also tie the second harness and the fourth harness for treadle 2. This is represented by the o's on the tie-up draft as it is given. Much interesting variation can be made on this threading also. This makes a combination of plain weave with an open weave similar in effect to the Bronson type of weaving.

Again may I thank you all for your loyal support of Handweaving News during this past year, and hope that you have found it of interest and helpful so that you will wish to continue your subscription for the coming year of 1942.

With sincerest good wishes to you all for a Merry Xmas, I am
Most sincerely yours,

Nellie Sargent Johnson