

HANDWEAVING NEWS



Modern Peruvian Weft Brocaded Belts.

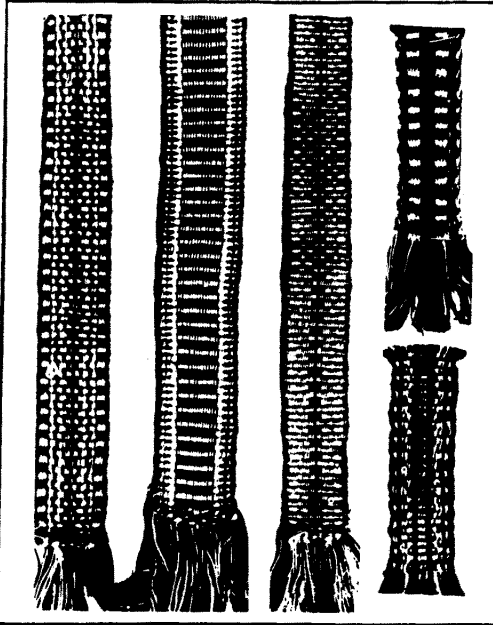
The belts in the photo above are some which I bought in the mountains of Peru. I shall never forget the sight which met my eyes as I stepped out on the balcony of my room, and looking up and down the street saw the native Indian market stretched out below me. Just under my windows were a large group of women selling these gay colorful belts of all bright colors which I shall now describe for you.

These belts are very easy to weave on either a small heddle or the Hearthsides Loom. For warp, use carpet warp or knitting cotton. These have 124 warp threads and are pulled into a width of about 3 inches, by pulling the warp threads very close together. Use really bright colors to get the effect of the native belts. We have tried out subtle colors, with not very good results. Bright green, yellow, cerise, orange, blue-purple, scarlet wool was used for the brocaded weft, and the same thread as the warp for the plain weave between each brocaded shot. Some people may like to use the Inkle loom for these, but I believe the heddle loom is better. The heddle cannot be used to beat up the weft close, use a shuttle for this. Use the heddle only to raise and lower the shed, and push it back toward the warp beam of the loom. The reverse side of these belts shows only a faint color, and the plain weave as the brocaded pattern shots are all on the top side of the weaving.

One characteristic of these belts is that the pattern weft brocade design is based entirely on the diagonal. It is very easy to improvise these patterns on the loom. But I have drawn out 2 of the figures shown in belt No. 2 above, to show how the designs increase and decrease. Sometimes by two warp threads and sometimes by only one thread to change the direction of the diagonal line desired. This makes it easy to make up patterns right on the loom. For the first row, though, be sure and find the center thread for the brocaded weft, and continue from this, increasing or decreasing.

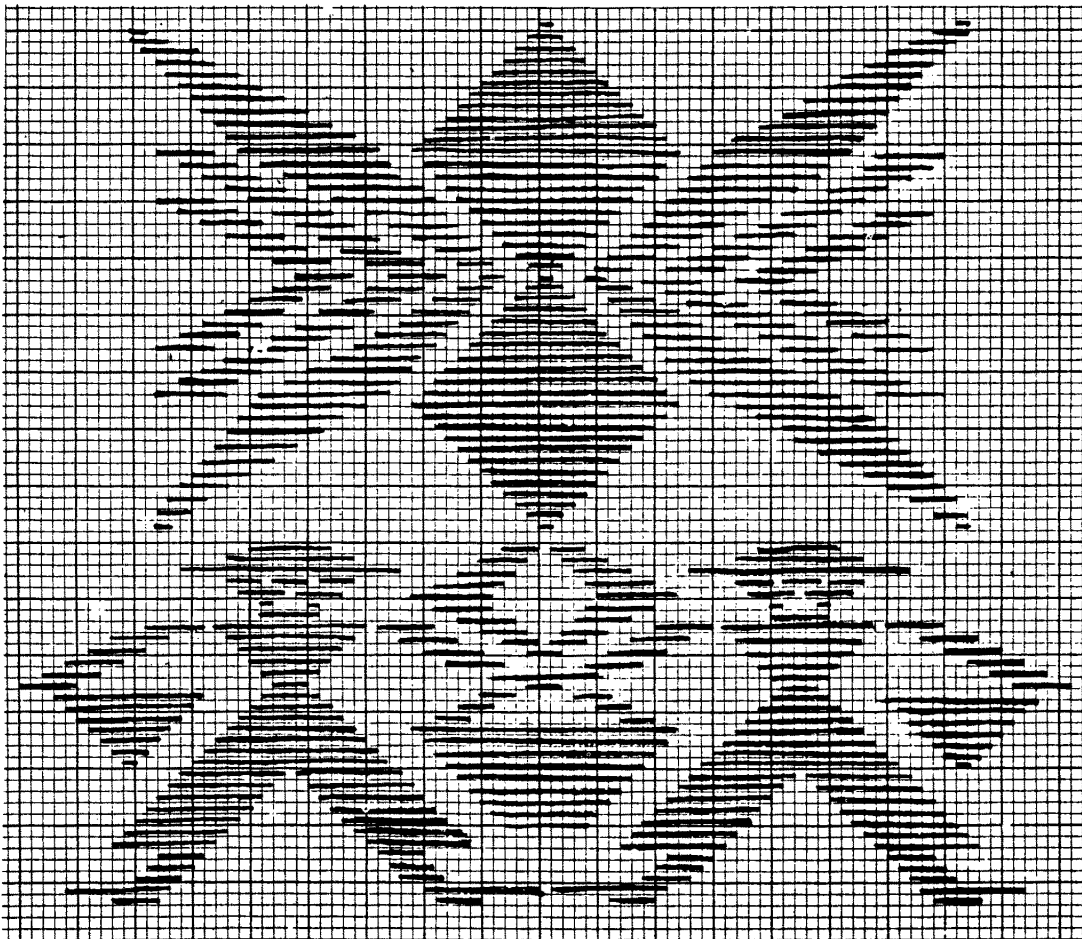
Method of Weaving the Technique. Weave about 2" of plain weave for the heading. Pull in with this weft all of the warp threads so the width is only about 3 inches. Open the plain weave shed. Two warp threads from the edge start a colored pattern weft, fasten the end, and carry the weft in the plain weave shed up to the place where the pattern begins. Bring it out of the shed, on top of the warp threads, and over the top of the warp for the pattern skip, then down into the shed, and up on top for the next skip, stopping about 2 threads from the edge, put in a plain weave shot, change shed. Turn the weft color back, and proceed in and out of the shed in the same way.

Warp Pattern Belts.



The difference between this form of brocading and the regular brocade is that the pattern weft skip is over the top of the raised warp threads. And the pattern weft goes in and out of the shed as it is raised. This is really a very simple method of working and should not present any difficulty to anyone. I shall be glad to answer any questions about it, if you wish to write to me.

The photo at the left is of warp pattern belts in color. All of the color is in the warp threads. The weft thread does not show at all, except a little on the edges. It is very easy to weave these belts, and much variety is possible only by using a dark thread alternated in the threading with a light thread. A solid line of color results when several threads of one color are warped at a time. The warp is pulled close in the weaving, and the heddle just raised up and down. These were described in December 1938 News. This is available if you wish to have it.



These figures are taken from belt No. 2 in the photo on Page 1. They are drawn out as near like the original as possible. These count both the raised warp threads and the sinking ones for each skip. An easier way to draw these out would possibly be to just count the raised warp threads for each skip.