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The Shuttle Craft Guild
Handweaver's BULLETIN
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CHRISTMAS TAPESTRIES in BOUND WEAVING - - - - -	2
PATTERN MOTIFS for CHRISTMAS PANELS - - - - -	6
HANDWOVEN LAME - - - - -	9
SNACK SETS for CHRISTMAS GIFTS - - - - -	10
THREADBENDER Letter - - - - -	12
PORTFOLIO CONTENTS: A Star in 5-Block Bound Weaving A Copper Metallic Lame	

The BULLETIN form is somewhat different this month because of the lengthy article on RECOMMENDED SOURCES. This list, with comments, was originally prepared as a special supplement to the FOUNDATIONS FOR HANDWEAVERS. So many of the recipients wrote us so enthusiastically about it that we decided it should be distributed to all Shuttle Craft Guild members. On the last page you will find the subject-matter list of available back BULLETINS, which is usually given the first of January. The Linen Curtain article listed for December proved to be too big a subject to include, and will be given in January. We hope that many of you will take advantage of the special group prices and fill out your BULLETIN files for the last four years. Notice that we have made up PORTFOLIO-edition BULLETINS for the past two years in considerable excess and complete files are available. In planning your Christmas gifts, do not overlook the gift list suggestions in the last (November) BULLETIN, especially the special price of \$3.25 (regular price \$4.50) on the full sets of 48 STYLES sheets. Does your Guild Library have these sheets? Harriet Tidball, Editor
Published by The Shuttle Craft Guild, Kelseyville, Calif.

CHRISTMAS TAPESTRIES in BOUND WEAVING

Christmas tapestries are gay and lovely. Long, narrow panels, woven with Christmas motifs, to be used as the center of interest in holiday home decorations, have an unusual charm. They will become lifetime treasures to the fortunate people who receive them as gifts.

Woven on an 83-thread warp of 10/2 cotton (20/2 linen would serve as well, or some other material of similar weight) they may be woven much more quickly than one imagines. Weft material should be of Fabri, Pent Yarn, or some other 2/18 worsted. Only small quantities of weft are required for patterns, so this is a fine use for odd bobbins and left-overs. More is needed for background, but a 2-ounce skein will serve for about four 12-inch long panels. Metallic details enhance the design interest and the fine 1/64 metallics, either supported or plain are best. With a warp set 18 ends per inch (1 per dent in an 18-dent reed, 2, 1 alternately in a 12-dent, 2 per dent in a 9-dent, or 3 per dent in a 6-dent reed) the panel width is about 4½ inches, and panels may be made as long as desired.

This subject is presented because of the unusual amount of interest aroused in the article on 5-block Humanistic figures, by Mr Alan Mackenzie, given in the BULLETIN for October 1954. Mr Mackenzie's designing showed a strong partiality for uniformed figures, but more work with the 5-block patterns shows them marvelously adaptable to Christmas motifs: trees, holley and mistletoe swags, candelabra, stars, wreathes, bows, bells, angels, elves, dolls, toys, Santa Clauses, reindeer, sheep, etc. Once one starts designing these colorful little figures on paper, and weaving them on the loom, there seems no end to where the fancy can charmingly travel.

In selecting colors, it was found that the best backgrounds are dark colors such as navy or royal blue

dark green or maroon; or greyed tones of light colors such as Hollyhock green, porcelaine blue or gold. Designs in bright Christmas colors, mainly red and green, with white, yellow black, and touches of other colors, and metallics, will stand out strongly. A well designed panel will have three main figures, with minor figures at top and bottom and as separating borders. At least two of the figures should have horizontal continuity, as with the swags, or the wreathes, bells or bows on a horizontal bar. Although sampler panels, with each motif different, may be interesting, occasionally it is desirable to use only a few motifs and duplicate them. Select a theme for each panel. The evergreens, bells, bows and candles of traditional decorations harmonize well, as do angels, stars and sheep, or Santa Claus, toys and reindeer.

The draft for these figures given in the October 1954 BULLETIN requires five harnesses. The directions given below will permit the 4-harness weaver to produce the patterns on the same draft, threaded in a special manner.

Five-Harness Draft

26

						5	5				5	5	5
			4	4		4	4						4
		3	3	3				3	3	3			3
2	2	2								2	2	2	2

Four-Harness Draft

26

						4	4				4	4	4
			3	3		3	3						3
		2	2	2				2	2	2			2
o										o	o	o	o

The second draft has four threaded harnesses and five threads from each draft repeat carried on a heddle-tick of the type used in primitive looms. The

83-thread warp has three full draft repeats, plus a balance unit consisting of the first 5 threads of the draft. There are 18 threads carried on the heddle-stick.

To make the heddle-stick, use an unsharpened lead pencil or a piece of quarter-inch dowel. Cut eighteen lengths of carpet warp about fifteen inches long. Make a gauge board by driving two finishing nails into a board, five and a quarter inches apart, and tie eighteen loops around these with square knots. (Instead of a gauge board, one can use a book of the right dimensions, or even a piece of heavy cardboard, since there are so few half-heddles to tie.) Hitch the half-heddles around the heddle-stick. Then thread the four harnesses on the loom, dropping the "o" threads between heddles, wherever they occur. Sley the warp, leaving the correct space for each dropped thread, and tie the warp in loop knots in front of the reed, to secure it. Then, holding the heddle-stick between the harnesses and the beater, draw each one of the eighteen dropped threads through a half-heddle loop. Sley these threads in the dent spaces left for them, and make the tie-in. The loom tie-up is as follows:

Five-Harness Tie-Up

5	5	5	5		
4	4	4	4		
3	3	3			3
2	2			2	2
1		1	1	1	
	1	2	3	4	5

Four-Harness Tie-Up

4	4	4	4		
3	3	3	3		
2	2	2			2
1	1			1	1
o		o	o	o	
	1	2	3	4	5

To make the sheds which require the "o" tie-up, depress treadle 3, 4, or 5, as required, then reach the fingers down, back of the beater, and draw up the heddle-stick resting on top of the warp until the threads carried through the half-heddles unite with the top shed. This may seem troublesome at

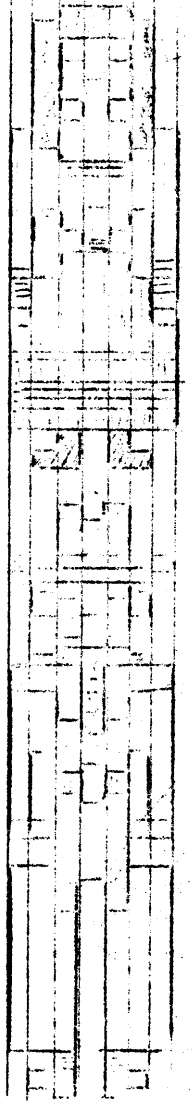
first, but with a little practice, it soon becomes very easy on such a narrow warp as this.

All weaving in this technique is done by operating the sheds (treadles) in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 order. This treadling order is never varied. The designs are made by entering different colors in the five vertical columns. Each shed controls one column. Shed or treadle 1, controls the separating column which forms background between pattern motifs for most designs. Shed 2 controls the outside column of the motifs, and the design progresses inward to shed 5 which is the center, or axis of symmetry of the designs. A sketch, such as those on the next three pages, is sufficient guide for the patterns. Enter colors on the proper sheds, as they are needed, continuing any single color until a column which appears to be the right size is built up. In most cases, two or three colors are the most used at any one time, but the same shuttle is used in all five sheds for full background, and in a design like the toy building blocks, a different color may be used in each of the five sheds. Facial features are commonly made by single shots of red for the mouth, and blue or brown for eyes. Details, such as bright balls on Christmas trees, may be made in the same manner. Some color keys are **suggested** on the designs, but in most cases the weaver will wish to select his own.

A selvage threading is not practical for this threading, so make the selvages neat by interlocking wefts. Beat for a complete warp coverage. Because the weft packs in so thoroughly, it is not necessary, nor even desirable, to fasten all loose weft ends in the customary manner. If desired, a semi-tabby may be woven for hems on harnesses 1-3-5 and 2-4, or on 1-3 and 2-4 if the unwoven ends are clipped out.

The fascination of producing this tapestry-like textile, and of the charming figures which can be woven, appeals even to the weaver who has no interest in pattern weaving.

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1



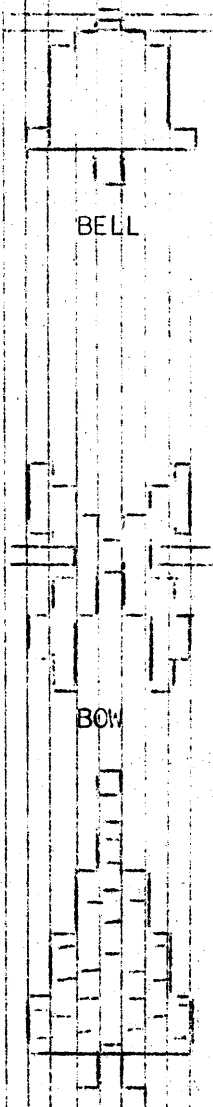
FLAXEN
HA IRED
DOLL

COWBOY
DOLL



PISTOLS

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1

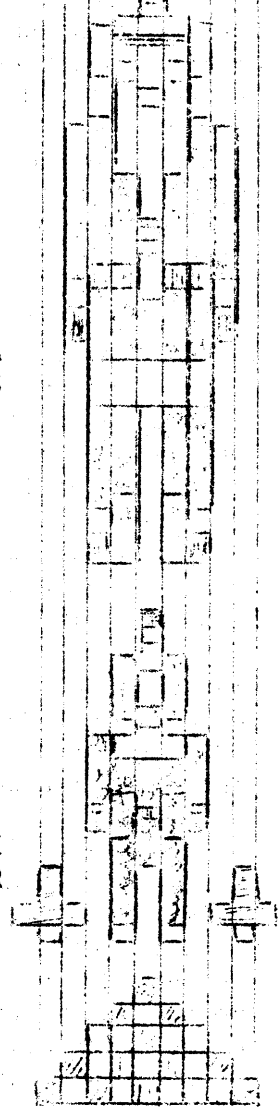


BELL

BOW

CHRISTMAS TREE

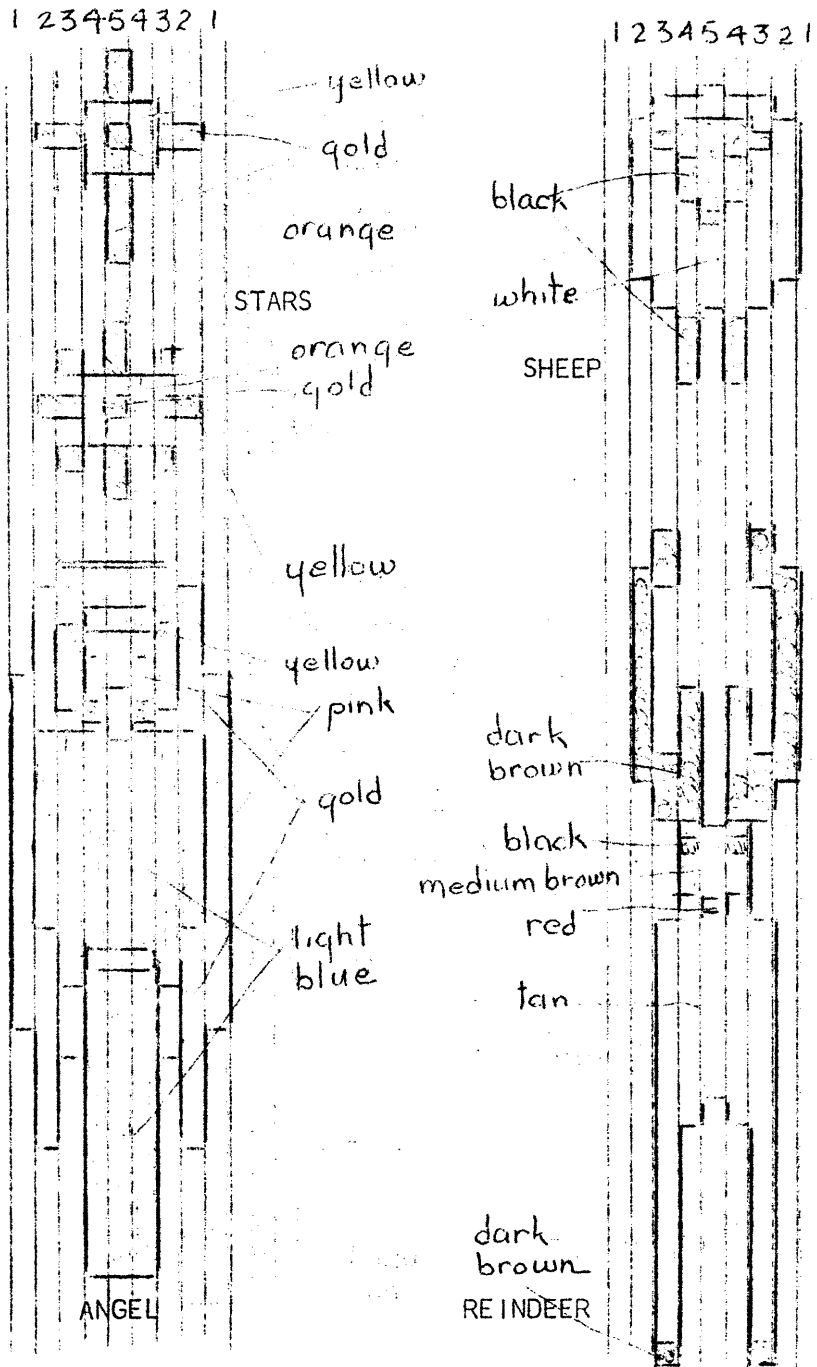
1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1



SANTA
CLAUS

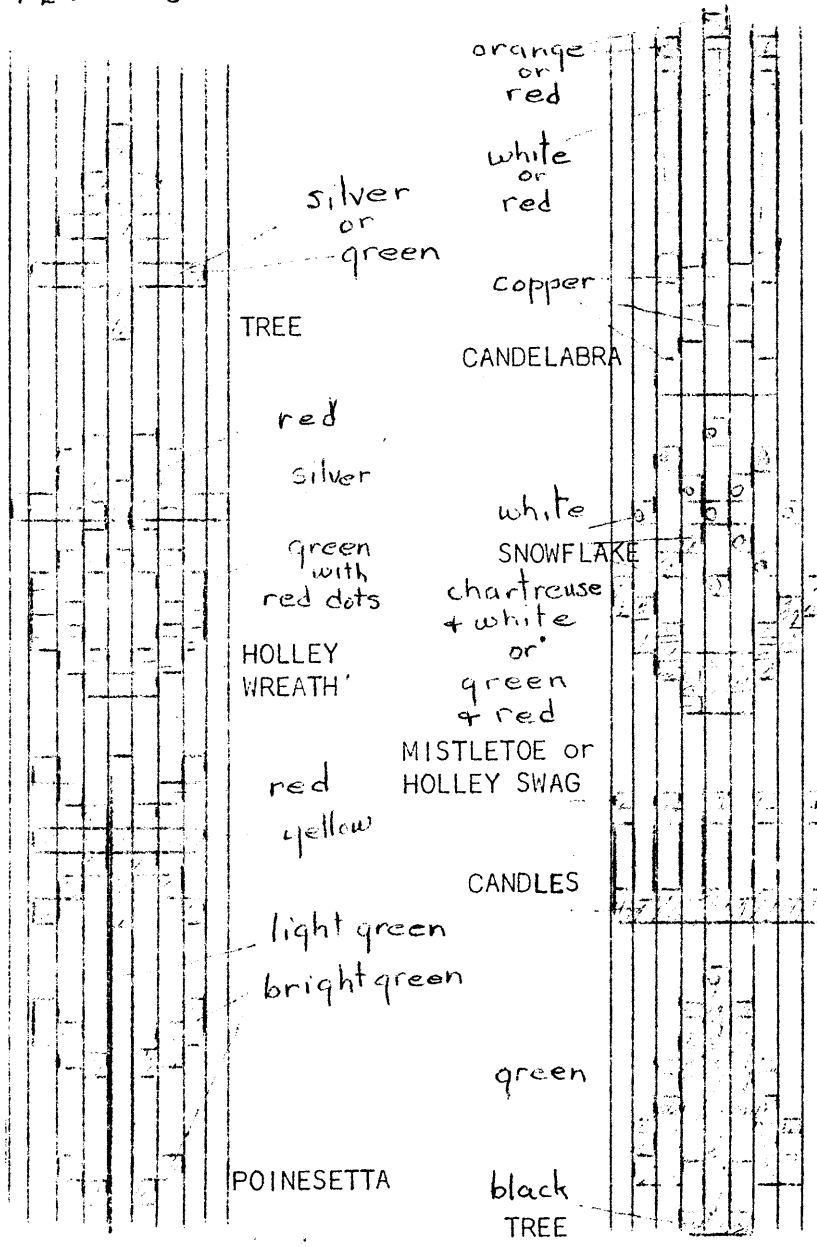
SANTA
CLAUSE
HELPER

TOY BLOCKS



1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1

1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1



HANDWOVEN LAME

Metallic lame for afternoon, dinner and evening dress has never been as popular as now. And lame, in this 1955 Holiday season, is being shown in catalogues and yardage departments as the Christmas decorating fabric. One is encouraged to purchase yardage lame for draping the base of the Christmas tree, for making huge, sparkly bows and swags to hang with evergreens, or to use as a cloth for the Christmas table or the holiday buffet. The handweaver may make the most of this current fashion by weaving lame of greater elegance than any which can be purchased, in any desired color effect.

The lame is woven on a warp of 24/2 cotton (unmercerized, Lily Article 314) set at 36 ends per inch, threaded to anything which will give a tabby. For weft, use the very fine 1/64 supported metallic, to give a weft set of about 36 ends per inch. The best range of metallics for this purpose is that sold by the Home Yarns Company, 645 Hegeman Avenue, Brooklyn 7, N. Y. Article 206, the size to use, may be secured in red, royal blue, bronze, orchid, black, white, fuschia, gunmetal, arctic green, emerald green, cornflower blue, and blushing pink. What more could one wish! The material has 10,500 yards per pound and may be purchased on quarter-pound tubes (\$2.35) or on 500-foot tubes (25¢), minimum order, one pound. The 500-foot tubes may be placed in shuttles to obviate bobbin winding, the most troublesome part of weaving with metallics. A 30 inch wide fabric will require about 1,000 yards of metallic per yard, or six 500-foot tubes. A 4-ounce tube will weave about 2½ yards.

Lame fabrics are generally more successful if the warp is of a darker color than the metallic, or at least similar. Gold, copper, and the strong colors are very effective. Silver and the light colors are best used on light colored warps because they lighten the warp color. For instance, silver

woven on a bright red resulted in pink.

The metallic weft is not too troublesome if bobbins are small, and carefully wound. Use wooden or plastic bobbins with caps at the end to keep the metal from slipping off. If paper quills are used, slit the ends a quarter-inch 5 or 6 places and bend the narrow strips back. The weft does handle easier on narrow than on wide fabrics, and in most cases widths of 24 to 28 inches are adequate for these fabrics. For instance, for a draped sheath dress of lame which I had made recently, a 24 inch width would have been adequate, rather than the 30 inch width I provided. The Portfolio samples of copper metallic on navy blue 24/2 cotton warp were cut from this excess six inches. (An aside here -- the dressmaker who is a European trained designer commented that she had never worked with lame which draped as well or was as easy to sew, even considering the French lame at up to \$20 a yard.) The hand-woven lames have the advantage of being washable, and of ironing beautifully with a warm iron.

A quite different effect in lame was secured through weaving with 1/64 unsupported metallic. The had a great deal more sheen, and was more delicate, though much more troublesome to weave.

SNACK SETS for CHRISTMAS GIFTS

This acceptable gift is a set of 5½ by 8 inch napkins, enclosed in a case which resembles a book, and may be stored on the livingroom book shelf. Here it is handy for the T V snack, for tea or for hors d'oeuvres. The case is covered with fabric like the napkins, and made according to the directions for the BULLETIN BINDERS given on Shuttle Craft STYLES Sheet Number 34. Opaque, plastic shower-curtain material was used for the lining instead of colored papers, and the clips for holding the Bulletins were

of course omitted. Instead of using wallpaper paste, as directed on the STYLES sheet, Wilhold Glue, now generally available in hardware and school and office supply stores, simplifies making up the covers. It handles easily, dries quickly, creates no problems by warping, and is a sure sticker.

Although a wide variety of materials may be used for weaving snack napkins, and the gayer they are, the better; a fine cotton or linen or silk warp is ideal. Cotton of size 20/2 at 30 ends per inch, or 24/2 at 36 ends per inch, or 40/2 linen at 30 ends per inch, are quite suitable. Thread to any technique or pattern which will give a tabby. Weave the napkins in tabby, as yardage, allowing a six by eight inch oblong for each napkin. (The size may of course be varied as desired.) Bright colored borders may be woven near one end, in pattern or in tabby. For very fine, linen napkins, squares of Atwater-Bronson Lace in the corners, or medallions in any of the pick-up open-work techniques are charming. One design which would be in high style and delightful for the Christmas season as well as for year around use, would be 24/2 cotton in red, green, black and white, arranged in the Princess Margaret Rose Tartan. The sett for the Princess Margaret Rose Tartan is given on Shuttle Craft STYLES Sheet Number 4.

Snack napkins are finished according to their formality of design. For fine linen napkins, make a rolled hem on all four sides. For gay cotton napkins, fringe a quarter-inch deep and whip. For casual napkins, simply fringe. Remember that washing and ironing are part of the finishing process.

The lucky handweaver may be able to make up napkins from left-over fabrics already on hand. The weaver who follows that excellent practice of weaving off the last inch of every warp and laying aside any left-over bits, may have just the thing. Don't overlook even scraps. We made a set of napkins from

4½ inch strips of red fabric cut from between pattern stripes on an apron fabric which had been discarded as unsuitable. Since the strips were too narrow, we cut 2 inch strips from a silver lame' on a red warp, and flat-felled these carefully, in the handkerchief manner, to the red cotton. The case was then covered with the lame'.

For a more elaborate gift, pack a case of snack napkins in a box with packages of salted nuts, fancy crackers, anchovy paste, cheese wedges, or whatever you prefer.

My dear Guild Member:

This BULLETIN is being mailed two weeks earlier than usual so it will not be delayed in the Christmas rush. We hope that this early mailing will make the last-minute Christmas Gift ideas given here useful for this season. And speaking of last-minute gifts, I wonder if you have ever tried weaving your own gift wrapping ribbons. Directions for ribbons of left-over scraps of bright threads and metallics are given on Shuttle Craft STYLES Sheet Number 30. These are great fun for the person who wishes to send distinctive packages, and they weave at the rate of several yards per hour. A day at the loom will give you a good supply.

The stickers mentioned on page 2 of the list of RECOMMENDED SOURCES, were to have been included with this BULLETIN, but have not arrived from the manufacturer, so they will be sent in January. They are attractive stickers, blue and white, in the shape of a shuttle, which we hope that all of you will wish to use on all of your weaving correspondence.

Our best wishes for a Merry Christmas, a Prosperous New Year, and the best in Weaving in 1956.

Sincerely yours, *Harrist Tidball*



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
from
THE SHUTTLE CRAFT GUILD

"UNDER THE STAR"