

WARP & WEFT

Vol. III

No. 1

November 1949

THE WEAVING BOND TRANSCENDS DISTANCE BETWEEN

NEW NAMES AND FAR PLACES

A most interesting weaving conference was held at Kankakee, Illinois during the month of September at the home of Miss Cornelia Stone under the auspices of the Coverlet Guild of Chicago. Mrs. Mary Miegs Atwater, recently retired organizer of the Shuttlecraft Guild, was teacher assisted by Miss Florence Daniels of Chicago. The Coverlet Guild has as an integral part of its organization a group of weavers who sponsored the conference. The participants, about 40 in number, all emphasized the pleasure of working under Mrs. Atwater whose fund of anecdotes was inspirational and never ending.

Under Mrs. Atwater the conferees were limited to advance weaves, and the looms were all threaded in a wide variety of patterns including many Peruvian, Guatamalan, Mexican, Bolivian and Colonial patterns, pick-up techniques and multiple harness weaves. The Guatamalen type aprons woven on red or blue warps were charming, and one of the most beautiful upholstery designs was an eight harness diamond

variation of the simple two harness log cabin.

Mrs. Atwater brought a large selection of samples and techniques, all beautifully mounted and labeled. It is interesting to note that among these she included a very complete selection of knots and braids, these being weaving, strictly speaking.

Several of the participants emphasized Mrs. Atwater's stand regarding modern weaving. As all who read her books are aware, Mrs. Atwater is noted for her interest in the preservation of Colonial weaves. However, she made it clear to her students that she does not feel that Colonial weaves should be used indiscriminately in present day life. They have their places in early American homes, but most of our homes today do not come in that classification. Mrs. Atwater suggests that in the average home Mexican and South American designs are much more suitable for general use.

In spite of her years, Mrs. Atwater made it clear that she is modern in feeling and thought.

ABOUT OUR SAMPLE

Because we are so pleased with the new woolens which are available, we have chosen them for use in our sample. They are easy to handle and highly satisfactory as far as finish and appearance are concerned.

Two or three colors of wool combined in one fabric are very popular this year, so with a little imagination you can work out very attractive Christmas gifts without too much labor involved.

If you wish to make baby blankets and afghans on the same warp, avoiding the labor of rethreading your loom, we suggest the following combinations: For warp use off-white, delicate cream, baby blue, baby pink or light yellow. Yellow, by the way, is coming to the fore for baby use, and what could be more appropriate for the "little ray of sunshine", especially when you need a shower gift and don't know whether it should be pink or blue.

For baby blankets use the same color weft as warp, or combine any one of them with the white or cream.

For afghans with the white or cream warp use forest green brown, or almost any desired color for the weft. With the baby blue warp, use royal or navy blue, medium green, brown or black. The pink warp also combines nicely with black, as well as with wine, brown or dark green weft. The wine and pink especially make a very sophisticated looking afghan. The yellow warp works up attractively with browns, greens, violet tones, or any other shade of yellow.

If you want your baby blankets or afghans to be especially luxurious, a washable wide satin ribbon binding is a beautiful touch. The ribbon should be carefully stitched by hand and should not be pressed after it is sewed as pressing makes a hard creased edge which is not nearly as attractive as a soft, unpressed edge.

All woolen material should be washed after removing from the loom, but be sure that the water is not too hot and that the soap or detergent is mild. Rinse thoroughly, do not squeeze, and press with a warm iron while still slightly damp. Pressing with a steam iron without washing is not sufficient finishing for wool, but this yarn is already secured and does not need a great amount of hard washing as is sometimes necessary with other types of yarn.

When set 26 threads per inch for example, this yarn makes a smooth, firm fabric, suitable for women's suits or coats. Setting these threads 20 to 24 per inch makes a lighter weight material suitable for dresses, suits or children's wear. Wool combined with nubby rayon makes an unusual and interesting fabric, and this type of wool is ideal for that combination.

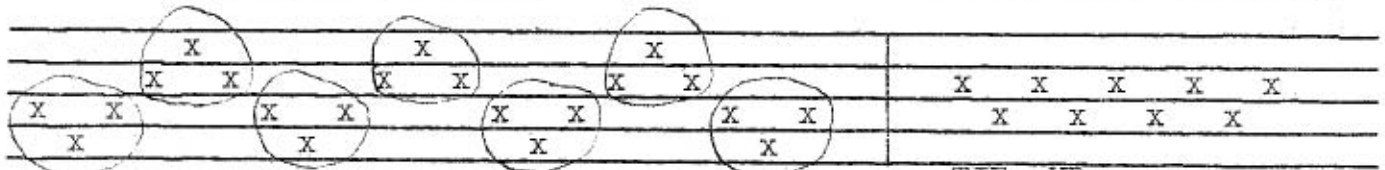
In using this yarn, you will find that for a plain weave the same number of weft rows per inch as warp threads per inch makes a good weight. If you are weaving twill or twill variation you may find that it is necessary to have either your warp threads closer together or more weft threads per inch. The former is the preferred arrangement.

LACE BABY BLANKET OR AFGHAN

With Christmas just around the corner, we are giving you a pattern for a lacy baby blanket or afghan. It will make an acceptable gift for the newcomer on your list, or by changing the colors and weaving the piece slightly larger, you can take care of the older folks.

LACY WEAVE THREADING

PLAIN WEAVE THREADING



TIE-UP

For our sample we made lace squares 1 3/8" alternating with plain bands 5/8". This makes a beautiful lace and plain checkerboard blanket, impossible to draw to scale. You could do this by repeating the threading draft exactly as given as many times as necessary to make your blanket as wide as desired.

RISING SHED

X	X				X
X			X	X	
		X	X		X
	X	X		X	

1 2 3 4 A B

COUNTER BALANCED

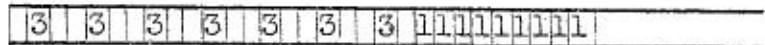
		X	X	X	
	X	X			X
X	X			X	
X			X		X

1 2 3 4 A B

(See announcement on Page 5 about our change in tie-up.)

WARP THREADS PER INCH - 15. Groups of three threads marked with circle are threaded in 1 dent, leaving the two following dents empty. The plain weave bands are sleyed singly in the 15 dent reed.

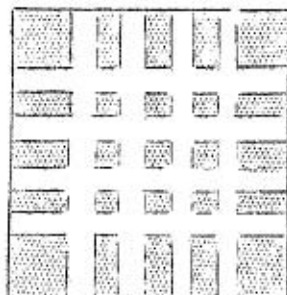
Here is the slaying for 2" in the 15 dent reed:





- TREADLING: Plain bands B-A, repeat 11 times, ending on B. Lace bands: A-3-A, B-1-B, repeat 4 times, ending on A-3-A
- BEATING: Beat very lightly so that there are about 38 weft rows for each pattern repeat as given above.
- VARIATIONS: Below is another possible variation of this combination of lace and plain. You can undoubtedly work out others.

THREAD:

- 7 1/2" lace
- 3" plain
- 3" lace
- 3" plain
- 3" lace
- 3" plain
- 3" lace
- 3" plain
- 7 1/2" lace



Lace 
Plain 

SAMPLE



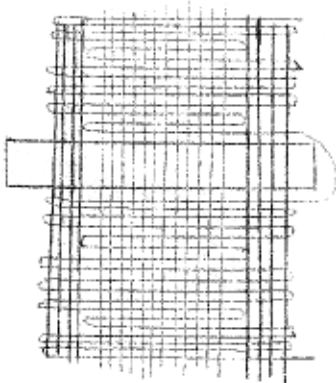
MATERIAL: Sample woven of Tam-C-Shanter Worsted yarn, baby blue #204. One blanket about 36" x 45" requires approximately 2 4-Oz. spools, 1,250 yds. each.

SIZES: Loom should be threaded about 44" wide and woven about 52" long to allow for shrinkage. Completed size for basset, 27" x 36", afghans 44" x 72".

FRINGE ON FOUR SIDES

Frequently for afghans, baby blankets, luncheon nats, book marks, etc., fringe on four sides of the article is desired. This fringe is most satisfactory where warp and weft are the same type of thread.

Warp the loom in the usual manner. Leave a space, and then on each side of the warp put in four threads of carpet warp. The distance between this group of carpet warp threads and the edge of your material is equal to the length fringe desired, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The carpet warps are to be threaded through the harnesses and reed just as if they were part of your project, but are to be drawn out later. As you weave, be sure the weft threads cross around the carpet warp on each side. At regular intervals, say every 10th row for example, put the shuttle through from side to side of your material without going around the carpet warp on the edge. This 10th row acts as a binder and keeps the other threads from sliding out of place.



After the work is removed from the loom, draw out the carpet warp and cut the fringe evenly. Be sure to allow sufficient warp threads at the beginning and end of each piece for fringe on the other 2 sides.

To prevent wasting warp and still be sure to allow the correct amount needed for fringe between pieces which are to be cut apart after removing from the loom, try this method. Cut a piece of heavy cardboard a little more than twice the finished width of the fringe. For a very narrow fringe a stick or the slat from a window shade may be used. Insert this spacer through the open shed of the warp after you have finished weaving a piece, leaving it in place until you have woven several rows of the next section.

Fringed articles may be hemstitched on the edges or overcast. The zig-zag stitcher attachment which can be purchased for some sewing machines can be used quite satisfactorily, although it does not give the elegant finish of handwork. After the cardboard is removed from between the pieces of weaving, it is often easier to hemstitch or overcast them while they are still on the loom and the warp threads are held taut.

BLOCKING WOOLENS

After handwoven woollens have been washed and shrunk, few home weavers have facilities to professionally block the material. The following method gives an even width and straight selvages. With a pencil draw parallel lines across the width of an ironing board, spacing them as far apart as the width of the material. Closely pin the edges of the fabric along these lines, then press with a damp cloth.

IDEAS YOU MAY LIKE TO USE

A most charming dining room in one of the prize winning model homes being sponsored by the Chicago Tribune was a combination of dark red-brown and chartreuse. The red-brown draw drapes were rough textured material, with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " stripe of copper metallic thread spaced about 6" apart. The fabric was rather closely woven and required no lining, and was decorative from outside as well as inside the room. Two chairs were upholstered in this material. The other two chairs and buffet top were covered with chartreuse colored python leatherette, which showed just enough design to accent the plain chartreuse walls.

Another inspiration for the use of handwoven materials was a room with draw drapes, cornice, lamp shade and loud speaker opening of the radio cabinet, all in the same fabric. Draw drapes have the habit of not always hanging together when closed, thus allowing a "peep hole" for passers-by. This was overcome by the use of horseshoe shaped frogs like Grandmother used on her garments, fashioned of braided strips of the drapery material. Four on each drape took care of the situation nicely, being decorative as well as practical.

A room which otherwise may have given the impression of being rather dark and somber, was highlighted by the use of a gold colored sectional sofa, accented by fireside chairs upholstered in tones of what is best described as "royal purple." The use of such unusual colors in upholstery is one which the average homemaker would hesitate to try.

N O T I C E
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
ON
TIE-UPS

It has been brought to our attention that the tie-up on our Norwood loom is the reverse of normal. We are, therefore, announcing that our standard tie-up will hereafter be changed to agree with the usual normal standards. Those of you who own Norwood looms may re-tie them if desired, following the charts below.

STANDARD COUNTER BALANCED TIE-UP
Normally used

		X	X	X	
	X	X			X
X	X			X	
X			X		X
1	2	3	4	A	B

STANDARD RISING SHED TIE-UP

X	X				X
X			X	X	
		X	X		X
	X	X		X	
1	2	3	4	A	B

REVERSE RISING SHED TIE-UP
(Same as standard counter balanced tie-up)

		X	X	X	
	X	X			X
X	X			X	
X			X		X
1	2	3	4	A	B

The Norwood loom, until the present time, has been using the reverse rising shed tie-up. In the future we will use the one labeled STANDARD RISING SHED TIE-UP. Material has frequently been woven wrong side up on Norwood looms. This change of tie-up will eliminate that condition.

HANDWEAVING FOR CHRISTMAS

The photographers have a catchy slogan that your own picture is the one gift your friend can not buy for himself. We would like to add to this also, "something which you have woven on your own loom."

If a white or neutral warp is used, about 15/2 or 20/2 in weight, several articles may be made on one threading of the loom without repeating any one of them. White woven with any other plain color gives a chambray effect material. Also, by the use of different colors, weights and textures of weft threads, an endless variety may be created. Fabrics suitable for curtains, blouses, children's wear, aprons, dirndles, smocks, luncheon sets, evening bags, lamp shades, etc., may all be designed on this warp.

With the few inches left at the very end make a belt for the teen-ager to match or accent her favorite dress. White woven with gold or silver Lurex is washable and luxuriant looking. Belts may be woven crosswise on the loom, first doing about $\frac{1}{2}$ " plain weave to turn under, then the width of the belt in the desired fancy pattern and color, followed by enough plain weave to fold back for a lining. Try it in raffia, corde or some novelty thread. For glitter, if you need only a little metallic thread, ravel out one of the pot scrapers you buy in the dime store. Of course, it will tarnish in time, and Lurex doesn't.

Any man on your list, regardless of age, would feel like the King of the Cowboys in a handwoven wool shirt, either plaid or plain. Not such a large

project, but one always appreciated by the men, are handwoven neckties. We do not mean the kind that are on sale at the tourist gift shops all over the country, but really handwoven of soft yarns in his favorite color, perhaps combined with nubby, shiny rayon -- just enough to give it a lift to the "different" plane. For ties, the material should be light in weight so it will tie neatly without too much bulk, but firm enough in texture to hold its shape. As neckties are cut on the bias, it is more economical to make at least two alike. McCall Pattern #1220 gives complete instructions for making ties, also the amount of material and findings necessary.

A plain, well made scrap book, photo album or memory book covered with a sturdy handwoven material which can "take it" makes a welcome gift which will be out of the ordinary class for the person who has everything. For the lodge member use the emblematic colors, or weave in appropriate designs; for the Scotch friend, make it a bright colored plaid; for a memory book for the bride, use white combined with silver or gold, and for baby's pictures, delicate blue or pink. A heavy mercerized cotton thread, which comes in such a wide range of beautiful colors, would be most practical.

You can use every little scrap making pom-poms for the young fry's beret; little yarn dolls for tieback decorations or lapel pins; hair on homemade dollies; even a little duster or bright colored carpet warp scraps with a bright plastic clothes pin handle.

From
THE TAPESTRY WEAVERS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The years of man are the looms of
God, let down from the place in
the sun,
Wherein we are weaving always
till the mystic web is done.
Weaving kindly, but weaving surely
each for himself his fate;
We may not see how the right side
looks, we can only weave and wait.
But looking above for the pattern
no weaver hath need to fear,
Only let him look clear into heaven,
the perfect pattern is there.
If he keeps the face of the Saviour
forever and always in sight,
His toil shall be sweeter than
honey, his weaving is sure to be
right.
And when the task is ended and the
web is turned and shown,
He shall hear the voice of the
Master; it shall say to him
"well done".

- Rev. Anton J. Chester

TALENTED WEAVERS

"The number of individual American hand weavers and hand printers who have sprung up in the last few years is legion and their ingenuity seems to be endless," Albert C. Hagmayer, of an exclusive interior decorating and furniture shop in Chicago, commented. "There has never been a time when so many talented young people are either being allowed to show what they can do or have taken it into their own hands to prove the point.

"Their products compare favorably with any contemporary work being done abroad. We find, in fact, that the majority are much more satisfactory, design and color-wise, than most contemporary imports."

"Is there any way a weaver can tell by examination of the yarn whether or not a wool material will run up fuzzy with wear?"

This is a difficult question to answer because there are so many factors involved. First in importance is the kind of yarn used. Wool yarn, spun from short fibres, is much more apt to become fuzzy than worsted yarn which is spun of longer, better quality fibre. Usually the material is labelled either wool yarn or worsted yarn by the packer.

The second point to watch is the kind of spinning given the yarn. A very loosely spun yarn, even though it is a worsted, is likely to become fuzzy with use. Try to buy yarns that are evenly and tightly spun. Tests for the spin include rubbing a bit of it between the fingernails. If it rubs apart easily, it is not tightly spun. Another test is to break the yarn by pulling the ends apart. A tightly twisted yarn does not pull apart easily.

Another method of preventing fuzziness of fabric is to weave it correctly. A poorly planned fabric with too few threads per inch will be more apt to become fuzzy than one which is tightly and smoothly woven. The finishing, too, is important. Commercial weaving is finished by shearing off fuzzy ends, and by singeing wet material either over a flame or with an extremely hot iron. These finishes are difficult for the home weaver. Most important is to buy material carefully.

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE WEAVERS' SPECIAL LINE OF FANCY

B E E H I V E Y A R N S



TWEED

Manufactured in Scotland by Patons and Baldwins, Ltd.

100% scoured

Homespun-type, strong, lightweight yarn

19 lovely new shades, both plain colors and mixed in spinning.

Suitable for both warp and weft

Sley 18 to 23

4 Oz. Tube, 680 yds.
\$1.75 per tube



WOODPECKER

Manufactured in Scotland by Patons and Baldwins, Ltd.

100% scoured

Nubby homespun in fine, lightweight, strong wool

30 beautiful combinations of dubs to contrast or harmonize with tweeds.

Suitable for both warp and weft

Sley 18 to 26

4 Oz. Tube, 680 yds.
\$1.80 per tube

TAM O SHANTER

Manufactured in United States by Patons and Baldwins of best quality Australian wool

100% scoured

Smooth worsted which will not become fuzzy with wear

22 beautiful colors to meet all requirements.

Suitable for both warp and weft

Sley 16 to 30 depending on weight and texture desired

4 Oz. tube, 1,250 yds
\$1.85 per tube

These threads are beautiful in both warp and weft, or combined with each other, or with novelty threads. The sample on page three of this issue is made of Tam-O-Shanter.

Immediately available at

GLADYS ROGERS BROS. & CO., INC.
63 W. Schiller Street
Chicago 10, Ill.