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warp and weft

Vol. XIV, No. 1

January, 1961

warp and weft

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Brown.

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A Word from the Editor

What a nice Christmas present we had this year. Our book on Card-Weaving was finally back from the printers about the week before Christmas, and we are so very pleased with the results. We had it printed by the same company that prints Warp and Weft for us and they did a beautiful job. Now the problem will be to sell some 2,000 copies.

This is being written about a week before Christmas, but the spirit has us. Robin and Janice have been very busy beavers this past month. Robin has made some beautiful Christmas Wreaths using all of the various seed pods from the many varieties of trees in Santa Barbara. I'm almost tempted to take a photograph of one of these and show everyone, as they are so unusual.

Weaving is as busy and hectic as ever. An interesting 8-harness double weave for baby blankets is our latest project that we are working on.

Also, since I wrote the last Warp and Weft, I had a chance to attend a one-week weavers workshop with the instructor, Miss

Malin Selander, author of the two Swedish books which have been translated into English and which have proved so popular. It was a very interesting experience, and the variety of techniques we tried was also quite enjoyable.

We will give you a complete report on this in next month's issue, so will not go into more details now.

Oh yes, as a result of my going to this workshop, the December issue was delayed 9 days in being mailed. Hope that this won't happen again though.

I should be out shopping for those last-minute Christmas presents for the family, but I had better finish this and get it to the printers before I do that.

We have had quite a few inquiries for the fine nylon strips or selveges for bags and place-mats these past few months, so we finally did purchase a shipment of 100 pounds of it. It came to us in one big box, about 6 colors, and it is just like spaghetti after it has been cooked. It is all mixed up and twisted, and Robin, Janice, and I have spent about 10 or 12 hours on it already, untangling it and skeining it and putting it in a presentable condition that we might sell it. My advice to those interested in this material is not to buy it unless it has been skeined for you. We finally decided that it would be a good project for Janice to do during the Christmas school vacation, so this morning she worked on it for three hours, and did finish all of the light blue color. The colors in this are pretty, but I wonder if with all the time and effort going into it, if we will make anything on it.

Also, we've had some new colors twoplied and dyed in our 7/2 douppioni silk this past month, and now we have a grand total of 15 colors available in this yarn.

Well, enough of this, and on to the sample and other information.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor*

WEAVERS, WEAVING GUILDS AND WEAVING SHOPS

It is our intention, each month, to give a short article about the various weaving guilds, prominent weavers or weaving shops throughout the country.

If you know of an exceptional weaver, or of an interesting weaving shop, or of a local weaving guild, we will be very pleased to hear about them, that we might contact them and see if it is possible to present an article about the guild, weaving shop or weaver that you might know about.

If you visit the Tranquillity Studio on Popple Swamp Road in Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut, you will meet Ann and Cliff Hotchkiss, the owners, busy at work.

The Hotchkisses have been weaving for about ten years, and previous to that time, knew nothing about weaving and were not interested in it.

Their first exposure to weaving was on a vacation trip to Weston, Vermont, where they saw a weaver, David Seeley by name, in his workshop there.

Upon return from their trip, they purchased a second-hand two-harness loom, and started weaving with it. Since that time, they have had several types of looms, and as many as ten at one time being used in their many varied types of work.

Like most weavers, they started by using cotton yarns, and then they branched out into linen, wool and rayon, ramie, nylon, and various other combinations of fibers. Their first love now is wool and they use it in many different projects such as tweed yardages, rugs, draperies, ecclesiastical hangings, bedspreads, etc.

During a vacation trip to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in 1955, they met several old-time weavers, with the result that their interest in the home-spun type yarns was aroused. After a search for the best type of yarns in homespun, they found some in a small family-owned mill "way out in the country in New Brunswick," and since that time they have more and more specialized in the many uses for this homespun type of wool yarn. They now import much of this



CLIFF HOTCHKISS of the TRANQUILITY STUDIO working on a project.

yarn every year, keep it in stock in their studio for their own use and also to sell to other weavers.

One of their innovations has been the development of interest in natural color black sheep yarns. Originally, in Canada, the black sheep wool was a drug on the market with practically no demand. At present, the black sheep yarn is by far the most popular of any color from their studio.

In an effort to broaden the market for homespun-type yarns, they have experimented in making various types of rugs, by combining colors and sizes of yarns, and have developed some extremely interesting patterns.

The most popular form in which they put up their tweeds is a kit containing a length

(Continued on Page 5)

BEAU BABY

A baby blanket of pompadour yarn in an open lace weave. Excellent for a carriage or crib cover as well as a regular-size baby blanket.

KEY TO COLORS USED IN THE WARP:

- P—4-ply white heavy worsted.
- G—Green pompadour in baby yarn.
- Y—Light yellow pompadour.
- W—White pompadour.

THREADING DRAFT:

4		G	G					G	G									
3	P	G	G	G	G	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	G	G	G	W	W	W	W	
2	G	G	G	G	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	G	G	G	G	P	W	W	W	W
1	G	G						G	G									

WARP USED:

Two threads were used in the warp. They are:

1. Pompadour baby yarn in green, white, and baby yellow. Pompadour is a name normally given to a wool or worsted yarn with a fine rayon twist for decoration.
2. 4-Ply white worsted wool.

WEFT USED:

Exactly the same threads were used in the weft as were used in the warp.

REED USED:

A 15-dent reed was used and it was single-sleyed, one per dent, or 15 threads per inch.

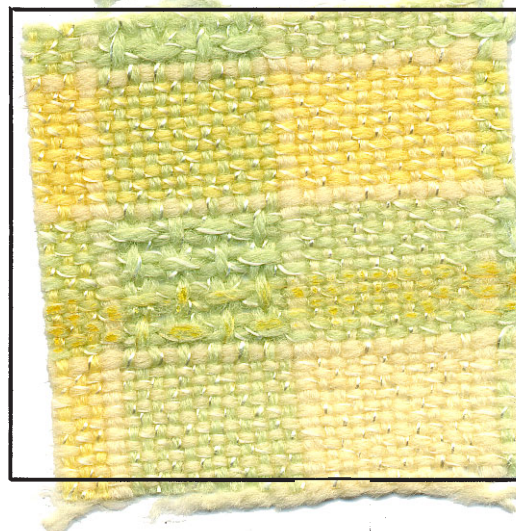
TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	X	X		
3	X		X	
2		X		X
1			X	X
	1	2	3	4

TREADLING:

1. Treadle No. 2 and No. 3 for 10 threads with white pompadour.
2. Treadle No. 2—one time with white 4-ply worsted.
3. Treadle 3-4-3, 2-1-2, 3-4-3, 2-1-2 (these 12 threads with light green pompadour).

SAMPLE:



4. Treadle No. 3, one time with the white 4-ply worsted.
5. Treadle No. 2 and No. 3 for 10 threads with light yellow pompadour.
6. Treadle No. 2—one time with the white 4-ply worsted.
7. Treadle 3-4-3, 2-1-2, 3-4-3, 2-1-2 (these 12 threads with light green pompadour).
8. Treadle No. 3—one time with the white 4-ply worsted.

End of one pattern unit in the colors we used in our sample. Repeat over and over as desired.

More About This Sample

This was quite an interesting project, the baby blanket one, and we enjoyed it. We wove enough that we might have two blankets, size 40x60 inches hemmed and bound all around that we might have two samples for the shop.

Also, not many weavers try and use the pompadour yarn for warp, and we wanted to show that you could use it for warp as well as weft and have excellent results, as well as have a little heavier fabric than if you used a 2/18 worsted for warp and the pompadour for weft.

This pompadour came to us marked knot free, but it wasn't so, and so the only problem in weaving was the occasional knot, which I'm sure you all know how to take care of. We beat it once lightly, and changed the shed and beat lightly the second time. This we did because we knew that with wool there is a slight tendency once in a while for the warp threads to cling together and not open up into a good shed. This eliminated this problem altogether.

The pompadour yarn comes in baby white, pink, blue, green, yellow and lavender. It is \$5.40 per lb., and this is a reasonable price. It comes on 2-oz. skeins, and if less than 1 lb. of a color is purchased, it is 69c per 2-oz. skein. There are 280 yards per 2-oz. skein or 2,240 yards per lb. to this yarn.

The 4-ply white knitting yarn is \$4.80 per lb., or \$1.20 per 4-oz. skein in the white. In colors it is \$5.20 per lb., or \$1.35 per 4-oz. skein of colors. It has about 660 yards per lb. to this yarn and comes in about 4-oz. skeins.

Cost of the Fabric

It takes approximately one-half lb. of the pompadour for warp and weft in a 40x40-inch baby blanket, so the pompadour cost

would be \$2.70. It takes less than 4 oz. of the 4-ply white for a 40x40-inch baby blanket, so the cost of this would be approximately \$1.00. Thus for both warp and weft, each baby blanket 40x40 inches costs about \$3.75. Of course many want to make crib blankets which are about 40x60 inches and of course the cost of one of these would come to about \$5.65 each.

Also, we might mention that I feel that this could be woven a lighter weight by using a 12-dent reed and having 12 per inch instead of 15. This would eliminate one-fifth of the cost of either of the two blankets above.

Personally, we prefer a firm and tight weave, but many persons do feel that a baby blanket should be light and airy, and thus they would probably use a 12-dent reed instead of the 15-dent that we used.

TRANQUILITY STUDIO (Continued from Page 3)

of material for making a skirt, and matching or contrasting yarn for knitting a sweater. One of the advantages of the homespun type of yarn is that they are equally good for either weaving or knitting a sweater.

The Hotchkisses have received many prizes and awards for their weaving at local shows, and are well known for their appearances at the New England Weavers' Seminars and the York State Craft Fairs.

In the summer of 1961, they plan to take a trip to Newfoundland, where they hope to find much of interest to weavers in a Province that is not yet industrialized or spoiled by tourism.

Tranquillity Studio is right in the home where they live, and their work abounds in their furnishings; rugs, draperies, bedspreads, table covers, mats, glass curtains, etc. There is a standing invitation to all hand weavers to visit the studio and home whenever in that vicinity.

This Month's Book Review

This month, I'm pleased to review a new book, one that was written by your editor of Warp and Weft. It is titled "*Card Weaving*" or Tablet Weaving, as you prefer.

This is the result of our many efforts for the past 8 months, and we feel that it is an extremely nice presentation of the card weaving subject as we most commonly will see it.

We have listed 53 different patterns for card weaving, giving the complete details for weaving each of these fabrics. Also, besides this, we have illustrated all 53 of these patterns by means of photographs.

The front of the book deals a little with the history of card weaving and the uses of card weaving.

There is also a section on designing with card weaving, recommended materials to use, as well as a complete illustrated series of photographs showing how the cards are set up and threaded, and how you weave on them.

One of the important sections relating to this subject is the section on color and textures used in this ancient handicraft.

In the back of the book, we give you a pattern, draw it down, and then we explain just how you do this, so that if you desire, before you set up a set of cards for a special pattern, you can use some graph paper, draw it down and see just what it will look like before you even try this.

Another feature that we like about this is the method of binding. It is a strong black spiral binding, so that the book when in use, can be opened up to any certain page and it will lie flat without any possibility of the pages turning back, and you losing your place or getting mixed up with any of the other patterns.

With each of the individual patterns, the colors of the threads that we used are given if you want to follow the sequences exactly as we did.

Title: "CARD WEAVING" or Tablet Weaving.

Author: RUSSELL E. GROFF.

Publisher: ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS.

Price: \$3.50 EACH, POSTAGE PRE-PAID.

Available: Immediately from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

A Test of Ramie Durability

As most of you know, we have been high on the merits of ramie, so we decided to make a test and check all the facts and figures about durability of Ramie. We purchased some Ramie dish-towels from Switzerland about one and one-half years ago, and we have used these almost exclusively ever since, washing them at least one time a week, and I know many times they have been washed twice a week, or even three times a week. We have found that these Ramie dish-towels are more absorbent than anything else we have used. Also, after these continual washings during the past year and a half, we find no signs of wear on these towels, and when pressed, they look almost exactly like they were new. We have been greatly impressed with this, and as a result, have decided to import some of these dish-towels of Ramie, and if nothing else, if they can't be sold, they certainly will make long-lasting durable gifts.

In February, I will be making a lecture tour through the Northwest, speaking to 5 or 6 guilds about Ramie and card weaving and I intend to take these towels along to show what durability and wearing qualities they do have.

This Month's Cover

The cover this month, is one of the photographs used in the new book published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, entitled "*Card Weaving*."

This shows some of the various narrow fabrics that are illustrated in the book, and these of course are all hand-woven on a set of card weaving cards. Why don't you try one of these interesting patterns and learn a new phase of handweaving, one that few persons know about or work at.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

A classified advertising section will be tried out in Warp and Weft for a few months, to see if there is any interest or response. Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$4.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

SKY-TONE, Crochet Thread, Made by Lily Mills. A special offer of a box of 12 colors (250 yards per ball) of this boil-proof and fast colored Lily's thread. \$2.25 per box of 12 spools. These can be used for borders and accents in towels, place-mats, skirts, or they can be used in upholstery, drapery, etc. Normally \$3.48 per box from Robin & Russ. Postage extra. We have used much of these threads in various Warp and Weft projects. It is also excellent for card-weaving, and numerous other projects. Robin & Russ 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

NYLON JERSEY SELVAGES are now available from Robin & Russ, in White, Pastel Pink, Blue, Green, and a bright red. Excellent for washable bags, place-mats and other quick-drying projects. In skeins of about 3/4 lb. to 1 1/4 lbs. each, this material is \$1.60 per lb. All quite nice and uniform widths, and can be used in rugs and many other projects also. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

CARD WEAVING or Tablet Weaving. Our new book with 63 complete patterns and complete directions in setting up and weaving of these narrow fabrics. Price is \$3.50, postage prepaid.

7/2 SPUN DOUPPIONI SILKS, in some 15 different colors. For a sample sheet of the various colors available, write to us for one. 5,800 yards per lb. Two ply for either warp or weft. \$7.00 per lb., or \$2.00 per 4 oz. spool. The new colors we have added are Avocado Green, Scarlet Red, Rich Dark Brown, Charcoal Grey, Ocean Grey Green, and Royal Purple. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

3 1/2 DOUPPIONI SILK in ROYAL PURPLE. This is a beautiful quality 4 ply purple silk that can be used for warp or weft. 2,900 yards per lb. It is available on cones of about 15 ounces each. \$7.00 per lb. Also available in 7/2 with 5,800 yards per lb. Same price. Good for ecclesiastical weaving. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

WOOL BOUCLE IN BLEACHED WHITE. A beautiful quality wool boucle, with about 1,800 to 2,000 yards per lb. On cones of about 1/2 lb. each. An extremely reasonable price. \$3.20 per lb. Good for knitting as well as for weaving. You normally pay about \$1.00 per 1 oz. skein for this type of yarn if purchased from a knit shop. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California.

A COTTON TWEED YARN, in a dark charcoal coloring with flecks of color for interest. 12/2 in size, with 5,000 yards per lb. Excellent for weft in skirts, blouses, etc. \$2.40 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SUPPORTED GOLD METALLIC: 1/64" in size. Usually \$7.00 to \$10.00 per lb. While it lasts, we have it on 1 pound tubes at \$3.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SPACE-DYED, BLUE AND GOLD, SUPPORTED metallic. On original lurex spools. Normally \$6.00 per 1/2 lb. This is on special (just 20 lbs.) at \$2.00 per 1/2 lb spool. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SQUARE-END NARROW HANDWOVEN TIES, of 100% wool, in assorted stripes and plain colors. \$2.00 each, postage prepaid. Quantity, wholesale prices upon request. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SPUN VISCOSE RAYON. 800 yds per lb., on 1/2 lb. spools. \$3.50 per pound or \$1.75 per 1/2 lb. spool. 17 rich and exciting colors. For free samples, send in a self-addressed, stamped envelope. These are sun-fast colors, and it can be used for warp or weft. A wonderful thread for accents. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

TWO LINE WOVEN LABELS are once again available from Robin & Russ. When discontinued by Cash's last year, we searched everywhere for a two line label. At last, thanks to the help of another weaving shop, we found a source of these two line labels. Handwoven by on the top line and your name on the bottom line is the most common style. Minimum order is 12 dozen and the price is \$4.90. This is less than what Cash's labels used to cost. Delivery is 4 to 6 weeks, postage prepaid. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

DRAFTING PAPER: 1/10" Squares, marked on both front and back so both sides can be used. \$1.35 per package of 100 sheets or \$.75 per package of 50 sheets. Postage on both 10c extra. Size of paper is 8 1/2 x 11. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

ALPACA AND SILK combination. It is 20% Alpaca and 80% silk in a fine 14/1 Light Grey Heather combination. 11,000 plus yards per lb. Beautiful in dresses and suits. On cones of about 1 lb each. \$4.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

BLACK SILK WARP: A beautiful black silk warp with a very high luster. On approximately 4 oz. spools, and it has 10,000 yards per lb \$8.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 632 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Weaver's Marketplace

CARD WEAVING

53 completely illustrated patterns for
Card-weaving

Step-by-step instructions, plus complete photographs of these procedures.

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