

warp and weft

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Editor: Russell E. Groff,

Assistant Editor: Robin Groff.

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A Word From The Editor

We have now officially been in our new home for 3 weeks when we are preparing this issue of Warp and Weft, and we are still as excited and as pleased as ever.

We have 4 projects going on the looms at present and 3 of them are future Warp and Weft projects. Two of them are exciting draperies that we will use in Warp and Weft and in our new home, and the third project is a linen project also for Warp and Weft.

Because of our move, and because of the delay in getting into our new studio, we have been somewhat delayed in answering all the mail, but now are about to catch up with everything, so hope that we can hear from you further.

There have been some especially interesting new yarns come in lately, and we have made up one sample sheet showing a variety of these, and we hope shortly to start a second sample sheet and show another 7 or 8 new threads that have just come in.

One of the new interesting threads that has come in is a Tussah Silk. This is silk from the wild silk worm and not the cultivated ones. It is also a distinctive colored silk in that it has a brownish tan natural color that is unusual. This color

is due to the fact that these silk worms feed on oak leaves instead of mulberry leaves, and the acid from the oak leaves gives this particular silk a different color. This silk is an 8-ply silk and is excellent for Warp or Weft.

We are gradually getting settled in our new home, and are enjoying it tremendously. And with the moving into a new house, we have the project of drapes for the extra large windows and 4 sliding glass doors that we have; a new lawn to put in, and 1001 other small jobs to do in order to get settled in this home.

We should also tell you of the town that we have moved to which is McMinnville, Oregon. It is a small town of about 8,000 population. It is an extremely friendly town, has a small well-known college, Linfield College; and is one of the most progressive towns you will find in this country of ours.

Well, you can see from the enthusiasm of which I wrote about our new home and shop and home town, that we are still as enthusiastic or more so than ever, and enjoying it tremendously. Perhaps I should stop this now, and get back to some of the weaving.

RUSSELL E. GROFF, *Editor.*

This Month's Cover

The cover this month is a photograph of our new weaving shop in McMinnville, Oregon. We have just occupied this shop since September 1st opening date, and are wonderfully pleased with it.

It has been especially designed as a handweaving shop by the architects, Mockford and Rudd in Oregon City, Oregon. It seems so far to fill our every need, having a large display room with lots of north light from the sky-light. In the display room, we have samples of all the looms we handle, and samples of all of the various yarns. It is here that we do much of the weaving for our Warp and Weft samples, and for our Drafts and

Designs samples, and here also is a specially planned office corner. There is also a large mezzanine and the mezzanine has about 50 large storage bins for yarns of all kinds, and for back issues of our 2 bulletins, and eventually we hope to have a row of looms up here which we will use for weaving classes, and possibly have an occasional workshop or two.

Then in the area underneath our mezzanine, we have a large work area with our winding machines, work bench and tool cabinet, addressograph and stencil files, a large receiving area for new stocks of yarns, reed storage area, bathroom with shower, and also an area that will be used as a small lunchroom for our new shop. Robin and I are wonderfully pleased with this new building, and hope that many of you might sometime have a chance to visit us and share our enthusiasm and pride in this new building, designed especially with the handweaver in mind.

Book Review

This month, the weaving book that we wanted to review did not come in, so we will tell you about this other handcraft book that is available.

This book is entitled, "DECORATING WITH SEED MOSAICS, CHIPPED GLASS, AND PLANT MATERIALS." It was written by Eleanor Van Rensselaer, who also wrote a book that we reviewed earlier. It, the other book, was *Decorating with Pods and Cones.*"

First of all, let me say that this book is profusely illustrated, having some 13 color photographs, plus about 75 black and white photographs. This is an excellent companion book to use with the other book written by the author.

There are many helpful illustrations and step-by-step directions showing how to make beautiful wreaths, stars and little trees of chipped glass. It shows how mosaics are made out of different kinds of seeds. It shows how to make some

jewelry designs and many other unique ideas.

You can make many unique gifts from the ideas in the book; you can decorate your home beautifully for the Christmas season. Not only does Mrs. Van Rensselaer tell you where to find these materials in nature, but also where you can purchase these materials if you desire to.

The first portion of the book is devoted to methods and techniques used in this type of handcraft. Then, in the ensuing chapters she discusses Wreaths for Permanent Decorations, Chipped Glass Decorations and Trees for Christmas, Planters, Wreaths and table arrangements. Mosaics, Mobiles and Bells, Favors, Jewelry and Wall Decorations are some of the other chapters. Then there is a final chapter which tells about the new world of seed pods and plants and materials from Hawaii. This, I think is a very excellent book for the teacher, the hobbyist interested in this type of handcraft, and for the nature lover who is interested in what some of nature's gems are.

Title— *Decorating with Seed Mosaics, Chipped Glass and Plant Materials.*

Author— Eleanor Van Rensselaer.

Publishers— D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., of Princeton, New Jersey.

Price— \$5.95 plus 14c parcel post.

Available— From publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

Two new limited edition volumes to be available soon. Advance orders are being taken for the two new volumes, one in book form, and the other in loose page form. Both of these will have samples in each. First of these will probably be out within the month.

It will be Elmer W. Hickman's new Folio titled "Silk and Wool Suitings," and will have 26 exciting new samples. The price of this will be \$6.95 postage prepaid.

(Continued on Page 6)

Sleying The Reed

The Old Gold (O) and the Aztec (A) 20/2 egyptian cotton was sleyed 4 ends per dent, with a skip of 6 dents after each 24 threads of these two colors.

The Rose Beige Egyptian cotton (R) and the Natural Rayon boucle with a cotton twist (N) were sleyed differently as listed below.

Here is the complete sleying of one complete pattern repeat in the 12 dent reed.

4 of Old Gold (O) in one dent for a total of 24 threads or 6 dents.

Skip or leave empty 6 dents.

4 of Old Gold (O) in one dent for a total of 24 threads or 6 dents.

Skip or leave empty 6 dents.

4 of Aztec (A) in one dent for a total of 24 threads or 6 dents.

Skip or leave empty 6 dents.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

3 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

1 of Natural Boucle (N) in one dent.

1 of Natural Boucle (N) in one dent.

3 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

Skip or leave empty 4 dents.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

3 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

1 of Natural Boucle in one dent.

1 of Natural Boucle in one dent.

3 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

4 of Rose Beige (R) in one dent.

Skip or leave empty 4 dents.

4 of Aztec (A) in one dent for a total of 24 threads or 6 dents.

Skip or leave empty 6 dents.

Treadling

Treadle No. 6 and then No. 2 for 12 threads in all. Then

Treadle No. 6 and then No. 4 for 12 threads in all.

Repeat over and over.

More About This Fabric

First of all, let me say that even though the threading draft looks long and intricate, it is not. Actually, it is long, but the threading is very simple. This fabric is an extremely easy one to weave, so please do not be deterred from weaving it by the appearance of the threading draft and the method of reed sleying of this project.

As long as you can count to 12, you should have no trouble with the actual weaving of it.

We used the new thread for weft, which is a combination of linen (75%) and of rayon (25%). However, there would be many different things that you could use for weft on such a set-up. Almost any and every texture of thread could be used as long as the color blends fairly well with the colors you use for warp.

This is a fairly fast fabric to weave also, and could be made even more striking or effective by using a heavier weft thread, and also by increasing the number of threads of weft in each of the two treadling units. Instead of 12 threads in the weft, you could use perhaps 16 or 18 and this would make a larger scallop or curve of the weft thread in your fabric.

We intend to use this same weave with the weft exactly as per this sample for some drapes in the master bedroom in our new home. This should be very effective.

This fabric is also very effective when you use 2 different colors in the warp and the same two colors in the weft. The scallop or curve of the weft thread would stand out much more clearly if you did use two contrasting colors in the weft.

Cost of The Fabrics and Threads

First of all, the egyptian cotton cones on 1/2 lb. cones, is size 20/2, and has 8400 yards per lb. It is \$5.00 per lb. or \$2.50 per 1/2 lb. spool.

The rayon boucle we used is actually a rayon and cotton combination thread. It is available on either 4 oz. or about 1 lb. cones. It has 1400 yards per lb., and is priced at \$2.80 per lb.

The weft thread was the linen & rayon combination. It has 2700 yards per lb., and is \$3.20 per lb. This is available on 1/2 lb. or larger spools, and on 1 1/2 lb. cones.

We put a 25 yard warp on the loom, and it took 1 lb. of each of the 3 colors of the egyptian cotton, and 3/4 lb. of the heavy rayon boucle for the warp. Thus the 25 yard warp came to \$17.10 in all, and breaking it down in cost per yard for the 40" wide warp, it cost 68c per yard.

In the weft, after weaving 7 yards, 6" of the 40" width material, we found that it took some 3 lbs. 3 oz. of the linen and rayon for weft in the 7 yards 6" of material. Thus, breaking it down to cost per yard, we find that the weft cost came to \$1.46 per yard.

Warp cost per yard	\$.68
Weft cost per yard	1.46

Fabric cost per yard	\$2.14
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The amount of weft that it takes in the fabric is surprising. When you are weaving it, it looks surprisingly light, but when you take it off the loom and remove the tension on the warp, then the fabric seems to shrink together a good bit, and thus is heavier than you think it is when weaving it. In fact, for a while, when weaving it, I thought it might be too open or sleazy, but after stopping and releasing the tension, I found that this worry of mine was unfounded.

Selvage Edges for This Pattern

One thing that I did not mention, but which would help you weave this fabric much easier, is that you should have a different threading for the selvage edge. My suggestion is that you double the

eight edge threads and thread it 1,2,3,4,1, 2,3,4.

By doubling the edge threads, I mean that you have 2 threads in each of the harnesses, or a total of 16 threads in all for the selvage. I myself did have quite a bit of trouble with one selvage edge, and I finally threaded it in this manner. Even with this, we had quite a bit of pull on two selvage threads, so I took 2 extra threads of 10/3 spun silk, wound it on an add a warp clip spool, tightened the tension on the add a warp clip spool, and just let it hang from the back of the loom. The add a warp clip spool can sometimes be fastened to one of the parts of the loom. In this case, we did not have a bar to fasten it to. However, it weighs about 5 or 6 oz., has enough size that it could lie right against the warp beam, and not turn around and around and twist these two extra threads. In many cases, if you just have a spool or a weight that you add to the loom, it will just hang free and turn around and around and twist the two threads so much, that you have to replace them. When they are twisted they will not go through the heddles. The add a warp clip spools are heavy enough that most of this trouble is eliminated. This is the first time that we have used one of these add a warp clip on spools, and I found that it was very satisfactory, and much easier to handle than most of the previous devices we had tried out.

Most of these time saving and effort saving devices such as transfer rods, add a warp clip spools, corrective heddles, and anything else that will save you time and effort are well worth the little cost of that particular item. Even when we sell them ourselves, I have sometimes hesitated to use them, but eventually I even convince myself of their value.

"FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION"

(Continued from Page 3)

The second will be by Malin Selander and will be entitled "SWEDISH SWATCHES, Yellow Series." This will be a bound book with 21 actual woven samples in the book, all centered around the yellow section of the color wheel, with complete drafts and weaving directions. Price will be \$9.50 each. This will be available late this winter so the publishers tell us. Any who would like to order these, we will be glad to serve you.

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.

THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET now stocks a complete and full range of Bernat colors in both the Fabri and Afghan yarns. Sample color cards, thirty cents, upon receipt of request. Grace D. Blum, **THE HANDWEAVERS WORKBASKET**, Box 691, R. R. 1, West Chicago, Illinois.

SPEE-DEE CEMENT. In the new plastic bottle, this cement is excellent for glueing together broken warp threads. A dab of this on the 2 ends of warp, and in one minute it is dry and it is stronger than before. Price is 60c per bottle, plus 10c postage if just cement is ordered. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

AMERICAN FABRICS MAGAZINE: This excellent magazine with the many fabric swatches in each issue keeps up with all the fashion trends, and all the new developments in the textile industry. Many articles on art and history and much other interesting information. 4 issues per year. \$12.00 per year's subscription or \$4.00 for a single copy. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

LINEN BOUCLE: 4 beautiful colors. 1800 yards per lb. Free samples upon request. On approximately 1 lb. 4 to 1 lb. 8 oz. tubes. \$3.20 per lb. **ROBIN & RUSS**, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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GIVE WARP AND WEFT FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS. We will be glad to send a gift card or a Christmas Card to the new subscriber whom you give a gift of a year or 2 year's subscription to Warp & Weft. Warp and Weft, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

5 NEW COLORS IN SUPPORTED METALLIC: These are all exciting supported metallics on 1/2 lb. to 1 lb. cones or spools. \$3.50 per lb. Write for free samples of colors available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

LINEN & RAYON SLUB YARN. 75% linen, 25% rayon, size 9/1, 2700 yards per lb. \$3.20 per lb. on 1/2 lb. spools. **ROBIN & RUSS**, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

40/4 NATURAL RAMIE. This is the same size as a 20/2 ramie, only it is 4 ply. Excellent for warp or weft. Good for towel weft in particular. \$3.20 per lb. while it lasts. Just 40 lbs. available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

4/1 SOFT DRY SPUN LINEN for use in those rich soft linen bath towels. 1200 yards per lb. This linen is imported from Scotland and is \$2.40 per lb. On approximately 1 lb. 4 oz. to 1 1/2 lb. tubes. Slightly slubby, and can be used for warp if handled with care. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

8-PLY, SMOOTH TUSSAH SILK WARP: This is a beautiful 8-ply silk warp, with the unusual natural oak-like color in this silk yarn. It has been 8 plied for us to make a good warp. \$6.00 per lb., on approximately one pound cones. About 5,000 yards per pound. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

EXTRA HEAVY, SLUBBY SPUN SILK: This is a nice quality heavy slub silk which has 1200 yards per lb., and is single ply. Use it in coat and sport coat material. Price is \$4.80 per lb. Only limited amount available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

FIBERGLASS BOUCLE: This glass yarn is a nice fine quality boucle. It is available on 1/2 lb. cones and is in the natural white only. Price is \$3.20 per lb. Excellent for drapes of all kinds. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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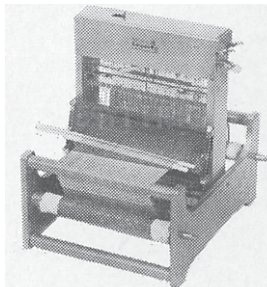
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