

# warp and weft

Vol. XXIV, No. 5

May, 1971

## warp and weft

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Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

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### A Word from the Editor:

Conference time is just two weeks, and as your editor is chairman of the conference, you can surmise that most of the efforts are being made to make sure that the conference is a complete success.

At the same time, we are trying to see that our new addition to the shop is finished as much as possible, as many of the weavers who attend the conference will, we hope, visit our shop in McMinnville.

When you are reading this, it will be all over, and you can be sure that your editor will be heaving a sigh of relief that it is.

At present, we expect 400 to 500 persons to attend this Pacific Northwest Weaving Conference being sponsored by the Portland Handweavers Guild. Already, with two weeks before conference to go, we have over 300 reservations.

It has been a busy month at the shop. We've had quite a few looms come in that had been on order for a good while, and we have also had a new loom come in, which we shall start to sell. It is one of the most beautiful looms we have seen, and it is a "Klantz" loom, and comes in two widths, 32" and 45" only. It is our hope that we can set it up this week or next, so that it can be displayed for the conference visitors. Also, during this past month, we had 500 lbs. of most beautiful brushed mohairs and novelty wools come in from Ireland, even though we ordered them from Holland where the main office of this company is. We are so delighted with these

**Page 2**

that we have started making up 1500 sample sheets featuring these 10 yarns. And there have been many other yarns come in during this time, and yes, we are now desperately in need of more storage. They have finally started on the new storage room being built on the back corner of our shop, and it should be ready in two to three months, and then, we will have more room to move around in when downstairs.

And it never rains but it hails, and many of the books that have been out of print, or delayed in delivery because of changing to computer systems, are now all coming in, and so we've had perhaps 1,000 books come in this past month. You can imagine the storage problem that results from such as this.

In the new addition to our shop, we have only a small amount of work yet to be done, but one of these is the addition of another book case. We have had so many new books the past six months or year, that we have to have more display area for these, and it was this that finally made us decide to enlarge and expand our display area in the shop.

And also the weaving students do continue to come in, and we have two different projects just started on the looms. One of these is most exciting as it is one of the rugs with the carded wool tops in colors being used in an unspun wool rug. It is a very exciting piece, and it is hard to leave that and force myself to work on this issue of warp and weft.

Enough for this time, and back to the sample for this issue.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

### This Month's Cover Photograph:

This month's cover photograph shows Paula Simmons hanging handspun warp chains to dry, after they have been sized for warp. There is more of an explanation of this, in this month's article she wrote of "Weaving with Handspun on the 100" loom."

## **This Month's Book Review:**

Because of the excitement that is sweeping the country with the Macrame bug, there are some new and exciting books appearing on this subject. One of these is entitled "INTRODUCING MACRAME" by Eirian Short.

This is an excellent book with many, many, clear photographs of different techniques, and finished projects. The book has been divided into about 11 sections and each section covers one of the various stages of Macrame'. It starts with a history of Macrame', and then goes into Materials, Equipment, Setting on, The Knots, Fringes, Braids, Fabrics, Making up garments and bags, Shoes, Color and then The Free Use of Macrame". The author, Eirian Short, taught for many years in England at Hornsey College of Art in London, and is now a lecturer at Goldsmith's College, School of Art, in London. She has many stimulating photographs in the book, and gives an excellent introduction to the technique of Macrame'. She also goes much further showing how Macrame' can be strong and hardwearing, and can be used and makes excellent material for curtains, screens, bags, coats, and jackets. She also shows and tells how Macrame' is an attractive medium for wall-hangings, panels, and sculpture. She also mentions how it may be combined with fabric collage, embroidery, or three dimensional construction.

The price of this book is \$7.95 plus 30¢ postage and insurance.

TITLE: INTRODUCING MACRAME'  
AUTHOR: Eirian Short  
COST: \$7.95 plus pp & ins.  
PUBLISHER: B. T. Batsford Limited  
and Watson-Guption Publications

AVAILABLE: It may be ordered from the publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers if desired.

## **Handspun on the 100" Leclerc,**

by Paula Simmons.

This is the 5th of a series of articles on raising sheep, spinning yarns, and weaving with handspun yarns, by Paula Simmons.

The Leclerc 100" wide loom is an ideal way for a woman weaver to get her husband involved in the craft. It is designed for two weavers, has two sets of treadles, and cannot be operated by one person alone. We had given little thought to the possible difficulty of winding on a warp of 100" width, or we might have hesitated about getting this loom. As it turned out, we encountered no serious problems.

If you are going to be using handspun yarns consistently, string heddles will be easier on your yarn. They can be slipped onto the well designed heddle frames of the Leclerc loom, instead of its steel or wire heddles. We find it most satisfactory to use a long permanent warp (dummy warp) of heavy cotton carpet warp, threaded through the heddles and reed, and the handspun warp chains are tied onto it. This allows for more complete use of your warp yarn with less waste at the end, where it can be woven right up to the point where the knots (of handspun to dummy warp) are in a position just behind the heddles. For blankets with triple-tied fringes, this leaves an amount of warp that can all be used in fringe. For fabrics or for blankets needing only short fringe, with careful handling the warp can still be wound forward to one more weaving position, with knots in front of the heddles (but in back of the reed). This gives a few more inches of weaving space. To remove woven blanket or fabric from the loom, wind it forward again, to where the knots are 8" or more in front of the reed, slacken the tension a bit so that the cut ends will not snap back through the reed, and cut across, right at the point of the knots, leaving 8" or more of dummy warp in front of the reed. To keep the dummy warp ends secure till the next warp is ready to tie onto them, they can be loosely knotted in groups in front of the reed.

Continued on Page 6

## RAMIE AND VISCOSE

The sample this month was planned for placemats, for upholstery, or for draperies if desired. While I feel that our combination of colors chosen for this sample is not too good, it does show you what can be done with plain twill threading in different color sequences.

### THREADING DRAFT

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

### WARP:

There are two threads used in the warp. They are as follows:

- X — 16/2 BRIGHT ORANGE RAMIE
- O — 5/2 SPUN VISCOSE,  
MEADOW GREEN

### WEFT:

The same two threads that are used in the warp are also used in the weft. They are 16/2 Swiss Ramie, and 5/2 Spun Viscose also from Switzerland.

### REED USED:

A 10 dent reed was used, and it was sleyed two ends per dent, or 20 threads per inch.

### WIDTH IN LOOM:

Our fabric was set-up, 42" wide on the loom and when removed from the loom after weaving, it was 40" wide. This is after it has been off the loom and without any tension after two weeks.

### IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE:

The idea for this sample came from the Wisconsin Federation of Handweavers. The sample was woven in our 2/18's worsted, so

Page 4

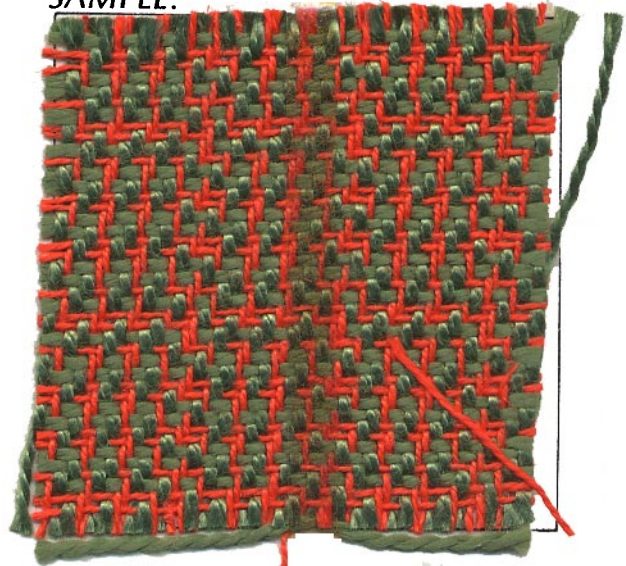
we thought it might be an appropriate pattern for placemats if woven in different materials. Thus, our sample this month. The sample in the Newsletter was designed, I believe, by Inez Pagel, and woven by Ellie Russell.

### TIE-UP DRAFT:

4	X	X	O	O	X	O
3	X	O	O	X	O	X
2	O	O	X	X	X	O
1	O	X	X	O	O	X
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					A	B

X — tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.  
O — tie-up for Jack-type looms.

### SAMPLE:



### MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:

First of all, we must tell you that this fabric was very easy to weave, with no problems at all. We had no breakage of warp threads, and no trouble with the selvages. It was not necessary to use a temple or stretcher to keep it out to width.

And, one of the most important things is to use a firm, even, double beat. You should beat with the shed open, change to the next shed, and then beat again before you throw the shuttle for the next shot.

I thought that there might be some problem in the warp with these two threads used in the warp, but there was absolutely no

problem in tension in one thread possibly stretching more than the other.

And the weaving was simple and easy, and no problem, except that the viscose is a little slick, and so we do not wind either the bobbins of ramie or viscose too full on both ends.

And one more thing that I must mention about this fabric is my choice of colors. I'm sorry to say that I do not care too much for them after the weaving, but it does show the effect of the color arrangement in the threading draft and in the treadling sequence.

And, still one more thing that I want to mention is that I feel that you can achieve some other interesting effects if you use the same draft as we have given it with more contrast of colors, and with various experimental treadling sequences. Why not try it and see what you can come up with.

This fabric should work very well as upholstery, and I think that it would also make attractive placemats, and also have a variety of uses.

#### TREADLING SEQUENCE

There are 16 shots in one complete pattern repeat, and if you will notice, the treadling sequence is exactly the same as the threading sequence.

1. Treadle No. 1 — Bright Orange Ramie
2. Treadle No. 2 — Bright Orange Ramie
3. Treadle No. 3 — Meadow Green Viscose
4. Treadle No. 4 — Meadow Green Viscose
5. Treadle No. 1 — Bright Orange Ramie
6. Treadle No. 2 — Meadow Green Viscose
7. Treadle No. 3 — Bright Orange Ramie
8. Treadle No. 4 — Bright Orange Ramie
9. Treadle No. 1 — Meadow Green Viscose
10. Treadle No. 2 — Bright Orange Ramie
11. Treadle No. 3 — Meadow Green Viscose
12. Treadle No. 4 — Meadow Green Viscose
13. Treadle No. 1 — Bright Orange Ramie
14. Treadle No. 2 — Bright Orange Ramie
15. Treadle No. 3 — Meadow Green Viscose
16. Treadle No. 4 — Meadow Green Viscose

End of one complete pattern. Repeat over and over as desired.

#### THREADS USED IN THIS SAMPLE

The 16/2 Ramie is a very durable fiber similar to linen, and is a natural fiber and is a

member of the "bast" family of fibers. It has all the physical characteristics of linen only it surpasses most of those characteristics that linen has in quality.

This bright orange, we had dyed to order for us, and the colors are supposed to be both sunfast and washfast. It comes on approximately 1 lb. cones, or 4 oz. tubes. It has 2400 yards per pound, or 600 yards per 4 oz. tube. Price is \$5.60 per pound, if purchased on the 1 lb. tubes, or \$1.50 per 4 oz. spool if purchased on the 600 yard tubes. It is available in 20 different colors.

The 5/2 spun viscose yarn is one we cannot find in the United States in this size and in colors. It has 1200 yards per pound, and comes on about 1 lb. tubes. We have just three colors in stock, and not too much of these three. However, we will expand the color range in this, as we gradually re-order this fiber over and over again. I'm afraid, however, that future shipments will probably have to sell for about \$4.00 per pound, as we will have to pay to have these colors dyed to order. The three colors that we have now are some that were in stock when I ordered from Switzerland. We will shortly order more of these three colors currently in stock, and another color. Our current colors are this meadow green, apricot orange, and also light aqua.

#### COST OF THIS FABRIC:

We had a nine yard warp, and it was 42" wide, and 20 threads per inch. In the warp, it took 3 lbs. 2 oz. of the Meadow Green Spun Viscose, and 1 lb. 9 oz. of the Bright Orange 16/2 Ramie. Thus, our total warp cost was \$19.69 for the warp. This makes the cost per yard come to \$2.19 per yard.

We had eight yards of finished fabric from this nine yard warp. In this eight yards of fabric, we used 2 lbs. 5 oz. of the spun viscose, and 1 lb. 2½ oz. of the 16/2 ramie. Thus the total weft cost was \$14.58 for these eight yards or the cost per yard was \$1.82.

WARP COST PER YARD, 42" wide .....	\$2.19
WEFT COST PER YARD .....	\$1.82
<hr/>	
FABRIC COST PER YARD .....	\$4.01

## Handspun on 100" Leclerc,

by PAULA SIMMONS

Continued from Page 3

For convenience in counting and checking warp threads when tying on, you might like our system of dummy warp in two colors. For 5-to-the-inch handspun blankets, we have a dummy warp in stripes of black and white, 20 threads each, alternating (total 500). We wind our handspun warp in chains of 20 threads each to correspond to the count of the dummy warp, and dip them in sizing. Drying them unchained leaves no kinks in the warp, although they can be left chained if you do not have the space.

When the chains are completely dry, they are tied onto the dummy warp, in front of the reed. Separation of the cross can be maintained by two large dowels, about 12" long, ends held together with heavy rubber bands, inserted in the cross of each chain while tying on, and consecutive threads taken from it to tie onto the dummy warp, one by one.

The real key to ease in winding the warp onto such a wide loom lies in the use of multiple leash sticks. The three that come with the loom are not sufficient, as you will need six for good tension while warping. They should be evenly spaced and tied, between the heddle frames and the back of the loom, and the dummy warp has every thread alternately crossed on them. These sticks remain during weaving. If extra sticks are not ordered at the same time as the loom, they are difficult to obtain, but can be made from wooden screen-door stripping, purchased by the foot from a lumber yard. These, when cut to size and well sanded down with a hole drilled in each end like the sticks that come with the loom, work quite well. They must be very smooth, so that wool yarn does not snag on them, but slips through easily. The warp tension should be completely controlled by these leash sticks. Do not hold onto the warp chains at all while winding them on, just keep the warp well combed-out with your fingers, so that it hangs freely at the front of the loom and no snarls occur, or tight threads. This process could be accomplished by one person, since you are not holding the warp, as it is wound on, but

goes much faster with one person turning the back beam and one keeping watch on the warp chains in front.

The insertion of warp sticks on the back beam will insure a more even distribution of the warp. They can be made like the leash sticks (but without the holes at the ends) and need not be quite as smooth, as the yarn will not have to slip over them.

In the actual weaving process, with two weavers at one loom, you need especially to watch your coordination in the uniformity of pressure in beating, and the evenness of the selvages. We found that we were of such unequal strength that better results were obtained only when one of us did the beating, sliding to the center of the loom each time, or standing up momentarily to beat. This gives the other weaver time to reach for quills to refill the shuttle, which empties so often with a 100" loom.

For drying our blankets after washing them, we use a 10-foot galvanized drain pipe threaded on a clothes line, letting the blanket drip hanging lengthwise for half of the drying, then turn to let it hang with ends down, over the pipe until dry. Handspun benefits from a "resting," folded up to fluff for a few days, then steam press with iron set at wool temperature, over a wet cloth. Let it dry completely after pressing, laid out flat or rolled carefully.

### **NEW DELUXE RHEOSTAT FOR ELECTRIC BOBBIN WINDERS.**

Made especially for us, this new rheostat is hand operated instead of foot operated. You can turn your rheostat and let it stay at the slowest speed possible, at a medium or fast speed. You can set-it, and let go of the rheostat, and it will remain at a constant speed instead of speeding up or slowing down. It is ideal, if you want to use both hands when winding the bobbin. This will work on any electric bobbin winder. Price is \$10.00 plus shipping. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$5.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.**

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### ANGORA RABBIT FLEECE FOR HANDSPINNING

We now have in stock some Angora for hand-spinning. It is clean, and is beautifully soft and desirable. One of our customers is furnishing us with this for handspinning. It comes in 1/2 lb. bags, and is \$3.50 per bag. Try it and you'll like it. Also, we have some short staple nylon that you can perhaps mix with it if desired. Price on the nylon is \$2.50 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 5 BRUSHED MOHAIRS FROM HOLLAND

These are beautiful yarns, with 1,000 yards per lb., and just in from Holland. We ordered them last summer, and they have just arrived. 50 lbs. of each color. We have a sample sheet of these, so if interested drop us a line, and we will send samples. It comes on cones of about 1 lb. to 1 lb. 8 oz. each, and the price is \$6.80 per lb., or 4 oz. tubes are \$2.00 each. If you purchase this in department stores for knitting, you pay about \$1.50 to \$2.00 per oz. for it that way. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 5 NUBBY AND PARTIALLY BRUSHED WOOLS

These also are from Holland, and I think would be most beautiful in women's coating. It has 550 yards per pound, and the colors are blends that I feel are unique. This heavier yarn comes on cones of about 1 1/2 lbs. each. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 10 COLORS IN NAVY CORD FOR MACRAME'

This is a No. 12, with about 250 yards per 1/2 lb. ball, and it is a polished cord, made especially for Macrame'. Available in Orange, Yellow, Black, Navy Blue, Crimson, Dark Green, Dark Brown, Gold, etc. \$1.55 per 1/2 lb. ball. Also, we have some of the same colors in a heavier weight, with about 125 to 150 yards per ball, No. 24 Seine twine, and it is \$1.55 per ball. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### INTRODUCING MACRAME'

by Eirian Short is now in stock again. It is an outstanding book on Macrame', with many exciting pictures, directions, and projects. You'll enjoy this one and it should inspire you for more exciting Macrame' projects. Price is \$7.95 plus 30¢ pp and ins. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### CARDED WOOL TOPS IN 15 COLORS NOW

This carded wool in a superior quality is now available in 15 colors, and we import it from Switzerland. Available in about 1 lb. plastic bags of continuous lengths, it is excellent for spinning or for the unspun wool rugs that are popular. Price is \$3.95 per 1 lb. bag. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### BAMBOO RINGS AND CIRCLES AND OVALS FOR MACRAME' BAGS

We have a 6" diameter bamboo ring, and also a 7" diameter bamboo ring, and we have 7" diameter ovals in bamboo. Price is \$1.00 each, or \$1.75 per pair for these three items. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### SWEDISH UMBRELLA SWIFTS OR SKEINWINDERS

are now in stock again. Price is \$8.95 each, plus postage for these excellent skein winders. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### CARD-WEAVING CARDS AND SHUTTLES

We are having our own card-weaving cards and shuttles made to order for us and both are in stock. A set of 100 cards is \$3.00, and this new design in the card-weaving or inkle shuttle is excellent, and it is \$1.50. And, our book on card-weaving, with 53 patterns, and complete directions is in stock at \$3.50. Postage extra on all orders. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 2 PLY SMOOTH NYLON IN NATURAL WITH A SHEEN

Yes, it is now in stock again, and this heavier nylon yarn has 1200 yards per lb. It is available on 600 yard tubes at \$1.20 each. This strong and very durable thread has many uses. Also, it can be dyed for other uses if you wish to dye it. Excellent for mats, upholstery, drapes, etc. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### 5 EXCITING RAYON TWEEDS

on 1/2 lb. tubes. This rayon tweed yarn comes in 5 exciting color combinations. It has 1050 yards per lb., or 525 yards per 1/2 lb. tube. Price is \$3.50 per lb., or \$1.75 per 1/2 lb. tube. A free sample of this yarn will be sent upon request. Fairly heavy, and most durable, it should work well in dress yardage, tailored suits, and the like. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon.

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### 3 SIZES IN WHITE NYLON SEINE TWINE

Another thread that is popular in the exciting Macrame' projects, we have this in four sizes, not three. It is available in 4 oz. spools, in size 9, 18, 24 and 30. No. 9 has 550 feet per 4 oz. spool, No. 18 has 268 feet, No. 24 has 177 feet, and No. 30 has 157 feet. Price is \$1.00 per 4 oz. tube. Also available in size 18 in yellow gold with a 1/2 lb. spool of 537 feet at \$1.95 per 1/2 lb. spool. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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### RAT-TAIL IN 11 EXCITING COLORS FOR MACRAME'

This rich thread is a tubular ribbon and comes on 144 yard spools. It is \$5.50 per spool. Makes beautiful belts and necklaces. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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# The Weaver's Marketplace

**NEW!!!**

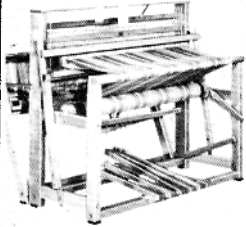
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