



warp and weft

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A Word from the Editor

Yes, it is the June issue at last, and we too, are pleased to sort of get caught up.

And, we hope that you'll enjoy this month's sample, as it is one your editor wove, and I know that I've enjoyed weaving this silk piece. It always seems as though a silk fabric turns out nicer than you anticipate, and that is the case with this fabric.

We are in the middle of summer here in Oregon, and we are more concious of what summer means to the farmers in the U.S.A. than ever before. Of course we are made more aware of this, as we now live out in the country about 11 miles from McMinnville.

We have been so amazed at the crops this year, which seems to be a bumper crop for the wheat farmer in this part of the country.

From our house, we could look out over the valley, and see the many beautiful fields of wheat, oats, and barley growing and we were amazed to see it ripen and turn golden over a period of two weeks and become ready for harvest. And, it is such a versitile country where we live, as the land produces so many different products. As we ride to and from our new home, we drive through fields of cherries, o peaches, of plums and English walnuts. And, we could see a large number of fields this spring which were a dull red, and it is the red clover that is raised for seed here

that we could see. And, I should call it a dark red and not a dull red, but it is such a contrast from the green fields of wheat, oats and barley. Right now, some of the peaches are ripe, and a month ago, it was the strawberries that were ready for picking. Besides these main crops there are many more. String beans, green beans, broccoli, cabbages, sweet and field corn, beets, and many other crops also grow in this area. We couldn't have picked a nicer place to live and to build a house, and to enjoy the countryside.

About a month ago, we had problems every day for a week with a young deer who was delighted with the tops of the 550 to 600 trees that Robin planted. We have sparrows, quail, ringneck pheasants, morning doves, swallows, and even blue-birds that we can enjoy now. I don't ever remember having seen a blue-bird before until just about three or four weeks ago, when we saw two or three the same day. One evening, while having dinner on the enclosed porch, we watched a family of "California Quail," some of them not more than 10 to 15 feet away.

At night, we can look out and see the light of Monmouth, of Independence, of Sheridan, of Willamina, and two or three other small towns. On July 4th, we looked out the window that evening, and we could see the fire-works display of three different towns.

This is just a preview of how much we enjoy our new home in the country. Robin is a farmer at heart, and I'm not, but I still enjoy seeing all of the outdoor activity. Almost every evening, we sit out on the patio and have our dinner there, as usually there is a cool breeze there when it is 85 to 95 down in the valley. Of course, this winter, when I'm snow-bound up in the hills, and everyone else at the bottom of the valley is at work, I'll be snow-bound and doing some of the designing and weaving of the projects for our two bulletins.

And, there is so much other to look forward to. The travel bureau, which

arranged the weaving tour I lead to England last year has asked if I would consider leading a tour to New Zealand and Australia in August of 1980. I said yes, but felt that I should be somewhat familiar with the area, so I've cut short my trip to England this year to look for threads, and I'll go to Hong Kong, Tokio, and New Zealand and Australia, to get a general idea of what to see and places to visit on this tour next year. I'm eagerly looking forward to this, and am planning the samples for Warp and Weft, and Drafts and Designs now in July, so that we'll have them ready to mail out in September. From our workshop with Malin Selander, I worked with the rest of the warp left on one loom, and came up with a very beautiful sample for a drapery, and I've given this to one of our friends to weave, so we'll have it for the September issue of Warp and Weft. I hope to design one or two others, and one of our employees in the shop wants to learn to weave, so we'll try her out and see if she can weave some fabrics for us for the two bulletins. I also, still have ideas for experimenting with some of the remnants of the warps from the workshop for other future projects.

Business has slowed down a good bit for the summer, and somewhat because of a minor recession, and so this gives us more time to work with samples, and ideas for future projects.

Well, I've meandered along many trails this time, so now, back to the sample for this month.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Book Review:

We are pleased to let you know that a very popular book has just been reprinted in paper-back form. It is the book by Jean Wilson, entitled "THE PILE WEAVES." It also has a new sub-title, which is "Twenty-six techniques and how to do them."

This booklet has been revised and is now in a larger paper-back form. The photographs (many of them) are different

from the first edition, the print is large, clear, and easy to read; and the directions for all 26 techniques are very clearly explained, and then each of these is illustrated.

There are 8 pages of color illustrations, with photographs of many of the different techniques that are illustrated in color.

The techniques that are explained are The Ghiordes Knot and four different variations; The slip loop, The Sehna or Persian Rug knot, the single warp spanish knot, ancient cut pile technique, Icelandic cut pile, Egyptian cut pile, Granitos (Spanish Confite), Highland Guatemalan cut pile, Czech Cut Pile, Picked up loops, Tibetan Rug Knot, Chivas, Boutonne, Oriental and Greek Soumak, Chaining, and Weft-twining as a base for a pile weft. There is a little section on edges, Loom-Controlled Pile Weaves, Needle-made pile, Natural Pile Weaves, etc. There are good details on all of these various weaves and once again, Jean Wilson has done a superb job in this re-publication.

TITLE: THE PILE WEAVES
AUTHOR: Jean Wilson
PUBLISHER: Charles Scribner's Sons
PRICE: \$9.95 — plus shipping in a paper-back edition only.
AVAILABLE: Available from Robin & Russ Handweavers or your publisher if desired.

A One Time Special

We have probably from 200 to 400 lbs. of natural jute in 4 ply, 5, and 6 ply. Some is on tubes of 4 to 5 lbs., some is on tubes of 8 to 10 lbs. This has been selling for \$1.60 per lb. However, our macrame sales have dropped off so much, we want to make room for more weaving yarns. We will offer this entire lot of 4, 5, and 6 ply natural jute to anyone who will take the entire lot at 50¢ per lb. Remember, this is only if an individual will take the entire lot of 4, 5, and 6 ply jute.

The Emperor's Shirt

This sample was designed for men's shirt material and ladies blouse material. We tried to make it light in weight, interesting in pattern and also interesting in texture, and are pleased to be able to share with you, this all silk sample.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

Warp

Our warp is a smooth, fine, spun silk and it is 4 ply, and has 12,800 yards per lb. If this were based on the cotton system of measuring yardage, it would be a 60/4 Spun Silk, C.C. The C.C. would stand for cotton count.

Weft

Our weft thread are two white, tram silk threads wound together to act as one thread. This is also called an 80/120/2 Tram Silk, meaning that the size of the silk weft thread can vary from 80 to 120 in size, and it is a 2 ply. We took these 2 threads of this size and wound them together, and that makes it officially a 4 ply.

Reed Used

A 20 dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 40 ends per inch.

Treadling Sequence

There are 16 shots in each pattern repeat, and it is a little hard to keep track of. So, I developed my own system, and of course, I talked to myself while weaving it, to keep it in mind. If you lose yourself when you are weaving, it is hard to find where you are on this type of treadling, unless you have it pretty set in your rote memory mind. I

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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



know that if I am interrupted in my weaving, my rote memory thoughts eventually tell me where I stopped. However, when I first started weaving this and was interrupted, I had to take it out to find just where I was.

Treadle # 2, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 3, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 4, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 1, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 2, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 3, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 4, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 1, 2 ply tram silk
 Treadle # 4, 2 ply tram silk

Treadle # 3, 2 ply tram silk
Treadle # 2, 2 ply tram silk
Treadle # 1, 2 ply tram silk
Treadle # 4, 2 ply tram silk
Treadle # 3, 2 ply tram silk
Treadle # 2, 2 ply tram silk
Treadle # 1, 2 ply tram silk

REPEAT THIS TREADLING OVER AND OVER AS DESIRED.

Definition of Tram Silk

Tram silk is one of the better quality silks, and it is defined in Webster, as "a loosely twisted silk yarn, usually used for the weft of a fabric. And I always seem to associate it with a slightly twisted, slubby silk, with a high sheen. This is what we have used for weft in this fabric.

More About The Fabric

As long as you are systematic, I think you will find that this is an easy fabric to weave. For a good while, I did have trouble in keeping track of the pattern, but with enough repetition, it became easier and easier. However, I always find it best to weave a complete pattern repeat and also, you should always stop weaving at the end of a complete pattern repeat. Thus, when you start to weave say the next day, you know exactly where you are and what sequence to start with.

I've used a double beat on this textured silk weft., and as it seems to have quite a few slubs, even when it had a knot, I wove it in, and you find it very hard to find.

I did have trouble with some of the 4 ply spun silk fraying apart on the edges, and after I put 2 ends each in the last 4 heddles on each side of the fabric, I wove with almost no fraying of the warp thread.

There were some knots in the warp, but due to the texture in this fabric, I just wove them in, and it is almost impossible to see the knots anywhere in the weaving. And, there were quite a few slubs, bumps, and knots in the weft, but when you have this type of weave, all of these slubs, bumps,

and knots all create more interest in the weft.

There is a lot of weaving in this fabric, and we had 18 yards on the loom. However, in timing myself in the last 6 or 7 yards, I found that I could weave approximately one yard per hour, without interruptions.

This type of silk, both the warp and the weft, are both becoming harder and harder to obtain. The average price of this 4 ply spun silk warp direct from the manufacturer, seem to be from \$40.00 to \$60.00 per lb. now.

So, when you have some available at \$16.00 per pound, it is really a good buy.

We have located lots of tram silk in the past year or two. However, it is about impossible to have it plied, and while it is beautiful, and takes beautiful colors, has a high sheen, most of it is so fine that it is not applicable to handweaving. This white, we were fortunate in finding one twister to do this for us, and he charged us \$6.00 per lb. to do this for about 25 lbs. of yarn we had in the white.

Just this morning, I wove for one hour on this fabric, and in the one hour, I had woven 1 yard and 3 inches. However, I am a fairly fast weaver, and I figure that most weavers will take about 2 hours or more per yard to weave this.

This Month's Cover Photograph

The cover this month is a most inspiring piece when you see it in person. It is a technique that most weavers know little or nothing about called "KNOTLESS NETTING."

This piece was done by Alice Knapp of Fort Bragg, California in 1978. It was done in all shades of white. There are about 40 different yarns used in this, and they varied considerably, some being thick, some thin, some dull, some shiny, some very hard and some very soft yarns.

I was so intrigued with this, that I was amazed when I saw how many different threads were used in this piece. When you do this technique, you do it under tension.

There is only one booklet on this subject that I know of, and it is entitled "Primitive Scandinavian Textiles in Knotless Netting," by Odd Nordland. It is a study of this technique as it evolved in Norway, and this same technique has also been found in many of the fabrics of the Aztecs and Inca's in South America, and some of it has been found in use, by the native tribes in Australia.

This book was published in 1961, and the text is in English, even though it was done by Oslo University. Price of the book is \$13.95, while stock last.

Perhaps you might want to attempt to master a new technique. This booklet on these subjects covers a variety of uses for this technique, as it was used for clothing, for baskets.



We are indebted to Alice Knapp who did arrange to have the picture of this exciting wall hanging or room divider taken and has shared it with us.

Actually, the photograph on the cover is not very clear. It does not do justice to this beautiful room divider. However, I imagine that this piece is quite hard to photograph, and get exacting detail with, because of the many different textured threads in it, because of it's size, and because it needs a good backdrop to show the details to the best advantage.

More About This Pattern

I call the threading draft that we have used a 16 thread Birdseye, and others call it a double point twill. Whatever the proper name, it is an old traditional pattern, and was used in many areas of Sweden for hundreds and hundreds of years. Also, we find the same variation in old Oriental weaving, in Spanish weaving, and many other places in the world. Sometimes when you do the treadling as we have in this sample, it is sometimes called "Kersey."

A Handsome Handbag, Woven In A Shadow Weave

One thing that most hand-weavers need to do is to develop their imagination more, and particularly, they should do this to help develop more and different uses for the outstanding fabrics they weave.

This piece of shadow weave has been utilized in a most interesting handbag.

And, I was delighted at the method of finishing, and then you will note that the small coin bag has been attached to the larger bag, by means of a braid, which is part of the finishing technique used in the making of a very striking handbag.

This was part of the booth display of the Diablo Handweavers Guild, which is a guild I believe somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This bag was woven by Orla Poindexter, a member of the Diablo Weavers Guild.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$6.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

HOW TO KNOW THE LICHENS

By Mason Hale, is an outstanding study of the many different types of Lichens. It has just been reprinted, and has excellent photographs, descriptions and details about the many various lichens found in the U.S.A. and elsewhere. This spiral bound paper back edition is \$6.95 plus postage. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

FOUR HARNESS HUCK

By Evelyn Neher. This outstanding study of 4 harness huck weaves is available once again. It is an outstanding study of one special weave with many, many uses. \$7.95 plus postage from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

WARP WITH A PADDLE AND BEAM WITHOUT PAPER

By Lucille Landis is an excellent study on using a warping paddle, with excellent step-step photographs. Clearly and expertly described, the use of this equipment, and it is clearly written and also explained on photographs. Price is \$5.00 plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore., 97128.

AMERICAN SPINNING WHEELS

By D. Pennington and M. Taylor. An excellent study on many of the different styles of spinning wheels used in our early colonial days. There are excellent almost full page photographs of 34 of these different early spinning wheels, and then pages of pictures of other accessories used in hand-spinning. Price \$5.00 plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore., 97128.

DRESSING THE LOOM

By Ida Grae. Outstanding in it's clarity, with beautiful full page pictures, this book teaches the traditional method of warping a loom with a warping reel, and using the raddle. Price is \$5.00 plus postage. Robin and Russ Handwavers, 533 No. Adams Street., McMinnville, Ore 97128.

DREAM WHITE, SINGLE PLY, FINE WOOL, ROVING TYPE MATERIAL.

This 100% wool yarn came to us in this natural white color, and on about 2½ lb. cones. We can wind off ½ lb. tubes for you. It has about 1100 yards per lb., and is priced at \$6.00 per lb. Should be most interesting as a pattern thread in some overshots, as it would help accentuate any pattern. We have about 50 lbs. left. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore 97128.

THE PILE WEAVES

26 techniques and how to do them, by Jean Wilson just been revised and reprinted. Excellent step by step descriptions of each of the techniques. Price is \$9.95 plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore 97128.

DRAFTING AND DESIGNING FOR HANDWEAVERS

By Berta Frey, has also been reprinted in paperback. The paperback edition is \$5.95, and the hardbound edition is \$8.95, and this is an excellent text for the newer weavers who are very serious and want to learn more. Excellent as a project book for workshops and study groups. Robin & Russ, 533 North St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

2/10's and 3/10's metric count, BLEACHED WHITE SILK NOIL FROM SCOTLAND

One is a two ply with 2250 yards per lb. And we have it also in 3 ply with 1450 yards per lb. On cones of about ¾ to 1 ¼ lbs. each, the price is \$12.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

JUTE AND RAYON BLEND, SLUB YARN

We just purchased a large lot of this, as it does seem to be harder and harder to find. It has approximately 1500 yards per lb., can be used for warp or weft, and the price is good, at \$4.00 per lb. It came to us on 3 lb. cones. but we can wind off ½ pound tubes for you. Price per ½ lb. tube is \$2.00. Excellent for table linens, drapes, and other uses. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

6/2 SPUN RAYON WARP IN TWO COLORS, AT AN OUTSTANDING REASONABLE PRICE

This came on about 1½ to 2 lb. dyetex tubes, and has 2520 yards per lb. We have it available in two colors a sort of goldish tan, and also a light orange. A good tight twist, and excellent for warp or weft. It is slightly finer than a 5/2 or perle 5 cotton, and should be good warp at 15 ends or 16 ends per inch. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

TWO PLY, LAMB'S WOOL, ANGORA RABBIT, AND NYLON, for warp or weft

in a natural color. About the equivalent of a 14/2's worsted yarn in size, it is a two ply for warp or weft. It is 63% lamb's wool, 22% Angora, and 15% nylon. The price is a good one, at \$6.00 per lb. on about 2½ to 3 lb. cones. For lots of ½ lb. or 1 lb. or more it is \$3.40 per ½ lb. tube. This has about 3500 yards per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.
