

# warp and weft

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September 1979

## warp and weft

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### A Word from the Editor

Believe it or not, the September issue is going to the printers in August, a most unusual event.

And, there is a reason. Your editor is going on a long trip, to visit England, and then after England, to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Kyoto, and then to New Zealand and Australia. One of the reasons I'm going is to look for silk and other threads. And, the second reason is that I've been asked to lead a weaving tour to New Zealand and Australia next summer, and so I'm going to go in advance, and try to line up places to visit.

\* So, I've been working long hours to try and get caught up and get ahead for a little while, and I finished weaving the fabric for this month's sample today. Weaving for 7 hours on a Sunday is a little unusual, but I want this to go to the printers before I leave tomorrow.

It has been a busy and hectic time for many reasons. I've finally been working frantically on the multiple harness pattern book that I want to publish, and it is ready, and it will go to the printers the same day that I leave for England. It is a great relief to have this finished, and it will be ready as a book in October. It will contain 200 patterns featuring 5 to 12 harness weaves, and there is a photograph of all 200 patterns. It has been a lot of work, but at last, it is all done. We're delighted, as we will have some copies of this book in paperback, as well as having some hardbound editions prepared for us.

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And we're delighted to have several other books being printed. One of these is a little booklet with a basic explanation of 4 and 8 harness double weaves, and it will be in paperback. It is very well done, and is a quite clear and concise explanation of different techniques in double weaves.

And a little booklet that we are having reprinted is the one entitled "Painting Warps," by Hazel Farrow. It seems to be quite well done, and we are pleased to be able to publish these three items.

And, we've had a shipment of linen come in from Switzerland that I ordered about two years ago. It took about one year to obtain, spin and dye the linen for us; but then due to devaluation of the American dollar, it took me about another year to gather together the balance owed because of inflation. It is all paid for now, and has come in. It is two sizes, 2½ lea, slubby linen in 13 colors that we had dyed to order. And there also is some 6/2 linen in these same 9 colors.

The colors are quite outstanding, and we're delighted to finally have this problem settled, and now we get down to the business of using it, and weaving with it, to see just what we can do.

As business has been slow, the staff has been off for vacations at various times, and now they should be back on schedule.

And preparing for a trip such as I'm taking is quite exciting. I've written many letters to England, Scotland, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia; and it is most pleasing to have all of the response I've been having.

I have appointments with several silk suppliers and manufacturers, with a spinning wheel manufacturer, with shuttle and bobbin manufacturers, with linen and wool manufacturers, and others. It will be a busy trip, and sometimes I do think that anticipation is one of the most rewarding parts of such a trip.

So, I've gotten my camera out, and I hope that I can record some of the things

that I see, that I do, and that I visit to share with you in future issues.

So, without further wordiness, I'll visit with you again in October.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

## **This Month's Cover Photograph**

The cover photograph this month is an enlarged picture of a "crepe" weave that your editor did in a fine silk. It is an 8 harness weave that I wove for one of the past issues of *Drafts and Designs*, and it is one of the patterns that is in our new multiple harness book of 200 patterns.

Even though quite fine, this material was quite easy to weave, and presented no unusual problems.

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

We received a review copy of a basketry book which I think is very well done, and it is this that I want to tell you about this month. It is entitled "Contemporary Basketry," and was written by Sharon Robinson.

I must confess that I have made only one basket, and that long, long ago; so I'm by no means an authority on the subject. But, when a book has directions, pictures, and drawings as concise as this one, then I think it is an excellent book.

The author does cover both traditional and contemporary techniques, and teaches it with the use of excellent line drawings, and with excellent photographs both in color and black and white.

Sharon goes into details about the large variety of natural materials that are available, and explains how they are used. She also likes to and does illustrate many of the contemporary baskets using yarns, chenilles, feathers, barks, trees, and grasses.

The three major techniques explained by drawing and pictures are coiling, twining, and plaiting. She has tried to show you the traditional techniques, and then has incorporated the contemporary materials in the uses of these traditions.

The photographs are quite outstanding in this book, and many of them are so good that you can almost look at the many different baskets and tell how they are done.

There are 16 pages of color photographs also given in this book, and some feature coiling, twining, and plaiting, as well as the use of wild basket materials, and then some of the photos are of non-traditional basket techniques. There are many step-by-step procedures illustrated and explained; such as the many different stitches, the shaping of your basket, the different patterns used, and the different finishes you can use.

She has a section which explains the use and how to work with wild materials.

And the final portion of the book deals with non-traditional basket techniques such as bobbin lace, crochet, knotless netting, papermaking, stitchery, etc.

I think that I would be delighted to recommend this book to both beginners and advanced basket makers.

TITLE: CONTEMPORARY BASKETRY  
AUTHOR: Sharon Robinson  
PUBLISHER: Davis Publications, Inc.  
COST: \$13.95 plus shipping  
AVAILABLE: Direct from the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers.

## NATURE'S FANCY:

NATURALS IN LINEN, RAMIE, RAYON, AND JUTE, is what makes up this month's sample, in a simple, easy to do, 4 harness Twill.

### 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.

### THREADING DRAFT:

4	BB	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
3	BB	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
2		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	BB	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
1		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	BB	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

### KEY TO THREADS IN THE WARP:

B—16/2 Ramie, Dark Brown  
C—16/2 Ramie, Eggshell Natural  
A—18/2 Natural, W/S Barbour Linen  
O—20/2 Raw Grey, Swiss Linen  
X—10/2 Natural, D/S Scottish Linen

### WARP THREADS USED:

There are 5 threads used in the warp. Two of them are ramie in Eggshell Natural, and in Dark Brown in size 16/2 with 2400 yards per lb.

The other three threads are linen, and we've used 18/2 Wet Spun Barbour Linen, 20/2 Raw Grey, Swiss Linen, and 10/2 Natural D/S Scottish Linen.

### WEFT THREADS USED:

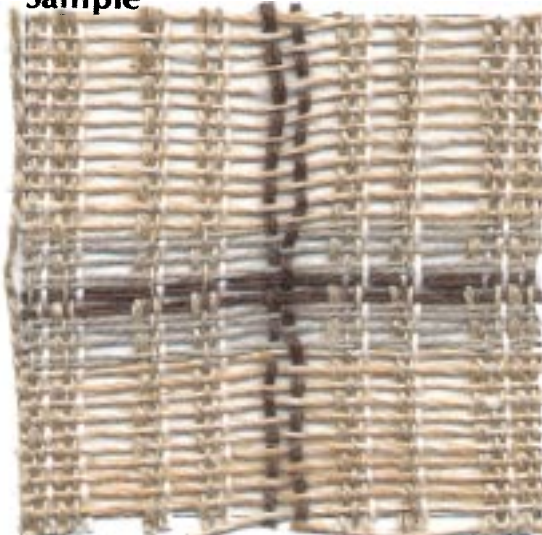
In the weft, we used 3 different threads. The main one is the Jute—and Rayon Combination thread, and the other two threads are the 16/2 Ramie in Fog Grey, and the 16/2 Ramie doubled on the bobbin in the Dark Brown.

### REED USED:

A 12 dent reed is used with a special sleying of the reed. This is the most important part, the sleying of the reed, so be sure to follow these directions carefully.

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### Sample



Starting with the right side of the threading draft, and reading to the left, I will give you the sleying as per this sample.

1. X & O in 1 dent.
2. A & C in 1 dent.
3. skip two (2) dents in the reed.
4. X & O & A & C—all 4 in one dent.
5. skip four (4) dents in the reed.
6. X & O in one (1) dent
7. A & C in one (1) dent
8. X & O in one (1) dent
9. A & C in one (1) dent
10. X & O in one (1) dent
11. A & C in one (1) dent
12. X & O in one (1) dent

13. A & C in one (1) dent
14. skip four (4) dents in the reed.
15. X & O & A & C—all 4 in one dent.
16. skip two (2) dents
17. X & O in one dent.
18. A & C in one (1) dent.
19. Skip three (3) dents in the reed.
20. B & B & B & B—all 4 in one dent.
21. Skip three (3) dents in the reed.
22. X & O in one dent.
23. A & C in one dent.
24. Skip 2 (two) dents in the reed.
25. X & O & A & C all in one dent.
26. Skip four (4) dents in the reed.
27. X & O in one (1) dent.
28. A & C in one (1) dent.
29. X & O in one (1) dent.
30. A & C in one (1) dent.
31. X & O in one (1) dent.
32. A & C in one (1) dent.
33. X & O in one (1) dent.
34. A & C in one (1) dent.
35. Skip four (4) dents in the reed.
36. X & O & A & C—all four in 1 dent.
37. Skip two (2) dents in the reed.
38. X & O in one (1) dent.
39. A & C in one (1) dent.
40. Skip three (3) dents.
41. B & B & B & B in one dent.
42. Skip three (3) dents.

End of one special slewing of the reed. One repeat is 66 dents in the reed, or 5½" wide.

#### **TREADLING SEQUENCE:**

1 to 24—treadle 5, 6, 5, 6, for 24 shots of jute and rayon

1, 5, 6, 5, 1, fog grey ramie

5, 6, in doubled dark brown ramie

1, 5, 6, 5, 1, fog grey ramie

End of one complete pattern repeat.

Repeat over and over as desired.

Note that there are 36 shots in one complete pattern repeat. Do repeat over and over as desired.

Also, note that all of the threads in the weft are used singly, except the 16/2 Ramie, dark brown, which we have doubled, or wound 2 ends together on one bobbin.

#### **MORE ABOUT THIS FABRIC:**

This fabric is easy to weave, and yet it isn't. The main problem we have with this is the fact that we have sometimes 4 threads in one dent, and sometimes 2 threads in one dent, and skipped dents. Sometimes, when there are 4 threads in the one dent, these do tend to stick together and not separate when you raise and lower the harnesses. That is because some of this linen which is dry-spun is more textured and clingy, even though it is considered a smooth thread. So, in order to compensate for this tendency to cling together, I throw the shuttle, beat, and change the shed to the next treadle, and give a quick double beat to help the threads to separate.

We did this, and if you are careful and deliberate in your weaving, surely, you should have almost no problems.

There is another thing that I want to mention that helped quite a bit. The jute and rayon yarn is fairly stiff. So, I folded up some tissue paper and put some of this paper in the shuttle underneath where the bobbin fits. I wrinkled this tissue paper up slightly, so it was uneven and would tend to drag against a bobbin of thread when it rubs against the tissue paper. This stops this bobbin from unwinding when you are not pulling on it, and as a result, the thread does not come off the end of the bobbin and wrap around the metal pirn or rod as much, and make it harder to weave. This I try to do whenever I'm using any stiff fiber, or any extremely slippery fiber in the weft. And, believe it or not, it works.

One can weave approximately one yard per hour on this fabric. But, that is for the experienced weaver. If you have not woven too much, I would say that it would take about 2 to 3 hours per yard to weave this. Remember, the more weaving you do, the easier it becomes, even for harder techniques and threads.

### **COST OF THE THREADS USED:**

We used the 16/2 Ramie in two colors in this fabric, and both the dark brown and the fog grey ramie are \$10.00 per lb., or \$2.50 per 4 oz. tube. It comes in 23 colors that we have stocked for several years; and we hope to do some designing with it in the future, and from this designing, perhaps we can have some samples for WARP AND WEFT or DRAFTS AND DESIGNS to share with you.

The 18/2 natural Irish Barbour Linen is on ½ kilo pieces, and it has about 2700 yards per lb. It is \$8.80 per lb.

The 20/2 raw grey linen from Switzerland has 3,000 yards per lb. It also is \$8.80 per lb., but we have a new shipment on order from Switzerland, and we do not know what the new cost will be.

The 10/2 natural, dry spun linen is from Scotland, has 1500 yards per lb., comes on about 1 lb. tubes, and is \$6.40 per lb.

In the weft, we used 3 threads, the 16/2 fog grey ramie, the 16/2 dark brown ramie, and also a jute and rayon blend slightly slubby yarn. It is \$4.00 per lb., and comes on about 3 lb. tubes.

### **COST OF THE FABRIC:**

In our warp, 14" long, and 43" wide, we used 13 oz. of the 2 colors of Ramie. We used 640 yards each of 10/2, 18/2, and 20/2 linens. We used 7 oz. of the 10/2 linen, 4 oz. of the 18/2 linen, and 5 oz. of the 20/2 linen. So, our total warp cost for the 14 yards of warp was \$16.43, or the cost per yard comes to \$1.18.

In the weft, we used 2 lbs. 12 oz. of the jute and rayon blend yarn, and we used 5 oz. of fog grey ramie, and 11 oz. of the dark brown ramie, which was doubled in the weft. So our total weft cost was \$21.00. We used or received 13 yards 6 inches of finished fabric from this warp, so the cost per yard is \$1.62 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD, 40" wide	\$1.18
WEFT COST PER YARD, 38" fin.	<u>1.62</u>
TOTAL COST OF FABRIC per yard	\$2.80

### **SOURCE OF IDEA FOR THIS SAMPLE**

In our recent workshop with Malin Selander, I kept noticing that in almost all of her samples, she used 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, or even as many as 10 or 12 different threads in the warp. Sometimes they would be different colors, and sometimes they would be different shades of natural.

We do not do too much with this type of warp in the U.S.A., so I thought that after the workshop I would experiment more with this technique and see what would come out of it.

And I particularly liked the warp she had of the four different natural linen or ramie threads, along with some dark brown ramie; so after the workshop, I took some of the warps that were left, and started re-arranging them in the reed, and using entirely different threads in the weft than what Malin Selander suggested.

This particular warp is exactly the same as one of her warps, only she had it threaded one per dent in a 12 dent reed.

I resleyed the reed and started experimenting. I came up with an outstanding sample, and you will have it featured in a future issue.

However, at home I'm in need of many yards of drapes for our new home; so I kept thinking that if I opened it up even more in the warp and tried an entirely different weft thread, we might come up with something pleasing. So, again, I re-reeded the loom, experimented and did not like it; so I re-reeded the loom still another time, grouping the threads more: and eureka, I felt I had hit the jackpot. I was very delighted with the results, and they are featured in this month's issue.

It will be something very similar to this that I will weave for the drapes for my room in our new home.

#### 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.

#### WANTED BY CLOISTERED NUNS.

Old shuttles, patterns, books, magazines, left over yarns, and other items for weaving on floor loom. Carmelite Monastery, P.O. Box 785, Flemington, New Jersey 08822.

#### 2½ LEA, SLUBBY LINEN FROM SWITZERLAND

Yes, we have 13 colors in this most interesting yarn. This is from the only firm we can find anywhere that makes a true slub linen. This is 2½ lea size, has 750 yards per lb., and it is \$9.60 per lb. Makes the most beautiful mats, table-cloths, etc. And we paid extra for the best dyes available, and the colors are exciting. If interested, write for a free sample sheet, as we are making these up now. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 6/2 COLORED LINENS FROM SWITZERLAND

We have these in 11 colors, and it too is dyed with the best dyes available. This has 900 yards per lb., and is good warp at 8 or 10 per inch. Works nicely with the 2½ lea slub linen listed above. Excellent for table linens, for patio and outdoor use, and probably good for macrame. It is on about 1 lb. 1 oz. tubes, and the price is \$9.60 lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### THE TECHNIQUE OF TORCHON LACE

by Pam Nottingham is enroute to us from England. We will be distributors for this book. It will retail at \$16.95 and should be here by late September at the latest. Looks like an excellent book from the preview of the copy I saw. Postage or shipping will be extra. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 200 PATTERNS FOR MULTIPLE HARNESS LOOMS

Has a photograph of each of the 200 different patterns, plus the threads used, and the tie-up, treadling, and threading. It is a new book being published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, and features patterns from 5 to 12 harnesses. This book is at the printers now, and will be back in about 6 weeks. We will have it available in both paperback edition, and also a hardbound or cloth bound edition. Price has not been determined yet, but should be about \$8.00 to \$10.00 for the paperback and slightly more for the cloth bound edition. Available in late October, and pre-publication orders are being taken. This book will feature 20 years of patterns from our multiple harness monthly bulletin, DRAFTS AND DESIGNS. Available from: Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### NATURAL BOUCLE\*\*FLAKE COTTON

Available in natural only, this flake-boucle thread is a very nice novelty cotton. It should work excellently in weft for towels, and also be good in drapes and upholstery, and many, many other uses. It has 1750 yards per lb., came on about 2 lb. cones, and is priced at \$4.80 per lb. A very nice thread at this price. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### A HEATHER, SPACE-DYED, BROWN, GREEN & GREY, SINGLE PLY WOOL.

We are weaving a sample for Warp and Weft, with this, and it is most beautiful. It came on cones of 2 to 2½ lb. cones, and seems to have about 1200 yards per lb. We have combined it with a 2/18's worsted. Price is \$6.00 per lb., plus shipping. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### FLUFFY & SOFT, LINEN & RAYON BLEND

A most interesting yarn. It has a sort of beige background, with fluffy flecks of linen. Yardage is 4800 yards per lb., and should be excellent for drapery and upholstery. It came on 3 lb. 8 oz. cones, but we can wind off ½ lb. for you. Price is \$4.80 per lb. About 1000 lbs. available. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 12 FOLD, BLEACHED WHITE LINEN

This is 12 ends wound together to make one thread, and it is an excellent weft thread. Can be handled for warp if carefully done. Has 1600 yards per lb., and is available on ½ lb. tubes. Price is \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 5 CUT, CHENILLE, IN 16 COLORS.

Slightly heavier than usual, this 5 cut polypropylene chenille is available in some very nice colors. Available on ½ lb. tubes, the price is \$2.40 per tube. There are limited amounts of some of these colors, and larger amounts of others. It was either stock all the colors or none of them. You'll like these colors. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### DREAM WHITE, SLIGHTLY TWISTED, FINE SINGLE PLY WOOL ROVING

It is elegantly soft, has approximately 1100 yards per pound, and is a fine weight roving. It is the equivalent of a 2/1's worsted, and it is \$6.00 per lb. Can be used in the weft, and perhaps in the warp if mixed with other threads. ½ lb. tubes are available. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA ON A WEAVING TOUR IN AUGUST, 1980

If you are interested, send us your name and address, and we'll send you a travel folder as soon as they are ready in the beginning of the new year, 1980. Send your name and address to Robin & Russ for your brochure on this interesting weaving tour.

#### 5½" and 7" LENGTH PLASTIC BOBBINS

We had these made to order for us in Italy and are really pleased with them. Price is \$5.00 per dozen, or 50¢ each, in less than 1 dozen lots. These two lengths are what we've needed for a long time. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 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.

