

# warp and weft

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January, 1982

## warp and weft

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### A Word from the Editor

Janice finished the tartan for this month's sample, and she now has an interesting honeycomb weave in process, and said she would finish it in about 3 days, so yes, progress is being made.

Also, some of you from the Southwest might be interested. There is going to be a first conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the state of New Mexico, and I will have a booth there to display many of our old and new threads. This is on the 27th and 28th of February, and will be a busy time.

We are going to try and have a display of both books, and yarns, so I will pull a trailer to Albuquerque, and will leave on the 21st or 22nd for the 4 day drive to that conference. It seems as though this is one of our most active customer areas in the U.S.A., and this is the reason why I'm going to attend.

Hopefully, we might be able to get the February issue of Warp and Weft written before I leave. I will try to do so, so that we will be closer to being caught up.

All of a sudden, business has picked up for us, and I couldn't be more delighted. Maybe this increase is due to the fact that we mailed out about 10,000 sample sheets to try and stimulate business. We feel that this has helped quite a bit, and with a little increase, in business, I'm not so discouraged as I was.

We are still finding some nice yarns in the boxes that came in two weeks ago. There are some rayon boucles in this, which are quite nice. One of the manufacturers, in order to obtain a very deep, rich purple, first ordered the thread dyed black, and then they re-dyed it purple, and this is one of the colors I liked so well.

We just received a new shipment of about 200 lbs. of a silk noil, heavier than we have been having in the past. This does keep going up and up in price and now, we have to sell this one for \$12.00 per lb.

We are behind in Draft and Designs, but do have a beautiful sample in progress, and am sure that all of the subscribers will like it.

We have in, about 10 new colors in luminex, shimmerette. This is the fine metallic boucle. We have 10 new colors of it just in on 500 yard tubes, and it is now \$2.50 per tube. And, we also have the new, 4 ply, supported 1/69th metallic in 6 colors now.

So, you can see there is always something going to keep us busy and active. Yesterday, Sunday, Robin and I went and delivered a loom about 50 miles from McMinnville, and the drive was so beautiful. It was some country side we had not seen before, and we found one of the prettiest covered bridges we have ever seen. It had very nice windows framed on each side of the bridge, and this was the first one I had ever seen of this type.

I should tell you about a funny coincidence that happened in November on my trip to England.

We stock in about 45 colors in a nice 2 ply tapestry wool from Scotland. We purchase this from Scotland, and have many of the colors dyed to order for us.

On a Saturday, in England, I went with my host, Jack Womersley to pay bills, to visit the open air-market, etc. At the gas company while Mr. Womersley was paying his bill, a man said hello, and Mr.

Womersley introduced me to him, and said that he was in charge of a factory, spinning yarns for nearby woolen mills. Later that evening, I showed him our yarn samples, and he looked at the tapestry wool samples I had, and he said that it looked like the tapestry wool we stock. I told him where I purchased it, and he asked the current price. I told him, and the next day, he presented me a sample of the same identical yarn, and quoted me a price on it. It was \$1.50 lower than I had been paying, so, the next time I order it, I will be able to save a little. He also offered to dye it for us, so you see, it is sometimes a small world. The only problem at that time was that I had just about 4 days earlier, ordered at least 10 colors, and about 500 lbs. of the yarn.

It will be coming in March 15th in a container from England.

This is the reason why I do like to purchase yarns in England. Many times, I can purchase direct from the manufacturer, and as a result have a better price, and so I can sell it at less.

Also in England, I had a chance to visit a most interesting museum. We have published a book entitled "Thomas Lester, his lace and the East Midlands Lace Industry." I went into this small private museum in Bedford, England and to my surprise and pleasure, there was a complete exhibition of every bit of the old, antique bobbin lace that was featured in the book we published with the English publisher. Thomas Lester had a lace shop and sold this hand-made lace and designed many patterns, and had many persons in the town of Bedford who made lace and sold it to him. When a customer would be very pleased, Mr. Lester would present a special bone or ivory bobbin lace bobbin to the person who had made it for him. I went and saw in a private home, a most wonderful collection of antique bobbin lace bobbins, all with names or date, etc., and one of them was one that had been presented by Thomas Lester. I wanted to

purchase it in the most way, until I heard the price. It was selling for 60 English pounds, which was a little over \$120 for the one bobbin. Needless to say, I passed it up, and I did purchase about 30 of the antique bone and ivory bobbins with names on them.

I paid about \$20 to \$30 each for these fine examples of antique bobbins, and ended up with about 25 of them. I now wonder if I will ever sell them, as that is what I did purchase them for. I thought that they would come in duty-free from England as antiques, and that I would not have to pay duty on them. However customs asked if I was going to sell them, and I said yes. Then, I had to pay duty on them. So, my \$666 worth of antique bobbins ended up costing almost \$750. I also found about 5 ancient patterns, on the original paper they used. Two of them were even on something that looks like leather, and they are so interesting.

Well, I've meandered back and forth this month, so enough for now, and see you next month.

*Russell E. Groff, Editor*

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

This tapestry was displayed at the Northern California Handweavers Conference in 1979. It was part of the excellent tapestry exhibit at this conference, and this piece was woven by Marilyn Geller.

I was greatly intrigued by the perspective that you see in this photograph.

It was hung the opposite way, if I am not mistaken, and I have often wondered if it should not have been hung the way we are displaying it on the cover of this month's issue of Warp and Weft.

In any event, no matter which way it was intended to be hung, I thought it was one of the most beautifully woven pieces in the exhibit. This was displayed at the 26th Annual Northern California Handweavers Conference in San Mateo, California.

## The “Douglas” Tartan

This particular “Scottish Tartan,” is considered the oldest of the “Douglas” Tartans. The origin of the Douglas clan is not known, although they were prominent in the borders in about 1200. This is one of their tartans.

### 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.

4	A	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C	A	B
3	A	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C	A	B
2	A	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	W	G	G	G	C	C	C	C	A	B
1	A	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	W	G	G	G	C	C	C	C	A	B

### KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

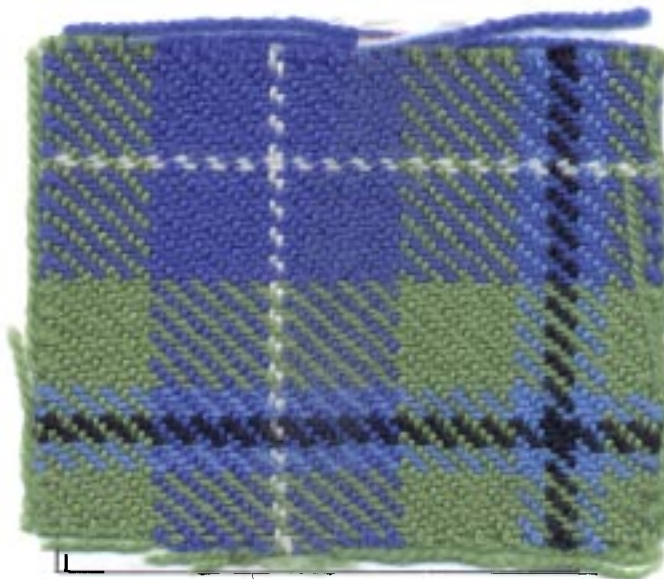
B-2/18’s Worsted, #9, black  
A-2/18’s worsted, #10, porcelain blue  
C-2/18’s worsted, #13, chantilly green  
G-2/18’s worsted, #6, grenadier blue  
W-2/18’s worsted, #11, bleached white

### Notes About The Threading Draft:

Please note that one complete repeat of this tartan has 82 threads in it, and it is balanced at both ends, starting and ending with 4 threads of black. However for loom purposes, you give a draft of 78 threads only, as when you start over you have 4 threads of black at the beginning, and if you had it at the end also, then you would have a block of 8 threads of black instead of just four. So, in our 78 thread draft, we start with 4 black, and end with 4 porcelain blue, so, when you repeat the pattern over, this balances the pattern.

### WARP:

Our warp is the 2/18’s worsted in the tartan colors, which we have dyed and spun to order for us in England. It has 5,040 yards per lb., comes on about 1/2 lb. tubes, we have 39 colors on hand, and it is \$16.00 per lb.



The colors in the warp are:  
B-color #9, black 2/18’s  
A-color #10, porcelain blue 2/18’s  
C-color #13, chantilly green 2/18’s  
G-color #6, grenadier blue  
W-color #11, bleached white 2/18’s

### WEFT:

The same 5 colors that are used in the warp, are also used in the weft.

## REED USED:

A 12 dent reed was used, and it was double-sleyed, 2 ends per dent, or 24 threads per inch.

## TREADLING SEQUENCE:

The treadling sequence is a 1, 2, 3, 4 progression on a 2/2 twill. And the sequence of colors is exactly the same as you have it in the threading draft. I will give the progression of colors, and just remember that it is 1, 2, 3, 4 treadling all the time. Also, you should please note that every other repeat of the tartan, the position of your threads will vary on the 1, 2, 3, 4 sequence, because there are 78 threads in one pattern repeat, and this is not divisible by four. I'm sure that you know what I mean, but I will give an example. There are two shots of white 2/18's, and the first time, they might be on treadle #1 and 2. The next time you weave them on the next repeat, they will be on treadles 3 and 4, etc. The third time, they will be back to 1 & 2, and then back to 3 & 4.

- 4 threads of black
- 4 threads of porcelain blue
- 16 threads of chantilly green
- 16 threads of grenadier blue
- 2 threads of white
- 16 threads of grenadier blue
- 16 threads of chantilly green
- 4 threads of porcelain blue

Repeat from the beginning, over and over, treadling 1, 2, 3, 4. On your last repeat to balance your tartan, end with 4 threads of black.

## SOME NOTES ABOUT THE DOUGLAS TARTAN:

Nothing is known about the clan Douglas before 1200. However, starting at that time, they were quite prominent in Scottish History.

They were followers of Robert the Bruce, the famous Scottish warrior who claimed the Scottish throne, through marriage and fighting for it.

One of the Douglas's was fighting the Moors in Spain, and he was killed while he was carrying the "heart" of Robert the Bruce, in battle.

One of the Douglas clan was the regent of Scotland, in the 1570's, and the family was prominent in Scottish history until about 1750 or thereabouts. You do not see much mentioned about them in Scottish history after that period. However, during this 500 to 600 year period, they were active in all parts of Scottish and some of the English history.

This tartan was quite easy to weave, and Janice, my daughter set-it-up and wove it within a week. Also, with the 2/12's worsted at 24 ends per inch, it makes a nice, soft, and yet durable fabric.

This fabric should be washed in lukewarm water, allowed to drip dry, and then steamed pressed before making up into clothing. It should be excellent for tartan skirts, vests, ties, and the traditional uses of the tartan fabric.

We took this pattern from the book, *The Setts of the Scottish Tartans*, by Donald C. Stewart, and this has some 260 tartans, with a color gamp of each of the tartans, and a thread count of the number of threads in each tartan, and the colors used in each tartan.

I studied some of the history of this clan in the 2 books: *The Clans and Tartans of Scotland*, by Robert Bain, and also the book, "*The Highland Clans*" by Moncreiffe of that Ilk and David Hicks. This book is out of print, and we were able to obtain about 10 copies, which are selling at one half of their regular price. They are \$14.95.

*The Setts of the Scottish Tartans* is out of print in the USA, and we have just purchased and will distribute the last 300 copies of this book in print. They are enroute from England, and they sell at the regular price of \$25.00 per copy.

The book *The Clans and Tartans of Scotland*, by Robert Bain, has been reprinted six times, and it is now \$14.95.

## THIS MONTH'S BOOK REVIEW:

A new book, written by two New Zealanders, and published by a USA publisher is the one entitled "*The Woolcraft Book*," by Constance Jackson and Judith Plowman. This covers the subjects of spinning, dyeing, and weaving of wool.

This seems like an excellent book. It is well illustrated, and the two authors said that they did not write this book just for use in New Zealand, but that they wrote it for spinners, dyers, and weavers from all over the world to use.

It is a very thorough book, as the first part deals with spinning wheels, tells how to buy one and what to look for in a spinning wheel, and I must say, I feel it is very thorough. For instance, it tells you what to look for in a spinning wheel such as woodwork, treadling, moving parts, alignment, orifice, flyer, bobbins, bearings, wheel grooves, and tension systems, and extras, and demonstrations on a wheel before you buy one.

Then, it tells how the wheel works, has illustrations of many different kinds and parts, tells you how to care for a wheel, and goes on and on into the essential details one should know when buying or maintaining a spinning wheel, while they are using it. They discuss and illustrate many other pieces of equipment, tell their functions, and explain how they work. Then, they go and discuss the world of wool, telling you what to look for in a fleece, discusses the qualities of the various wools, and it has illustrated many different qualities of wool; how to prepare it for the spinning process, how to card, the problems one encounters in carding, and then they start into the "Learning to Spin Chapter." What I like is that the illustrations are so clear, and the directions are so well written, that I feel that anyone with this book, could teach themselves how to spin. After spinning, they go into the problems of plying and weaving with this wool.

There is a most interesting section on knitting with hand-spun wools, and details for planning a sweater completely.

Directions are given for the spinning of many different types of threads, woolens, worsteds, and novelties, and it seems to be very, very thorough.

Another portion of the book is devoted to dyeing, and covers many different fields such as plant dyes, mordants, items needed for dyeing, preparing plants, and other needed information.

The last section of the book is devoted to weaving, to purchasing a loom, to setting up a loom, and several very nice projects are given for the beginning weaver, and details about using handspun yarns for both warp and weft.

There is a good glossary on weaving terms, a good book list for the 3 crafts, a chart classifying the sheep of Australia, of England, of America, and of Africa.

This is a thorough and interesting book.

TITLE: *The Woolcraft Book*, Spinning, Dyeing, Weaving.

AUTHOR: Constance Jackson & Judith Plowman

PUBLISHER: Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, New York

PRICE: \$24.95 plus shipping & handling

AVAILABLE: From publishers or from Robin & Russ Handweavers

### New Zealand and Australia in June, 1982

Don't forget that your editor is hoping to lead a weaving and spinning tour for about 24 days to New Zealand and Australia in June, 1982. We leave on June 10 and will return July 4. A color brochure with the day-by-day itinerary is now available, and we will be glad to send you one upon hearing from you.



#### 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.

#### 8/2 WORSTED SPUN, 70% WOOL, 30% NYLON

This yarn is extremely strong, and is excellent warp at 16-24 per inch. We are weaving a fabric at 20 epi right now. It has 2240 yards per lb. We have natural, and about 12 other colors. Price is \$6.80 per lb. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for samples of the natural and colors. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 4 PLY, SUPPORTED SHIMMERETTE METALLIC IN GOLD, SILVER, LIGHT GREEN, DARK GREEN, AND ROYAL BLUE

Available on 4 oz. tubes, 1050 yards per tube. This is the 1/69th supported metallic, which we had 4 plied. It can be used for warp or weft. Price for the 4 oz. tube is \$4.95, or we also have some 2 oz. tubes of 525 yards each, for \$2.95 per tube. About 4 different shades of gold are available also. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### RAYON SEED YARNS IN ABOUT 10 COLORS

Seemingly always popular this rayon seed yard comes on cones or tubes varying from about 1 lb. to 2½ lbs. each. It has about 1500 yards per lb., and is \$4.80 per lb. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for free samples. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### SINGLE PLY, NATURAL SILK NOIL

We call this one Banana Bread Silk Noil. It has 2050 yards per lb., and came to us on about 3 lb. cones. The price is \$9.60 per lb. It is highly textured, and we can wind off 1/2 lb. or a 1 lb. tube for those who do not want 3 lbs. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128

#### COTTON LACE, KNOTTY NATURAL

This is a new, natural cotton lace. It is a fine, soft-twist, cotton with 1200 yards per lb, on about 1½ lb. cones. It is \$6.00 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### FLAKE RAYON BOUCLE, CALLED CREAM PUFF, IN ABOUT 8 COLORS

Not enough of a stock of the colors to make a sample sheet, but the colors are rich, and we will make a special individual sheet for your reference. It has approximately 1600 yards per lb., would be nice in skirts, blouses, dresses, on a 20/2 Egyptian cotton. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### TWO COTTON BOUCLES. GEMINI GOLD, AND CELADON YELLOW GREEN

These have 2400 yards per lb., would be excellent in towels, and are all cotton. Both are \$4.80 per lb., and it came on 2 to 2½ lb. cones. We can wind off either 1/2lb. or 1 lb. tubes for you. Also a very heavy GOLD, GOLD, COTTON BOUCLE, at \$4.80 lb. About 600 to 700 yards per lb., in skeins. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### LIGHT MAGENTA RAYON CHENILLE, 8 CUT

This one has about 960 yards per lb., can be wound off onto 1/2 lb. or 1 lb. tubes. Price is \$6.80 per lb. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### FINE, ROUND METALLIC ANTIQUE GOLD GIMP

This very fine metallic gimp is one I was quoted at \$80.00 per lb. last September. I was able to locate a small odd lot of 15 lbs. of this, and I asked for it to be put on 1/2 lb. spools. Can be used for warp or weft. Price is \$10.00 per spool. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### SUPPORTED GOLD METALLIC WITH A BLACK SUPPORTING BINDER

This one is quite heavy, almost round, and can be used for warp or weft. It looks like 2 supported metallics twisted together. On about 10 oz. spools, price is \$12.00 per pound. Only about 20 lbs. available. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 4/4 NATURAL CARPET WARP

In stock on about 2 lb. cones. Excellent for wall hangings, rugs, tapestries. Twice as heavy as regular carpet warp. Natural only. Price is \$4.80 per lb. by the cone, or \$2.40 per 1/2 lb. tube. Robin & Russ, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### 5/2 SPUN RAYON IN BEACHED WHITE AND IN BLACK

Excellent for warp and weft. It has about 2100 yards per lb., and is excellent for warp or weft. Price is \$4.80 per lb. while it lasts. Limited amounts available. Also available in a bright orange gold and in a light blue in lesser quantities. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

#### CELADON GREEN 16/2 UNMERCERIZED COTTON

This light greyed green cotton is a soft twist cotton, and should be usable for warp or weft. It is on sale at \$4.80 per lb. I discovered another box of it, so we have about 100 lbs. on hand. This is a color that should blend well with naturals and beiges. On about 1 lb. 2 oz. cones or slightly less. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### BEAUTIFUL, EXOTIC WOOD DOUBLE-FORK TYPE TAPESTRY BEATERS

Prices are from \$8.50 to \$10.50, and they have about 5 or 6 teeth at one end like a fork and at the other end about 25 to 30 teeth, like a wide fork. A most beautiful finish on these exotic wood tapestry forks. ROBIN & RUSS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

#### WHITE DELIGHT DRALON ACRYLIC FIBER FROM ENGLAND.

It is a 2-ply yarn with a flake and spiral twist, and we have one box left out of 2,000 pounds. Price is \$6.00 per lb., on about 1-lb. cones, and it has been very popular in mats. Many persons who ordered it once re-ordered it because their response to the mats from this was so great. It has about 475 to 500 yards per pound, and it is white. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

