

warp and weft

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Volume XXV, No. 3 March, 1982

Instead of a word from the editor, our staff has asked if they could write this column this month, so here it is:

A Word from the Staff

Well, we believe spring has finally sprung here in sunny McMinnville, Oregon. It makes it easier to get up in the morning and get ourselves here to work, where we go through another day of serving our customers around the United States and up in Canada.

It has been a new and exciting experience to work with people in other parts of the country. Each of us here at Robin and Russ has our "personal customers," and we get to know them a little more than the rest, and it does help to make life and work a little more interesting. Some of us have even picked up "pen pals."

The shipment from England is finally in the process of being opened, examined, and stored in the bins in the shop. In fact, it was just yesterday that we had the pleasure of going through the new yarns at the warehouse. It shouldn't be too long until we have these yarns on the shelves, and we already have put about 40 cartons away on the shelves in the shop. We will soon have some of these yarns on sample sheets and out to you, so you, too, can enjoy them. There are some very nice silk noils and also some unique wool tweeds that we are sure you will love.

We had a little bit of a scare this last week. UPS was threatening to go on strike, which really left us in a bind since 95% of our packages are sent by UPS. We had to send everything by Parcel Post this week. This is quite a bit more expensive and takes more time in getting to you. But they straightened things out this morning and called us to let us know that things are once again rolling smoothly and we can begin again to send our packages to all zones.

Our mail order business has really slowed down in the last couple of weeks, unfortunately. It has given us a chance to catch up on a few other things that needed to be done, but we're hoping that it picks up very soon, since all of us here like our jobs. We are working hard on getting the mailing list out, as that always seems to pick up business a bit.

More and more of our staff are learning to weave these days. So that, in turn, will be of help in getting *WARP AND WEFT* and *DRAFTS AND DESIGNS* out more quickly than we have been able to do so in the past. All of us are enjoying learning to weave, and appreciate having Mr. Groff and Janice take time out of their busy schedule to teach us.

We hope that you enjoy this issue's sample, as we think it is a most interesting one.

Until next month, Happy Weaving!!!

The Staff

This Month's Cover Photograph

Some beautiful clothing was featured at the 1982 Northern California Handweavers Conference held in Sacramento. This jacket was woven by Pamela Espinoza of the Carmel Crafts Guild and was very striking. It is called an Ikat Hapari jacket. This was woven of silk, sett at 18 ends per inch, and it is a "crepe weave." The braids used are called Selentre braids, and it was dyed violet with ciba dyes.

There were many other outstanding pieces of clothing and many other striking items. In future issues, we will share some of these with you.

This Month's Book Review

There is a new "Swedish" weaving book with the text in Swedish that is very popular. It is a book on clothing, and I think that everyone who looks at it likes these hand-woven clothing styles. It is entitled *VAVA VARDAGS KLADER*, which literally translated means weaving yardages for clothing. It was written by Maj-Britt Engstrom and Eva Stephenson-Moller.

I have enjoyed this book for several reasons. One is that there usually is a black and white photograph of the fabric being modeled, and in many cases there is also a color photograph, and sometimes there are two black and white photos showing different views of the clothing on the model. And it also gives a diagram showing the layout of the piece of fabric you have to weave, and then a drawing of the fabric you are going to make from this weaving.

It gives the warp, weft, treadling, threading, width of fabric, and all of the necessary details.

Remember, though, the text is in Swedish, so you have to learn about 20 words of Swedish to figure out all of the details.

There are 20 color photographs of some of these garments.

Also, some of the projects are shown woven and being modeled by both mother and daughter, and also by the father and son.

This comes only in a hard-bound edition, and it is \$18.95. For those of you who like to weave clothes, I think you will appreciate this book.

TITLE: *VAVA VARDAGS KLADER*

AUTHORS: Maj-Britt Engstrom

Eva Stephenson-Moller

PRICE: \$18.95 plus shipping & handling

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ Handweavers

A Second Book Review For This Month

There has become such a great interest in dyeing that I thought you might like to hear of this book entitled *SYNTHETIC DYES FOR NATURAL FIBERS*, by Linda Knutson.

I must confess that I have not been very much interested in dyeing, but this book does help stimulate that interest. The author, Linda Knutson, is a weaver, and a hand-spinner, and this book is the result of wanting colors for her weaving and also for her hand-spun yarn.

She states that she started using synthetic dyes because she discovered that these were the dyes that gave her the colors that she wanted. She found very little written information on the dyes, so she converted her kitchen to a laboratory, and discovering that synthetic dyes are different than others, she then proceeded to make her own color recipes, and she expanded her efforts so that she could produce any color from just five primaries. She said that the range of colors she could create was incredible, and that all of the new colors she developed could be reproduced. This gave her an incredible range of colors or an unlimited color palette.

She states her system is economical and it shows how to:

- A. dye small amounts of fiber,
- B. buy synthetic dyes in small quantities,
- C. work in the kitchen with household utensils or inexpensive equipment.

She does cover the complete range in her book, explaining about fiber and dye chemistry; the protein fiber dyes; the cellulose fiber dyes; she explains about preparing for dyeing and gives the procedure she uses. She has a most interesting chapter on color; another chapter on the metric system and why she prefers it for dyeing, and related details.

She suggests where you should begin and has a chapter on this, and how you should evaluate your work, and how to explore with some of these dyes, etc.

(continued on page 5)

VICUNA TAN AND NATURAL

This most interesting sample of a log cabin weave should make a beautiful material for sport coats, tailored suits, and skirts.

THREADING DRAFT:

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

KEY TO COLORS IN THE WARP:

O - Color #8, 2/18's natural worsted
X - Color #38, 2/18's vicuna tan

WARP:

There are two threads used in the warp, and they are both 2/18's worsted yarn, which we have spun and dyed to order in England.

The second color in the warp is the same 2/18's in color #8, natural scoured white; and the first color in the warp is the 2/18's in color #38, vicuna tan.

WEFT:

There are two threads used in the weft. One is the same 2/18's natural scoured white worsted, and the second thread is our blended yarn of 5% mohair, 15% wool, and 80% acrylic yarn. This is called "crane white," had about 3200 yards per pound, and makes a nice weft thread. It was doubled on the bobbin, two ends being wound together.

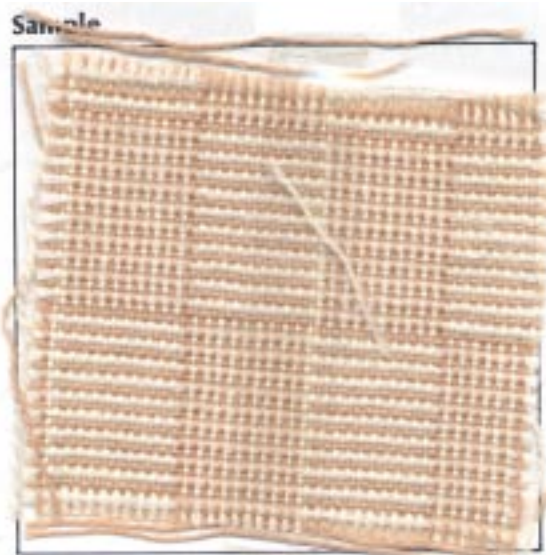
REED USED:

A 15-dent reed was used, and it was double sleyed, two ends per dent, or 30 ends per inch.

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.



TREADLING SEQUENCE:

Please note that in the treadling, the natural white, mohair-wool-acrylic blend was doubled, two ends on one bobbin.

Also, please note that there are 42 shots of weft in one complete pattern repeat.

Treadled:

1. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
2. Treadle B—white, doubled
3. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
4. Treadle B—white, doubled
5. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
6. Treadle B—white, doubled

7. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
8. Treadle B—white, doubled
9. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
10. Treadle B—white, doubled
11. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
12. Treadle B—white, doubled
13. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
14. Treadle B—white, doubled
15. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
16. Treadle B—white, doubled
17. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
18. Treadle B—white, doubled
19. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
20. Treadle B—white, doubled
21. Treadle A—2/18's vicuna tan
22. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
23. Treadle A—white, doubled
24. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
25. Treadle A—white, doubled
26. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
27. Treadle A—white, doubled
28. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
29. Treadle A—white, doubled
30. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
31. Treadle A—white, doubled
32. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
33. Treadle A—white, doubled
34. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
35. Treadle A—white, doubled
36. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
37. Treadle A—white, doubled
38. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
39. Treadle A—white, doubled
40. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan
41. Treadle A—white, doubled
42. Treadle B—2/18's vicuna tan

End of one complete pattern repeat. Repeat over and over as desired. It is very easy to make the blocks more square rather than rectangular by eliminating some parts of your treadling.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

Our warp was 40" wide on the loom, and we had a 15-yard warp. From this warp, we received 13¾ yards of finished fabric.

Also, in doubling the brushed mohair-wool-acrylic blend, we wound from two

cones, and had no problems. It seemed to cling together very well, and we had no slack or loops as problems in the weaving of this fabric.

We used a firm, even double beat, and you do beat with the shed open, change to the next shed, beat, throw shuttle, beat, change to the next shed, beat, etc.

COST OF THE THREADS USED, AND FABRIC:

The 2/18's worsted does come in 39 colors, has approximately 5,000 yards per pound, and most of the cones are about ½ pound or slightly less. It is priced at \$16.00 per pound.

The combination of mohair, wool, and acrylic thread in the natural white is \$8.00 per pound. It has about 3200 yards per pound and came on about 2½-pound cones. Yes, we can wind off ½ pound or one-pound cones of this one.

In our warp, it took 3 3/5 lbs. of the 2/18's for warp. So, our total warp cost for 15 yards, 40" wide, was \$57.60, and the cost per yard came to \$3.84.

In the weft, we used 1 lb. 1 oz. of the 2/18's worsted vicuna tan, and 2 lbs. 2 oz. of the blend of wool, mohair, and acrylic. Our total weft cost came to \$34.00, and thus the cost per yard for the weft was \$2.49.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$3.84
WEFT COST PER YARD	2.49
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$6.33

2nd Book Review (continued from page 3)

There are 17 color photographs which feature dyeing yarns, handwoven materials, etc.

She tries to be practical and explains how to:

- A. how to find the right synthetic dyes,
- B. how to buy equipment and dyes from dealers used to dealing with home dyers,
- C. how to understand what happens in your dye-pot,

D. how to make the necessary amount of dye for the amount of fiber you have,

E. how to rate lightfastness, washfastness, and other advantages and also disadvantages of specific dyes.

She also has two charts with step-by-step procedures which you can use while you are experimenting and working with your dyeing.

There is an excellent glossary, and also a list of sources of where you can purchase the dyes and accessories you need.

TITLE: *SYNTHETIC DYES FOR NATURAL FIBERS*

AUTHOR: Linda Knutson

PUBLISHER: Madrona Publishers, Seattle

COST: \$16.95 plus shipping and handling

AVAILABLE: Robin & Russ, or from the publishers.

This Month's Second Project

For a second project this month, I'm suggesting weaving a men's scarf, in a tartan or plaid.

Warp is 2/12's worsted in four colors sett at 24 ends per inch, and threaded in sequence, as given below. Your threading sequence is a straight 1, 2, 3, 4, twill repeated over and over.

Warp: 2/12's worsted, 2 per dent, 12-dent reed.

Weft: Exact same sequence of colors in the weft as in the warp.

Treadle: 1, 2, 3, 4 over and over, regardless of what color appears on what treadle.

The color sequence is as follows. This is for a warp 18 1/6" wide.

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.

1. 12 threads 2/12's, tempting tan
2. 4 threads 2/12's, cocoa brown
3. 12 threads 2/12's, tempting tan
4. 2 threads 2/12's, hot mustard
5. 16 threads 2/12's, golden brown
6. 2 threads 2/12's, hot mustard

REPEAT THIS SEQUENCE OVER AND OVER, for 4 times or 16" width. Then, to balance, do these following 28 threads one time.

7. 12 threads 2/12's, tempting tan
8. 4 threads 2/12's, cocoa brown
9. 12 threads 2/12's, tempting tan

End of complete set-up, should be 18 1/6" wide in your 12-dent reed.

I would suggest that you weave this about 62" in length, or for a taller person, 72" in length. I would suggest a 3" fringe, knotted at each end.

You can set this up in the stripes as I have indicated; and if you wanted to make several scarves, you could weave one or two all in a solid color weft, such as cocoa brown in one, golden brown in another, tempting tan in the third, and then the tartan in the 4th, using all of the colors of the warp in the weft, in the same color sequence. This would be treadled 1, 2, 3, 4, over and over. In the solid colors in the weft, I would still suggest the 1, 2, 3, 4 treadling, as it gives a little more weight in the scarf.

Also, another interesting possibility is to warp in the manner indicated with the 2/12's worsted for warp, and weave with an interesting wool tweed in the weft. There are many shades of browns and beiges that would work well as a single weft thread.

I know that I have appreciated a similar scarf on those cold, snowy, winter, windy days.

This will weave down to about a 16" wide scarf.

I myself would set-up for about four or six of these scarves, as there are so many interesting weft threads you can use, and so many ways to alter these stripes, that it would be a fun project.

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.

FIVE NEW COLORS IN SIX-STRAND COTTON FLOSS

Along with our other 25 colors on hand, we now have over 35 colors in stock. The new colors are a light silver grey, a good light blue, a dark forest green, a dark Nile green, buttercup yellow, a space-dyed tan-grey-natural, a flesh peach, black, and limited amounts of new pink, yellow, and gold-tan. This has 2080 yards per pound, is available on about ½-pound tubes or skeins, and the price is \$8.00 per pound. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

11 SPACE-DYED OR VARIEGATED LOOP WOOLS FROM PHOENIX OF IRELAND

This is in 500-gram packages, 10 balls of 50 grams each. This is 1 lb. 1½ oz. per package, and we have it on sale at \$17.50 per package. You can purchase less than a full package if you wish, and this way it is \$1.95 per 50-gram ball. These are standard colors made especially for Beehive Yarns in England; and Beehive has now dropped this line, and we were on hand when they decided to do this. A good buy, as this yarn now sells for about \$28.00 to \$32.00 per pound in most yarn shops. This comes to \$16.00 per pound our price. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for free samples of these 11 colors. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

40/6 FOLD, BLEACHED WHITE LINEN

We purchased this from England, and while it does not have much twist, it should make an excellent warp. It is equivalent to a 20/3 linen, about 1/3 heavier than a 20/2 linen. It has 2,000 yards per pound, and the best thing is the price at just \$8.80 per pound. Sold by the one-pound cone only. You would normally now pay close to \$20.00 per pound for this linen, so we have another good buy. As warp, I would suggest 16 to 20 ends per inch. It is a line quality (best quality) linen. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3-PLY TUSSAH SILK, NATURAL TAN COLOR

This one has 2,900 yards per pound, came to us on about 1-pound cones, and it is one we had 3-ply in England, so it can be used for warp or weft. Price is \$13.60 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/53's SPUN SILK WITH A SHEEN

This is a two-ply spun silk, excellent for warp or weft. It is the natural ivory silk color. On about 1-pound cones or slightly less. We have 50 pounds of this color. It has 11,500 yards per pound, and I would suggest about 40 or 45 ends per inch for warp. It is on 14- to 18-oz. cones, and the price is \$24.00 per pound. We can wind off ½-lb. tubes for you if you wish. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2-PLY SILK NOIL, IN 3 COLORS

We have this silk in 2-ply in a Delft blue, a taupe toast, and a silvery grey, and a limited amount of white. We have about 25 to 35 pounds of each color. Two-ply, for warp or weft. On about 1-pound cones, \$13.60 per pound. Spun in England. About 3,700 yards per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NATURAL, SINGLE PLY, WOOL-ROVING TYPE YARN

We have about 80 pounds of this single ply wool, roving type yarn. It is on cones of about 1 pound each, and I have measured and found that it has about 415 yards per pound. Was very popular last year. We have it priced at \$8.00 per pound. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

4-PLY SILK NOIL YARN FROM ENGLAND

This one is a good warp or weft thread, and the 4-ply seems to have about 1,200 yards per pound. We also have this in a 3-ply, so it should have about 1,500 yards per pound. Price is \$13.60 per pound, on about one-pound cones. Both the 3-ply and the 4-ply are \$13.60 per pound. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

3-PLY LINEN, IN ROYAL NAVY COLOR, AND IN BLACK, AND ALSO NATURAL

The royal navy has about 1,000 yards per pound, and the black has about 1,150 yards per pound, and the natural about 1,000 yards per pound. Should be good for rug warp for wall hangings and tapestries. Price is \$8.00 per pound, and it came on tubes of about 2 to 2½ pounds each. Limited to about 50 pounds of each. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

50% SILK, 50% WOOL, AVAILABLE IN 11 COLORS

In at last from England, this 50% silk, 50% wool comes on about 1-pound cones. We are just preparing sample cards for this. Have about 100 pounds of each color. It is on about 1-pound cones, has about 1,350 yards per pound, and is \$16.00 per pound, while it lasts. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for free samples. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

BASIC DOUBLE WEAVE THEORY

An excellent little booklet written by Sara Farrar and published by Robin & Russ Handweavers. This spiral bound booklet is an excellent guide to many types of double weave, and it is so clearly explained that you should have no problems with any of the techniques explained. It gives step by step instructions for 4, 6, and 8 harness double weaves, and includes Layered Fabrics, such as 2 layer, 3 and 4 layers, extra wide fabrics, or double, and triple and quadruple width on 4, 6, and 8 harnesses; teaches one to do tubes, or two tubes, or loom controlled tubes; has a section on 4, 6, and 8 harness pockets. Gives you directions for double weave with free design, and double weave pick-up for single thread and double thread pick-up. Exciting, and not too expensive, it is \$4.95 plus postage. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

