



warp and weft

Volume XXXVI, No. 1 January 1983

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A Word from the Editor

Hurrah! We are making progress. I will be taking this to the printers today, and also have another issue due in here today or tomorrow from Jean Scorgie, and I will take that to the printers as soon as I can.

We have another Warp and Weft project in progress also, so we are working hard on getting up to date.

Business had picked up in December, January, and February, but all of a sudden, in March and the early part of April, it has gone back to the recession policy evidently. In any event, if one of the staff is out or sick, it seems fairly easy to keep caught up, even though someone is missing. I think that is a sign of business being poor.

Cottons, and particularly flake cottons, seem to be very popular now. We have about eight different kinds on hand. And we are finding the heavy, single-ply berber is another popular thread right now. They seem to be the ones that move the best.

Also, for the past three weeks, we have been getting ready for the Northern California Handweavers Conference in Ukiah, California. Tomorrow I will rent a trailer, and we will load my van with books, yarns, a loom, and accessories and then off goes the traveling yarn salesman to see what he can do with this stock in the van and trailer; and this also does help advertise what we do have available.

There will be three other conventions later this summer, and as business is quite

behind schedule, I'm making it a point to try to attend most of these conferences, for publicity as much as anything.

Thinking back about how long I have been doing this, at the first weaving conference I went to in Stockton, California, I purchased a 20-year endowment insurance policy from the chairman of this conference. Well, that policy matured about eight years ago, and I'm still attending weaving conferences.

We have a nice huck weave for the sample in our next bulletin, and Janice is weaving this one. And after that, we have a very pretty authentic "Scottish Tartan" in progress on the loom, and we hope that it will follow the huck weave.

Another thread that has been quite popular here is the 12/2 natural, mercerized Durene cotton. We sold all of our current stock, and we do have a new lot of this en route to us. It is an excellent warp at 20 or 24 ends per inch, has 5040 yards per pound, and sells at \$6.00 per pound.

I'm delighted to say that Janice is now well on the road to recovery after her bout with T.B. She has one more medication for about two more months, and then when she finishes with that, the doctor has told her that she should be cured. I had never heard of TB of the blood before, but this is what she has had. It has been hard on her as the one medication that she took for seven months made her dizzy and sick in the stomach. However, this is in the past now.

We all miss Marcy Melton and her humor here in the shop. She was always sort of in hot water here, and kept us in stitches with her bubbling personality. Since her marriage, she is now living in San Diego, California, and she does tell us that she wants her job back when she and her husband return after he is released from the service in September.

I notice that I've sort of been hopping around from one subject to another. Hope you'll excuse this, as I do want to get this to

This Month's Book Review

When one sees the publication of a book on a specialized topic, one always hopes it will be definitive, complete, clear, and written by an expert. Unfortunately, one is often disappointed, as with the book *Overshot Weaving* by Ellen Lewis Saltzman. Ms. Saltzman's efforts are admirable, but she does not have the breadth of experience one would wish to find in the author of such a book.

She begins her introduction with a very cursory history of handweaving (including overshot weaving) in the U.S. This is followed by a chapter of definitions. Instead of using the customary warp drawdown, she uses a weft drawdown, which is understandable for working with overshot. However, she confuses the issue by calling it a counter-balanced drawdown.

She uses X's in the tie-up notations for both counter-balanced and jack looms, which is confusing. And she says that if you use a counter-balanced tie-up on a jack loom, you "will produce a different pattern," without mentioning that it is merely the underside of the fabric you intended to weave. Clearly she has not worked out for herself the simple relationship between the two types of tie-ups. Consequently, her explanation is clumsy and misleading.

Chapter 2 is called the Blocks, but begins with explanations of plain weave and twill weave. The chapter would be stronger if only relevant material were included and if an attempt to write a comprehensive weave structure book in five sentences were avoided.

Finally, she discusses overshot, but her explanation of the three overshot textures (float, tabby, and halftone) is marred by mislabeling in the accompanying photograph. Her explanation of block progression and alternation is limited and uninspired.

Chapter 3 is called the Motifs, and includes her definitions of Cross/Diamond, Tables, Stars, Radiating Motifs, Wheels, Straight Lines, Twill and Overshot Combinations (miniatures), and the sampler.

The motifs of Chapter 3 are brought together into the Patterns of Chapter 4. The common patterns are included and she is careful to write out the treadlings, even though they are treadled as drawn in. And speaking of treadled as drawn in, she omits any mention of how simple it is to weave without writing out the treadling. Anyone who has tried it once will find it more foolproof than keeping track with pencil and paper and more fun to weave besides.

The rest of the book is notes on designing and weaving variations, information covered better elsewhere. Information important to understanding and designing overshot is scattered throughout the book haphazardly in the odd sentence here and there. Overall, this book contains too many of the author's idiosyncrasies to be as good as it could.

With the cost of publishing so high these days, many authors find themselves self-publishing small monographs or writing articles for periodicals rather than writing for major publishing companies. It is unfortunate that the best of these efforts do not find their way to hardcover distribution but remain offered as limited publications advertised in the classifieds in the back pages of weaving magazines while major publishers bring out less than the best.

TITLE: *Overshot Weaving*

AUTHOR: Ellen Lewis Saltzman

PRICE: \$17.50

PUBLISHER: Van Nostrand Reinhold

AVAILABLE: from publisher or from Robin & Russ, if desired.

We used a 10-dent reed, single sleyed, for this sample, but the warp was so close together that we could only beat with the shed open. This slowed our weaving somewhat but gave us a heavier fabric. If you prefer, you could sley this 8 or 9 warps per inch and it would certainly make beating easier. However, remember that the look and the feel of the fabric would change. You might weave a sample to decide which you prefer.

We used a selvage of 4 threads of 18/3 nylon stitching twine on each side. We wound it on along with our 12-yard warp and had no tension problems in weaving. The selvages kept the weaving from drawing in, but with a warp this heavy, it is possible that we didn't really need them. Better to have them just in case, we figured.

With such a heavy warp, there is a problem with knots which break in the reed. We were lucky with this warp as there were only 6 or 7 knots in the entire warp. These were our only broken warps in spite of the great friction in the reed due to the close set. This is not always the case with single-ply yarns, as many of them fray quite easily when used as warp.

As usual when we have a broken warp, we fix it with Spee-dee Cement, which is fast and invisible. Be sure your hands are clean before applying it to the broken ends, hold it for a few seconds, and continue weaving.

MORE VARIATIONS:

This threading makes a very interesting stairstep twill when woven in twill. Use two shuttles, one for the dark brown doubled as before and the other for the greyed tan. This is the treadling sequence:

1. Treadle #1—dark brown tweed
2. Treadle #2—greyed tan Berber
3. Treadle #3—dark brown tweed
4. Treadle #4—greyed tan Berber

End of one complete repeat. Repeat as desired.

COST OF THREADS USED:

The dark brown wool tweed has 400 yards per pound and is priced at \$8.00 per pound. The greyed tan is a blend of 50% wool and 50% polypropylene in a Berber yarn. It has 540 yards per pound and sells for \$6.80 per pound.

By the way, the 18/3 nylon stitching twine that we customarily use for selvages comes on 2-oz. tubes that sell for \$4.00 each. Nice to have on hand.

COST OF WARP AND WEFT:

We made a 12-yard warp, 44" wide on the loom. Our warp used 6 lbs. 12½ oz. of dark brown wool tweed and 2 lbs. 7½ oz. greyed tan Berber, for a total of \$71.04. That comes to \$5.92 per yard.

The weft needed 8 lbs. 4 oz. of dark brown tweed, which cost \$66.00, or \$6.29 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$5.92
WEFT COST PER YARD	6.29
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$12.21

MORE ABOUT THE YARNS USED:

We have several shades of Berber wool and wool blends in stock. They are used in flat weave rugs, wall hangings, and other decorative fabrics. They are all characterized by their slightly uneven texture and their subtle shadings. Some are grayish, some brownish, some have a rusty cast, and they vary in lightness and darkness also. Most are single ply, but can be used 2-4 strands at a time for heavier fabrics. Ours are on convenient 1-lb. cones. Send for sample sheets of our selection of Berber wools.

A Word From The Editor

Continued from Page 2

the printers before I leave for the Northern California Handweavers Conference tomorrow.

Russell E. Groff, editor

This Month's Cover Photograph

Victor Jacoby entered this tapestry entitled "Calla Lilies" in the 29th Annual Conference of Northern California Handweavers in Sacramento last May.

It is beautifully woven with stylized shading in the leaves and petals against a background cross current of shadow. The opposing lines in the background set off the vigorous thrust of the stems and leaves while the undulations echo the curves of the petals.

The shading is handled three ways. The first is through choosing shades of yarn to give a graduated effect. The second is through mixing different shades on the bobbin to give a textured blend of colors as seen in the lightest areas of the background and the darker shadings in the petals. The third type of shading is seen in the transitional striped areas in the background. They are formed by weaving two-row "fingers" of color extending into two-row "fingers" of the other color. The fingers make a shape of their own and show a mixture of the colors used on either side.

Victor Jacoby has developed great technical control in this tapestry. It would be beautiful to see in color.

A Second Project

A luxurious gift to make and give just now is a silk scarf to go with the jackets in everyone's wardrobe. We have a beautiful 4-ply silk and wool blend in a striking color range that would weave elegant scarves.

Make them about 8" wide and about 54" long, finished with fringe at each end. The silk and wool has 1350 yards per pound and would be nice set at 12 warps per inch for tabby weave.

There are several ways to combine colors. Most interesting are stripes in the warp with a solid color weft. One

suggestion is to use 16 warps French toast beige, 16 warps French rose, 32 warps purple, 16 warps French rose, and 16 warps French toast beige. Weave this in tabby with the French toast beige.

If you would like a more neutral coloration with an interesting color and weave effect, thread 18 warps in snow drop white, one warp snow drop white alternated with one warp cinnamon brown, for a total of 20 ends, then 20 ends cinnamon brown for a center stripe and reverse the white and brown alternation and end with the white. Use French toast beige for the tabby weft.

There is also a sandstone natural which is a yellow-beige. It could replace the French toast beige in the scarf just mentioned for a warmer feeling. The sandstone natural also combines with the luggage brown nicely.

Another brighter color combination is paprika powder with cinnamon brown and sandstone natural. Or a blended combination of French rose, paprika powder, French toast beige, and cinnamon brown.

There are many color combinations possible. Simple warp stripes are all that's needed with these beautiful shades. For more variation, look up color and weave effects and draft some simple alternations of two shades.

If you would like to see the eleven available colors, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for sample sheet #310. These 50% wool, 50% silk 4-ply come on 1-lb. cones and are priced at \$16.00 per pound.

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.

SUPERSPUN—SUPERWASH WOOL

From England, we have 24 colors in this outstanding wool. Machine washable, non-shrinking, anti-pill, anti-tickle finish. It comes on 13- to 14-oz. cones, has 1850 yards per lb., and is priced at \$20.00 per lb. It is 4-ply and is excellent for warp or weft. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

THE WEAVERS BOOK, by Helene Bress

Is in stock, and I consider it one of the most outstanding books for intermediate and advanced weavers there is. Price is \$50.00, plus shipping and handling. In stock for immediate delivery. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

16.5x3x2 SWISS, WHITE RAMIE

A very good buy at \$8.00 per lb. It has 825 yards per lb., and would be excellent warp for rugs or wall hangings, for heavier weight placemats, and many other related uses. On about 2- to 3-lb. cones, we can wind off ½-lb. tubes. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

8-PLY YELLOW LINEN on 1-lb. cones.

We have about 100 lbs. left of this yellow-gold linen, and the price is \$8.80 per lb. It has approximately 3200 yards per lb., and is an extremely good buy at this price. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

6 COLORS IN 1.25 SMOOTH SPUN RAYON IN A SINGLE-PLY YARN

Has a good hard twist and probably could be used for warp as well as weft. And it comes on about 1-lb. to 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes, and is just \$3.20 per lb. while it lasts. Write for samples. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

FIVE (5) DIFFERENT NATURAL LOOP WOOLS

These have from about 1200 to 2400 yards per lb., and vary in price from \$8.00 to \$12.00 per lb. Free samples upon request. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

RAYON SEED YARN

This has been one of our most popular yarns the past several years. We have a new set of these yarns in about 15 colors. They have about 1550 yards per lb. and they come on cones of about 2½ lbs. Yes, we can wind off ½ lb. tubes for you. Price is \$4.80 per lb. Free samples upon request. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

2/10's SMOOTH, SPUN MOHAIR

This is a beautiful fine smooth yarn which would be strong and long wearing for upholstery or apparel. It would dye richer colors than wool. Yardage is 27-

It would dye richer colors than wool. Yardage is 2700 yards per pound, comes on 3 lb. tubes, and is \$8.00 per pound. We can wind this off onto 1/2 lb. tubes. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 N. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

30/2 BLEACHED WHITE MERCERIZED DURENE COTTON

Some like to weave with a fine thread, so I took a chance and purchased a 200-lb. lot of this 30/2 bleached white, mercerized durenene cotton. It is a very nice quality, has 12,600 yards per lb., and came on 2- to 3-lb. cones. Price is most pleasing for this fine cotton at \$6.00 per lb., by the cone. It takes so long to wind it off, that if you want less than a 2- to 3 lb. cone, then it is \$8.00 per lb. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

BLACK BRUSHED WOOL FROM PHOENIX OF IRELAND AND HOLLAND

A most beautiful yarn, with approximately 1,000 yards per pound. It came on about 2- to 4-lb. cones. We can wind off ½-lb. tubes for you. Price is extra special at \$16.00 per lb., or \$8.00 per ½-lb. tube. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

2/60's SPUN TUSSAH SILK, 2-PLY:

This is a fine-weight silk, but has the natural tan tussah silk color. It is in skeins, and I believe they are about ½ lb. each. Price is a most reasonable one for this high quality spun silk, at \$24.00 per lb. Also, we have had some of this 3-ply, but it will be about two to three months before it comes in from England, and it is on about 1-lb. cones, and the plying and winding onto cones cost us 4 English pounds per lb. So, the 3-ply 2/60's when it comes in will be more. Robin & Russ, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

2/11½'s ENGLISH WOOL

Five colors in a softly plied yarn for knitting and weaving. The colors are Shoe Polish Brown, Chromium Blue, Apricot, Thyme Gold, Stone Beige. They are strong enough for warp. Price is \$8.00 per pound. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128.

6-STRAND EMBROIDERY FLOSS, 12 OF THE 9-YARD SKEINS PER BOX

We have 25 different colors available in these boxes. SPECIAL PRICE IS \$1.00 per box of 12 skeins. An extremely good buy at 1/2 price or less. Why not order all 25 colors we have. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

KELLYCRAFTS PRESENTS A UNIQUE IRELAND TOUR

Workshops offered in quilting and willow basketry at Renvyle House, June 26-July 2, 1983, and Sept. 4-10, 1983. Evening Celtic storytelling by turf fire. Contact: 4912 California St., D, San Francisco, CA 94118.

The Weaver's Marketplace

warp and weft

533 NORTH ADAMS STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128

Robin and Russ Handweavers have

90 colors in size 20/2, mercerized cotton. It is mercerized and gassed, and is Super Sackel quality. Comes on 1/2-lb. cones of 4200 yards each, and it is \$14.00 per lb., or \$7.00 per 1/2-lb. cone. Also available are 60 colors in size 10/2, with 4200 yards per lb. The 10/2 is \$13.00 per lb.

Robin & Russ Handweavers
533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

An outstanding handspinning book is the one recently re-published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, entitled *Spinning Wheels, Spinners, and Spinning*, by Patricia Baines. Printed in England, this new paperback edition is **\$10.95.**

Robin & Russ Handweavers
533 North Adams St., McMinnville, OR 97128

Heavy & Exciting Natural Brushed Wool from England

84% wool, 16% nylon binder
360 yards per pound
SPECIAL OFFERING — \$16.00 lb.

For free sample, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

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533 No. Adams St. McMinnville, OR 97128

Wool Tweed Yarns

34 colors in stock for immediate delivery. It has from 1300 to 1800 yards per pound, depending upon the color. Also, 17 more colors have just arrived to be unpacked from England.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for free samples of all 34 colors.

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