



warp and weft

Volume XXXVII, No. 7 September, 1984

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Published monthly (except July and August) by
Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street,
McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$12.00 per year U.S.A.
\$12.50 per year Canada
\$13.00 per year foreign
Back issues, \$1.25 each plus 20*postage

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A Word from the Editor

Yes, another summer has passed very quickly, and we have started the fall season, with our first issues of *Warp and Weft* and *Drafts and Designs*.

The summer has been a busy one, not in actual business, but in getting things done.

I had the opportunity to go on a buying trip in late June, and I was so pleased with the many new yarns I located in my travels from Providence, Rhode Island, to Charlotte, North Carolina.

However, one of the main accomplishments is that we purchased a new winding machine with six heads, so that we can wind six different threads at one time. I went back to see it where it was made in Providence, Rhode Island, in June; and then it finally arrived in July. However, we had a short in the motor, so it wasn't until yesterday, August 30, that we did get it working. Today we wound our first full spools on it, and it worked very well.

Before this, we had two used winding machines here which we could not adjust to our needs. I talked the manufacturer into taking one of these winders in payment for putting the other into working condition as we needed it. So, I do suppose that in about a month or so, we will be receiving our one machine back, all corrected and fixed to our specifications so that we can do a better winding job.

These machines are very important to our business now, as more and more manufacturers are making larger and larger tubes and cones (some as much as 9 to 12 pounds in size) of their yarns; and of course, to sell this, we have to be able to convert it into ½-lb. or 1-pound tubes. One of our six new heads was especially converted so that we can wind some of the heavier threads that are so popular.

I had hoped to go to England in late September or early October, but have had to postpone this, because the best worker on our staff is leaving the 30th of September to be married and to live in California. I guess that I will soon be involved in the training of a new worker to do the jobs she has been doing.

We had about eight or ten shipments of yarns come in and have been broke paying the shipping charges. Now that this is taken care of, we can concentrate on payment of the bills that I managed to gather together from this trip.

We really have some exciting new yarns, and are busy making up sample sheets. We have finished about eight or ten sample sheets and have about six more to go.

For instance, as most of you know, brushed wool is selling at about \$28.00 to \$40.00 per pound. We located and purchased about 22 colors of brushed wool in solid colors, which we are able to sell at less than our current wholesale cost. We have it for \$16.00 per pound. This is one of the many good buys that I located on this trip. Remember the beautiful three-ply alpaca in four colors that we had and sold last year? Well, we once again have it in natural, a silvery heather grey, and two shades of brown, at the same price as last year, \$24.00 per pound. I believe that this baby alpaca is probably one of the nicest and softest yarns we have ever had to sell in our shop. It is 3-ply, good for knitting also, and has 2,000 yards per pound.

Russell E. Groff, Editor

This Month's Cover Photo

Weaving conferences provide an opportunity to display outstanding individual projects, but they are also a good place for guilds to exhibit cooperative efforts. Our cover photograph shows a Friendship Quilt woven by members of the Greater Vancouver Weavers and Spinners from British Columbia, Canada. It was shown at the Pacific Northwest Handweavers Conference in July 1983 in Bozeman, Montana.

The quilt is made up of overshot squares, each woven by a different weaver, and joined with inkle strips in a traditional blue and white color scheme. The participating weavers decided on the yarn to be used, the size of the blocks, the set, and the way the repeats would be handled in the squares.

The warp and tabby were cream-colored wool, and each participant chose her own color of pattern weft. Each weaver warped her loom with the overshot threading of her choice and, using the pattern colors provided by the other participants, wove enough squares for everyone. When the weavings were completed, the squares were traded back so that each person had a square of each of the different patterns woven in her own color. Then each weaver finished and assembled her coverlet or throw in her own style.

We don't know whose coverlet we are showing on the cover, but its squares are finished by crocheting all around and then joining them with inkle bands.

The finished coverlet provides an attractive sampler of many overshot patterns, each square woven by a fellow weaver. This project could be a topic for a study group concentrating on overshot, but it could be an individual project as well. Different squares could be woven by rethreading periodically. Although it would take more time and warp to rethread, the experience gained in working with a variety of overshot patterns would be invaluable.

Instead of coverlet squares, the samples could become pillow tops or seat covers or upholstery for dining room chairs. This is another learning project that, with a little imagination, could be a very worthwhile experience.



This Month's Book Review

Natural Dyes for Spinners and Weavers is the kind of book one wishes one had when beginning to explore gardens and fields for dye material. It is inspiring as well as informative, extensive enough for the experienced dyer, yet accessible for the novice.

Assuming no prior knowledge, the author begins with an overview of equipment, times and places for gathering, and notetaking. After a discussion of selection and preparation of fibers, general dye methods not using mordants are presented, so that lichen-dyeing and black walnut hull dye can be experienced. The reader then works up to mordanting methods and the dye materials needing them.

As each dyestuff is presented, there is a table listing the colors to expect from each of the mordants and additives. Historical dyes are discussed in a separate chapter with references to other dyebooks, modern and historic. Recipes are included for woad, indigo, logwood, madder, kermes, cochineal, fustic, safflower, saffron, quercitron, and cutch.

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45/3 raw grey linen sometimes frayed from the friction of the reed and heddles. When one of the plies weakened and broke, we glued the broken ends to the other plies with Spee-dee cement. This cement dries very quickly and allows the weaving to proceed almost immediately. Just be sure to have clean hands when using this cement because it picks up dirt easily. On our natural colored warp, it wouldn't show; but it shows quite easily on white yarn.

Except for an occasional broken warp, the weaving of this fabric progresses easily. Notice the subtle difference in the two heavy whites we used. One yarn could have been used instead, but we liked the slight change in color and yarn size. This also illustrates a way to alternate yarns in a pattern when there is not enough yardage in one yarn to complete the weaving.

Different color combinations could be created easily. The rib could be a darker brown or charcoal grey. The checkerboard could contain blocks of different colors; a color rotation could be used to make the pattern seem longer. This weave is a favorite in Scandinavia; and when one samples the versatility of it, one understands its long popularity.

COST OF THE YARNS:

The 45/3 raw grey linen has 4500 yards per pound on tubes ranging from 12 ounces to 1 lb. 4 oz. It is \$8.80 per pound.

The 30/4 bleached linen has 2250 yards per pound and comes on 2-2½-lb. cones. It is a good quality yarn that we found in the east and had 4-ply for us. It is \$9.60 per pound.

The 8/2 white linen comes on 1 lb. 4 oz. tubes. It has 1200 yards per pound and sells for \$9.60 a pound. It is a good price for linen of this size. It is slightly textured or slubby rather than perfectly smooth, and it would be a wonderful yarn for mats, upholstery, and tablecloths.

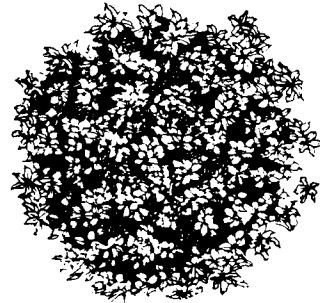
COST OF THE PROJECT:

Our 10-yard, 40"-wide warp used 2 lbs. 3 oz. of 45/3 raw grey linen. At \$8.80 per pound, that is \$19.25, or \$1.93 per yard.

The tabby weft used 1 lb. 11 oz. of the 45/3 raw grey linen for the 8½ yards of fabric we wove. It cost \$14.78, or \$1.74 per yard.

The 8/2 white linen used 1 lb. 6½ oz. At \$9.60 per pound, that is \$16.13, or \$1.90 per yard. The 30/4 white linen used 1 lb. 8 oz. at \$9.60 per pound for \$13.54 or \$1.59 per yard.

WARP COST PER YARD	\$1.93
WEFT COST PER YARD	5.23
FABRIC COST PER YARD	\$7.16



This Month's Book Review

(Continued from Page 3)

The chapter on using color gives the spinner many ideas for blending colored fleeces on the cards to produce heather mixtures of colors or to blend from one color to the next on the color wheel.

The book is profusely illustrated with color photos—an excellent element for this kind of book. In addition, there are many helpful line drawings and black and white photos.

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This Month's Book Review

(Continued from Page 5)

Although the book is written in England for a British audience, almost all the measurements are given in equivalents used by Americans. One of the more intriguing exceptions is contained in a "jam jar and teaspoon" recipe for indigo which starts out with a 3 kg (7 lb.) stone jam jar or similar container one-third full of water. American readers can by now translate "washing up liquid" as dishwashing detergent, but most of us are still stymied by the size of stone jam jars!

The book is very well-written with many interesting observations and references. It is well-organized as both a reference handbook for working and as a volume to read straight through. The author shows her long and deep interest in the subject. We recommend it highly.

TITLE: *NATURAL DYES FOR SPINNERS AND WEAVERS*

AUTHOR: Hetty Wickens

PUBLISHER: B.T. Batsford Limited, London

COST: \$10.95

AVAILABLE: From the publisher or from Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams, McMinnville, OR 97128.



A Second Book Review

Bobbin lace is showing a resurgence in popularity both in Europe and in this country. Tiny Zwaal-Lint, a Dutch lace designer, published a book of her patterns a few years ago. Now an English-language version has been published, with a brief forward by Pamela Nottingham.

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The book, containing thirty-seven patterns, is divided into two sections. The first shows photographs in excellent detail of each of the patterns plus some notes for setting up the bobbins, thread size, etc. The latter half of the book is the actual full-scale set of patterns printed on cardstock tear-out pages.

Thread sizes vary from No. 20 to No. 100, with several made at No. 70. For lacemakers using finer threads, the patterns can be reduced on a copier. Several of the patterns use a heavy cotton gimp in interesting ways. A variety of grounds are used, and many patterns show unusual combinations of techniques. Although the book is not an instruction book, several pages in the beginning show how the stitches are formed and how the grounds are worked.

The prickings do not show all the pin placements, sometimes leaving them to the lacemaker. This may be new to some lacemakers, but should present no problem because of the detailed photographs of the actual laces. Not only is the front of the lace shown, but the back also so that the actual path of the threads can be seen.

The patterns cover a wide range of shapes from wide and narrow bands with and without mitered corners, curves, circle medallions, open circles, ovals, and even a lampshade insertion with coordinating strips for finishing the construction. The patterns are very attractive and also quite unusual. This book would be a good addition to the library of experienced lacemakers.

TITLE: *BOBBIN LACE PATTERNS*

AUTHOR: Tiny Zwaal-Lint

PUBLISHER: Co-published by Robin & Russ Handweavers, McMinnville, Oregon, and B.T. Batsford, London, England.

COST: \$22.95 plus shipping and handling.

AVAILABLE: From Robin & Russ Handweavers, McMinnville, OR 97128.

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 NATURAL MERCERIZED COTTON

We have a shipment due in soon of a very, very nice quality 8/2 cotton. We have been having quite a few calls for this, and we have had some in the past. It will be \$6.00 per lb., on 2½-lb. cones, and will have 3360 yards per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

EXCITING HEAVY WOOL BOUCLE

In 10 colors. This is a yarn I located in England, and it was made for a German knitwear manufacturer. He changed his color line, and I purchased these at a greatly reduced price. Ten colors, 60% wool, 40% acrylic binder so it will not shrink, and 560 yards per pound. We have about 50 pounds of each of the 10 colors. Price is \$12.00 per pound. You'll like this. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

HEAVY 4-PLY 100% SMOOTH MOHAIR IN FAWN COLOR

This is a 4-ply and is quite heavy smooth mohair, and is or was used in rugs in England. It came in about 1-lb. skeins, and we have it on sale at \$12.00 per lb.

5-PLY, MEDIUM QUALITY, 100% CAMEL HAIR

We have about 25 lbs. of this one. It is in a taupe or light brown. It is a good price at \$12.00 per lb. while it lasts. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

6½/3 OFF NATURAL PERLE RAYON OR SPUN RAYON

We located another 100 lbs. of this rayon which we had before. It is a very nice quality. Has about 2100 yards per lb., is 3-ply, and is excellent for warp or weft. Price is \$9.60 per lb. while it lasts. This is about the nicest rayon we have ever had. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 NEW COLORS IN 6-STRAND COTTON FLOSS

This yarn has 2080 yards per lb., came in ½-lb. skeins, and is priced at \$8.00 per lb. We just finished sample sheets with these colors on. Colors are Monterey Grey, Bright Ruby, Dark Flax, Brick Brick, and Dark Norwegian Wood Brown. All on about ½-lb. skeins. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

6 COLOR BLENDS, 2/15's SPACE DYED, COTTON AND RAYON BLEND

We have these six new space-dyed cottons on a sample sheet. Write, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope; and we will send you samples of this. It is 2-ply, came on about 1½ to 1¾-lb. cones, has 6300 yards per lb., and is good for warp or weft. It is \$6.80 per lb., by the ½-lb. or 1-lb. tube, and if you purchase a full cone, we offer it at \$6.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

40% CASHMERE, 60% WOOL

We have about 75 lbs. of this yarn, and we like it very much. It is on about 2½-lb. cones. We can wind off. It has about 1750 yards per lb. Should be good for warp or weft, but because of soft hand, I would recommend it for weft primarily. Heathy, grey, brown in color. Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

SLUBBY, SPACE-DYED, SILK & RAYON BLEND

This is a beautiful yarn. It has been space-dyed, a blending of 3 colors with natural. Colors are soapstone, wild flower, sea-salt, and natural—all in one yarn. It has 2100 yards per lb., came on 1½-lb. cones, and is \$6.00 per lb. while it lasts. This one should sell quite fast, it is so pretty. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

8/4 NATURAL LINEN RUG WARP

We wanted an inexpensive linen rug warp, so I went to Scotland, found this, and had it spun to order for us. On about 1 lb. 2 oz. tubes. It has 600 yards per lb. Suggest 6 or 8 ends per inch. A good price, \$8.00 per lb. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A 6/1 BLEND OF SILK, LINEN, AND POLYESTER

In a fine single-ply thread. It has about 4800 to 5000 yards per lb., is a beautiful tannish-natural, and is \$6.00 per lb. on about 3-lb. cones. We can wind off ½-lb. tubes. Should make nice blouse and dress weft thread. Not a warp. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

ANGEL-FOOD, NATURAL, 80% SILK, 20% POLYESTER, ON ABOUT 1-LB. CONES

This is a thick, fluffy silk and poly blend. It has about 750 yards per lb., and came from England. Price is \$13.60 per lb. We have been able to stock this for about 5 years, but last year I purchased the last available, and it is now no longer manufactured. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

10 COLORS, 3-PLY, PURE CASHMERE

We have very limited amounts of this, from 2 to 10 lbs. per color. I have a beautiful beige sleeveless sweater on of this right now that I have been wearing for six months, and it is very pleasing. On about 1 lb. 4 oz. cones, the price is \$30.00 per lb. If you are interested, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for samples. Remember, limited amounts and mostly greys, beiges, tans available. ROBIN AND RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

5 COLORS 10/2 COTTON ON SALE

This I found on my last buying trip also. The regular price for these 5 colors is \$13.00 per lb., and we HAVE ON SALE these 5 COLORS, at \$8.00 PER POUND. Colors are ORANGE BLOSSOM, CINNAMON BROWN, LIGHT MAIZE, BLUE ICE, and SUNSET ORANGE. We have about 50 lbs. of each of these at this special price. Most of it is on about ½-lb. skeins. ROBIN & RUSS HANDWEAVERS, 533 No. Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128.
