

## SHUTTLE-CRAFT GUILD

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First, I wish to thank all and sundry for their very kind reception of the first Guild Bulletin. Our membership this month is over two hundred, -- scattered all over this country with a sprinkling in "foreign parts". There are enough of us to have a considerable influence over the future of hand-weaving. If we stand together for good craftsmanship, and work out among us the problems of the purchase of materials and the selling of finished fabrics, we shall be doing a valuable work, not only for ourselves, but for all others in the field.

The making and marketing of baby blankets according to the scheme outlined last month has been planned for those among us who want a staple product which they can turn out in quantity as a regular occupation. Work of this sort appeals to many, but not to all. For those who delight in planning, and in trying experiments, an entirely different kind of work is better, and brings better returns.

I believe that there is more money in the making of dress-fabrics than in any other branch of the hand-weaving industry. I have many among my correspondents who have done excellently well at this work.

To be successful in this field the weaver must be gifted with a good sense of color. This is indeed a gift, and unfortunately the lack of it cannot be made up by training. A person without the color sense is better advised to choose some other line of work than this, for color is of first importance here.

There is money in making hand-woven tweeds and similar fabrics by the yard. If this is undertaken on a fairly large scale it is profitable in competition even with cheap homespun materials made in Canada. This sort of thing, however, is not very interesting to do. There is more pleasure, and also more money, in making special dress-lengths with borders and bits of decoration in pattern weaving. These may be as clever, original and charming as possible, and when well planned sell extremely well.

One of our circle made -- as her second piece of weaving -- a "linsey-woolsey" dress for herself. It was so successful that she has had a large number of orders to fill for similar dresses, and will probably have little opportunity to continue her course of lessons for some time! She has taken a shop and is nicely launched on an interesting little business of her own.

She sells her "linsey-woolsey" dress-patterns not made up, at \$35.00, and has them made up if desired for an additional \$10.00.

Others are making all-wool dress-patterns which sell for \$50.00 -- made up at \$65.00.

In work of this sort the important part is, of course, the planning. It is often advisable after the beginning to employ cheap labor to do the mere pushing of the shuttle back and forth. In any community there are old women and disabled persons who can do this work and who are glad of employment at very moderate wages.

The fabrics most in vogue at the moment are soft and light. The yarns to use depend, of course, on the kind of material to be made. We find the "20/2" cotton an excellent warp for "linsey-woolsey". It may be woven with a weft of homespun, of Shetland, or of the fine "special" yarn. The trick about linsey-woolsey is to weave loosely. If beaten at all hard the fabric becomes stiff and unattractive.

"Tweeds" are woven of homespun both for warp and weft usually in a twill, though sometimes in plain tabby weave. Homespun differs a good deal in weight so that it is impossible to say for all material of this order just how close it should be set in the reed. For the homespun yarns we have been using, fifteen ends to the inch gives a soft light fabric, while 20 ends to the inch produces a heavy cloth. Homespun yarn is often troublesome when used as a warp because it catches and sticks together. The warp should have a dressing.

We are weaving a good deal of a charming fabric made on a warp of fine two-ply woolen yarn with weft of homespun.

The fine "special" yarn used both as warp and weft produces a charming soft, smooth fabric. Set at ~~24 threads to the inch~~ and woven the same it weighs a little less than half a pound to the yard -- 36" wide. For a very light material it may be set at 20 and even at 15 threads to the inch, while for a heavy cloth for coats and such things it may be set at 30,

In our experience a plain fabric -- without stripes or plaid -- is much more attractive if the warp and weft are of different colors, -- or at least of different shades of the same color.

The present vogue of striped and plaid materials has brought me many questions as to how such effects should be planned. Therefore instead of a threading draft for an overshot pattern I am this month sending the warping schemes for a number of the traditional Scottish plaids or "tartans." The colors used for these plaids are practically the same shades of red, blue, green and yellow for all patterns, the shades of the samples enclosed.

Of course, the same warping schemes could be carried out in any colors desired. The plaid patterns could also be made once and a half or twice as large, etc., without difficulty. They should not, however, be reduced as they have been written as small as practicable. To be absolutely correct as Scotch Tartans no doubt a certain size is standard, but for our work this is of no particular importance as we are not planning to weave tartan for Highland uniforms.

Tartans are always, -- as far as I know, -- woven in the twill weave, but we can use the plain weave if we choose. The twill weave gives a firmer material than the plain weave.

MARY M. ATWATER

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SCOTCH TARTAN PLAIDS, -- PATTERNS ARE WRITTEN FROM CENTER TO CENTER OF THE CHIEF FIGURE, IN EVERY CASE.

(1) DOUGLAS,-- blue and green with a fine white line, and a touch of black. This is simple but effective.

4 threads white  
 40 " blue  
 40 " green  
 4 " blue  
 16 " black  
 4 " blue  
 40 " green  
 40 " blue

Repeat

(2) CLAN MacKAY,-- blue, black and green, sombre and handsome. Warp and weave in the same order.

4 threads black  
 26 " green  
 24 " black  
 4 " green  
 24 " blue  
 4 " green  
 24 " blue  
 4 " green  
 24 " black  
 26 " green

Repeat

(3) CLAN MacBETH -- blue predominating with black, red, yellow and green; very bright and gay.

2 threads white  
4 " red  
2 " black  
12 " red  
20 " green  
4 " blue  
2 " white  
4 " blue  
2 " white  
8 " black  
8 " yellow  
64 " blue  
8 " yellow  
8 " black  
2 " white  
4 " blue  
2 " white  
4 " blue  
20 " green  
12 " red  
2 " black  
4 " red

Each repeat 198 threads.

(4) MURRAY OF TULLIBARDINE,-- red predominating, with a group of heavy stripes and a group of fine stripes in blue and green.  
Each repeat threads

4 threads blue  
2 " red  
2 " blue  
4 " red  
4 " blue  
4 " red  
2 " blue  
2 " red  
4 " green  
2 " red  
2 " blue  
32 " red  
14 " blue  
2 " red  
2 " green  
10 " red  
16 " green  
6 " red

Each repeat 242 threads.

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4	threads	blue
4	"	red
2	"	green
4	"	red
4	"	blue
6	"	red
16	"	green
10	"	red
2	"	green
2	"	red
14	"	blue
32	"	red
2	"	blue
2	"	red
4	"	green
2	"	red
2	"	blue
4	"	red
4	"	blue
4	"	red
2	"	blue
2	"	red

Repeat

(5) THE ROB ROY plaid is simple squares alternately red and black  
-- 32 threads of each might be used.

(6) MACQUEEN,-- Red and black predominating with a touch of  
yellow. A handsome bold design. Each repeat 168 threads.

4	threads	yellow
44	"	black
16	"	red
4	"	black
16	"	red
4	"	black
16	"	red
4	"	black
16	"	red
44	"	black

Repeat

(7) ROBERTSON,-- Red predominating with a bold design in blue and green. Each repeat 284 threads.

4 threads red  
4 " green  
32 " red  
4 " blue  
4 " red  
24 " green  
4 " red  
24 " blue  
4 " red  
4 " blue  
32 " red  
4 " green  
4 " red  
4 " green  
32 " red  
4 " blue  
4 " red  
24 " blue  
4 " red  
24 " green  
4 " red  
4 " blue  
32 " red  
4 " green

Repeat

(8) OGILVE,-- Red predominating. Elaborate and gay. Each repeat 464 threads.

12 threads blue  
8 " black  
12 " blue  
8 " yellow  
4 " red  
8 " black  
8 " red  
8 " white  
8 " red  
8 " white  
8 " red  
12 " black  
4 " red  
8 " black  
4 " red  
12 " black  
12 " yellow  
10 " blue

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10	threads	yellow
10	"	blue
12	"	yellow
8	"	black
8	"	red
8	"	black
16	"	red
1	"	white
2	"	black
1	"	white
16	"	red
1	"	white
2	"	black
1	"	white
16	"	red
8	"	black
8	"	red
8	"	black
12	"	yellow
10	"	blue
10	"	yellow
10	"	blue
12	"	yellow
12	"	black
4	"	red
8	"	black
4	"	red
12	"	black
8	"	red
8	"	white
8	"	red
8	"	white
8	"	red
8	"	black
4	"	red
8	"	yellow
12	"	blue
8	"	black

Repeat

(9) HENDERSON,-- Green predominating; large figure. Excellent.  
Each repeat 376 threads.

4 threads yellow  
24 " black  
16 " green  
12 " black  
80 " green  
12 " black  
16 " green  
24 " blue  
4 " white  
24 " blue  
16 " green  
12 " black  
80 " green  
12 " black  
16 " green  
24 " black  
Repeat

(10) CLAN CAMERON,-- Red and green predominating. Each repeat  
132 threads.

2 threads yellow  
35 " red  
12 " green  
4 " red  
12 " green  
4 " red  
12 " green  
4 " red  
12 " green  
35 " red  
Repeat

(11) MURRAY OF TULLIBARDINE,-- Red predominating with blue and  
green. Each repeat 242 threads.

2 threads green  
4 " red  
4 " blue  
6 " red  
16 " green  
10 " red  
2 " green  
2 " red  
14 " blue  
32 " red

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(Continued from page 8)

2	threads	blue
2	"	red
4	"	green
2	"	red
2	"	blue
4	"	red
4	"	blue
4	"	red
2	"	blue
2	"	red
4	"	blue
2	"	red
2	"	blue
4	"	red
4	"	blue
4	"	red
2	"	blue
2	"	red
4	"	green
2	"	red
2	"	blue
32	"	red
14	"	blue
2	"	red
2	"	green
10	"	red
16	"	green
6	"	red
4	"	blue
4	"	red

Repeat

(12) MACLACHLAN,-- Blue and red predominating, with black and green. Each repeat 106 threads.

4	threads	red
2	"	black
16	"	red
14	"	black
16	"	blue
6	"	green
16	"	blue
14	"	black
16	"	red
2	"	black

Repeat