

SHUTTLE-CRAFT GUILD

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I am often asked about the weaving of seamless bags and double width material. Some notes on the subject are, to be sure, included in the instructions of the course, but ~~these additional suggestions will, I hope, prove of interest.~~

On four harnesses one may weave tubing or seamless bags, and by varying the treadeling a little, one may weave double width cloth -- but in the plain tabby weave only. To weave a four-harness pattern double width, for a seamless coverlet or a pillow-top, eight harnesses are required.

On eight harnesses one might, if one wished, weave a piece of cloth in plain tabby weave four times as wide as the loom. This would be rather troublesome, however, and is not suggested as a practical thing to attempt.

Cloth twice the width of the loom is of a good deal of practical interest. Very wide fabrics -- twice the width of the loom -- are useful for many things, such as blankets, wrap-around coats, etc. Moreover, it is possible by this method for those who have only a table-loom to weave dress-fabrics about 38" wide.

The two widths of cloth lie, of course, one over the other in the loom. It is plain that twice the number of warp-ends per inch are required as for ordinary weaving. For a double-width fabric sleyed 30 threads to the inch it would be necessary to warp 60 threads to the inch. As setting the warp so close in the reed sometimes gives trouble, it is advisable to select a weave in which the warp is spaced fairly far apart.

The "special" wool warp so many of us are using for dress-fabrics appears to me most satisfactory when set 22 or 24 to the inch, -- if to be woven with the same fine yarn; if to be woven in homespun it may be set further apart, but I would not advise using less than 20 -- or at the very least 18 -- to the inch. This would mean warping and sleying 48,

44, 40, or 36 threads to the inch. Special reeds are, of course, required for these settings. It is allowable to draw four threads through each dent of a coarse reed, but it is better to use a finer reed and draw two threads ~~through~~ through each dent.

The threading for this weave is the ordinary threading for "will" 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4, etc. Two harnesses, -- 1 and 3 -- weave one width while the other two harnesses weave the other width. When weaving the upper breadth three harnesses must be depressed -- the two carrying the threads of the lower breadth and one of those carrying half the threads of the the upper breadth. To weave the lower breadth one harness ~~only should be depressed for each of the two sheds.~~ This will be plain from a study of the tie-up as given on the diagram. Tie-up (a) is for weaving a seamless bag or tubing. Treadle 1 brings down the front harness alone. Throwing the shuttle through this shed weaves the first shot across the under side of the tubing. The second treadle brings down the first, second, and third harnesses, so that the shuttle weaves across the upper breadth. The third treadle brings down the third harness only, so the shuttle weaves across the lower breadth while on the fourth treadle it passes back across the upper breadth.

It will be noted that if the first shot is made from right to left, as most people begin, all the shots from right to left will be across the lower breadth while all the shots from left to right will be across the upper breadth.

(Note: In threading for a seamless bag or tubing, omit the first "1" in drawing in. In other words, begin, 2,3,4, and continue 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4, etc. This is to avoid a double thread which would otherwise appear in the warp on one side.)

In weaving be careful not to "draw in" the work. The tendency is to do so, which will make streaks along the folds.

The only decoration possible in this weave is, of course, to introduce stripes of color or done in tapestry figures as explained in Lesson 3 where these methods are used for decoration in plain rug-weaving. If the warp is spaced wide apart and a fine yarn is used for weft the warp may be entirely covered, and many attractive effects may be produced by simply using a number of different colors. When this is done there are bound to be some small unevennesses where the changes of color are made. Be careful not to bring these all on the same fold of the fabric. It will be advisable, probably, to turn the tubing inside out to make it up into a bag.

For a bag, it is attractive to weave the outside in yarns or silks with whatever decoration is desired and when the material for the outside is complete, simply go on and weave the same length in a plain material for the lining. When taken from the loom, fold and sew all four thicknesses together for the bottom of the bag.

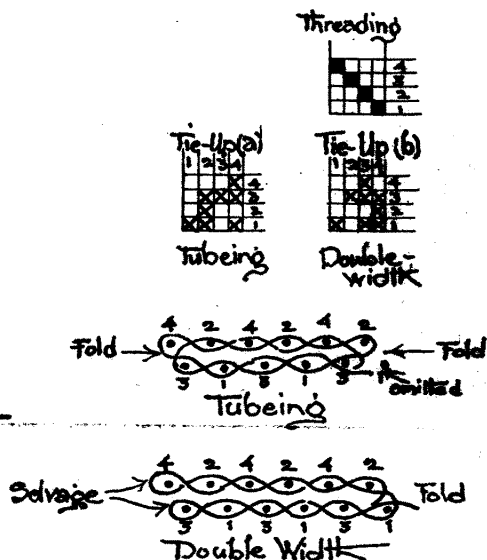
It is perfectly practicable to weave eyelets for a ribbon or draw-string by weaving an inch or so near the top, using two shuttles -- one for the top and one for the under fabric.

Another way to make a bag is to treadle for about half an inch, in a double tabby, -- 1-2, 3-4, 1-2, 3-4. This weaves the two fabrics together. Then begin weaving round and round as described above. This makes it unnecessary to sew across the bottom. The lining should not, however, be finished off in this way, as it would be impossible to turn the bag wrong side out if this were done.

Tubular dress material may be woven on a large loom in exactly the same way.

To weave a fabric twice the width of the loom, make the tie-up exactly as shown at (b). This is the same except that the treadles are arranged in a little different order. The fold in the material may come on either side desired. It is, perhaps, a little easier to manage if on the right-hand side. It is unnecessary to omit the first thread in drawing in.

Throw the shuttle from right to left on treadle 1, which takes it across the lower breadth, and from left to right on treadle 2, which brings it back across the lower breadth. Treadle 3 takes it across the upper breadth and treadle 4 brings it back. Continue in this order and the fabric will appear in two layers with the fold on the right. Be careful not to draw in or there will be a streak of tight weaving along the fold.



One of our Guild members in Ohio contributes the following valuable notes:

"The members of the Guild may be interested in a very inexpensive warping frame, which may be made by anyone who can use tools.

"In many attics are some of the old bed-slats, which were in use in our Grandmother's days. I found such in mine, which a few moments with a plane made smooth.

"The measurements are given below. The expense was governed by the cost of the dowel pins, which may be bought at any mill, and which in this case were \$0.85.

"The wood strips and pins must be sandpapered thoroughly. I would think it a good plan to put on a coat of shellac, although I have not done so with mine.

"Its great advantage is the low cost, and that it can be so easily taken apart and put away until again needed.

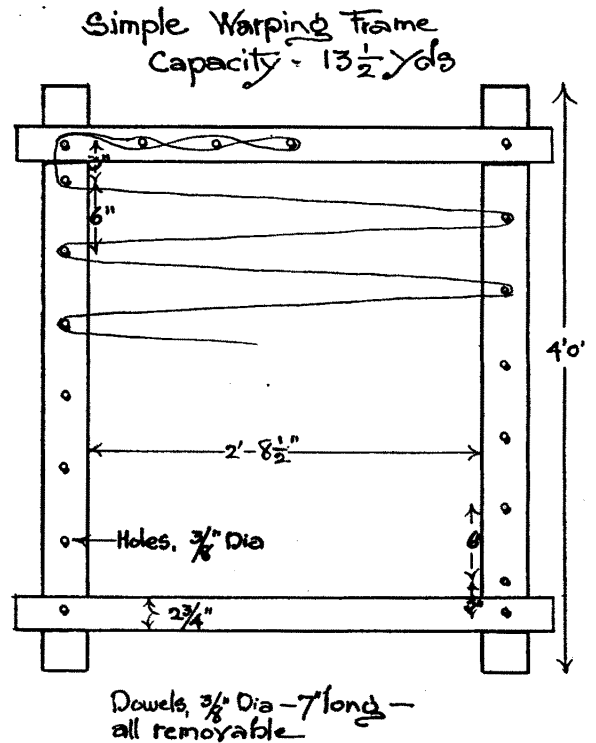
"Where the strips cross, each strip should be cut out half way through, so that one fits over the other.

"Put a dowel pin through each corner and fasten with a clamp or tie firmly.

"All pins are removable, but fit snugly."

"I have also found in the "Structo" loom that very much time can be saved by using the little boat-shaped shuttles instead of the flat ones. I put a small strip of wood across the beater. This strip extends about $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the lower edge of the sley; it makes a runway for the shuttle and works to perfection. One can do in five minutes as much as in fifteen with the flat shuttle."

(Note: Throw shuttles are, as our correspondent writes, much faster than flat shuttles. It is, however, necessary to have a winding device of some sort for winding the bobbins. The winding can be done on some types of sewing machines; an old spinning wheel can be used; and there is on the market a hand-wheel for this purpose. The best equipment is a sewing machine motor fitted with a small shank to hold the bobbins.)



"THE ESSANNEE LOOMS"

Mrs. E. J. Green of Providence has just opened a little craft-shop -- not far from her home -- in partnership with another local Guild member. The name they have selected for their shop is a combination of the initials of their first names.

I think the members will be interested to know of the splendid progress this member has made. It was only last May that she subscribed for my complete course in weaving. She bought one of our 20"-table looms then. Now, only a few months later, she has three of the table looms and three of our "Practical" looms, and her partner has a table loom and plans to get a large eight-harness loom soon.

Dress materials -- "linsey-woolsey" -- and towels and table runners are the things they are specializing in.

On Saturday, December 20th, I attended the "opening sale." I was thrilled with the results! Over \$100 in cash, -- in a few hours; and, orders for different things that will keep her busy for many weeks to come.

Last month I talked to you about "consignment selling," and suggested that those members who were interested send their names to me. As I expected, not very many are interested. One of the members writes:

"I do sell some of my things -- not always the best ones, however, and being a poor salesman, I know I would enjoy and do better work, if the sales end were off my mind. Perhaps all of the things I make would not sell, but I believe that 90 percent of it would, if properly displayed and handled by someone who enjoys selling more than creating. Many weavers feel as I do, I know, and would appreciate some sort of outlet for their work."

The baby-blanket project, which was announced in Bulletin #1 is progressing nicely. We are adding new workers as fast as the demand for the blankets increases.

After a while, we shall probably add another "line", that we will standardize and market on a similiar commercial basis.

"CHAINED WARPS"

For the convenience of our members, we can furnish 5 yard warps 16" to 18" wide for tartan scarf-weaving -- ready chained -- with yarn for the weaving, @ \$4.50. This will make two scarfs.