

## The Shuttlecraft Bulletins on Weaving Ribbons, Braids and Fringes

This month's Shuttlecraft Bulletin article on weaving ribbons, braids or bands and fringes is taken from the August 1926 (No. 23), January 1929 (No. 52) and June 1937 issues. Mary Atwater lists these very narrow textiles as- ribbons, braid, galoon and fringes, and notes that they are for finishing lamp shades, pillows, upholstered furniture, curtains, drapes, binding for bags, dress trimming and hat ornaments. She discusses weaving and knotting specialized fringes for coverlets or other household textiles.

Narrow textiles is a varied topic, and one that appears to be of interest as seen by the bands displayed at the recent Guild show. There are so many examples of, and techniques and materials used in the narrow textiles and I hope to give a taste of them here. These textiles may be woven on backstrap looms, inkle looms or a regular multi-harness looms.

For traditional bands, there is a UK weaver, Susan Foulkes, who has done so much to promote the weaving of traditional Sami and Swedish bands. She has published several books, held online workshops and has been instrumental in getting modern heddles and shuttles produced for weaving the bands. Her website is at this link: [durhamweaver64.blogspot.com/](http://durhamweaver64.blogspot.com/).

There is a braids and bands yahoo online group discussion group that is moderated by the Braid Society. The Braid Society promotes the education and practice of the art and craft of making constructed or embellished braids and narrow bands. Membership is open to everyone. Members include professional craftsmen, teachers, researchers, authors, perpetual students, collectors, and people who are just interested in the craft. More information, including how to

join the society may be found on their website: [braidsociety.com/](http://braidsociety.com/). They host a large conference *Braids*, every other year and the next one will be in Tacoma Washington, July-August 2016.

Robyn Spady, ([spadystudios.com/index.html](http://spadystudios.com/index.html)) has recently been studying how elaborate trims can be woven. She designs bands for traditional and non-traditional uses on inkle looms and weaves bands, trim, and ribbon that may be used as embellishment and jewelry. She presented a seminar to our guild a few years ago on *Passementerie - Woven Decorative Trims* and

offers a monograph on the topic: *Handwoven Decorative Trim - An introduction to weaving passementerie trim*.

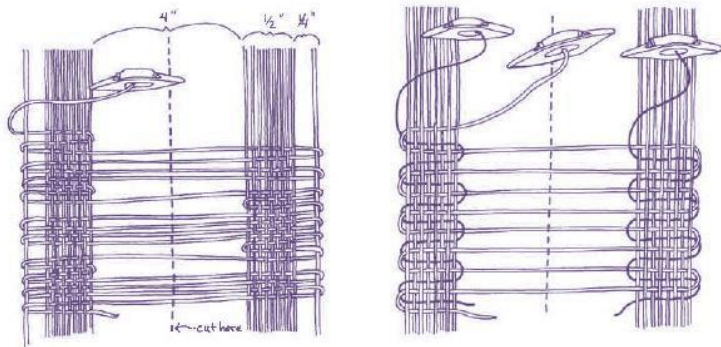
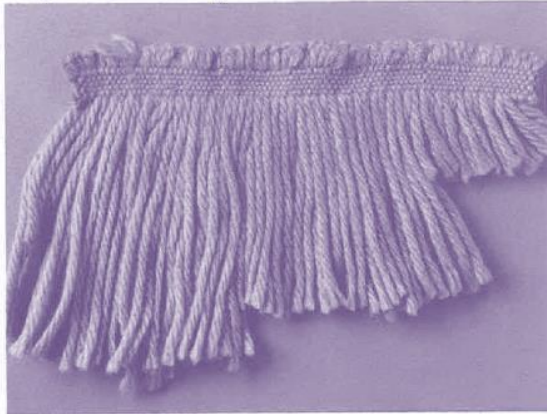
A narrow textile that caught my attention is a "galoon", which Wikipedia defines as: "a decorative woven trim sometimes in the form of a braid and commonly made of metallic gold or silver thread, lace, or embroidery. Galloon is used in the trim of military and police uniforms, ecclesiastical dress, and as trim on textiles, drapery, and upholstery."

Mary writes most about fringes, which I really don't see too much of these days, other than on scarves. For woven fringe to be attached to a piece, she recommends a technique of weaving 2 lengths of fringe at a time. She discusses the various weave structures that may be used in the heading of the fringe, a lay-in technique for special yarns and highly recommends weaving with silk.



Virginia West, in her book: *Finishing Touches, for the Handweaver*, revised edition, gives a good illustration of the 2 at a time technique as shown here.

Heavy Decorative Cut Fringe



I have barely covered the surface of the subject, there is so much more information on these trims, so take a look at some of these sources as well as the Bulletins. ♦ Maureen Wilson

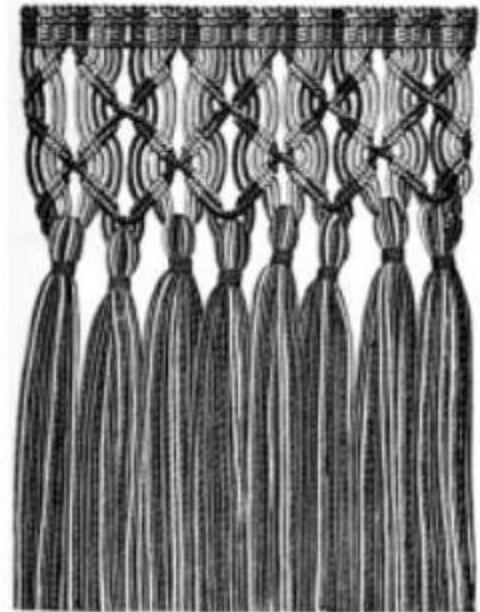


Fig. 31. Macramé fringe.

Knotted fringes for elaborate finishes use a technique borrowed from macramé, and sources for that may be found on the [https://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/books/macrame\\_dmc.pdf](https://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/books/macrame_dmc.pdf)

The weaving materials used for these textiles are as varied as the textiles, and include wool, as in a traditional band, linen background with wool pattern threads, cotton, up to wire and beads for jewelry. Anything you can imagine. This would be a good technique/project to showcase those novelty yarns. These textiles don't take a lot of materials, so you can more easily use elaborate or special yarns and showcase them.