

Shuttle-Craft Bulletins; Overshot for Coverlets and Other Things

The February and May 1927 Shuttle-Craft Bulletins address overshot patterns taken from coverlets. Overshot weaving dominated the Bulletins from this period, and so you will be reading about many more of them in articles to come.

The February pattern is Pine bloom, a most famous of old patterns, intended for coverlet woven in wool on a fine warp, and may be used for other things. Though, Mary did not recommend it for rugs. Mary placed this pattern in Overshot Series 1, the Diamond and Cross family, Group (c) in her book on American Handweaving, as pattern No. 26. She stated that in the South it appears in many different colors and different arrangements.

Pine bloom may be adjusted for linens or bags, with what Mary called the “blocks” made just half size without changing the proportions of the pattern. The long blocks of 16 may be done in 8 repeats. The 12 repeats of the table may be done in six. But, she advised, before attempting to shorten a pattern, draw it out on graph paper or use a software program to make sure it will serve your purpose.



Pine Bloom

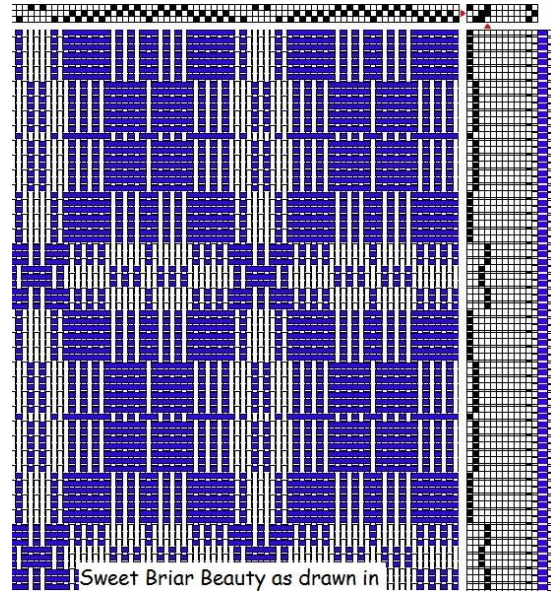
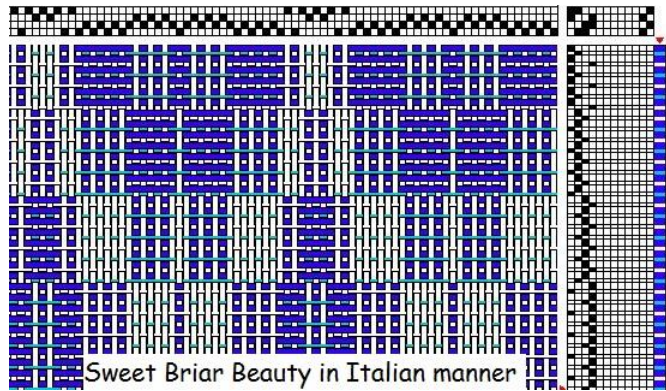
As with many overshot patterns there were other versions and other names for this one, such as Isle of Patmos in the New England area.

Mary gave specific instructions in the Bulletin on the threading for a coverlet, with the seam running through the point marked “C”, when woven in two pieces and she gave the number of repeats for the border, two repeats of the pattern, then the last repeat from beginning to thread 268. This will give a total of 1,252 ends in the warp, and if set at 30 epi, will be 41 inches in the reed.

She gave instructions on weaving this pattern on the Structo loom, for a narrower piece, about 19” which Mary said may be used for a pillow top or drapery.

She also wrote about the “Italian type” of overshot. This is further described in her book, *The Shuttlecraft Book of American Hand-Weaving*. It is based on a treading of overshot patterns adapted from Italian toweling: weaving the background in alternative pattern shots rather than in tabby, producing a soft, thick fabric.

This is usually woven in soft white cotton, but may be done in colors, with one color for pattern and a contrasting color for background. This option is intriguing and may be worth sampling in a simple overshot pattern. She gave the treading in her book, which is in the Guild library. Or weave the pattern treads in order: 1, 2, 3, 4 and repeat, without a tabby, producing pattern figures in pleasant variety simply by changes in color.



Included is a draft of Sweet Briar Rose done in both the Italian manner and as drawn in.

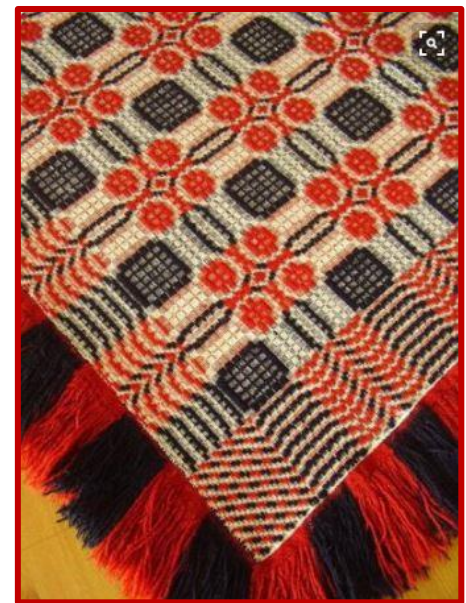
In the May 1927 issue of the Bulletin, the overshot pattern Whig Rose is included, another pattern that Mary called best known and famous in the old coverlets. The draft is also useful for many purposes, runners, upholstery, wall hangings and others. It was not recommended for rugs.

She gave instructions for weaving a coverlet using this pattern, with a warp of 1260 ends, 30 epi, would give a 42 inch wide warp in the reed.

She also gave a threading of almost 600 ends for the small Structo loom, for weaving pillow tops, runners or bags in this pattern.

If you are considering weaving a coverlet, I would recommend the article at this link:

http://www.coverletweaver.com/uploads/5/8/5/2/5852090/design_elements_of_a_coverlet_-_part_3_may_2006.pdf



Whig Rose Coverlet