

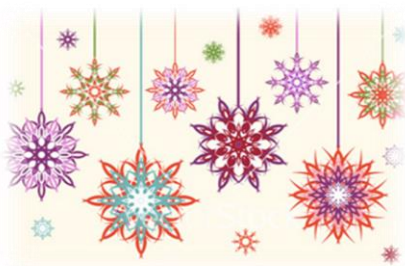
## Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Christmas Weaving

“Christmas again!” Mary Atwater wrote in her October 1929 Bulletin. The next year’s October 1930 Bulletin is titled the Annual Christmas weaving number. So, it appears that October is the month to start weaving for Christmas. Many of us, including me, may need more than 2 ½ months to weave up gifts for the holiday season. A friend once told me I should get started in July. Consider yourself forewarned by Mary Meigs Atwater herself.

In 1929, Mary provided a list of items that were considered to be suitable handwoven gifts: many of them still popular today, such as : muffler (we would call it a scarf), rug, couch-blanket (or throw), book covers, chair seat, sweater, pillow cover, shawl, towels, table-runner, bags, doll sized coverlets and rugs for doll houses, and baby blanket or coverlet; and some that may not be as familiar: auto robe, collar bag, bureau scarf or a collar and cuff set. My personal favorite is a laundry bag. Now who would not love a handwoven laundry bag?!

She recommended making up a list of recipients and the gifts for them, then start planning warps to weave them, using the same warp for several where possible to save time. She listed warp materials suitable for some of the items: carpet warp for rugs, blankets and pillow tops, fine cotton for place mats and table runners, towels, bags and book covers. Linen, she said may be used for any of the fine cotton items and wool is appropriate for shawls, scarves, baby blankets and sweaters.

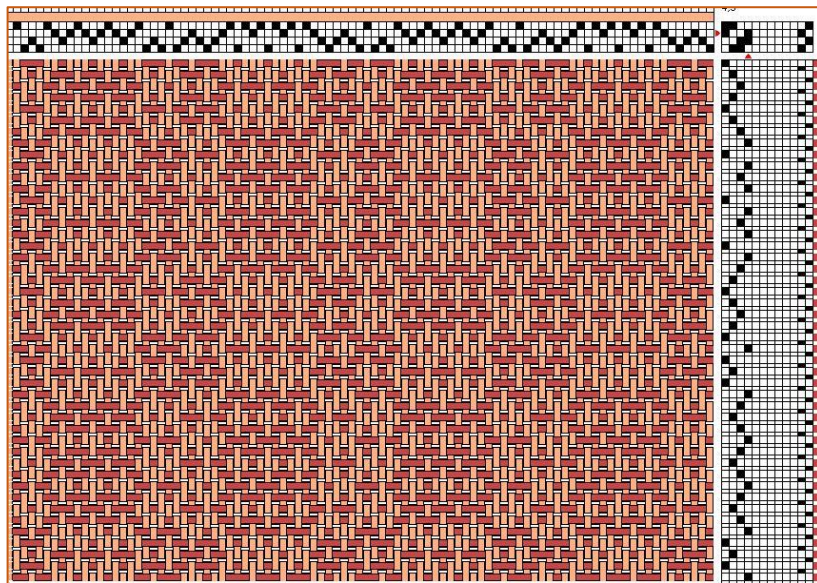
She spent several paragraphs discussing bags, saying that every woman wants many bags--that has not changed. She provided 2 drafts: three twills and “Wild Waves” with drawings of the several treadlings for both. The entire page from the Bulletin is included to show the variety available. The drawings include 3 bag styles that were popular in the day. Mary considered the geometric patterns “modernistic”.



She bemoaned the popularity of metallic threads and said that she would be glad to see them go. She recommended a weave of rayon over a foundation of linen to provide a solid fabric for formal bags and for sportswear.

In 1930, Mary again provided a list, repeating many of the same articles from 1929, especially bags, towels, photograph album covers and rugs. She said above all, the weaving should be colorful and charming, an “item of luxury”. There is plenty of time the rest of the year for what she called the “big, serious and necessary things.”

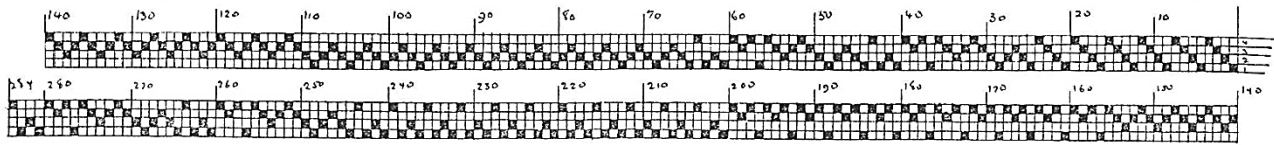
She responds to a particular request for a new pattern for small rugs, in crackle weave. She presents 5 drafts for crackle weave, with several treadlings for each. See one here – Draft a, woven as drawn in.



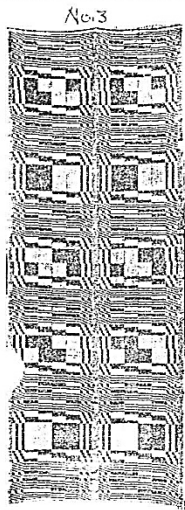
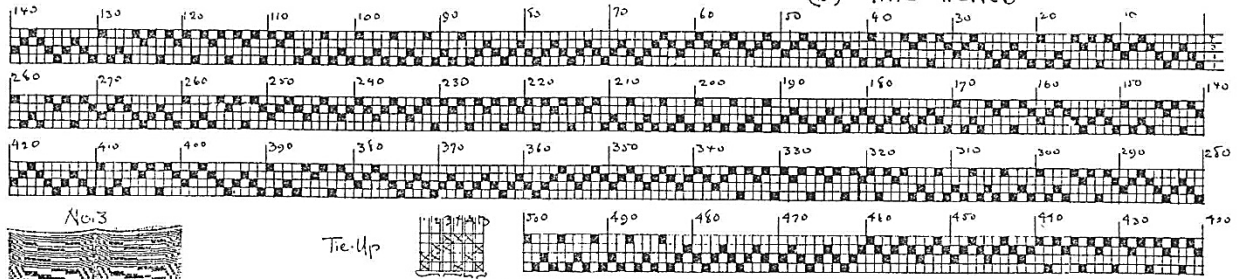
I have included the drafts from the Bulletin below. Do not forget that the crackle weave is the topic of the upcoming Guild challenge this year. It is another weave that Mary Meigs Atwater brought back to the weaving community. I am looking forward to participating and may use some of the drafts in future gifts.

# Two Modernistic Patterns for Christmas Weaving

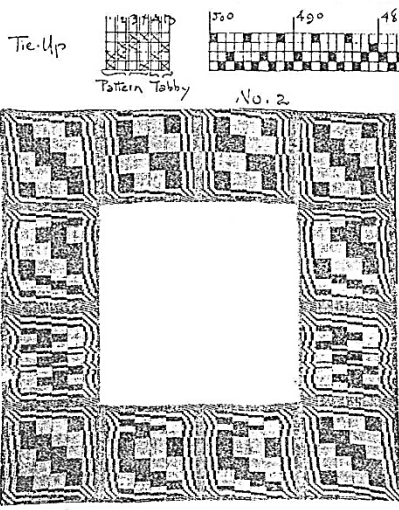
(a) The three Twills



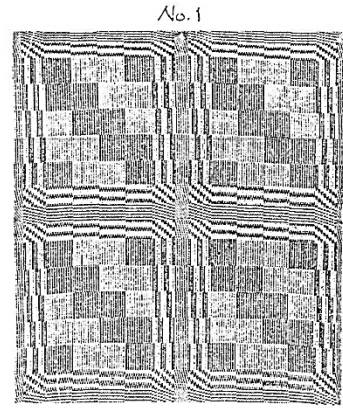
(b) Wild Waves



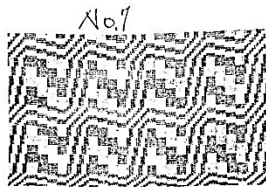
Draft (a)



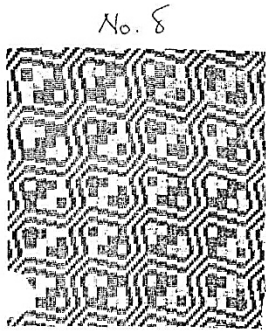
Draft (a)



Draft (a)



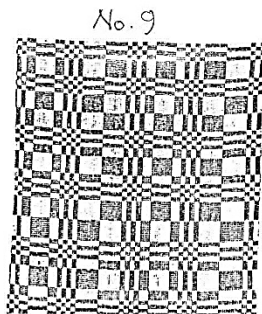
Draft (b)



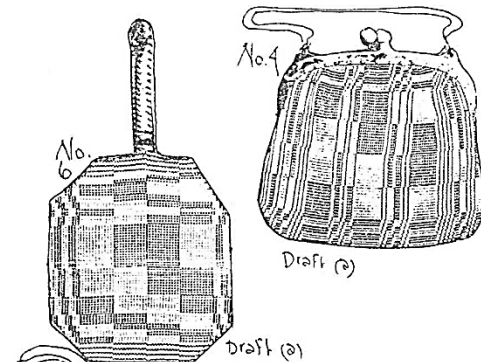
Draft (b)



Draft (a)



Draft (b)



Draft (a)

Draft (a)

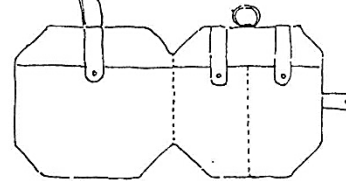
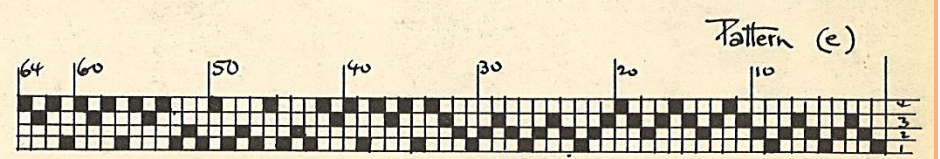
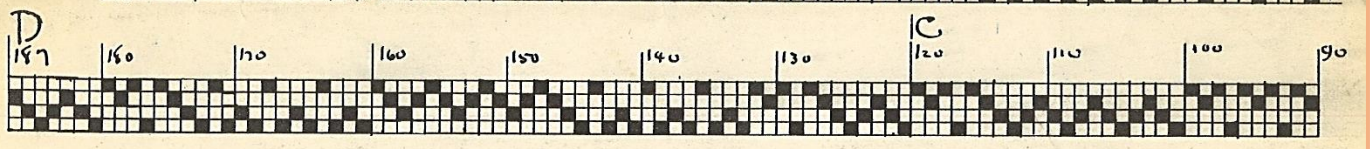
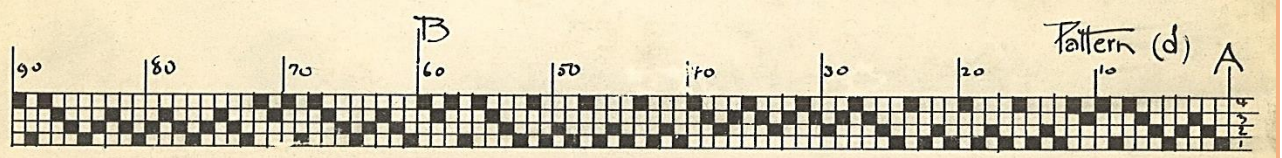
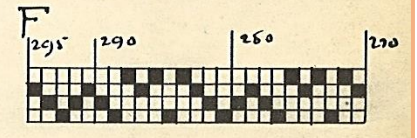
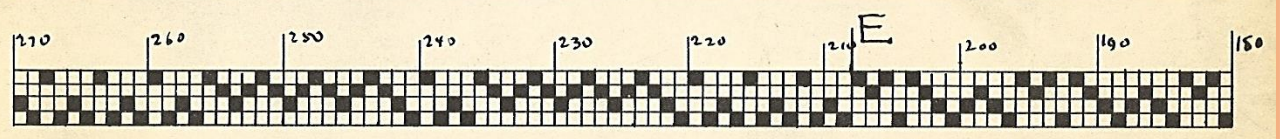
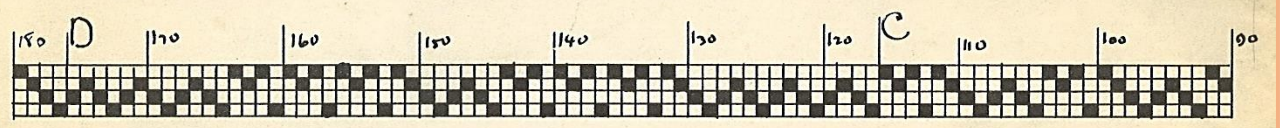
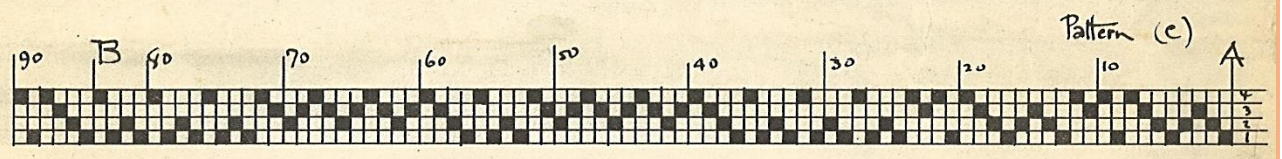
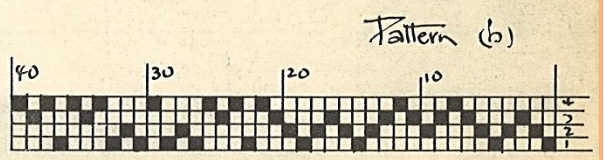
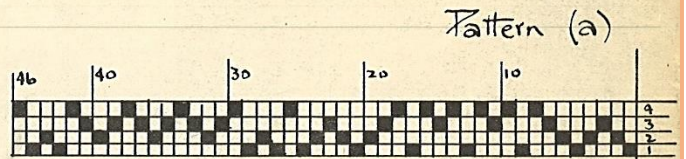
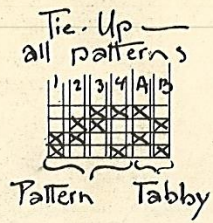


Diagram of lining for the Side-Opening Bag. (No. 6)

Mary M. Atwater. 1929

# Patterns in Crackle-Weave for Christmas Weaving



(this is the same pattern as at (b), but written larger)

Mary M. Atwater  
Helena, Mont. 1930