

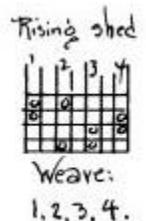
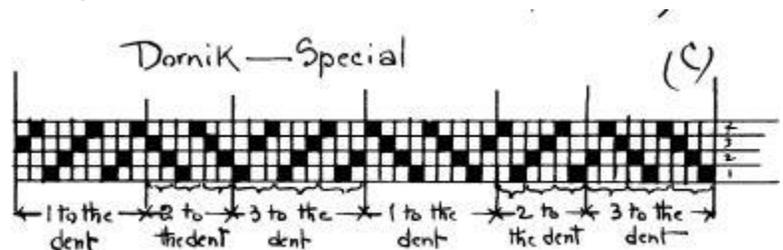
Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Christmas Weaving

It is October already and time to think about weaving for Christmas for those who celebrate the holiday. As Mary wrote in October 1934, "the October Bulletin has always been a "Christmas Weaving Number. No doubt many of the Shuttlecraft members have already begun to make Christmas plans and it is high time for all of us to do so." The other issues included in this article are from October and November 1943.

Weaving gifts for Christmas is less about weaving large projects, or strictly useful things. Gifts should be things that give joy and use, and be gay and attractive, according to Mary. But, in 1934, during the Depression Mary wrote that to have charm, a thing should serve some useful purpose. Plan your gift weaving before you begin she advised. Plan the gifts so that they can all be woven on the same warp and threading. Such a warp should be suitable for many fabrics and of an adaptable pattern that can be woven in different ways. She recommended a fairly fine linen or Egyptian cotton, discussing the advantages and concerns of weaving with each, such as the need for of a warp dressing on linen singles. Gift examples are very similar to past October issues: linen towels, table mats in straw twist, a material I have never heard of – maybe raffia?, and a lunch set, consisting of place mat and napkins. Many weave structures are offered, from plainweave to twills, crackle, summer and winter and Finnish double weave (finnweave) with some striking geometric patterns drawn by Mary for the last one. She offered neckties for the masculine contingent, as most of the suggestions are more appropriate for our women friends. And of course, don't forget bags, always attractive and useful.

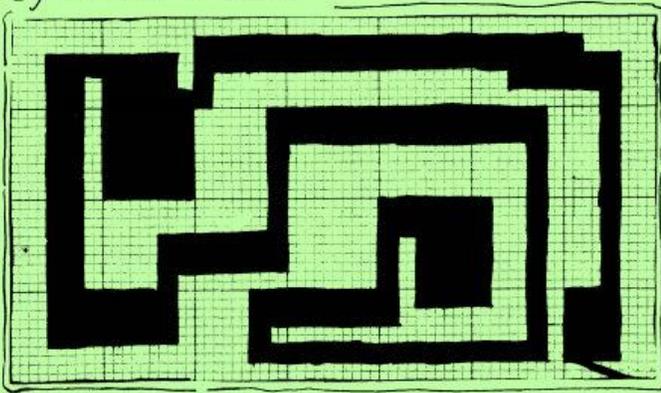


In 1943, it was quite a different world, we were at war and the gifts Mary wrote about were mostly gifts for soldiers. October would be too late to get a gift to a soldier overseas by Christmas, but there were many still in the States working on the war effort who might appreciate a handwoven gift, she reminded the members. She repeated that the gifts should be beautiful, but practical and useful, that did not change. She recommended wash cloths which I found to be a surprise from Mary. But, she did weave her washcloths in leno, in fine threads at a 30 ends per inch sett. She also recommended cotton towels to go with them, shoe bags and dog-tag tapes, woven on an Inkle loom or with card weaving. Other gift ideas included scarves, neckties and belts. She particularly liked the dornik herringbone done in a fine thread warp and a coarser weft, with a soft beat so the fabric is soft and not bulky. See the draft here. For the rest of the family and friends gift ideas, she included a padded double weave tea cozy, baby blankets (Mary was to be a proud grandmother for the 2nd time that fall) also done in a quilted doubleweave.



In November 1943, Mary continued writing about gift weaving, based on the comments she received from Guild members. She must have particularly liked the quilted double weave as her continued gift idea list included pot holders done in this weave, especially done in what she called the Peruvian manner.

(e) Pattern for Pot-Holder



These patterns may also be used for table-mats, bags and purses.

Indeed, this issue contains mostly double weave pickup with again, large dramatic geometric patterns shown here for potholders or table mats, truly a labor of love. So, weave for the holidays, or weave for our upcoming Guild sale. It is a good time to weave.