

ART IN THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME

Conducted by

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SWEDISH WEAVING

THE changing point of view in regard to the work in drawing and handicraft in the school is leading more and more toward those problems which not only represent the various fundamental principles of art training but which also involve the actual application of these principles to some definite form.

One of the phases of hand work often given to the younger children is weaving in the form of mats, rugs, etc., with paper, raffia and yarn. This is generally replaced by some other form of manual exercise instead of being carried on to a really logical, beautiful and useful result. Swedish weaving is a form of weaving which can very successfully be made to evolve from the first weaving principles in a natural way of progression.

Swedish weaving has decided decorative as well as industrial possibilities, and is an appropriate adornment for a great number of useful articles which can be made at home or in school. Bags, runners, table covers, towels, scarfs, collars and many articles of wearing apparel are among the things that are adapted to this method of treatment.

In all forms of Swedish weaving, threads are drawn across the material to the width allotted to the design, the pattern being woven over the remaining threads. The thread for weaving is carried in a small bodkin or tapestry needle or any blunt needle with a large

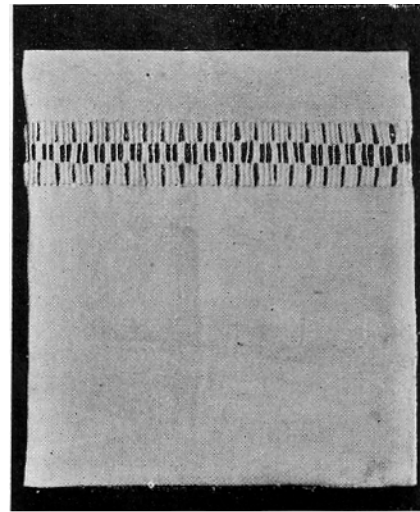
eye. No knot is made in the thread, but instead new threads are joined by leaving a bit of the thread at the end and weaving over it. In finishing a thread it is run back under the work so that both sides of the finished article have a smooth, neat appearance.

The pattern is made by weaving over and under in the usual way, weaving over groups of the thread of the material. The number of threads to a group depends on the coarseness of the fabric, but usually six or eight threads make a good group.

Any loosely woven material affords an excellent background for this decoration, but crash, heavy linen or huck are among the best. A rather heavy thread, D. M. & C. cotton, No. 5, is most effective on these materials. Many interesting designs can be made, and many good color schemes can be introduced into this work.

There is an excellent opportunity to originate very individual and unique designs. On squared paper work out a simple design with pencil or colored crayon, similar to figure 2, which is the plan of the design executed on the towel above. In this pattern three groups are woven over and under for one-third of the distance of the pulled threads. Two groups are now dropped on the left side and one other group is taken up at the right side. These two are woven over and under for one-third of the space, leaving only

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Swedish weaving used to decorate the hem of a towel

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one-third to be filled in. The right group is dropped and the weaving goes on over the three original groups. The center group of each motif is complete by running the needle back and winding the group over and over.

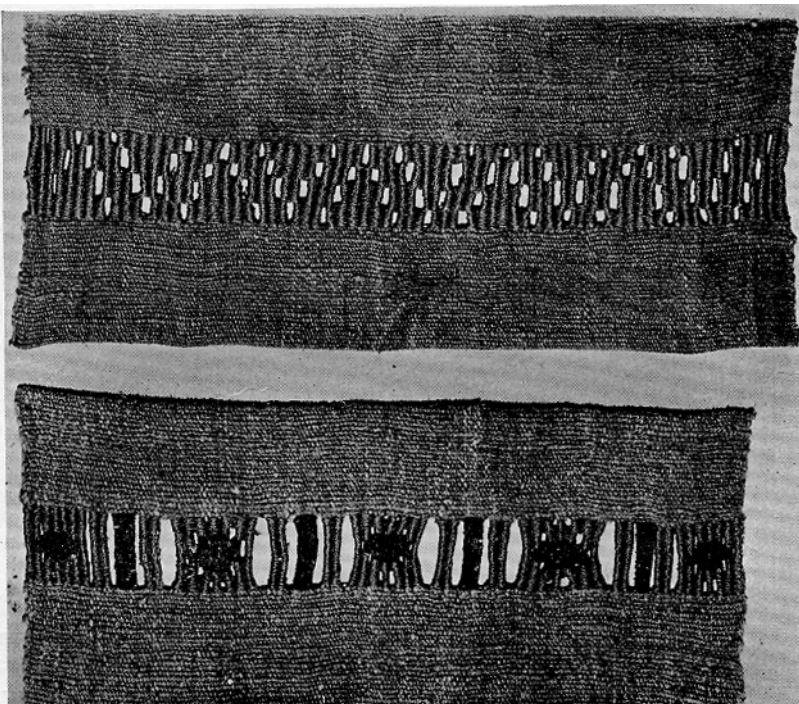
After working out one simple design in this manner other designs will be easily made.

The variety of color and space in this weaving makes the exercise one of constant interest to the worker, and the finished decoration is useful because of the durability and firmness of the design.

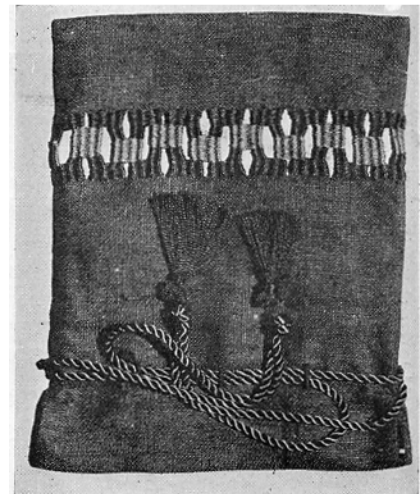
White Swedish weaving is commonly used to decorate hems of towels, scarfs and household articles, it has many possibilities in other lines of special interest. The variety of color combinations that can be worked out is unlimited with the many coarsely woven materials in fine colorings that are now available.

Swedish weaving is one of the older arts and has been considerably practiced. As a problem based on good principles of design it offers a wide range very little taught.

Figure 1 shows a group of articles executed in Swedish weaving, while Figures II and III show the design made for the towel and bag above.



Swedish weaving has decided decorative as well as industrial possibilities



Bags are adapted to this method of treatment