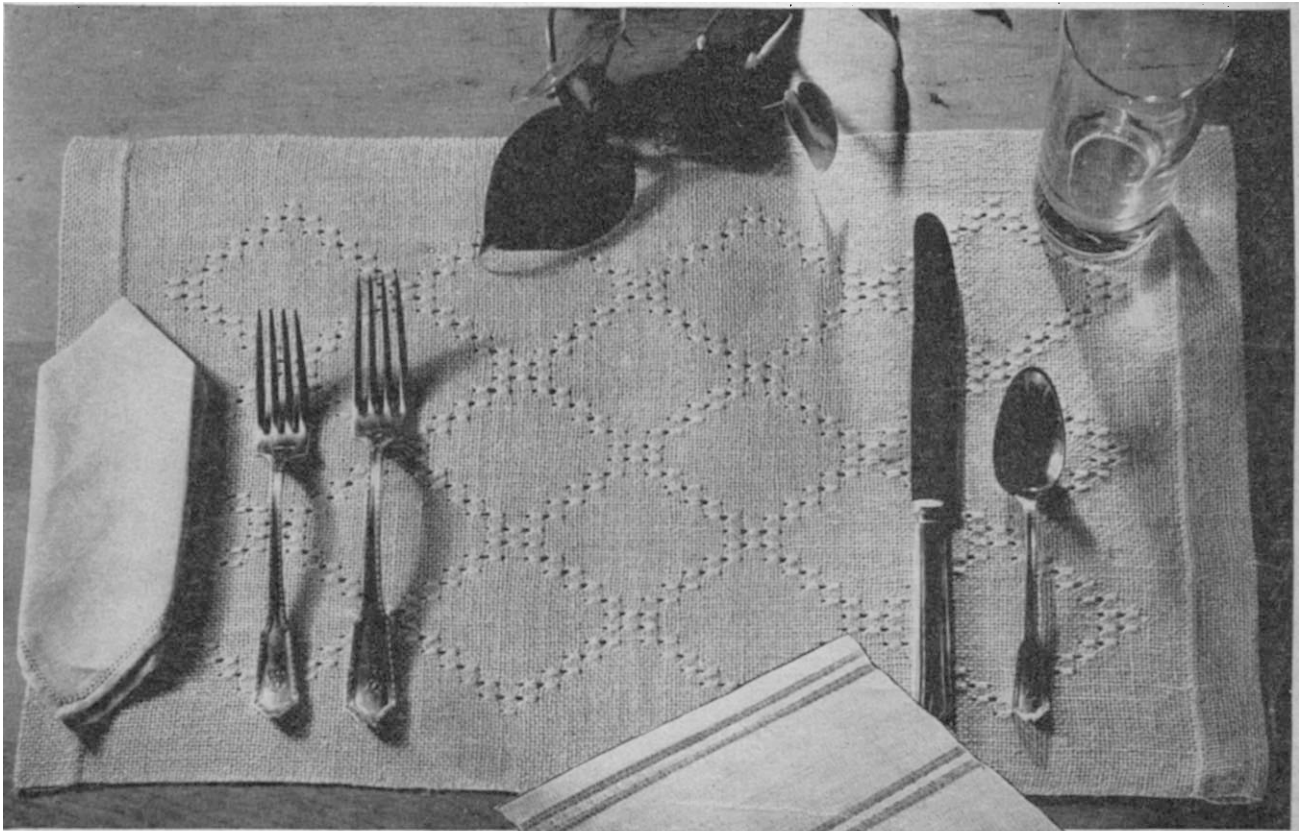


MEXICAN AND DANISH WEAVING



(Above.) A real gem in fine hand weaving . . . done in a lovely stitch, the Danish medallion. This stitch is used again in combination with the Mexican openwork stitch in runner at right. Two beautiful national stitches . . . two captivating woven pieces.

By Marguerite G. Brooks

ALTHOUGH there is intense satisfaction in the rhythmical "throw" and "beat" of hand-loom weaving, almost every weaver likes to stop now and again to add a bit of handwork to her lovely cloth. Sensitive fingertips and a bit of imagination can transform a piece of plain two-harness weaving into a thing of real beauty.

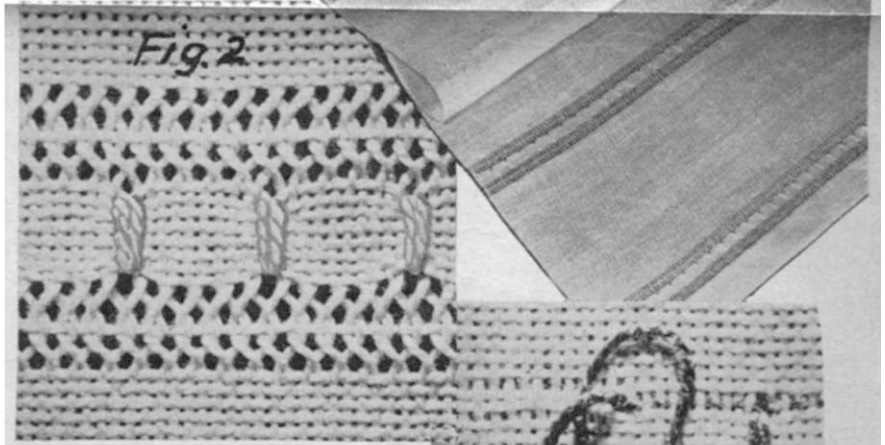
Many different techniques may be used to enhance the loveliness of plain tabby weaving. Two old favorites, the Danish Medallion and Mexican openwork, are shown here.

PLACE MAT. The stitch in Fig. 1 is known as the Danish Medallion and one of its many uses is illustrated in the 18-diamond Place Mat at top of page.

The warp and weft of this mat is Hughes Fawcett's No. 18/2 linen. 196 threads are set, 15 ends to the inch, and each mat is woven plain for 3½ inches, both before and after making the diamonds, to allow for a 1¼-inch hem.

When 3½ inches is woven, determine the exact location of the first 6 stitches and mark with pins. Counting warp threads from exact center, put 1 pin 2 threads to the right and 1 pin 2 threads to the left of center. This determines the position of the center pair of stitches. Place another pair exactly 44 threads to the right of the center pair (44 threads between pairs) and the third pair 44 threads to the left of center. Note that all stitches are made in pairs with 4 threads between each pair.

Make 4 plain shots, beginning at right.

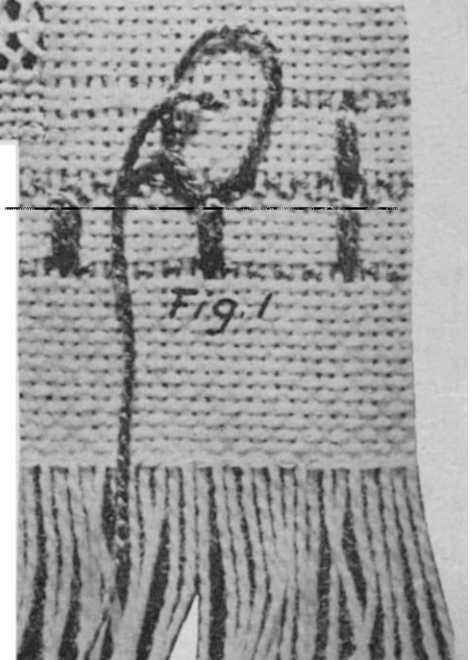


The first 3 pairs of stitches just made, form the points of 3 diamonds, each of which is built up in the following manner:

Row 2: Count 4 threads to the left of the last stitch made. Run from left selvage to this point and make stitch. Count 4 threads to right, make stitch. Repeat until 4 stitches are made, with 4 threads between each stitch. Repeat 4 stitches at each diamond point and run to right selvage.

Make 4 plain shots for each row of stitches.

Row 3: Count 4 threads to the right of last stitch made, make stitch. Count 4, make stitch. Count 12, make stitch. Count 4, make stitch.



Danish Stitch. Row 1: With shed open for a right to left shot, run only to 1st pin and pull weft through. Insert a No. 7 crochet hook at pin position, hook the loose weft thread (which should be pushed down with finger to meet hook) and pull loop up through cloth. Run shuttle through the loop and pull snugly as you would a button-hole stitch. This completes the stitch.

Now run the shuttle under 2 raised threads to the 2nd pin, and make the 2nd stitch. In this manner, make stitches at each pin, finishing at left selvage. Bunch 4 weft threads together with each stitch. Be careful not to change shed between stitches. When one row is completed, beat, change shed. Make 4 plain shots.

Continue building diagonals in this manner, 12 stitches each row, until they meet.

The 7th row contains only 8 stitches and when finished completes a perfect zig-zag of pairs.

Now reverse the diagonal to complete the 3 diamonds.

Row 8: Make 12 stitches directly above those in the 6th row. *Row 9:* Make like 5th row. *Row 10:* Make like 4th row. *Row 11:* Make like 3rd row. *Row 12:* Make like 2nd row.

Repeat from row 1, 3 times, or until 18 complete diamonds may be counted.

Weave plain $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

RUNNER. Fig. 2 shows a Mexican technique combined (Continued on page 71)



Fig. 1. Danish Diamond stitch, used in allover medallions in the exquisite place mat at top of this page. Fig. 2 (left, above) shows the Mexican openwork which is combined with the Danish Diamond stitch in the runner.

with the Danish, to make a very popular and beautiful border. This border may be used most successfully for finishing towels, runners, mats, scarfs, etc. In the runner shown on page 53, the decorative combination is repeated every $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches throughout the entire length.

Use Hughes Fawcett's 18/2 or 20/2 linen. Set 280 threads in the reed, 18 ends to the inch, for a runner 15 inches wide. Weave any length desired. Five pattern repeats will make a runner approximately 36 inches long.

Weave $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches plain for hem, then make 1 row of Mexican openwork, 1 row of Danish stitch, another row of Mexican and 5 inches of plain tabby. Repeat as often as desired.

The Danish technique has been explained on page 53. Mexican openwork is made as follows:

Mexican Lace: Use a pointed or thin-edged shed stick. With shed open ready for the next shot, and with the right selvage thread raised, weave the stick in and out of the warp from right to left, beginning under the first 2 depressed threads and then over the first raised thread, under the 3rd depressed, over the 2nd raised, under the 4th depressed, over the 3rd raised, etc. By pulling the raised thread to the left, with the index finger of the left hand, before passing over it, the twisting may be more speedily accomplished.

When all warp threads are twisted, open shed with stick and run shuttle through. Push weft firmly into position as stick is pulled out of shed. Pull beater forward and hold while changing shed. Push beater back. Make another shot. Beat. Change shed.

Make 5 more shots before starting Danish stitches and count 10 warp threads between stitches.

Both Danish and Mexican stitches may be made with any strong, non-stretching yarn. In the case of towels, where a soft linen weft must be used, a stronger quality or contrasting color may be introduced for the stitch as in Fig. 1.