

## *Pink or Blue!*

BY MARY M. ATWATER

**P**INK or blue? That is the first question to decide when coming to the great problem of making a baby blanket. Usually the answer will be "pink." There is something particularly babyish about pink and white, and then, too, to be practical, pink seems to wash better than pale blue.

Some people hold that pink is for a girl baby and blue for a boy, while others hold that the exact opposite is correct, so on this count one may do as one prefers.

But no matter which color is chosen, the materials for the proposed blanket must be carefully selected and combined, for the fabric must be as soft and light and warm as possible. Usually all-wool yarns of the highest grade give the best results, but some combinations of wool and silk, wool and rayon, wool and mercerized cotton, etc., are attractive.

The blanket for a very new baby should, however, always be all-wool, and should be very lightly woven to give the softest possible fabric. Perhaps the nicest of these blankets are the filmy, shawl-like ones made in the plain tabby weave. The yarn for these may be the fine "Afghan" yarn, set at 30 threads to the inch, warped about 42 inches wide and woven a little more than square. Suggestions for border arrangements for three such blankets follow:

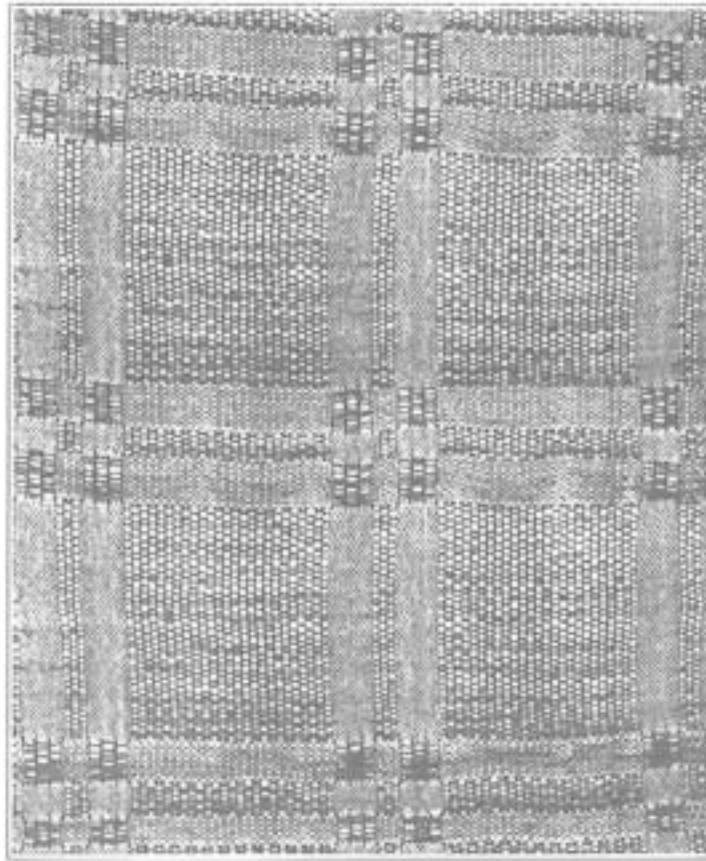
*Blanket No. 1* — Warp 1260 ends of Afghan yarn, arranged as follows: 120 ends in color; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 908 white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 4, colored; 4, white; 120, colored. Sley 30 ends to the inch.

Weave in the plain tabby weave, beating lightly, using the same arrangement of colored and white threads as was used for warping. It is advisable to weave the top and bottom plain-colored part somewhat wider than the corresponding side borders to allow for tiny hems by way of finish. (A blanket of this sort should not be bound with ribbon, as

that makes it less light and soft.)

After weaving, the blanket should be shaken out in warm, mild soapsuds, rinsed, and laid on towels on a flat surface to dry. When almost dry it should be lightly pressed with a flatiron that is warm rather than hot. This washing "finishes" the fabric and gives it a much softer texture than when taken from the loom.

*Blanket No. 2* — Warp Afghan yarn at 30 ends to the inch for the greatest width of the loom — at least 46", and 50" is better. Set 10" — or 300



*Illustration No. 1*

threads — on each side in color and the rest in white. Weave lightly as above. When woven make a broad hem all around. Wash and press. This is a particularly charming blanket.

*Blanket No. 3* — Afghan yarn at 30 ends to the inch, warp all in white, about 42" wide in the reed. Weave lightly as above, first a six-inch stripe in blue, then a six-inch stripe in white, six inches pink, six inches white, and repeat as required for length. Wash and press as above.

Of course many other arrangements of border are possible — for instance, cross-bars in color may be used. The variations are many, but the above will serve as suggestions which the weaver will have no difficulty in elaborating as desired.

A HEAVIER blanket for a new baby can be charmingly made of Germantown quality yarn — either the fine Saxony or the heavier four-fold yarn. Draft (a) of the threading drafts on the accompanying diagram gives a threading very useful for such a blanket. It will be noted that the warp is of white and a color alternately for 20 ends and then reversed — colored and white — for the next 20. Weaving should be done in white and a

color following the same order as the warping. The effect is a charming little pattern though the weave is plain tabby.

*Blanket No. 4* — Warp Saxony yarn, 630 ends arranged as follows: 65 threads in color; 12 repeats of the threading as given on draft (a); 20 threads like the first part of the draft; 65 threads in color. Sley at 15 ends to the inch.

Weave lightly in the same order of color and white as used in the warping.

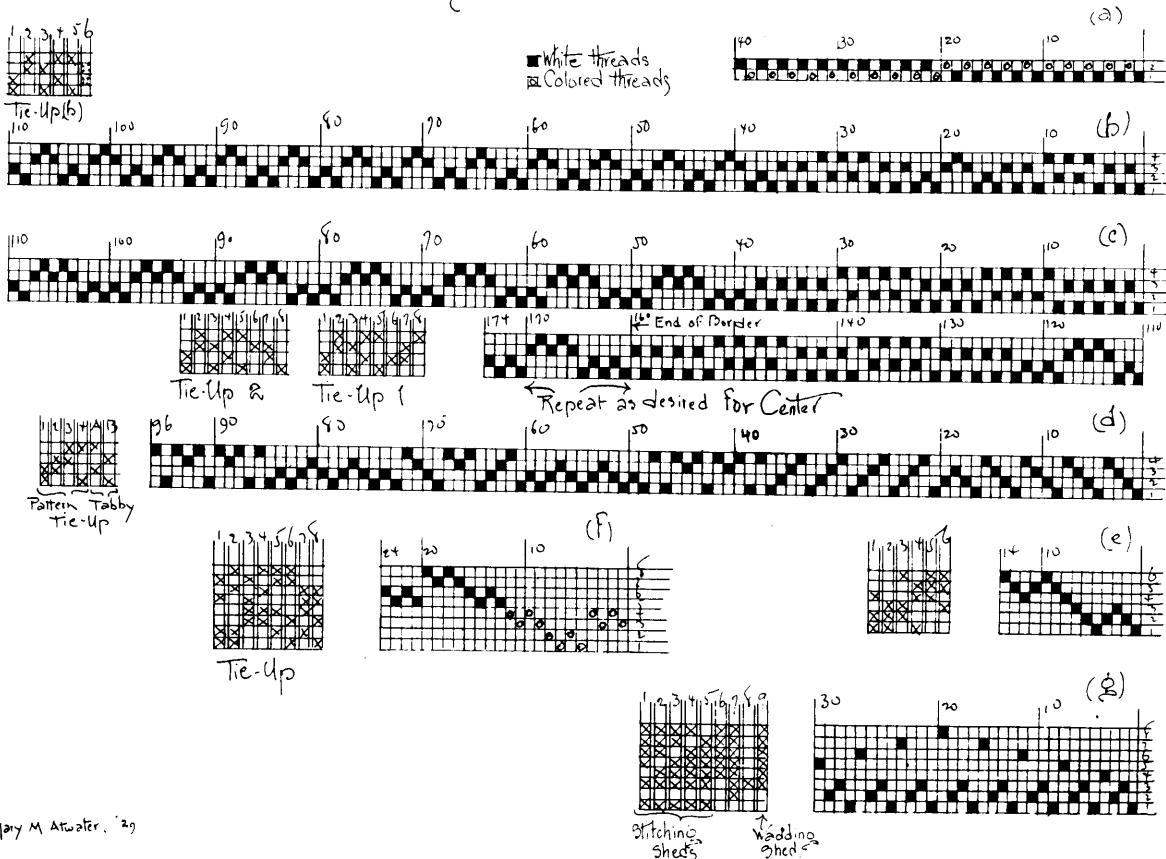
This blanket should be washed and pressed as suggested for blanket No. 1, and may then be bound with ribbon if desired. Fringes should not be made.

*Blanket No. 5* — Warp 336 ends of fourfold Germantown yarn arranged as follows: 38 ends in color; six repeats of the threading as given on the draft; 20 ends like the first 20 of the draft; 38 in color. Sley at 8 ends to the inch.

Weave lightly, wash and press as above. Bind with ribbon if desired. No fringes.

SEVERAL of the drafts given in the article on linen weaving that appeared in the June-July number of the HANDICRAFTER are suitable for

### Threading Drafts



blanket weaving. In fact almost all of the linen weaves are lovely in wool. For instance:

*Blanket No. 6* — Warp 638 ends of Saxony yarn, 67 ends on each side in color and the rest white. Thread draft (c) from the diagram accompanying the article on linen. Use the "Goose-Eye" treadling — the first 67 shots in color and the rest in white. A similar blanket can be made of fourfold Germantown yarn set at 8 or 10 ends to the inch. In each case warp and weft should be the same yarn.

*Blanket No. 7* — Warp in white art silk and weave in white fourfold Germantown yarn with stripes in color at either end, using draft (c) as above. (This blanket, of course, would not be suitable for a very new baby, but would be handsome in the coach of an older infant.)

*Blanket No. 8* — A very successful baby blanket of the heavier type, woven many times, is of fourfold Germantown yarn set at 8 ends to the inch, — 336 ends of warp, the first 56 and the last 56 being in color and the rest white. The threading used was the little "Ms and Os" threading as given at (e) of the linen weaves. This should be lightly woven, washed and pressed, and should be finished either with a tiny hem top and bottom or with a binding of ribbon.

Draft (L) of the linen weaves could also be used very beautifully for a baby blanket. In this case warp and weft might be different materials, — the warp, say, in fine art silk and weft in Shetland yarn, or in one of the wool and rayon mixtures of similar "grist." It would be very attractive if made all in white, or with a white warp and tabby and a colored pattern weft, or in white with colored borders at the top and bottom.

**I**LLUSTRATION No. 1 with this article shows a light-weight shawl-like blanket that is highly attractive. It is an arrangement specially designed for this number of the HANDICRAFTER.

*Blanket No. 9* — Warp, "Weaving-Special" in white, set at 15 ends to the inch, 603 ends. Thread the first eight threads, 1, 2, 3, 4 and repeat for selvage; then put in five repeats of draft (b) on the accompanying diagram; thread from the beginning of the draft to thread 37; put in eight threads of selvage.

Use weaving-special yarn, in color, for the weft

and treadle as follows: First a narrow heading made on treadles 5 and 6, — this is for a narrow hem; then, treadles 3 and 4 alternately for 15 shots; treadles 1 and 2 alternately for 9 shots; treadles 3 and 4 alternately for 15 shots; treadles 1 and 2 alternately for 75 shots, and repeat from the beginning.

The beat should be very light, and the blanket should be finished by washing and pressing as described for blanket No. 1.

*Blanket No. 10* — This is also a blanket specially designed for the HANDICRAFTER. It might be worked out in fine or coarse yarns as desired. Illustration

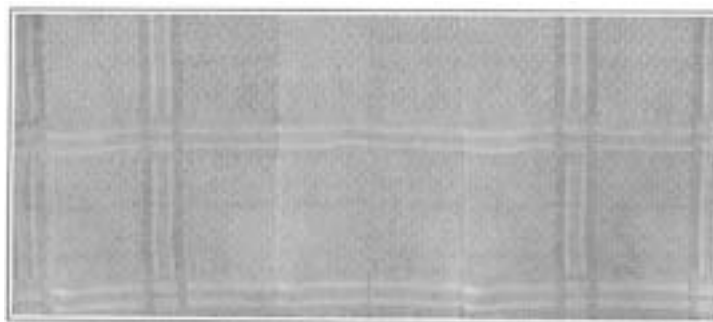


Illustration No. 3

tion No. 2 shows a firm, close weave made by warping weaving-special yarn at 30 to the inch, the weft being the same yarn, fairly well beaten up. Threading as at (c) of the accompanying diagram. In weaving the piece illustrated, the warp was all white except the nine threads of the first block, and threads 30-39, 123-131, 153-161, which were in color. This blanket should be set about 38" wide in the reed, with a selvage of eight threads on each margin.

Treadle as follows, using tie-up No. 1 as given on the diagram: First a heading on treadles 5 and 7; then treadles 1 and 2 alternately for 9 shots, using colored weft; 3 and 4 alternately for 7 shots, colored; 1 and 2 alternately for 7 shots, white; 3 and 4 alternately for 7 shots, colored; 1 and 2 alternately for 9 shots, colored, — this completes the stripe. For the square treadle: 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7 and repeat, one shot on each shed, all shots being in colored yarn. Weave eight repeats of the above and end: 5, 6, 5, 6, 5. Repeat the stripe. Then weave the center of the blanket in the treadling as given for the square. Weave the center a little longer than square. Then repeat the border: stripe, small square, stripe, and heading.

This blanket should be finished with a hem, washed and pressed as above.

*Blanket No. 11* — Illustration 3 — is of Saxony yarn set at 15 ends to the inch, the threading being the same as for blanket No. 10 above, the same threads being in color with the main part of the warp in white.

Treadle, using tie-up No. 2, as follows: treadles 3 and 4 alternately for 9 shots, in color; treadles 1 and 2 alternately for 7 shots, in white; treadles 3 and 4 alternately for 7 shots, colored; treadles 1

and 2 alternately for 7 shots, white; treadles 3 and 4 alternately for 9 shots, colored. This completes the stripe. Weave the square: treadles 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, one shot each, colored. Repeat eight times. End: 5, 6, 5, 6, 5. Repeat the stripe. Weave the center of the blanket in the treadling given for the square.

If desired the threading may be used to give a series of small squares and cross-stripes instead of a border as shown. In this case the first 160 threads of the draft should be used as a repeat.

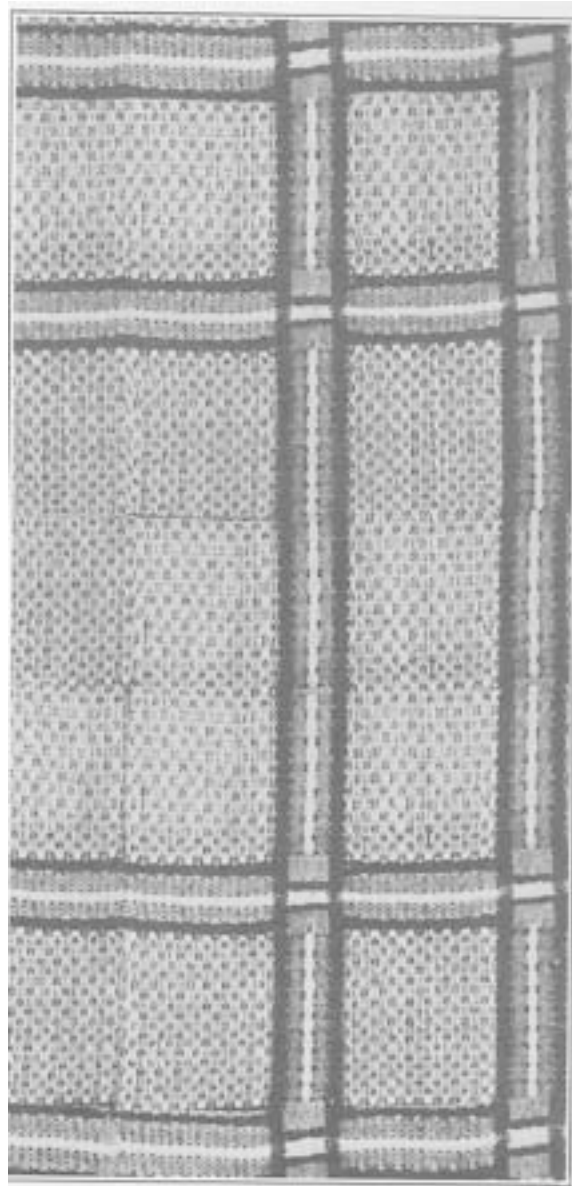
*Blanket No. 12* — Warp 665 ends of Saxony, 8 white (for selvage), 9 colored, 21 white, 9 colored, 83 white, repeated five times, omitting selvage on repeats; then 9 colored, 21 white, 9 colored, 8 white (selvage). Sleyed at 15 ends to the inch, this will make a blanket  $44\frac{1}{3}$ " wide in the reed. Weave as for blanket No. 10, treadling: heading stripe, square, stripe, square, stripe, square, stripe, square, stripe heading.

**M**ANY of the familiar four-harness overshot patterns lend themselves to the making of baby blankets, especially the heavier blankets to use as coverlets on cribs or as carriage robes. The pattern selected should be a small and delicate one.

Draft (d) of the accompanying diagram shows a threading for four-harness overshot weaving especially designed for this number of the *HANDICRAFTER*. It may be worked out in many different materials. Warp and tabby may be fine wool, such as Fabri yarn, and pattern weft in a heavier, fluffier yarn — or warp may be fine art silk with tabby the same and pattern weft in Germantown — or warp may be "perle" cotton with weft in wool — or warp may be wool and pattern weft in heavy art silk. The Miro, Laurel and Slovine yarns may also be used.

The pattern when woven "as-drawn-in" gives star-shaped figures on one side and on the other the attractive circle of roses illustrated. Either side may be considered the right side of the fabric, though the little roses — illustration No. 4 — are perhaps daintier than the stars.

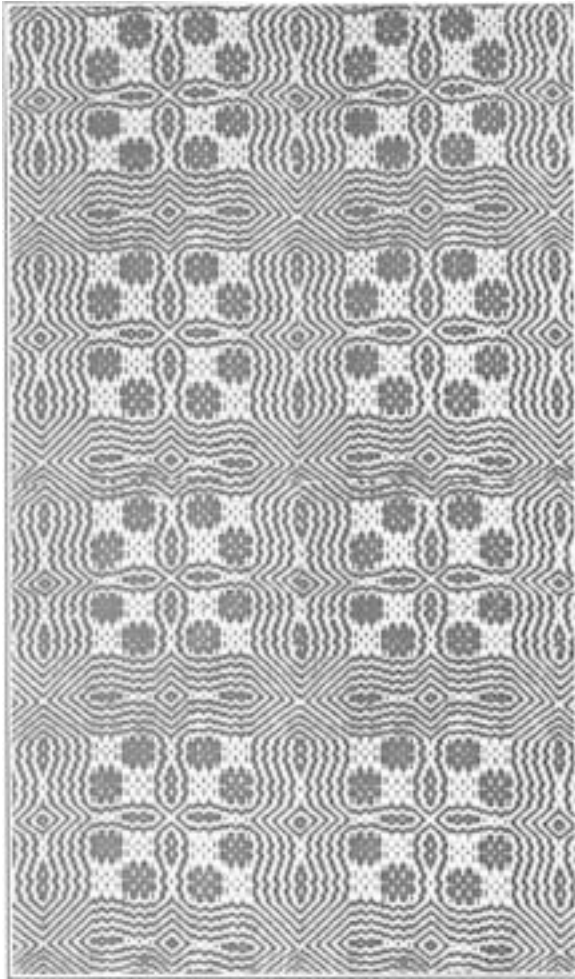
*Blanket No. 14* — The six-harness draft at (e) of the accompanying diagram gives the threading for an attractive basket-weave, one of the very best to use for baby blankets in the heavier yarns. Saxony at 15 to the inch or fourfold at 8 to the inch are suggested as particularly good. Warp and weft should be the same material. These blankets may be all in white, or may be white with colored borders, or white with a series of colored stripes both in warp and weft. Colored stripes if used should be of 21 threads, or 35 threads, etc., and should be arranged to begin with the beginning of a repeat of the threading. The weaving should follow the warping plan so that the arrangement will be



*Illustration No. 2*

symmetrical. Treadle as follows (on the tie-up as given with the draft): Treadles 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 4, 5, 6, and repeat, one shot on each treadle.

*Blanket No. 15* — The eight-harness threading at (f) of the accompanying diagram is an excellent one for blanket weaving. A variety of yarns may be used in making it, either fine or heavy, but warp and weft should be similar in grist. The warp, as indicated on the draft, should be of white and a color, 12 threads of each, alternately. In weaving, the same arrangement of color should be used. Treadling is as follows (on the tie-up as illustrated): Treadles 3, 4, 3, 4, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 6, 7, 8, 7, 8, 5, 6, 5, 6 and repeat, one shot on each treadle.



*Blanket No. 15* — Draft (g) on the accompanying diagram gives the threading for quilted weaving. The two front harnesses carry the threads for the

face of the fabric, and the other six harnesses carry the backing material. These may be different in kind and in color if desired; for instance, the front may be white wool and the backing pink wool of the same kind, or the front may be in silk and the back in wool. The fabric both of front and back will be in plain tabby weave with wadding between, the two fabrics "stitched" together in a pattern. The effect is delightful and unusual. This is a form of "double" weaving.

Three shuttles are used, one carrying the backing material, one the weft for the face, and one a very heavy material for wadding. Two shots of face and two shots of backing are put in between the wadding shots. Treadling is as follows: Treadle 7, face; treadle 8, backing; 1, face; 6, backing; 9, wadding; 7, face; 8, backing; 2, face; 6, backing; 9, wadding; 7, face; 8, backing; 3, face; 6, backing; 9, wadding; and so on.

A FEW words about wool warp may not be amiss. Wool — especially the light, fluffy wools used for baby blankets — should never be allowed to remain long at the stretch, as this destroys their elasticity and much of their beauty. A wool warp should not be spooled till just before warping. And, too, a long warp is a mistake unless one works rapidly and intends to make a number of blankets one after the other. The warp should be woven off as rapidly as possible, and at night or when the loom is not in use the tension should be let down.

As a rule any all-wool fabric is greatly improved by washing. This is not the case with the rayons or with fabrics composed of wool and cotton, wool and art silk and so on. The washing should, of course, be carefully done. The fabrics, especially the filmy and loosely woven ones, should never be wrung out, and a very hot iron should never be used in the pressing.

