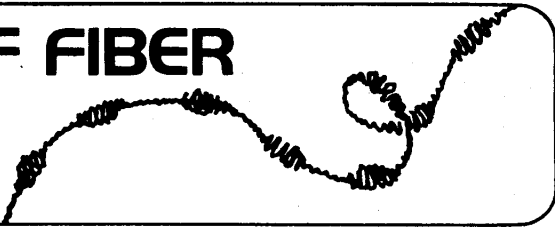


OF FIBER



SUMMER CLOTHING

With summer coming we all need some cool additions to our warm weather wardrobe. Weavers have some cool fibers and comfortable designs available to them. Summer clothing is a natural thing to weave. Many good ideas can be borrowed from cultures accustomed to hot weather, and the fabrics you can make are more comfortable than most manufactured today.

Summer fibers are cotton, linen, and a blend of the two—cottolin. I am a fan of natural fibers as they always seem to give the best results for your weaving effort.

Cotton may be either mercerized or unmercerized. Mercerization is a process whereby cotton thread under tension is boiled in a caustic soda solution. This process flattens and elongates the cotton fibers making a stronger, more dye receptive yarn that has a sheen. Mercerizing will also prevent some of the shrinkage common to cotton.

Unmercerized cotton is characterized by a dull surface and is closer in appearance to natural cotton fiber.

Cotton comes in a range of sizes and textures. Some common cotton sizes for warp are 20/2, 10/2, 5/2, and 3/2. There are also many other cotton sizes to work with. Pearl cotton has been heavily mercerized to give it a soft, shiny surface. Check the manufacturers information concerning other cottons and the amount of mercerization they have undergone.

Linen is a fiber used since ancient times for clothing. It gives various results depending upon size used. Most successful garments are made from linen which is fairly fine—20/2 is a good size. Larger diameter yarns give a heavy, stiff result and would be uncomfortable to wear next to the skin.

Linen is one fiber that improves with age. It thrives on repeated laundering and ironing. The fibers become flattened and the fabric develops a sheen and drape that is ideal for garments.

Cottolin is a Scandinavian fiber that is also good for garments. This half-linen—half-cotton yarn creates soft fabrics with an interesting texture to slight irregularities in the spin.

If you are weaving your garment in plain weave it is best to sett the threads for a balanced weave. Some suggestions for correct sett are listed here:

3/2 cotton	12-15 epi or 10 epi on frame loom
5/2 cotton	15-18 epi or 16 epi on frame loom
10/2 cotton	20-24 epi or doubled at 10 epi on frame loom
20/2 linen	24-30 epi
cottolin	20-24 epi or doubled at 10 epi on frame loom

If you intend to weave twill, place the threads a bit closer together.

Cotton, linen, and cottolin all shrink when washed. Shrinkage should be planned for when you wind your warp. I add about 10% above and beyond my loom shrinkage to both length and width in weaving for cottonlin and unmercerized cotton. This is 10% added to the piece as it comes off the loom. Linen and mercerized cotton shrink somewhat less, but do weave your garments in these materials slightly larger. When

shrinkage occurs, the fibers place themselves closer together, so if you are in doubt as to the correct sett, a closer sett may shrink less. Also, because of this shrinkage factor, any openings left for necks, or loom-shaped areas will become larger after washing, so weave them slightly smaller than you need.

With proper planning you should have no trouble making cool and comfortable summer garments. The combination of the more porous handwoven fabric and the natural fibers will allow your skin to breathe and your body moisture to be absorbed. It will be your first choice on hot days.

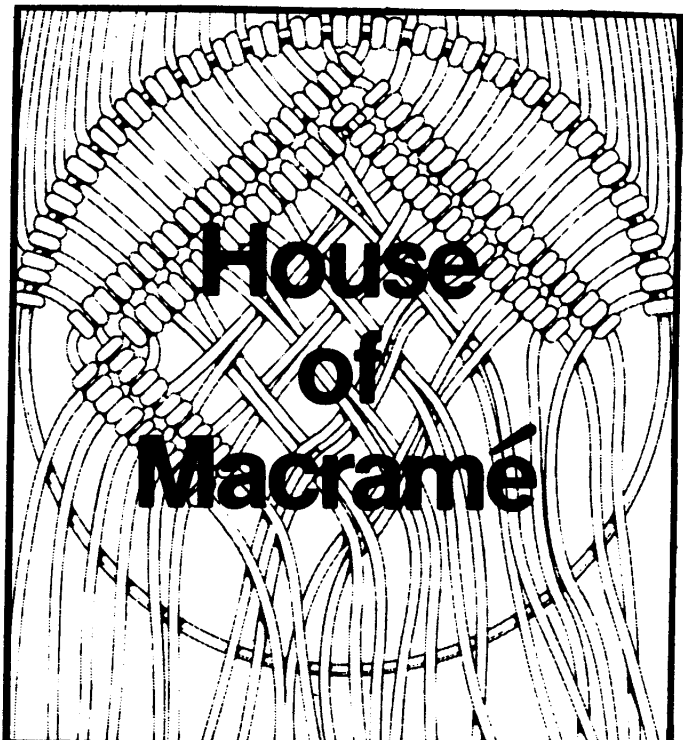
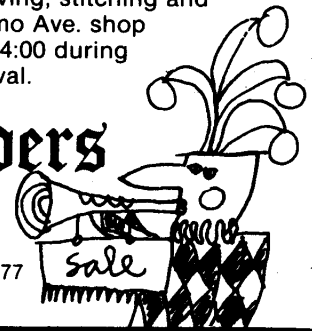
Rose Broughton

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