

“Stunting” on the Cards

BY MARY M. ATWATER

CARD-WEAVING is a fascinating little craft. Though it has about it some of the aspects of a game it is, nevertheless, a serious form of weaving — as technical in its way as weaving on a loom. Certainly there is nothing childish about it.

The fascination lies, I think, in the cleverness and ingenuity of the technique, and in the unique texture of the woven bands — strong, firm, thick and smooth — quite unlike the product of any other form of weaving. These fabrics, of course, are restricted to a few uses only, but for these uses are better than any fabric one can make on a “harness” loom.

One of the interesting things about card-weaving is the fact that the process lends itself to the doing of a number of things that cannot be done in any other weaving technique. On the cards one may weave around a square corner, for instance, or make braids and interlaced effects, to mention only two of the special possibilities.

But before explaining how these things may be done, I wish to describe a special method of warping and threading that saves a great deal of time. This method is not practical for all patterns; in fact it is limited to those patterns in which each card carries the same colors, such as the patterns shown on Diagram No. 1, Drafts 1 and 2.

Draft No. 1 gives the threading used for the more elaborate effects in card-weaving — initials, free designs, and the interesting Egyptian “lotus” and “big triangle” effects, double weaving after the Finnish method, etc. Draft No. 2 is the familiar diamond or chevron pattern that can be woven in so many different ways.

To set up Draft No. 1 by the process to be described, have ready four spools of warp material, — two in a dark color and two in a light shade. These spools may be set on a creel or spool rack, or may simply be put in a box on the floor. Arrange the cards in pairs, as indicated on the sketch and in the following order: 1 (1); 2 (2); 3 (3); 4 (4), and so on, placing the cards directly over each other with the lettered holes corresponding. Thread the four spools of warp through the entire pack, light threads through the A- and B-holes and dark threads through the C- and D-holes.

The warp should be wound as usual, over two supports, — pegs or hooks in the wall or over two chairs set at a suitable distance apart. When the pack of cards has been threaded, attach the strand of four threads to one of the supports, draw out the warp from the spools and run the pack of cards along the strand. When a point about halfway between the supports is reached, drop off the bottom card from the pack and allow it to hang on the warp. Bring the pack of cards around the second support and halfway back to the starting point. Here drop off another card from the pack. Proceed in this manner till all the cards have been dropped and warping and threading is complete. Before beginning to weave, rearrange

the cards in the order shown in the draft. The cards will twist toward the center.

If it is desired to have all the cards twist one way, set the supports closer together and drop all the cards at the same point; cut the warp at one end only, the complete round making the length of the warp.

Draft No. 2 is threaded and warped in the same manner; the cards must, however, be differently arranged before threading. It will be noted on the draft that the thread of a color indicated thus: (“) is threaded through the A-hole in card No. 1, the D-hole in card No. 2, the C-hole in No. 3 and the B-hole in No. 4. Arrange the cards in pairs to correspond with this threading. That is, arrange them in 1 (1); 2 (2) order as for Draft No. 1, but instead of making the lettered holes correspond set the second pair with the D-hole over the A-hole in the first pair and so on. This is indicated on the sketch. The fifth pair will, of course, be in the same position as the first pair, and the sixth pair will be like the second, and so on to the eighth pair.

Four spools of thread, one of each of the chosen colors, should be set on the spool rack or put in a box on the floor. Thread the four threads through the complete pack in the chosen order and proceed with the warping.

When the warping is complete, rearrange the cards in the order shown in the draft and also arrange them so that the lettered holes correspond.

If borders in a solid color are desired with these patterns they must be warped separately.

This warping process takes a number of words to describe, but it is simple enough to do and saves a lot of time.

Diagram No. 2 illustrates two simple “stunts.” The effect sketched on Draft No. 3, and shown in the photograph of woven samples, is suggested for a hatband. For the woven piece shown the warp was of coarse knitting yarn in white, dark blue and orange. To weave, proceed as follows: Weave the little diamond figure in the usual manner by weaving four turns each way. Draw the weft thread tight. Then make twelve turns, all in the same direction, without putting in the cross-thread. This makes twists of each set of four threads. Weave another diamond figure as at first. Make twelve turns without weaving, twisting in the opposite direction from the first set of twists, and proceed in this manner. The effect is unusual and amusing. The same technique might also be used in other materials and for a belt. Any good threading may be used.

Draft No. 4 was used for the piece woven around the square corners. A different threading may, of course, be woven in the same manner.

When ready to turn the corner, weave from left to right, omitting the last four threads; turn the cards and return

Diagram No.1.

Draft No.1
A B C D

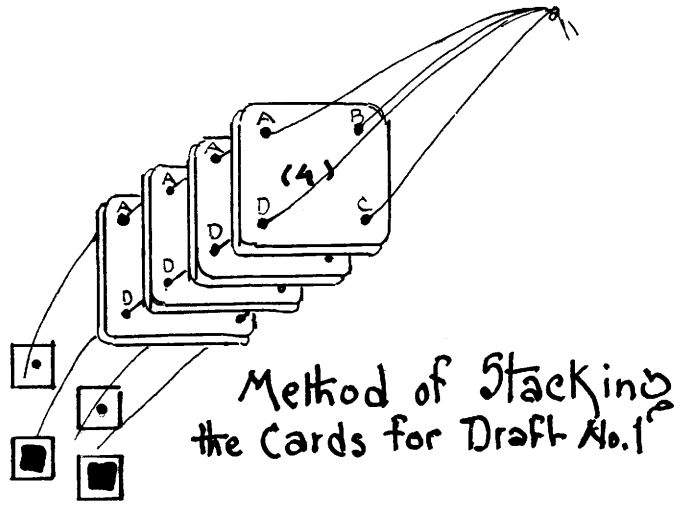
1	•	•	■	■
2	•	•	■	■
3	•	•	■	■
4	•	•	■	■
5	•	•	■	■
6	•	•	■	■
7	•	•	■	■
8	•	•	■	■
(8)	•	•	■	■
(7)	•	•	■	■
(6)	•	•	■	■
(5)	•	•	■	■
(4)	•	•	■	■
(3)	•	•	■	■
(2)	•	•	■	■
(1)	•	•	■	■

Draft No.2
A B C D

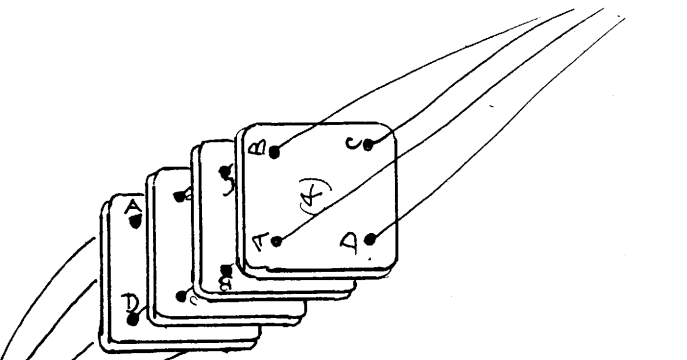
1	"	X	•	■
2	X	•	■	"
3	•	■	"	X
4	■	"	X	•
5	"	X	•	■
6	X	•	■	"
7	•	■	"	X
8	■	"	X	•
(8)	■	"	X	•
(7)	•	■	"	X
(6)	X	•	■	"
(5)	"	X	•	■
(4)	■	"	X	•
(3)	•	■	"	X
(2)	X	•	■	"
(1)	"	X	•	■

■ Dark
□ Light

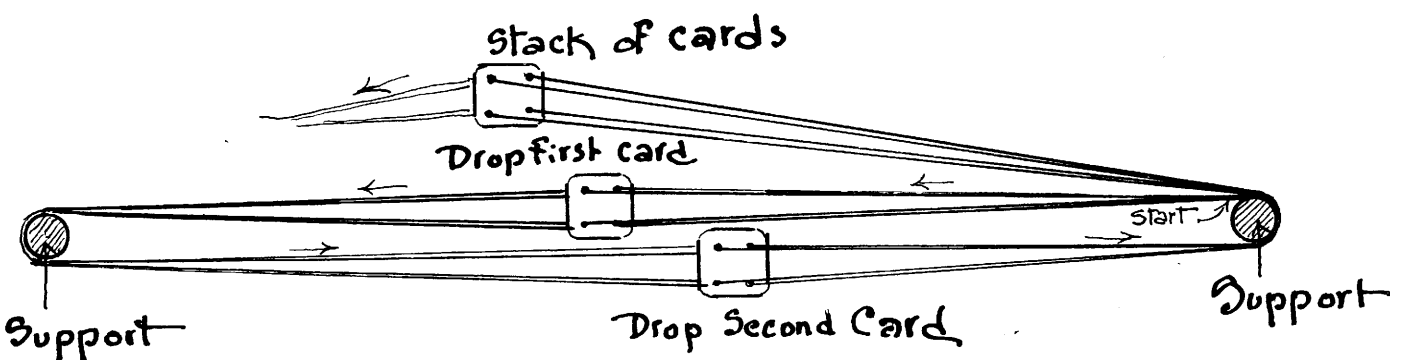
" X ■ •
Four Colors



Method of Stacking the Cards for Draft No.1



Method of Stacking the cards for Draft No.2



Special Method of Warping.

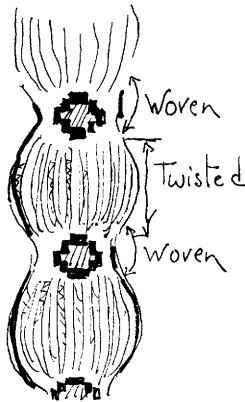
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Diagram No. 2

Draft No. 3

	A	B	C	D
1
2
3	.	.	.	■
4	.	.	.	■
5	.	.	■	■
6	.	.	■	■
7	.	■	■	X
8	.	■	■	X
9	■	■	X	X
10	■	■	X	X
(10)	■	■	X	X
(9)	■	■	X	X
(8)	.	■	■	X
(7)	.	■	■	X
(6)	.	.	■	■
(5)	.	.	■	■
(4)	.	.	.	■
(3)	.	.	.	■
(2)
(1)

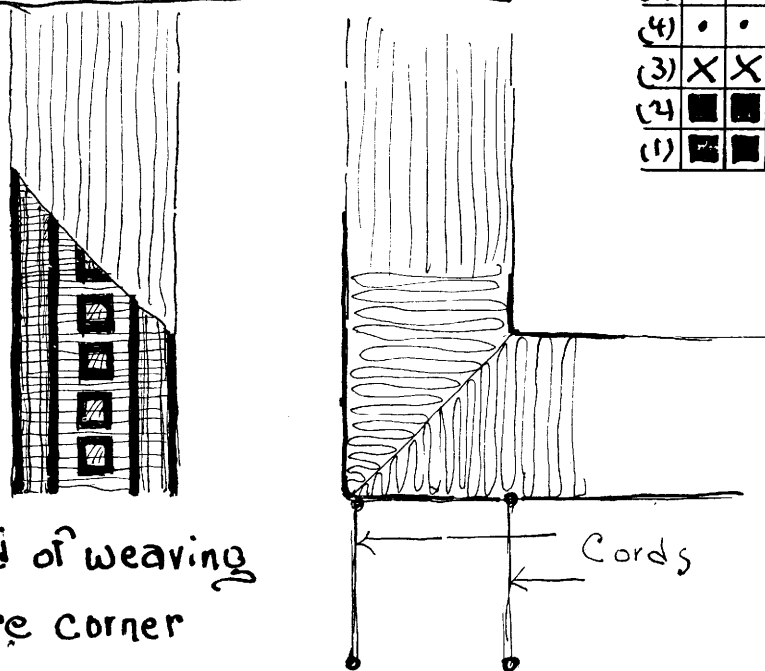
- Warp
- 40 threads
 - 28 "
 - X 12 "



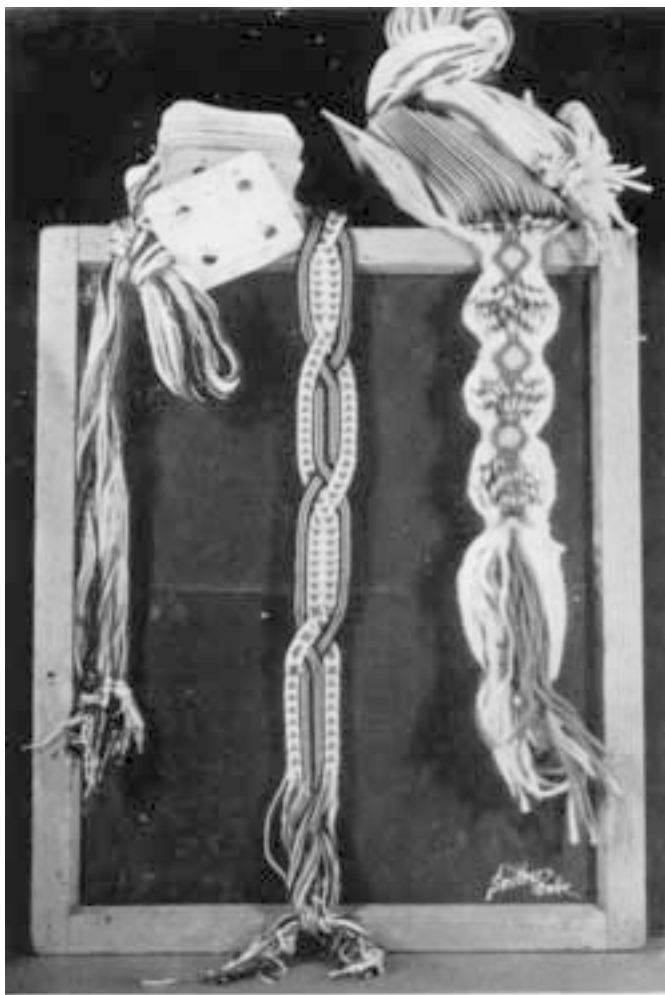
Draft No. 4

1	■	■	■	■
2	■	■	■	■
3	X	X	X	X
4	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.
6	X	X	X	X
7	■	■	■	■
8	■	■	■	■
9	.	.	.	.
10	.	.	.	.
11	.	■	■	■
12	.	■	■	■
13	.	■	■	X
14	.	■	■	X
(14)	.	■	■	X
(13)	.	■	■	X
(12)	.	■	■	■
(11)	.	■	■	■
(10)	.	.	.	.
(9)	.	.	.	.
(8)	■	■	■	■
(7)	■	■	■	■
(6)	X	X	X	X
(5)	.	.	.	.
(4)	.	.	.	.
(3)	X	X	X	X
(2)	■	■	■	■
(1)	■	■	■	■

- Warp
- 52 threads
 - X 20 "
 - 40 "

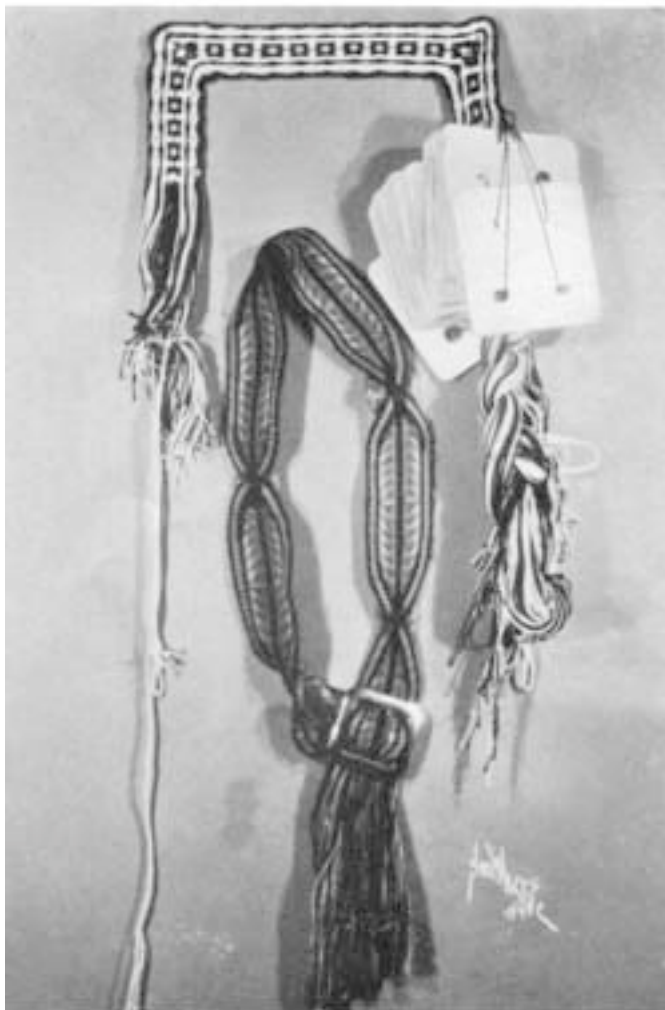


Method of weaving a square corner



Draft No. 5

Draft No. 3



Draft No. 4 (top)

Draft No. 6 Medallion Girdle

from right to left. Weave from left to right, dropping off four more cards, and proceed in this manner till the weaving comes to a point.

Now attach small cords to the woven piece at the point and at a place opposite the start of the slant. Attach these cords to the support as indicated on the sketch. Untie the end of the warp and take up the slack on the right. The warp now runs at right angles to the original direction. Weave, taking up four cards on each shot from left to right till all cards are again weaving together.

Of course any desired pattern may be woven in this manner. The sample piece was done in Perle cotton No. 5 — if finer material is used drop off two cards each time instead of four cards. The slant should run at an angle of 45°.

Diagram No. 3 shows a belt woven in a four-strand braided effect. This is simple and easy to do and has a very striking and novel effect. The sample piece shown on the illustration was done in Perle cotton No. 5, in white, blue and jade. A different pattern and other colors may, of course, be used. The pattern selected, however, should be one that looks well when divided into four equal sections.

The four sections of the warp should be made and tied separately, for convenience in braiding.

Begin by weaving all the cards together for 24 turns. Then weave the four sections separately for 24 turns. Braid the four bands together in the manner indicated on the sketch, which brings the two outside bands to the center, and weave all the cards together for 24 turns.

If preferred, weave the separate bands for 48 turns each and continue the braiding till the bands return to the original arrangement. However, the alternating effect illustrated is perhaps more interesting.

The braiding may be done without untying the end of the warp, until it is difficult to continue the weaving. If each section of warp is tied to a rather long cord the braid can be pushed up into the cords and will not interfere at all with the weaving.

Diagram No. 4 shows a braided effect somewhat different in arrangement. The warp, it will be noted, is in five sections, two of which are wider than the others. The manner of weaving is as follows: Weave all the cards together for the desired distance, now weave the two side bands separately for about three inches. Weave the three middle sections together for some twelve turns; then weave the three middle strands separately for twelve turns each. The band now has the form shown at (a) on the diagram. Cross the two outside bands under the small center band, and secure them in position with a pin, as shown at (b). Now weave the three middle strands together for twelve turns. Join the outside strands, and weave all together for the length desired.

It will be necessary to untie the ends of the warp before rearranging the cards to weave all together, as there is more take-up in the two side bands than in the center bands. The warp for the two side sections should be cut about twelve inches longer than the rest of the warp to allow for this take-up.

The girdle illustrated was made in Perle cotton No. 5, in

Diagram No.3

Four-Strand Braided Belt

threading, Draft No. 5

	A	B	C	D	
Section 1	1
	2	.	.	+	.
	3	.	+	+	.
	4	+	+	+	.
	5	+	+	+	.
	6	.	.	+	.
	7
	8

Warp
 ■ Black, 32 ends
 ⊗ Jade, 16 "
 □ White, 56 "
 ⊕ Blue, 24 "

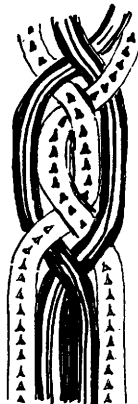
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Section 2	9	■	■	■	■
	10	■	■	■	■
	11
	12	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	13	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	14
	15	■	■	■	■
	16	■	■	■	■

Weave
 All across for 2"
 Each section alone
 for 2"
 Loose the warps and
 Cross the strands
 as indicated.
 Repeat.

Section 3	16	■	■	■	■
	15	■	■	■	■
	14
	13	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	12	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	11
	10	■	■	■	■
	9	■	■	■	■

Section 4	6
	7	.	.	+	.
	6	.	+	+	.
	5	+	+	+	.
	4	+	+	+	.
	3	.	.	+	.
	2
	1



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black, red, jade, yellow-green and old gold. Of course other colors and a different pattern might be used. The pattern selected, however, should be one that can be divided into five sections as shown.

These are, of course, only a few of the interesting stunts to which the card-weaving process lends itself. For instance, an interesting fabric is produced by setting card-woven stripes on the loom in an ordinary loom-fabric. The warp

for the card-weaving should be attached to the warp-beam and the ends brought through the reed and tied to the cloth-beam as for ordinary warp. The four threads of each card must, however, be sleyed through the same dent of the reed. Turn the cards and raise the heddles and weave all across with a shuttle in the ordinary way. Usually it is best to weave several shots of weft to each turn of the cards.

A fabric woven in this way makes an interesting bag. The card-weaving may be continued beyond the loom-weaving and forms handles for the bag.

Card-woven fringes are easy to make. Set up a warp on the cards for the width of heading desired. Cut the fringe material in the desired length — an easy way is to wind it over a book of suitable size and cut along one edge. Weave the heading in the ordinary way with a regular weft thread, and lay in the fringe material as desired. If the strands of fringe are tied in a knot at the center these knots will give the effect of a picoted edge when the strands are laid in with the knots along one edge.

A combination of the method shown for Drafts No. 3 and No. 5 would prove interesting: twist for a long way without weaving and braid the twisted strands. Then weave the figure, and repeat. Done in soft wool this would make an interesting and unusual neck-piece.

The technique shown on Diagram No. 3 can be used for straps for sandals: Set up two similar bands of card-weaving, weave first one and then the other with several inches solid, and about two inches with the four sections woven separately. Cross the two bands by braiding the narrow strands together and finish each with several inches woven solid.

For a girdle with long ends, weave in the ordinary manner to within a few inches of the finish. Then separate the warp into three bands and weave these separately for two inches for so — a little longer than the width of the girdle. Do not braid, but simply bring the cards together and weave solid for two or three inches further, — or for as long as desired for the hanging ends. This girdle requires no buckle; simply take one end in and out through the slots in the other end and permit the ends to hang. Long fringes, fancifully braided, add to the effect.

Handles for bags may be made in the manner suggested for sandal straps. Many other ways of using these simple variations of the card-weaving technique will occur to any enterprising card-weaver, I am sure.

(For those unfamiliar with the card-weaving process: A pamphlet of patterns and directions, prepared by Mary M. Atwater, may be obtained of the Emile Bernat and Sons Co. — price \$1.00. Cards for card-weaving are also supplied by the Bernat Company — price \$1.00 per one hundred (plus postage), or \$8.00 per thousand.)

Medallion Belt

Diagram No. 4

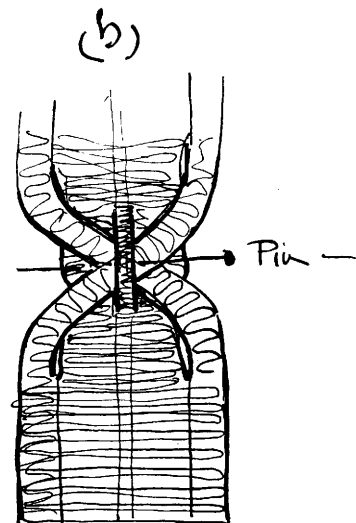
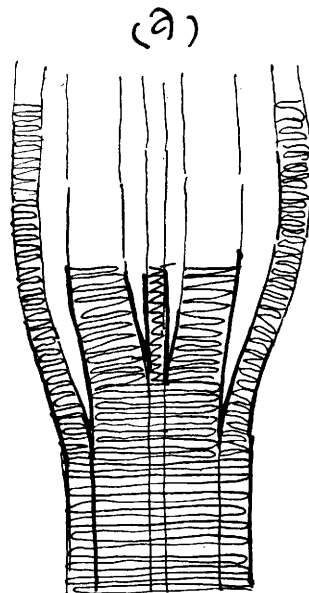
Threading, Draft No. 6

	A	B	C	D	Warp		
Section 1	1	■	■	■	■	Black, 48 ends	
	2	■	■	■	■		
	3	○	+	○	+	⊗ Red, 38 "	
	4	X	X	X	X	□ Jade, 20 "	
	5	+	○	+	○	+	Gold 20 "
	6	■	■	■	■		
	7	■	■	■	■		
Section 2	8	X	X	X	X	▨ Dk. Green 18 "	
	9	+	+	+	X		
	10	+	+	▨	X		
	11	+	▨	▨	X		
	12	▨	▨	▨	X		
	13	▨	▨	○	X		
	14	▨	○	○	X		
	15	○	○	○	X		
16	X	X	X	X			
Section 3	17	■	■	■	■	---Center	
	18	■	■	■	■		
	(16)	■	■	■	■		
	(17)	■	■	■	■		
Section 4	(16)	X	X	X	X		
	(15)	○	○	○	X		
	(14)	▨	○	○	X		
	(13)	▨	▨	○	X		
	(12)	▨	▨	▨	X		
	(11)	+	▨	▨	X		
	(10)	+	+	▨	X		
	(9)	+	+	+	X		
(8)	X	X	X	X			
Section 5	(7)	■	■	■	■		
	(6)	■	■	■	■		
	(5)	○	+	○	+		
	(4)	X	X	X	X		
	(3)	+	○	+	○		
	(2)	■	■	■	■		
	(1)	■	■	■	■		

Material:
Perle Cotton #5

Weave: All across for 16 turns - all one way.
 Sections 1 and 5, separately, for about 2"
 Sections 2, 3, and 4, together, for 12 turns; Then separately for 12 turns.
 Loose the warp of sections 1, 3 and 5. Cross 1 and 5 under 3 and secure with a pin, as indicated below at (b). Weave 12 turns across the three middle sections, then weave all across for 16 turns.
 Reverse, and repeat from the beginning.

Other combinations of colors can, of course, be used in this pattern. Other patterns may be woven in the same manner.



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