

# Something Different In Two Harness Weaving

by EMMY SOMMER



ILLUSTRATION No. 1

The two harness weaving—with all its possibilities—from plain colored stripes, using interesting materials for texture—to the real Gobelin Tapestry weaving, has always interested me more than mechanical weaves.

There have been written splendid Articles in "The Weaver" on interesting techniques and variations of these, where only two harness have been used. Several of these techniques have been described in Scandinavian and other Weaving books.

I have tried to keep informed on what has been published—though of course, there may still be Articles and techniques I do not know. However the technique I used in the illustrated piece, which I want to describe is rather different from anything I have ever seen or read about,—so as far as I know I think I have found something "New". I will give it the name of: "*Alternate Weaving*".

Besides simplicity of execution, the clearness and effectiveness of the completed woven design, are the characteristics of this technique.

Any kind of pattern which can be drawn on cross-section paper can be used. The simplest would be the silhouette

which requires only two colors. Very effective are patterns like those used for: Kelim—Rollakan—Rya—Dukagang—Inlay and all geometric designs.

The piece illustrated was done on a simple two harness loom.

Reed—12 dents to inch.

Warp and binder: No. 8 Perle, No. 5 Cotton.

Filling: Peasant wool, in different colors.

The proportion between the warp—binder and filling is very important. Warp and binder should be of same material—or anyway same size. Filling must be much heavier—so when woven it will make perfect small squares—framed between warp and binder. Illustration shows this clearly.

Make the design on cross-section paper, let each square represent four warp threads—two up and two down when loom is in shed,—use two rows of filling across—with binder between.

As this is a two harness weaving, we have only two sheds Nr. 1 and Nr. 2. They will be used alternately—one for binder—the other for filling, which consists of both pattern and background.

Whether your shuttel is on the left or the right side of the loom—never change from this rule: Shed No. 1—is always for the binder. Shed No. 2 is always for the filling. Work is done from the wrong side. (See Illustration.)

Wind material to be used for stripes and large pieces of filling on shuttels, and for small units of the pattern, wind each color in “Bobbins” as described by E. M. Hickman in the Weaver for April 1937.

In looking at the pictures I think it shows how each color can be carried on the wrong side over a number of unused threads—to be woven again in the same row—where the pattern calls for that same color. The background can be carried thru a whole row skipping over the threads, where the pattern has been woven thru in the same row. It all is so simple that too much explanation may make it confusing. However, for the less experienced weavers, I shall give a little more detailed description.

My loom had 368 warp threads in all. If there should be four warp threads to each square, my pattern will need 92 squares. The design for the border shows this.

Begin with a few rows of plain weaving, using the binder as a heading, then begin the border:

There are 2 rows green—2 rows yellow—and 2 rows red.

Use shed No. 1—	weave 1 row	binder	} This shows two rows fill- ing with bind- er between
“ “ No. 2—	“ 1 “	green	
“ “ No. 1—	“ 1 “	binder	
“ “ No. 2—	“ 1 “	green	
“ “ No. 1—	“ 1 “	binder	
“ “ No. 2—	“ 1 “	yellow	
“ “ No. 1—	“ 1 “	binder	
“ “ No. 2—	“ 1 “	yellow	

and so on, end on shed No. 1 with 1 row binder.

To begin the pattern—there are 22 squares red, so step on shed No. 2. Put the bobbin with red filling under 44 threads—then, a tan bobbin for background under 8 threads—green under 44—tan under 8—brown under 44—tan under 8—and blue under the rest 28 threads. Change to shed No. 1. Put the binder thru. Change to shed No. 2. Work the colors back under the same number of threads as before: blue under 28—tan under 8—etc. The whole row back. Change to shed No. 1. Put the binder thru.—Now we



ILLUSTRATION NO. II

have one square across—completed with 2 rows of filling and two rows of binder.

The next row calls for—28 red—skip 4—weave in 4 red;—the skipped should be 4 yellow,—then 16 tan, 28 green—skip 4 for yellow,—then 4 green again, then 16 tan—etc.

This may sound complicated but try it and you will soon see how easy it all is.

