

# Hand Woven Rugs

by ELSIE H. GUBSER



When I took up weaving as a hobby, everyone said, "Oh, you weave rugs?" I finally determined to show people what a woven rug should be like. I determined to making a living room rug for my daughter's new house. Her furniture was walnut with rust covered chair and couch. We decided that the rug must be quiet and dignified. Blue of course. It must be heavy and it must look as if it belonged on the floor. It must truly be a foundation for the furniture. At last after several weeks of study, I ordered wool warp from Tinkler and Company and Rug Wool #483 from Bernat's. The warp and weft were nearly the same color. The warp was a fraction of a tone darker, just enough to show when looking at the rug from an angle.

The pattern was "Drifting Shadows", to be found in several back numbers of the Weaver and also in Mrs. Atwater's Recipe Book, Series No. III, No. 9. I used treadingling "e" as given in the Recipe Book. The rug was made in three strips each forty-two inches wide and each strip twenty-one feet long. I had a fringe on each end of the rug.

Of course I began each strip and ended it on the same treadingling so that when sewed together the seam would not show. I was sure that there was enough warp on the beam for it seems that the rug "took up" about four inches a yard. I found also that I used a little over a pound and a half yard of weft.

For tabby I used the same wool warp. But I cannot say how much material I had for I ordered thirty pounds and I still have quite a bit and have woven the one large rug and two smaller ones.

In making a rug one must beat for all one is worth, for a sun parlor, that needed a little more light, but I use a vacuum cleaner on it and after two years it still shows no sign of wear.

I also made a small rug for a dark sun parlor, using the same pattern and treadingling and warp but for weft I used Bernat's rug wool #453. This was really lovely for a sun parlor, that needed a little more light, but I doubt if it would have looked well anywhere else. One must be very careful of the use of color on the floor.

Another lovely small rug can be made of Rosengang threading, using either very heavy linen or Perle No. 3 about 7 or 8 dents to the inch, and Bernat's rug wool for weft. The warp is completely covered and no tabby is used. Many colors can be used together and if carefully chosen the effect is interesting. This makes a heavy rug which will not slip and slide about as most handwoven rugs do.

The one lovely thing about the large rug that I made is the restfulness of the shadows that drift across the floor.