

"DORNIK" AND SOME "FANCY" TWILLS

by MARY M. ATWATER

In two recent articles an attempt has been made to give a slight idea of the variety and interest to be found in that simplest and most useful weave, plain twill. Before leaving the subject I wish to give a few notes on some of the twill variations.

Foremost among these variations is the familiar "Herringbone-Goose-eye" threading shown at (a) on diagram No. 1. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon this pattern as it is known to practically all weavers, and the draft is included simply for purposes of comparison. When the four treadles are woven in 1, 2, 3, 4 order and repeat the herringbone figure is woven, and when one weaves: 1, 2, 3, 4,—repeated four times and then 4, 3, 2, 1, repeated four times, the little diamond figure we know as "goose-eye" is the result.

Students of draft-writing will realize on reflection that this simple pattern is the framework of all the varied patterns we have for the four-harness overshot weave. But there is no space at this writing to go into this fascinating phase of the subject.

Though the herringbone weave in this simple form is used a good deal for such things as linens, blankets and tweeds, it has one draw-back: on the 1-2 and the 3-4 sheds there is a skip of three threads where the twill changes direction. For many fabrics this does not matter, but it gives an unpleasant effect in tweeds or other fabrics for clothing. It was probably to overcome this defect in the weave that the "Dornik" version of the herringbone was devised.

According to Webster's "Unabridged" the name Dornik is derived from Doornik, a town in Belgium, where apparently the weave originated. But be that as it may, this is one of the most useful weaves we have for such fabrics as sports suitings, top-coats and the like. It is also an excellent weave for blankets.

The dornik draft may be written in a number of ways, a few of which are shown at (b), (c), (d) and (e), Diagram No. 1. The smallest four-harness form, shown at (b), provides a number of interesting texture effects. At (b-1) is illustrated the effect of weaving in the simple twill manner: treadles 1, 2, 3, 4 and repeat. The manner in which the opposing lines of twill meet along a straight line without overlapping is the characteristic of the weave that makes it differ from ordinary herringbone.

The figure illustrated at (b-2) is produced by treadling: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, and repeat.

The figures at (b-3) and (b-4) are the reverse of each other. That is, if you weave (b-3) on top you will have (b-4) on the other side of the fabric, or the reverse. Treadled: 1, A, 2, B, 3, A, 4, B, and repeat; or 1, B, 2, A, 3, B, 4, A, and repeat. It will be recognized that these are among the special treadlings for plain twill given in a previous article. Any of the other special twill treadlings may be used with the dornik threading and give effects that differ a good deal from the same weavings on either the plain twill or the ordinary herringbone threading.

Draft (c), Diagram No. 1, is for a weave much used for top-coats. This is illustrated by a woven sample. The effect is of large squares in opposite twill, meeting on a straight line. The squares may be made as large as desired by increasing the number of runs of twill in each square.

The draft at (d) Diagram No. 1 is for a small six-harness dornik. The effect, of course, is similar to that of the four-harness version but is bolder. This makes an excellent weave for couch-blankets or light automobile blankets. An interesting effect may be produced by using several colors in the warp, nine threads of each color. The weaving may be done in a single color or in the same colors as the warp in groups of nine shots of a color. For the herringbone effect weave the treadles in succession from 1 to 6 and repeat. (Tabby treadles have been indicated but these are merely a convenience for weaving headings; they are not used in weaving the fabric itself and can be omitted if desired.) For the little diamond figure treadle: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 6, 5, 4, and repeat.

Draft (e) is the eight-harness version, which is still bolder in effect than the six-harness weave. The treadelings, of course, follow the same plan and it seems unnecessary to set them down.

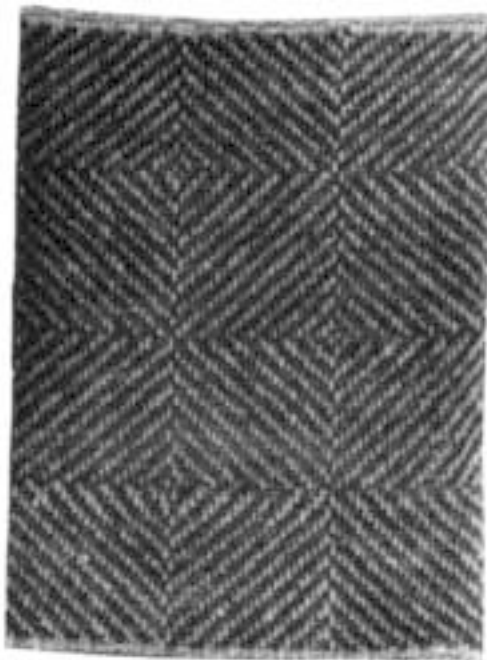
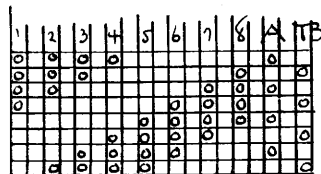
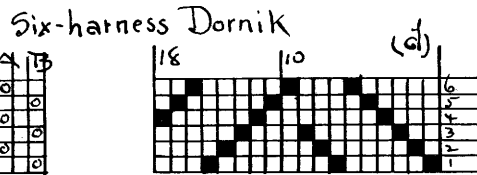
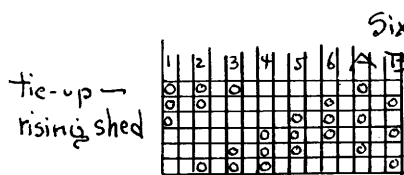
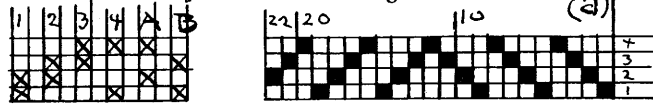
Of course the six-harness and eight-harness forms of dornik may also be woven in the special treadelings as given previously for six-harness and eight-harness twill, providing additional interesting and unusual textures.

Draft (f), Diagram No. 2, is a "fancy" four-harness twill specially designed for this article. It is similar in effect to the eight-harness fancy twill, draft (g), taken from my Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand Weaving. Several ways of treadeling draft (f) are illustrated. At (f-1) is shown the plain twill treadeling, 1, 2, 3, 4, and repeat; (f-2) was woven as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, and repeat; (f-3) was woven this way: 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 3, 4, 1, 2, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 2, and repeat. This method of weaving produces a very interesting effect that does not show in the photograph as clearly as it might. It would make an excellent coat-fabric and if done in coarse silks would be handsome for hangings. Moreover, the other special treadelings as given for plain four-harness twill when woven on this "fancy" threading produce a great variety of interesting effects.

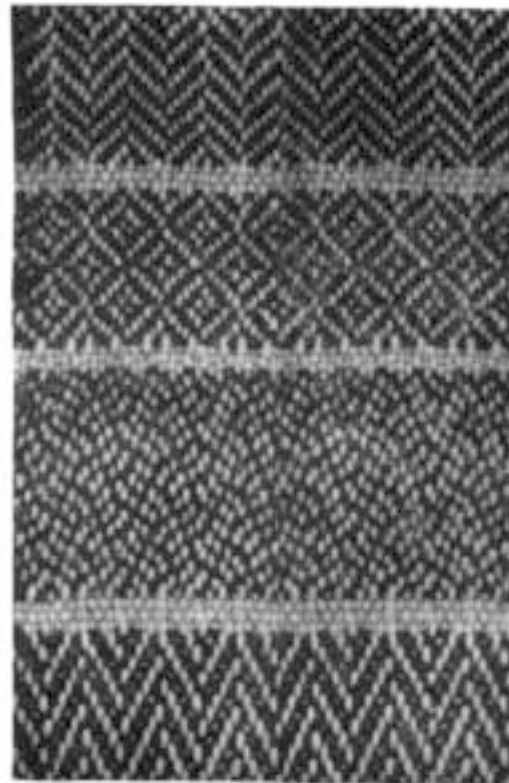
The draft at (h), Diagram No. 2, can be used for the double-faced twill weave as explained in a previous article, but by changing the tie-up many other interesting effects can be produced. Tie-up (h-1) weaves the effect illustrated. Treadle as follows: 1, 2, 3, 4, repeated five times; 5, 6, 7, 8, repeated five times. Tie-up (h-2) when treadled in the same order, weaves alternate squares of twill and tabby. Many other variations of tie-up will suggest themselves to the enterprising weaver. Any of the twill variations, for instance, may be made to weave on the alternate blocks, as the two textures shown at (b-3) and (b-4), Diagram No. 1.

Diagram No. 1

Goose-Eye and Herringbone



(c)



(b-1)

(b-2)

(b-3)

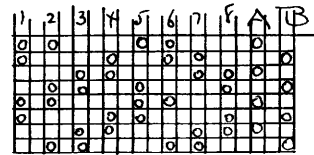
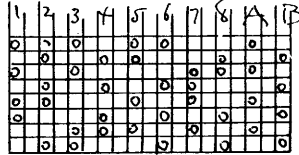
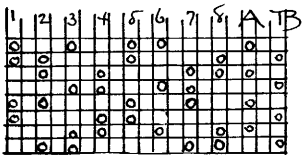
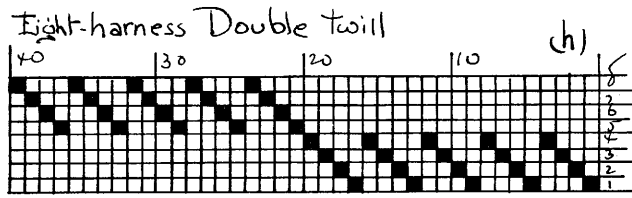
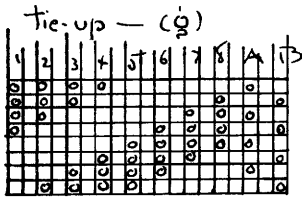
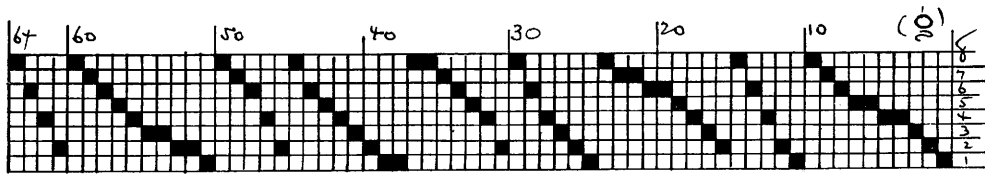
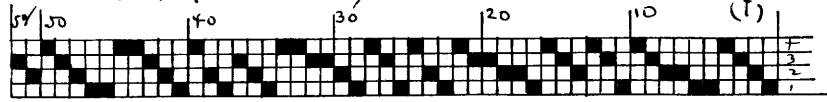
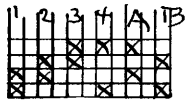
(b-4)

Another interesting aspect of the twill weaves is their use in greatly enlarged form as patterns—in such weaves as the summer and winter weave, crackle weave and so on—for various decorative uses. Patterns of this order are typi-

cal of the present style in decoration and are extremely handsome and desirable for hangings, upholstery, bags and so on. This can merely be mentioned in passing as space is lacking to enlarge on the subject.

Diagram No. 2

Four-harness Fancy Twill



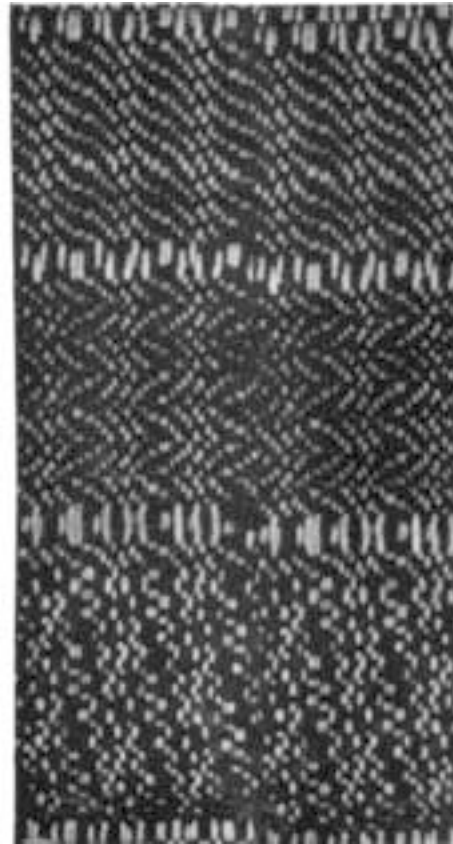
tie-up (h-3)

tie-up (h-2)

tie-up (h-1)



(h-1)



(f-1)

(f-2)

(f-3)

As pointed out elsewhere, to cover the subject of the twill weaves at all exhaustively would require a very large book, and I wish to repeat that no effort has been made in

these articles to give *all* the twills, but it is hoped that the notes will bring to weavers an enlarged idea of what can be done with twill—undoubtedly the most useful of all weaves.