

CHRISTMAS CARD WEAVING

By BERTHA GRAY HAYES



Design No. 1

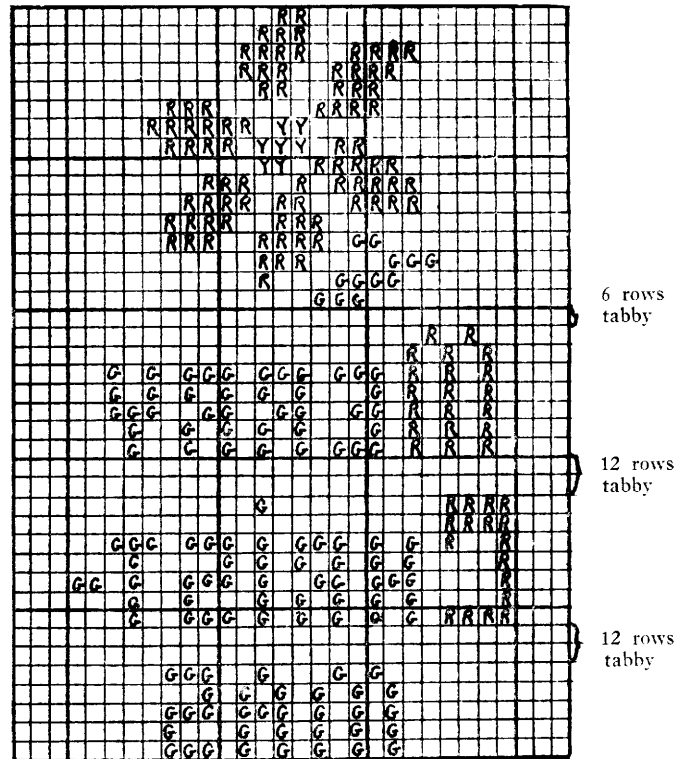


Chart No. 1

G—green R—red Y—yellow
 Start with 1 in. tabby
 Finish with $\frac{3}{4}$ in. tabby

It seems early to be considering Christmas, but if we wish to weave our own Christmas cards, it is none too soon to be getting about it.

The illustrations shown were all developed in the Dukang technique, which lends itself very charmingly to that purpose. For those who are not familiar with the technique, or have forgotten it for the moment, I refer you to the article called "Scandinavian Art Weaving" by Elmer Wallace Hickman in the "Weaver" for January 1938, which is most complete.

The loom is threaded to the familiar Rose Path, and the pattern laid in when the 2-3-4 harnesses are raised. The tabby sheds are: 1-3, right to left; 2-4, left to right. For warp, use two ready-warped Structo spools in Mercerized 20/2 natural. The small #240 Structo loom is most convenient to use, threading the center section. Be sure the two spools are centered on the back beam, and that there is no roughness. Scotch tape bound over the back beam will eliminate any roughness on the metal. If you are not careful about this, the roughness may wear the warp, and you will have to cope with broken threads. Also be sure that no threads are crossed, or there will be more broken threads.

Assuming that the loom has been properly threaded, and everything in smooth working order, you are ready to weave.

When the 2-3-4 harnesses are raised, there will be 30 groups of 3 threads each on top of the shed. This must be borne in mind if you are designing your own cards, or copying cross-stitch designs. A margin of three units on each side of the design is desirable, which means the design itself must be limited to 24 units in width.

For weft, use Bernat's #20 Perle cotton in natural, which is the same weight and color as the warp. Lay in the pattern with Bernat's #5 Perle, or any yarn or cotton of similar weight. Bernat's Fabri is a good choice if you wish to use wool. All six strands of six-strand cotton work very nicely, and you can use a finer Perle doubled. Several different kinds can be used on one piece of work. On the Christmas tree with the colored decorations, bright bits of wool were selected from a convenient sample card. The important thing is to have the pattern threads uniform, and quite a bit heavier than the warp threads.

But let us start weaving a card. Make about an inch of plain tabby before starting the pattern. Each chart indicates the number of rows to weave, so follow the chart for the pattern, putting in the colors as indicated. In spaces where there is no pattern, six rows of tabby are equivalent to one unit of the design.



Design No. 2

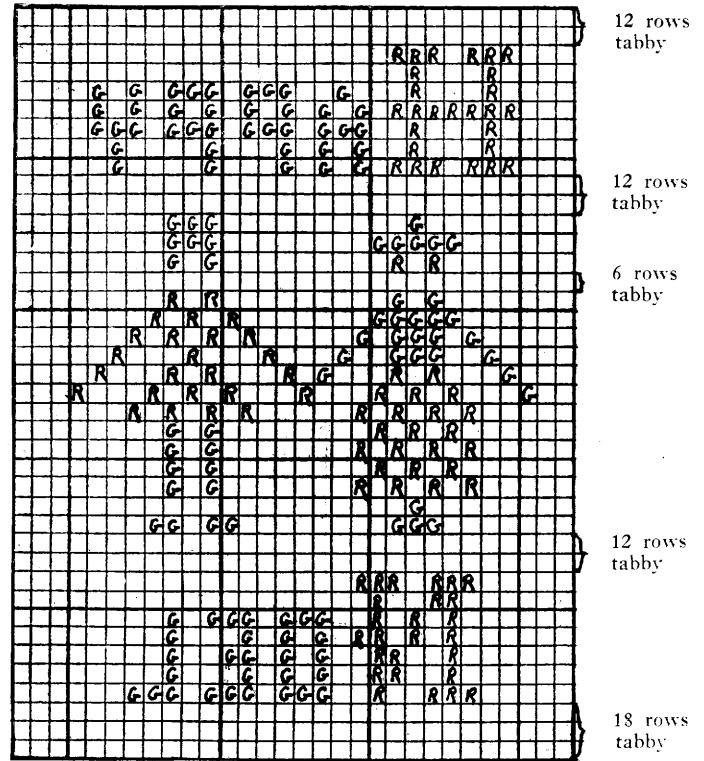


Chart No. 2

R—red G—green
 Start with $\frac{3}{4}$ in. tabby
 Finish with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. tabby

In doing the weaving, I have found it advisable to weave as follows. Insert the shuttle and beat before drawing through. Beat again after the shuttle is drawn through, and also after you have changed sheds. When laying in the pattern, one beat after it is laid in is sufficient.

If you can find someone who can fashion you some small five-inch shuttle, they would be very handy to use, or you might try cutting some out yourself from heavy cardboard, always bearing in mind that smoothness is most important.

Selecting Chart #1, work as follows: Thread a blunt tapestry needle with a length of green Perle cotton. Starting at the right, count 9 groups (of three threads each). Insert the needle under the 10th, over the 11th, under the 12th, over the 13th, under the 14th, over the 15th, under the 16th, over the 17th, under the 18th, over the 19th, and under the 20th, 21st, and 22nd threads. See that the thread lays smoothly, and beat once. Now two tabby shots; from right to left, and from left to right, beating closely as suggested above. Lay in the second row of color from left to right, the same as row one. Repeat tabby shots, and lay in the third row from right to left, then the two tabby shots.

This completes one unit of the design. Placing the middle finger of the hand not in use between the sheds when running in the colored threads, will help from picking up the threads on the bottom shed which occur between the groups of three threads on the top shed. Continue the same procedure throughout the entire weaving, reading the cross stitch guide. On the second unit you would (starting from the left) insert the colored thread under the 9th group of three threads, over 3; under 1; over 1; under 1; over 1; under 1; over 1; under 1; over 1; and under 1.

In starting the capitals "C" and "M" in Merry Christmas, use a separate strand of red. Leave short ends on the top side when starting and finishing a color. After these are well beaten down, they can be cut off about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the weaving. If cut too close, they may work through to the finished side. Small jumps are permissible in the flower, as the back side of the work does not show. Colors can be laid in one after the other easily, always remembering to leave short ends on the top side. Taking the second row in which the yellow appears, lay red under the proper two units, over five, and under the next four. Then insert the yellow under the middle three where the red thread lays on top.

After finishing the laid in work, weave about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches of tabby, and finish by hemstitching before taking from the loom. Several cards can be made before taking from the loom, in which case start immediately with a new thread after you have finished hemstitching. If the first few rows are not beaten too tightly, you can easily do the hemstitching at the bottom of the second card, cutting each one apart after taking from the loom.

After pressing under a damp cloth, paste into the photofolder, and your card is completed. These folders can be purchased at any store selling photographic supplies.

As the design must fit into a $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch space, it may be necessary to modify the directions a bit. If the card turns out too deep, try two shots instead of three for each unit, especially if using thread heavier than No. 5 Perle. Trial and error is the only way to make the card to your individual weaving.



Design No. 3

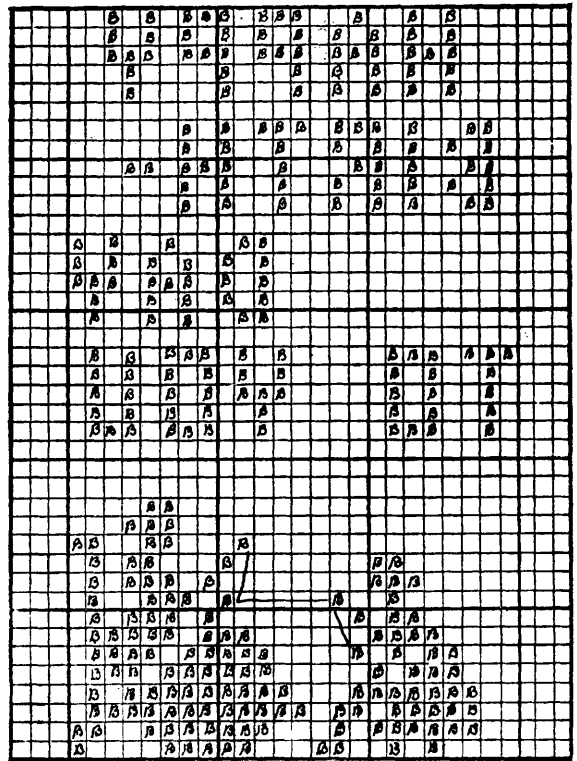


Chart No. 3 B—black

After having made several cards you will probably want to do your own designing. If you attempt this, bear in mind that the designing must be done wrong side up, as the weaving is done that way, the pattern showing on the wrong side of the work. A small purse mirror is convenient for checking the progress of your weaving. In doing your own designing you will be able to have something especially

individual and unique to give your friends at Christmas. It is nice to incorporate your own name into very special cards.

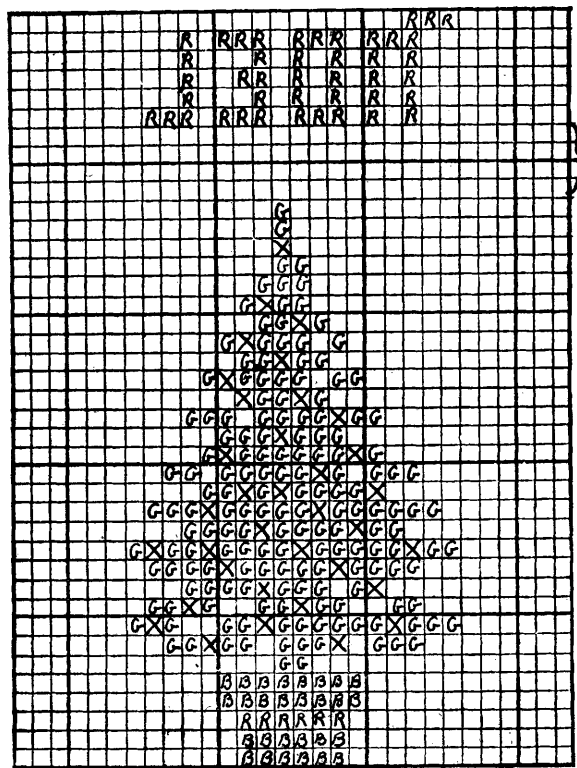
To me the designing is the most fascinating part of the work, and I have many more Christmas designs, as well as some for Easter, birthdays, showers and general greetings. Each anniversary is an incentive to make an individual design. It is well to make two sets of designs. One smaller

Start with 1 in. tabby

Finish with 1/2 in. tabby



Design No. 4



6 rows
tabby

Chart No. 4

B—black

R—red

G—green

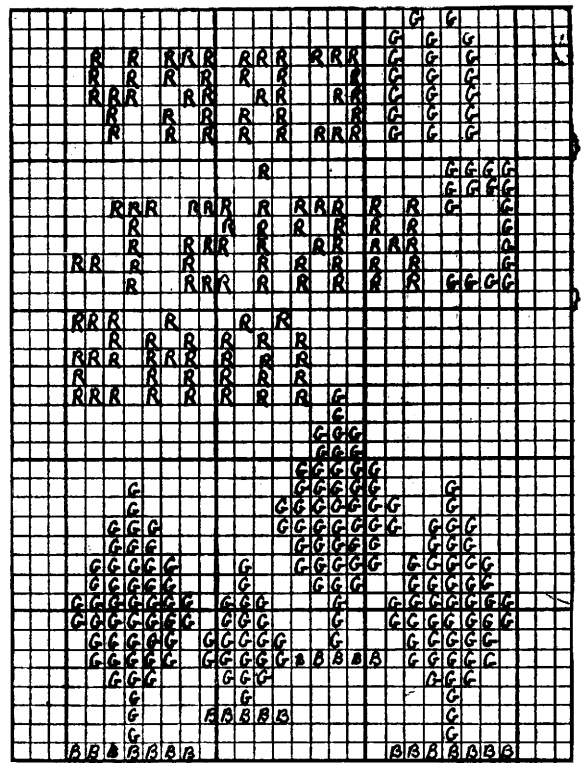
X—assorted bright colors



Design No. 5

“as is” in color to see the finished design, and the other “backwards” for weaving purposes.

In addition to Christmas Cards, I have included two birthday cards. In designing these, it is a nice idea to recognize the hobbies of your friends. The silhouette could be made for a friend who weaves or knits. The basket of flowers to one whose hobby is gardening, etc. The possibilities



6 rows tabby

6 rows tabby

Chart No. 5

R—red G—green B—brown or black

are limitless, and cross-stitch designs yield a wealth of small motifs to be substituted under “Happy Birthday To You” instead of those illustrated.

COLOR CHARTS AND FINISHED CARDS CAN BE SUPPLIED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE BERTHA GRAY HAYES, 135 BABCOCK STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

1/2 in. tabby at top and bottom



Design No. 6

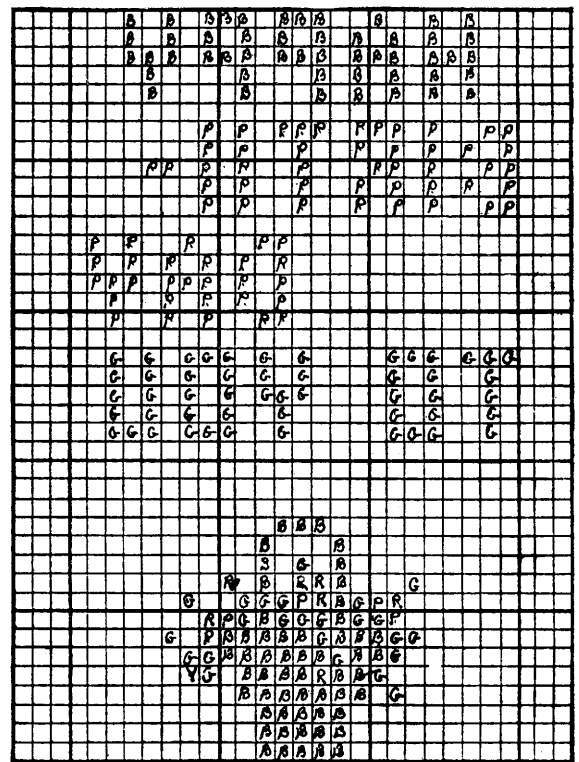


Chart No. 6

B—blue P—pink G—green R—red Y—yellow