

TURNED LACE

f o r f o u r f r a m e s.

By "turning" a weave we mean changing the direction of floats, without otherwise affecting the properties of the woven fabric. In cases when the floats are running in the same direction on both sides of the fabric the turning may have as its only object - to make the weaving easier or faster, in this case the whole draft is turned i.e. the treading draft replaces the threading and vice versa. Or a part of the draft is turned, so that floats will run in two directions on the same side.

When the floats are horizontal on one side and vertical on the other - part of them may be turned, without turning the draft - simply by changing the tie-up. Here as before the fabric will have on the same side floats running in both horizontal and vertical direction.

Although any weave can be turned partially or completely, there is not always much reason to do so. Such weaves as basket, 2:2 twill, waffle, huckaback lace, can be turned easily but without much result since they already had floats in both directions. Then other weaves such as overshot, crackle etc. can be partially turned only by considerably increasing the number of heddle-frames. However there are a few weaves which are quite easy to turn, without adding any extra frames.

We have already described (MW 2) one example of turned spot weave. We shall now enlarge upon it, and apply this principle to the case of turned lace.

When we have a weave which produces vertical floats on one side and horizontal ones in the same place on the other side, the easiest way to turn it is to replace in the

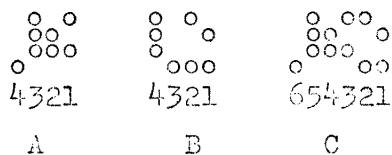


Fig.1

tie-up all ties for sinking shed by ties for rising shed and vice versa. In case of a simple tie-up for spot-lace (fig.1), the draft A will give vertical floats (on a counterbalanced loom), and B - horizontal floats. If the threading and treading drafts remain the same we shall have in both cases the same fabric, only reversed in weaving. However if we combine both tie-ups into one (C) we can weave at will either horizontal or vertical floats on the same side. Treadles 3 and 4 in tie-ups A and B are really the same tabby treadles only in different position, and they become 5 and 6 in the new tie-up C. Treadles 1 and 2 produce in combination with tabby 5 - horizontal floats, and 3 and 4 with tabby 6 - vertical ones (fig.2).

This way of weaving turned lace is best for patterns where the two blocks are woven separately, not in combination. Fig.3 shows a profile suitable for this technique. Of course it does not need to be symmetrical. The point is that the blocks should touch each other - otherwise the pattern will be too flimsy. The tabby is reserved for the borders only.

If we want to have more lace in the woven piece, we can combine the blocks, but then one block should have horizontal and the other vertical floats in the same row, as in fig.4. To be exact they are not

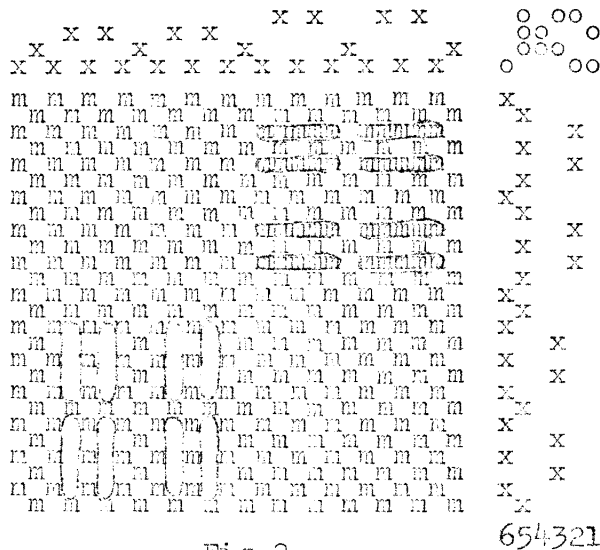


Fig. 2

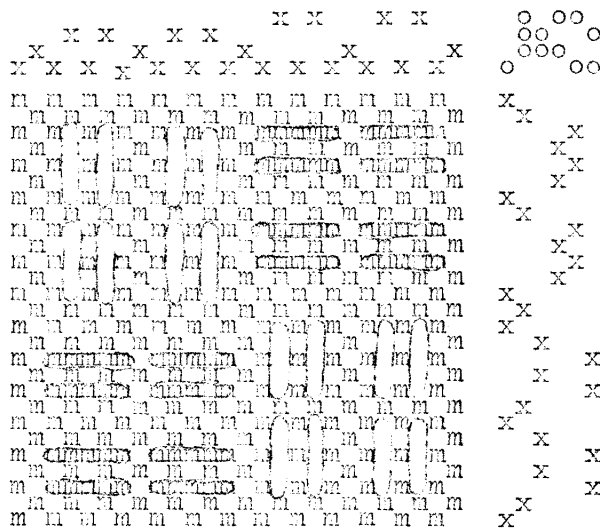


Fig. 4

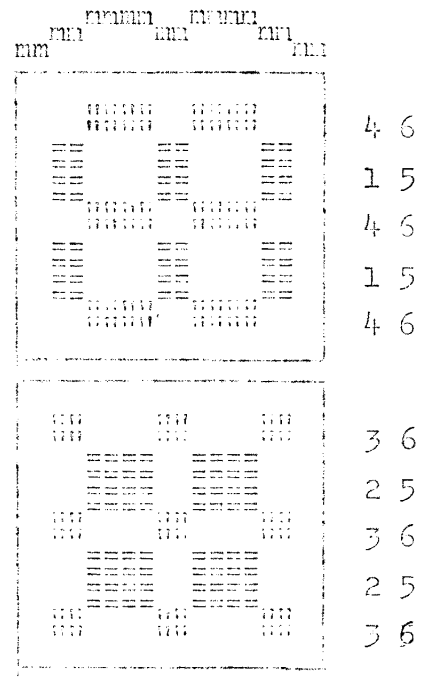


Fig. 3

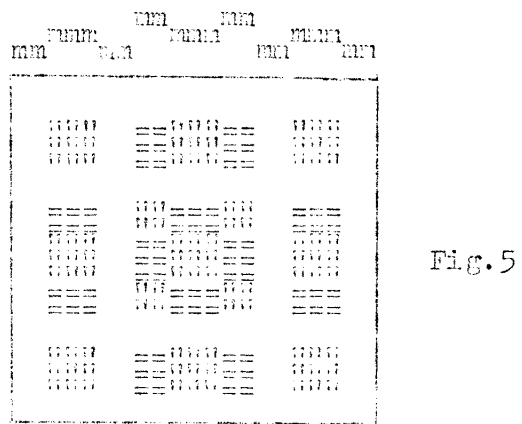


Fig. 5

in the same row, and they cannot be because the two floats are based on a different tabby, but it hardly matters, since the blocks of pattern in this case should be rather large, and the slight deviation (one thread) is not very conspicuous.

Here we use both blocks at the same time, and it is advisable to reinforce the fabric with stripes of tabby running in both directions. Thus a profile such as in fig. 5 will be more suitable than the one in fig. 3. Again it does not need to be symmetrical.

Instead of lace based on a 6 end unit, we can weave good lace particularly in fine yarns (single linen 30 lea or finer) in 8 end

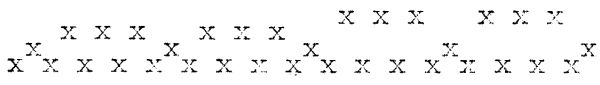


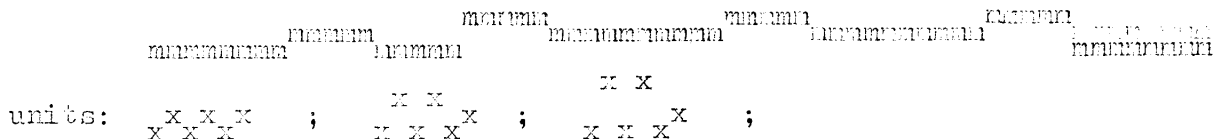
Fig. 6

units as in fig. 6. The treadling must be accordingly:
 6525252565252525656363636563
 636365 for the patterns with separate blocks, and: 65232323
 652323236564141415641414156

for the patterns with combined blocks as in fig. 5.

As an example of a complete project in turned lace we can take the following one. Single linen for both warp and weft. Warp set at 28 to 30 ends per inch for No.14 linen. Total no. of ends 366.

Profile:



Treading to square the pattern: 65 - 24 times, 232365 - 5 times, 65 - 15 times, 6 - once, 414156 - 5x, 5 - once, 232365 - 10x, 6 - once, 414156 - 5x, 5 - once, 232365 - 10x, 6 once, 414156 - 5x, 56 - 24x. Beat harder when weaving plain tably on 5 and 6.

Compare: "How not to weave linen" (MW.1).

FROM THE EDITOR

Starting with the coring issue (March) we shall publish in every number of Master Weaver two pages of what we consider to be model lessons of drafting by correspondence. We shall start at the very beginning, and continue to the level, where the student becomes independent and can go on with his education byhimself.

This series may seem rather incongruous with our general trend of writing only for advanced weavers. However these Lessons in Drafting are not meant for the students at all. They are for the instructors, of which we have a large number among our subscribers. For this reason we have already published a few articles about the Problems in Teaching.

There is nothing to prevent a beginner from learning the drafting from this new series, even if his rate of progress will be rather slow (6 lessons a year).

We wish to assure our readers that we do not intend to lower the level of our periodical. We are very proud that only the "elite" of the weaving world read it, and we are quite happy with the present circulation. The only reason for starting these elementary lessons is to satisfy the needs of teachers and instructors.

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