

DRAFTING.

A weaving draft is a distorted picture of the reality. It must be distorted since the reality has three dimensions and the paper only two. But it tries to show the weaver as clearly as possible what is actually happening on the loom during the weaving. It shows how the loom has been threaded, how the treadles are tied to the frames, in what order they must be used, and finally what kind of cloth is being woven. Additional verbal explanations speak about the yarns used, the number of ends (threads) in warp, the way the warp is passed through the reed, and so on.

The drafting itself is concerned only with threading, tie-up, treadling, and with the result of these three factors i.e with the way in which the threads are interlaced in the fabric.

A complete draft is a simplified view of the loom seen from above with the weaver (invisible) at the bottom of the picture. It has four parts:

1. The threading draft.

It shows the heddle-frames (or frames, or harness-frames, or leaves, or shafts, or healds, or incorrectly "harnesses"). All of them together should be called a harness. Each frame is represented by the space between two horizontal lines (these lines are often omitted later on). The heddles are shown as crosses or black squares.

The frames are numbered from the bottom up, so that the frame nearest to the weaver is always No.1. The heddles are seldom numbered; if so it is customary to number them from the right to the left.

X	X	X X	X	X	X X	4
X		X	X		X	3
X	X	X		X	X	2
X	X	X	X	X X	X	1

Thus on the draft in fig.1 the 1-st heddle is on frame 4, the 2-nd on 3, 3-rd on 4, 4-th on 1, 5th on 2 and so on. We shall thread the loom in the same order: the first warp end in a heddle on frame 4, the

Fig.1

second on frame 3, 3-rd on 4, 4th on 1 etc. As far as the threading is concerned the draft is not necessary - we could give simply Threading Directions, thus: 4341234121432143412341214321. But the draft shows much better the arrangement of heddles than the directions.

This is not the only way of representing the threading of a loom. Different countries and different times used other symbols than the ones shown above but the idea is always the same.

2. The Tie-Up Draft.

The tie-up means the way in which different treadles are tied to the frames. We place this draft either to the left or to the right of the threading draft, but exactly in line with it. In the tie-up draft we have both horizontal and vertical lines. One space between horizontal lines means one frame, as before. One space between vertical lines means one treadle. The frames are numbered here in the same way as in the threading draft; the treadles in most cases from the

0			0	0	4
	0		0		3
0		0	0		2
	0	0		0	1
6	5	4	3	2	1

fig.2

right. Thus if we have 4 frames and 6 treadles (fig.2) it gives us 24 squares in the draft. Any kind of a mark in one of the squares means that the frame which is in line with the square is tied to the treadle immediately below the square. Circles, black squares, or crosses can be used. Thus the draft on fig.2 reads: treadle No.1 is tied to frames 1 and 4; tr.2 - to 3 and 4; tr.3 - to 2 and 3; tr.4 - to 1 and 2; tr.5 - to 1 and 3; tr.6 - to 2 and 4.

There are looms in which two symbols or even three must be used to show not only to which frame a treadle is tied, but how it is tied. But this belongs to higher methods of weaving.

3. The Treadling Draft.

This shows us in what order to use the treadles. It has only vertical lines and the spaces between them correspond to the treadles in the tie-up draft. The treadling draft is always placed directly

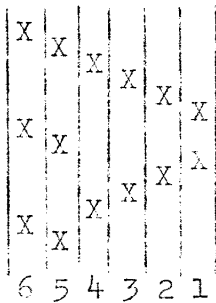


Fig.3

under the tie-up draft. Any kind of marks can be used. It is read always from the top down. Thus the draft in fig.3 means that the first shot of weft is made when the treadle No.6 is depressed. The second on treadle 5. The third on treadle 4 and so on. Here again instead of a draft we could give Treadling Directions, which in our case would be: 65432165123465. This is done very often when the weaving draft is given not complete, i.e. without its last part. Then the treadling directions take much less space than treadling draft, and can serve as well. Sometimes numbers are used on the treadling draft, instead of plain marks, but this practice is not justified.

4. The Draw-Down. (or Block-Out, or Development)

This is a simplified picture of the woven fabric. Simplified, because it is all made on the assumption that the warp is white, the weft black, and that they both take exactly as much space, regardless

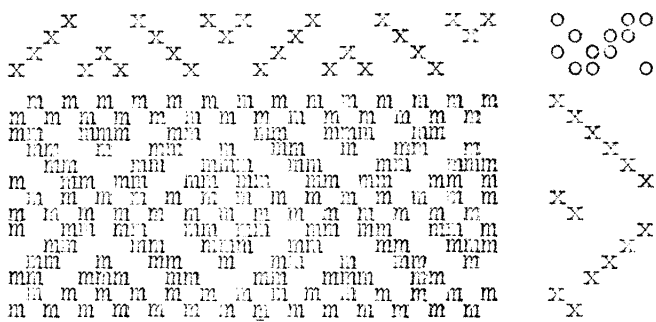


Fig.4

of their actual size (count, grist) and colour. Thus a black square means that in this particular place the weft is on top, and a white square - that the warp covers here the weft.

Now if we assemble all four parts we shall have a complete weaving draft. To use less space we shall eliminate the lines (fig.4).

We won't need the numbers either, once we remember in which direction they go. We can see now that all the four elements of the draft are exactly in line: what is frame No.1 in the threading draft is the same in the tie-up. What is treadle No.6 in the tie-up is the same in the treadling draft. And finally that the draw-down is in line with both the treadling and the threading. A weaving draft in which the four parts are not aligned is practically useless.