COVERLETS

Traditional and Modern

Handwoven coverlets traditionally partake of the heirloom status if well made. Their lasting quality, universal appeal, and practicability make them a favorite project for handweaving talents.

While many traditional patterns are at hand for the choosing, this popular one has been selected as typical, beautiful, and one offering a practical example for explanation and application in a completed project. The size of the coverlet planned is 76x106 inches, finished.

Pattern from Marguerite P. Davison’s “A Handweavers Pattern Book,” available from firms No. 2 and No. 3 under Books. See Suppliers' List.

The Traditional Coverlet

Materials—

| Warp: | Unmercerized Cotton—Art. 314. | SOURCES | S/7 |
| Weft: | Tabby Thread—20/3 same as warp. Pattern Thread—Wool. |

SUGGESTED KINDS

1. Paton & Baldwin’s “Worsted”.
2. Lily’s Weaving Wool.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>AMT. NEEDED</th>
<th>PUT-UP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S/25</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>2-18’s 10,620 yds. 2-oz. tu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/7</td>
<td>4200</td>
<td>2-oz. sk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/70</td>
<td>5600</td>
<td>skeins or balls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The wool is wound double on the shuttle. Preferred is a yarn not too highly twisted. The unplied highly twisted yarns tend to curl in the long weft floats of the design, but can be used.

Colors: The traditional coverlet is usually in two colors. This can be a deep tone of a hue on natural background. Individual preference, however, could very well use two tones of the same hue; such as plum on pink, jade on apple green, brown on yellow, etc. Effective too, the dark background overlaid with the pastel or lightest value in the pattern.

HOW TO APPLY PATTERNS

1. Know: (a) Length of coverlet desired.
   (b) Total width of same.
   (c) Number of warp ends for one side.
   This is ½ the total coverlet width.
2. Determine the exact part of the design you wish joined at any seam. Mark pattern draft at this point.
   Study the draft to find that part. Do this by noting which parts are alike and which carry the long overshots (close repeats on the same harnesses). Amateurs can usually orient themselves in reading patterns this way.
3. Allow sufficient ends for ½ to ¾ inch to the right of seam join point to allow for seam on the right edge of the warp. Mark draft here also.
4. (a) Note the total number of ends in a pattern draft. This is called a “repeat” of the pattern.
   (b) Divide total warp ends of width (1 c) by number of ends in a “repeat”. This is the number of times the “repeat” is threaded.
   (c) Add the number of ends for seam allowance (3) for the right edge of the number of ends for finishing the left edge of the warp (the outside edge of coverlet).

If threading the loom from the center divide the total in half to determine the design at center. Thread as in Steps 1 and 2 on page 2 under Threading.
**The Pattern Draft—**

![Pattern Draft Diagram]

**Threading—**

1. Thread from center of loom to the right:
   (a) Read from Group 25 through Group 1; then
   (b) Repeat (a) 2 x; then
   (c) From Group 25 through 21.

   This will thread the right half of your loom.

2. Thread from center of loom to the left:
   (a) Read from Group 1 through 25; then
   (b) Repeat (a) 2 x; then
   (c) From Group 1 through 5.

   This will thread the left half of your loom.

Steps 1 and 2 together make 6 complete circles like one shown in the photograph.

**EXPLANATION OF THE DRAFT SHOWN**

The numbers within the draft represent a single warp thread placed through the heddle on the respective frame of the loom. For instance, a 4 means that a single end of warp is through a single heddle on Harness 4. Each group of the pattern is designated by a circled number above it.

By subdividing any pattern drafts into small natural units they are usually easier to chart and to follow in threading. Check and tie off each group as it is threaded to insure accuracy.

**APPLICATION OF THE PATTERN USED**

1. (a) Coverlet 106 inches long finished.
   (b) Width: 76 inches, finished.
   (c) 1245 Ends of warp in width of warp. (41 1/2 x 30.)

2. Coverlet joined at center of V in the design.

   See Group 1 in draft, and note arrow in photograph. Also note center of large rose indicated in draft.

**Treadle—** Use alternately tabby shots between all wool shots, **including changes from one pattern treadle to another.** It is most important that all tabby be accurately alternated. To begin, the weaver should count aloud to help in this.

**Sinking Shed:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.3 — 1 x Tabby</th>
<th>2.4 — 1 x Tabby</th>
<th>C. Repeat Group A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4 — 1 x Tabby</td>
<td>1.3 — 1 x Tabby</td>
<td>D. 3.4 — 8 x Wool Doubled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rising Shed:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. 1.4 — 5 x Wool (Doubled)</th>
<th>2.3 — 5 x Wool (Doubled)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 — 4 x</td>
<td>3.4 — 4 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 — 2 x</td>
<td>2.5 — 2 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 — 4 x</td>
<td>3.4 — 4 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 — 5 x</td>
<td>2.3 — 5 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. 3.4 — 3 x</td>
<td>1.2 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 — 3 x</td>
<td>4.1 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 — 3 x</td>
<td>3.4 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 — 3 x</td>
<td>2.3 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 — 3 x</td>
<td>3.4 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 — 3 x</td>
<td>4.1 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 — 3 x</td>
<td>1.2 — 3 x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sinking Shed:**

- A, B, C, and D constitute a complete unit of the pattern. The completed woven circle is about 7 inches across.

**Woven—**

1. 1-inch of plain tabby at beginning of coverlet for small hem.

2. Weave sufficient complete units, A, B, C, and D, to make the 106 inches of length. After last unit weave A, B, and C only.

3. Weave 1 inch plain tabby at end of coverlet for small hem.

4. **Important:** When beginning, have a strip of muslin 2 inches wide, 2 1/2 yds. long. Mark the start and end of same. Pin the start to the beginning of the weaving along the right edge of the weaving. As each half of the pattern units are completed, mark on muslin with ruler to indicate exact beginning and ending of pattern parts. Use this strip of muslin as a guide in making the second half of the coverlet.

5. When one-half of the coverlet is completed, it is suggested that it be removed from the loom before the 2nd section is woven to insure firm tension.

6. On beginning 2nd section, remove muslin strip from 1st section and pin the end that was marked last at the beginning of the 2nd section along the left edge of the warp. Weave to match marks exactly. Consistent beat will insure that they will match.

Our pattern is balanced so one may again begin from Group A, treading the second-half of the coverlet. Unbalanced patterns would have to be read in reverse in the second section in order to match corresponding parts.
Beat—See that the tabby forms a “squared” web, that the pattern overshots appear solid, and the unit forms a nice circle.

Sewing—1. When weaving is completed remove sections from loom and fine stitch across ends to prevent raveling.
   2. Lay right sides touching, and pin center seam, pins perpendicular to edge of material. Carefully match corresponding parts of pattern along seam and pin carefully. Then baste with small stitches lengthwise along the exact center of the V in the design. Unpin and test the seam line before machine stitching as close to basting as possible with medium fine stitch.
   3. Press seam open and make hems at each end. Hems to be ½-inch wide with ¼-inch turn-under. Neatly machine stitch hems or hand hem very closely. Steam press entire coverlet on wrong side.

LARGE MODERN COVERLET

Design Theme—
Large horizontal textured stripes overlay an interesting planer area. Seams of the coverlet run across the width under the stripe sections. The versatile weave is particularly interesting because it can be adapted for drapery, upholstery, place mats, or even skirt and apron borders.

The Materials—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Yd. Lb.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warp: 10/2 Mercerized Cotton</td>
<td>S/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weft: 12-Cut Chenille</td>
<td>S/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2 Mercerized Cotton. See under Variations for other wefts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggested Color Combinations — Lily Colors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warp</th>
<th>Stripe Area:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain Area:</td>
<td>#470 Beauty Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1449 M. Jade</td>
<td>#536 Pistache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#404 Yellow</td>
<td>#406 Light Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#456 Rose Pink</td>
<td>#85 Peach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amounts Needed—
For coverlet 94x115 inches, finished. Stripe width: 6 inches.
Warp: Plain Area—6216 Yds. or 2½ lbs.
Stripe Area—2830 Yds. or 6 tubes (2 oz.).
Weft: Chenille—2460 Yds. or 1 lb. plus 5 tubes.

The Weaving—
Warp: 9½ Yds. long, 40 inches wide.
Sett: See Diagram of Threading for Ends per inch.

Diagram of Threading—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern Threading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stripe Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10/2 Cotton:</th>
<th>Weft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1019 Pink</td>
<td>Chenille:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1448 L. Jade</td>
<td>#45 Dusty Rose or #86 Light Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1459 Canary</td>
<td>“—#34 Jade or #59 Dark Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>“—#9 Yellow or #4 Natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>“—Coral or #4 Natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“—Natural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Treadle—
SINKING SHED:
1.2 — 1 x Chenille
A. 1.3 — 1 x 10/2 Cotton
2.4 — 1 x 10/2 Cotton
Repeat

RISING SHED:
3.4 — 1 x Chenille
2.4 — 1 x 10/2 Cotton
1.3 — 1 x 10/2 Cotton
Repeat

MAKE 3 COMPLETE SECTIONS. Always add a few extra shots for cutting. Measure carefully. Remove each section from loom after it is woven.

To Sew Coverlet—
1. Fine stitch ends to prevent raveling.
2. To join, lay right sides of 2 pcs. touching. The striped edge will be adjacent the plain edge. Baste a ¼-inch seam. Stitch carefully close to chenille stripe.
3. Join 3rd section, similarly.
4. Hem under the tabby at sides of coverlet, ¼-inch turn-under, so that it is invisible.
TEXTURE VARIATIONS

No. 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threading—</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Repeat</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plain Area

Stripe Area

Warp: 10/2 Cotton. Sett: 24 ends per inch.
Weft: Same as coverlet, except chenille is alternated with rayon floss. Floss Source: Style No. 53002, 1450 yd. lb. from S/15; or floss from S/56. Effective: whites and naturals, together.

No. 2

Warp: 20/3 Cotton.
Sett: 30 Ends per inch.
Weft: Cotton Boucle.
Rayon Boucle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern Threading—</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Repeat</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. 1-inch. B. 1-Inch.
Alternate A and B across the warp.

SINKING SHED

Treadle: 1.2 — 1 x Cotton Boucle
2.4 — 1 x 20/3 Cotton
1.2 — 1 x Rayon Boucle
1.3 — 1 x 20/3
3.4 — 1 x Cotton Boucle
1.3 — 1 x 20/3
3.4 — 1 x Cotton Boucle
2.4 — 1 x 20/3
Repeat

Use opposite treadles for rising shed looms on all treadlings shown on this page.

No. 3

Same as No. 2 except warp is 10/2 cotton, set 24 ends per inch.

No. 4

Warp: Same warp as No. 2.
Weft: 6-Cut Chenille S/7 Perle 3 S/7

Treadle:
1.2 — 1 x Perle 3 Doubled
(a) 1.3 — 1 x 20/3
(b) Tabby 5 x with 20/3
(c) Repeat (a)—1 x using chenille instead of Perle 3.
(d) Tabby 7 x with 20/3
Repeat (a) to (d)

No. 5

Warp: Same as No. 2.

Treadle:
1.2 — 1 x Floss
(a) 3.4 — 1 x Twist
Repeat 11 more times
(b) 1.2 — 1 x Twist
3.4 — Floss
Repeat (b) 3 more times
(c) Alternate (a) and (b) groups