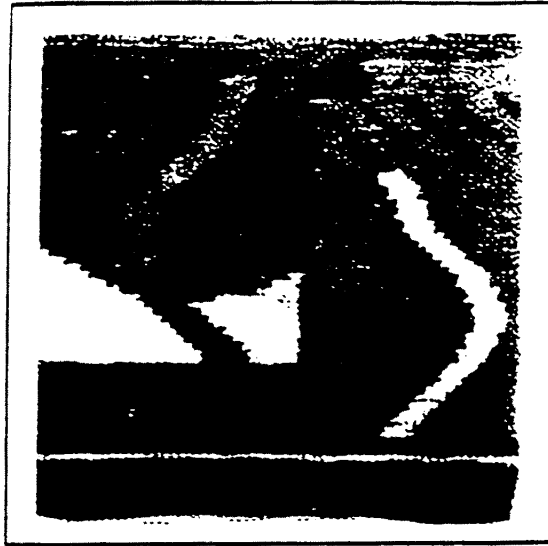


Handweaving News



"Flossa" Rug Knot.

The Swedish "Flossa" rug knot is a pile technique. It is generally used for rugs of modern design, but may also be adapted for bags, wall hangings, and often is used for fringes. The rug knot can be used solid all over, or may be used only for portions of the design with a plain weave background. This form is often called half "Flossa". The photograph shown above is an example of the woven fabric sent in by one of my correspondents.

Design, - Should be a modern one for this sort of technique. Do not attempt to do a copy of an oriental rug, or roses and flowers etc. even though it is possible. Use a design with simple geometric lines. Any design which can be drawn out on cross section paper can be used. It is best to plan out the design before setting up the loom. If the loom is already threaded, the design must be planned to suit the width of the warp, by increasing or decreasing it in proportion to the number of warp threads. Each knot requires two warp threads. And four or six warp threads should be left unknotted on each edge of the warp. The warp should be sleyed about 10 or 12 threads to the inch.

Materials, - The warp for these rugs needs to be very strong and firm. Carpet warp can be used, but should be threaded double through the heddles, and through the reed. No. 3 mercerized cotton or other strong cotton about the same size is better, a 16/4 grey linen also makes an excellent warp. A heavy rug wool of fast color should be used for the knot. The plain weave background may be of material like the warp. In the piece shown above the background is of tapestry wool. On a long pile rug candlewick cotton could also be used if desired. An attractive rug at a recent exhibit which I saw, was made of a hemp yarn for the knot making a pile about 2" long, with red candlewick cotton for the plain weave background.

Special equipment, - Two pieces of special equipment are needed for these rugs. One is a double steel bar which is used as a gauge for the height of the knot, and the other is a special knife with which to cut the pile. The steel bar can be 3/8" to 2" in width. A good average width is 1/2" to 5/8" wide, and the length should be according to the width of the warp of your loom. A sketch of the bar is shown at Figure No. 2 on Page 2. The cutting knife is made so that it will not cut the warp threads as it is being used.

Method of Weaving a "Flossa" Rug.

After loom is warped and threaded, weave a plain tabby heading about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " in width. This can be of materials like the warp or of tapestry wool. Beat very firm and close. Wind a number of heavy rug yarn bobbins to be used for the knots. As soon as the plain weave heading is of the desired width, add six or eight shots of plain weave on the right, just over and under the first four warp threads. Then on the left hand side of the loom, start a small bobbin of the same material and also weave over and under the first four warp threads from 5 to 7 times. The number of times to do this depends on the weight of the weft. The edges are built up in this way so that they will fill up the same amount of space as is taken up by the row of rug knots. Figure No.5 shows how each edge is built up and then how the right hand shuttle is again carried all across for the four rows of plain weave between each row of knots. The bobbin on the left can be carried along for just four threads, and turned, or it can be finished off and started each time as desired, but both edges must be built up in this way, and it is better to build them up before making the row of knots.

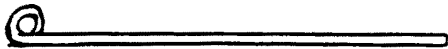


Figure No.2

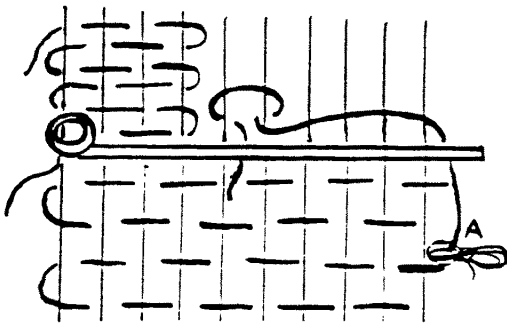


Figure No.3

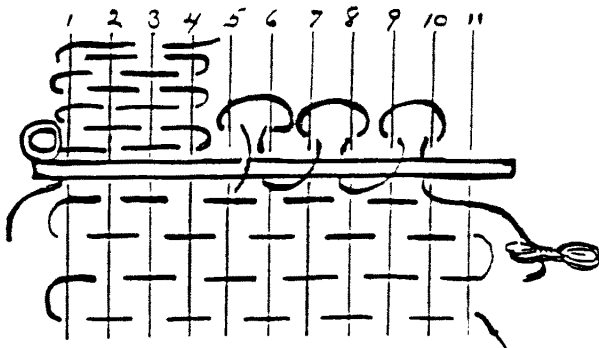


Figure No.4

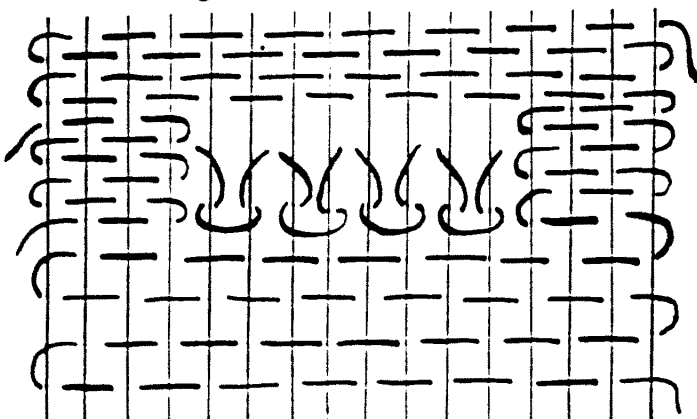


Figure No.5

Directions for Making the "Flossa" Knot.

The first knot is made on the left hand edge of the warp, on the 5th and 6th warp thread in from the edge, with the warp flat. The first and last knot are set in from the edge to prevent the rug from curling and make it wear better. This distance can be increased if desired. Slip the rug yarn bobbin under the 5th warp thread from right to left, then over the 5th and 6th warp thread and under the 6th from right to left, for the first knot as shown at Figure No.3. Now place the metal guage bar on top of the plain weave heading with the slit side up and the ring on the left. Hold in place with the hand while a few knots are made. Take the rug yarn bobbin end A under the bar and pull the knot together. Then take it over the bar and under the 7th warp thread from right to left with the yarn loop toward the reed, again under the 8th warp thread from right to left for the second knot. Carry the yarn bobbin around and under the end of the guage bar. Pull the knot down close. Bring the yarn up over the bar and make the rest of the knots in the same way for the width of the warp until the right edge is reached.

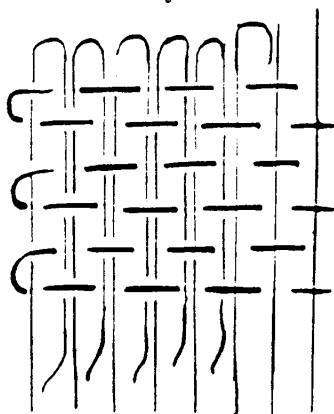
Do not pull the yarn loops too tight over the guage bar. After completing a row of knots, weave at least 4 rows of plain weave all across the width as at Figure No.5. Then take a sharp pile knife, run it across the top of the guage bar to cut the loops. The knots are more even if the top of the guage bar is turned slightly toward the weaver. Now build up the right and left edges respectively with plain weave on the first four and last four edge warps, and then the next row of knots may be woven.

Follow the design carefully. One knot and four rows of plain weave equal one square of cross section paper design. Beat very hard and close, it is impossible to beat too hard. Be sure the edges are also well beaten down too.

Finishing the Rug.

After the rug is completed, weave another plain weave heading on the other end as at the beginning. The warp ends of the rug can then be knotted together, or they may be braided in three strand braids. Another method of finishing is to run each separate warp thread back into the plain weave heading with a needle, as shown at Figure No. 6. This finish makes all of the warps completely out of sight. These ends should be run back far enough to fasten them well, and then the ends are cut off close.

The rug design below at Figure No. 7 was designed by Elizabeth Bates, a design student at Wayne University. It requires 75 knots for the width, plus 10 extra warps for the edges, or a total of 160 warp threads. This can be increased in size proportionately if desired.



Heavy rug yarns for this were purchased from A.D. Jenness, 20 Roxbury Road, New Britain, Conn at \$2.85 lb. in the following colors, - light grey # 118, dark grey #117, cream 133, light brown # 127, dark brown #123 were the colors used. This same firm can also furnish pile knives and guage bars if desired. Prices on request.

Figure No. 7

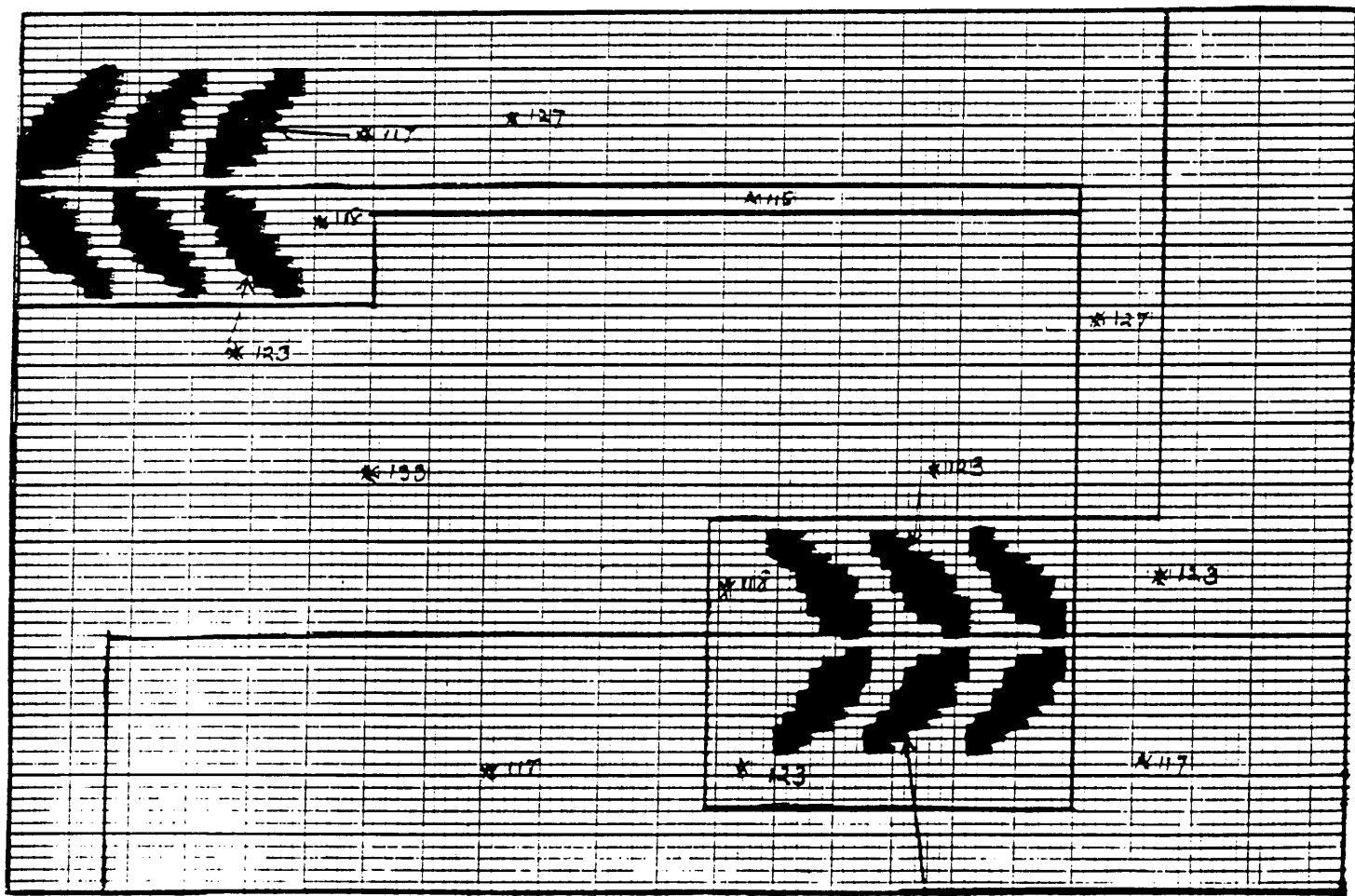


Figure No. 8