

How to Sign Handweaving.

There are several methods of weaving initials in order to sign ones weaving. This signature can be ones name and date, and even may include "woven by", or it can be just initials and two numerals for the year. Many of the old time weavers signed their weaving with name and date, and even also the name of the person for whom the material was woven.

Designing of Signatures. Modern signatures should be carefully planned and designed. Plan out just whatever you wish to have on cross section paper first. This may be just simple initials, or name and date, but to my mind it should be small, subdued and inconspicuous. Initials can be worked out into a simple monogram, or even better an interesting sign or mark may be worked out to make the signature an original one. After the design has been made it should be reversed by tracing heavier on the right side of the drawing and then turning the paper over and marking the same lines on the back of the paper. The design shown at Figure No.2 on the next page was made in this way, and is the reverse of the initials N,S,J.

Combination of plain weave and brocading. To do this, if the design is to be on the hem of an article, weave a plain tabby heading for the hem as wide as desired. Weaving the design at Figure No.2 in the manner to be described will make the wrong side of the initials on the top side of the weaving, hence the reason for the reversing of these initials. This technique is really a combination of laid-in and brocading. To start raise the shed, start one color at A, and another at B for the N. If only one color is to be used for the whole monogram bring it through to the top of the warp threads that are raised for the shed and then down again at B where the N begins. This will make a skip on top of the weaving. But if two colors are used it is not necessary to do this. The skips on the N is not illustrated in the drawing, but would occur as at points O and M where the thread would skip over several warp threads. On the S the N skips would come right over the warp as at D and C. This should be clear from the drawing if you know that the long skip joining the two sides of a letter are not drawn in as it would be confusing to do so. It is somewhat easier to weave initials in a row in this fashion than to weave a monogram. And any of the initials at Figure No.1 can be used effectively. After each row of the laid in, weave a row of plain weave all across the width of the loom. The initials should be either another color of weft or a heavier weft than the plain weave, in order to show up well.

This monogram as it is drawn out measures about 11/8" square when woven on warp set at 30 threads to the inch, No.20 mercerized cotton and the same for the weft. Larger initials and monograms could be planned for the center of towels on a linen 40/2 warp and woven with linen floss. In planning the initials for such a project, be sure and consider how close and what kind of warp and weft are to be used, or they may not be in good proportion when finished.

Figure No.1

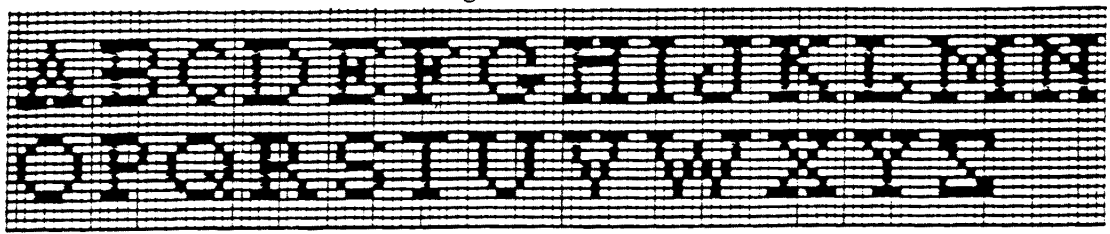
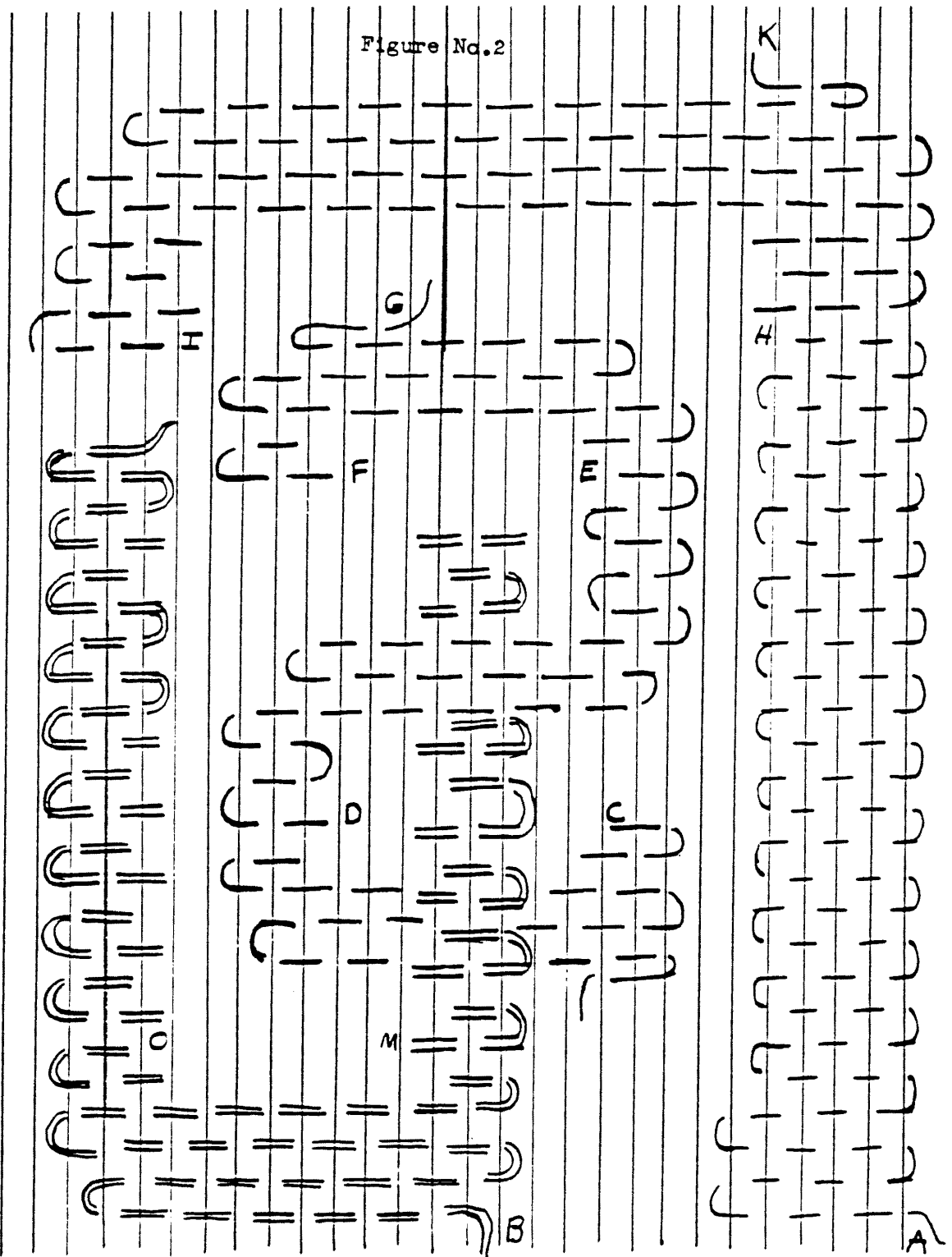


Figure No.2



Simple Brocading. This is another form of making a signature. At Figure No.5 at the bottom of this page is shown how to plan out an initial for simple brocading. The horizontal lines are weft going over the lengthwise warp threads as shown. For instance on the N at the top the weft would go over three warp threads, then under three, and over two. Then put in a shot of plain weave, after the initial weft has been pushed down under the warp threads. Bring it up again for the second row of pattern for the initial, and go over two, under three, and then over three warp threads, then push the weft down under the warp threads, and put in another row

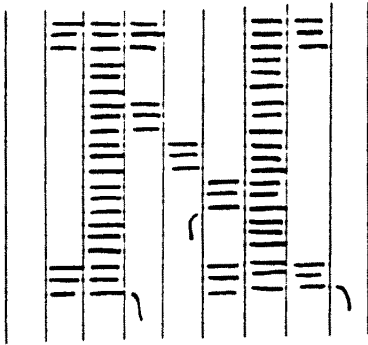


Figure No.3

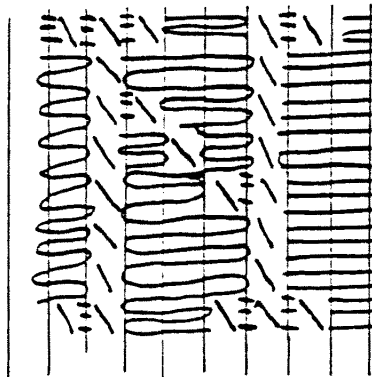


Figure No.4

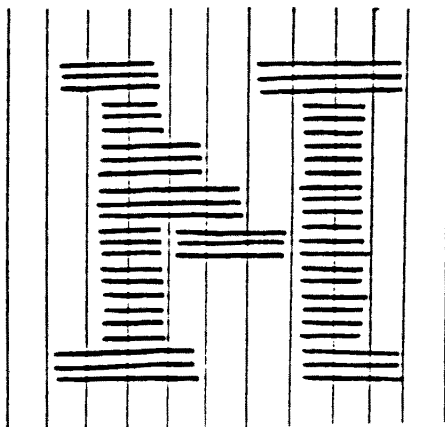


Figure No.5

change the shed and go ahead four warp threads and so on according to the plan of the pattern, as shown at Figure No.4.

of plain weave. This is the method for the working of the whole initial. Of course this brings the right side of the initial on top of the weaving. If it is desired to have it on the under side, of course the pattern must be reversed. A row of initials can be woven very easily in this way. The initial weft must be either a different color from the plain weave, or else a somewhat coarser thread, so the initial will show up well.

Embroider Weave or Dukagang. At Figure No.3 is shown the plan for initials in embroidery weave or dukagang. The horizontal lines at Figure No.3, indicate over 3 warp threads and then under 1 warp thread in each case. And three shots of pattern weft are used for one square of cross section paper pattern. Some people prefer to work this sort of weave with the right side on the top of the weaving, while others prefer to work it with the wrong side on top. At Figure No.3 the N is to be woven with the right side on top. For instance the top of the N is woven as follows, - with weft for the initial go over three warp threads, under 1, over 3, under 9, over 3, under 1, over 3, under 1, over 3 and then down under the warp threads. This is picked up on a flat warp, or can be put in on a shed which raises 1 warp thread and leaves 3 between on the shed. Then a shot of plain weave is put in. Bring up the initial weft thread, and go over 3 warp threads, under 1, over 3, under 1, over 3, under 9, over 3, under 1, over 3, and then down below the warp threads. Then an alternate shot of plain weave. Continue as shown on the pattern at Figure No.3. The small lines shown at Figure No.3 indicate points where new weft threads are started, and in this case the wefts were begun at the bottom of the N instead of at the top as just described.

Spanish Weave. Another effective way to weave initials monograms etc. is the spanish weave. This is an especially nice way to mark towels and possibly napkins for a luncheon set. At Figure No.4 the N is carried out in the slanting stitch of the Spanish weave. To make this effective be sure and pull the small plain weave groups of the spanish weave very tightly so the slanting stitch will show up well. For a fine piece set at 30 threads to the inch, 4 warp threads for each block of the plain weave should be used. Directions for this are as follows; on the edge up to the point where the first slanting stitch is to come, weave one shot of plain weave, change shed, weave a shot of plain back to the edge pulling the weft slightly, then change shed, and weave back to the point where the first slanting stitch comes going ahead two more warp threads in the same shed. Then change the shed and go back two warp threads,