Threading the Loom.

This News is a continuation of the March issue in order to explain the next steps in the handling of a threading draft and putting it into the loom. Several have asked me to give my method for doing this, and I hope this will be clear and helpful.

Writing out the Arrangement of the Threading draft for the warp threads to be used.

We will use the same pattern draft as for the March News, repeated above for convenience. Any number of warp threads can be taken as desired, but we are going to take only 240. One repeat is from A to B. For each threading draft you use, always write out the arrangement plan and follow it as you thread the loom.

Start at E, thread from E to B - 13 threads
A to B is 68 threads, repeated 3 times - 204 ”
B to D, the last pattern block like the first - 10 ”
B to E, to end and balance the pattern - 13 ”

Total 240 ”

Counting the Number of heddles for each loom harness. Before the threading of the loom can begin, we must know how many heddles are needed for each harness of the loom. Divide the threading draft into groups of 20 or more threads. Label these groups with roman numerals I, II, III, IV, etc as necessary according to the length of the threading. Then count the number of heddles on each of the 4 harnesses of these groups. Also those for B to E, and E to D. Write these all down as shown below. Get the totals by adding up the groups, in the order in which the pattern is to be threaded into the loom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harness</th>
<th>Group I</th>
<th>Group II</th>
<th>Group III</th>
<th>B to D</th>
<th>E to B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-6 x 3</td>
<td>1-5 x 3</td>
<td>1-4x3</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>1-1 x 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6 x 3</td>
<td>2-5 x 3</td>
<td>2-4x3</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>2-1 x 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 x 3</td>
<td>3-6 x 3</td>
<td>3-8x3</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>3-5 x 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5 x 3</td>
<td>4-6 x 3</td>
<td>4-8x3</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>4-5 x 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To get the total number of heddles for each harness, add the number of heddles for each of the groups and for B to D, and E to B. If correctly done, this should come out to the correct total for the number of warp threads being used, or 240 in this case.

Group I, II, and III is A to B which is repeated 3 times, and B to E is repeated twice. So we have Harness 1-52 heddles

Thread the first and the last heddle with 2 threads to make the 240 warp threads which is our total number to be used.

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Now actually count off the number of healdes needed for each harness on the loom. If there are not enough healdes on a harness, remove the harness which has too many on it, and take off some in order to make the correct amount for the other harnesses.

To change healdes from one harness to another, loosen the healdes of both harnesses. Take off two of the healdes from the harness which has too many healdes. Thread the healdes to be removed off on these two healdes, using one for the top and one for the bottom of the healdes being taken off. Then these can be slipped easily on the heald bars of the harness which needs more healdes. Do not take healdes off singly. Always thread them on one of the other harnesses in this way. It saves much time.

![Diagram](image1)

**Figure No. 1** Changing Healdes.

(Warp threads (loop of warp)

**Figure No. 2** Threading the loom.

**Figure No. 3** Looping the Group.

Threading the loom without mistakes. This will be given in detail in order to show the method we use to avoid making mistakes in threading the loom. After the correct number of healdes have been arranged on each loom harness, we are ready to thread. Follow the arrangement plan given on Page 1. Start with the group 5 to B. Count 3 on harness 1 on harness 2, 5 healdes on harness 3, and 5 healdes on harness 4. Push these counted healdes to the right side of the loom as you sit in front of it. And the uncounted healdes all to the left, leaving a space between. It is easier or a large loom to remove the beaten and breast beam while threading.

Bring the first group of warp threads through the space between the counted and uncounted healdes. Hold them taut between the 3rd and 4th fingers of the left hand.

With the right hand pull out the first two warp threads, reaching through the harnesses from the right of the counted healdes. Make a loop of these two threads and put them in the first heald on harness 1. Continue to pull out one thread at a time from the group, loop it with the right hand, and thread it into its proper heald and harness until the group of E to B, 10 threads, is finished. This is shown at Figure No. 2.

Loop each group with a loop knot easy to untie as shown at Figure No. 3 above. Now we thread as shown at Figure No. 4. Start with group 1. Count off the required healdes for each harness of this group, which is 22. Again bring the group of warp threads to the left of these healdes, and proceed to thread according to the threading chart for this group. If any mistakes are made while threading, the number of healdes will not come out right. It is easy to check and find the mistake if one has been made. Tie these threads into a group, this is group 1. Thread group II and III in the same way. Be sure you make no mistakes when you count off the healdes on each harness, and that you thread correctly. It is easier to have a small number for a rhythm, than to look at the paper for every thread you take up. This method of threading in groups allows you to stop at any point. By counting the groups finished, you know just where to begin threading again when you return.

After the pattern is threaded into the loom, it must be drawn or sleyed through the reed with the reed hook. In this case we put two threads through each dent or slit of the reed. Take care in sleying not to let any of the warp threads get crossed. And take them exactly in order as they come from the healdes to the reed.

![Diagram](image2)

**Figure No. 4** shows how the warp threads are tied to the cloth beam. Be sure each group is the same tension. This is important if the weaving is to be even. Pull down on each group with the fingers after they are tied to see how the tension is. The end groups can be tied first, then the center group, and so on for the width of the loom. Retie as necessary to get the groups even.

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