

treadle talk ~

I wonder if a handweaver ever has enough yarn on hand. I have shelves full of yarns—cupboards full of yarns—all kinds, fine, heavy, smooth yarns, cotton, wool, linen and silk yarns, loopy, nubby, slippery and tangled yarns, bright colored, dull colored and faded yarns—even some soiled yarns a weaver friend gave to me that she couldn't use and that I'm always going to wash and use but never find the time to do it.

New weavers starting out always seem to be a little resistant to my suggestion that a little more yarn than is called for is better than calling it too close and running out, or worrying yourself sick about running out and ending up with just one yard to spare. I always say it's good to have a little left over, then you'll have some odds and ends to play with when planning future projects . . . but the truth is, no matter how many odds and ends you have on hand, you never have the right "odd" or the best "end" when you get your next idea.

Weavers seem to have the habit of dreaming up ideas needing yarns they don't have but— isn't planning and buying yarns a part of the fun? To a real handweaver a shelf full of colorful yarns is as pleasant to look at as a vase full of lovely flowers.

Mary Penhelt

MARCH/APRIL 1967



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

THE LOOMING ARTS



"First of all I want to tell you how thoroughly I enjoy my "Looming Arts"-all of it. There is great excitement in our house when "Looming Arts" arrives. It has been most interesting and helpful as well as making the whole family homesick for Arizona. It must give you great satisfaction to know how much your publication is enjoyed . . . I am a beginning weaver and have a 22" Gilmore loom. My instruction has come from books, your publication and a friend . . . We enjoy the adventures of Lady and Patsy very much." Mrs. C.E. Richardson, Metairie, La.

"Thank you for holding a copy of Looming Arts for me but I have decided not to renew my subscription since I cannot use the weaving instructions. My loom is a four-harness but it is an old one and has no tie-ups on it. My husband is a handy man, too, and thinks that some day when he has time, he can change my loom and then perhaps I'll send for your magazine again. I have enjoyed it very much." Mrs. Russell R. Hershberger, Birmingham, Michigan.

Editor's Note: Dear Mrs. Hershberger: Thank you for your letter of March 1 relative to your subscription to *The Looming Arts*. You state that your loom is an old one and "has no tie-ups on it".

If your loom is a four harness loom "with no tie-ups" then you are saying that it has four treadles. This is what we refer to as a direct tie-up. The tie-ups that I give in the magazine are for your loom as well as a six treadle loom - for instance:

Tie-Up - Counter Balance

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x x x      4
  x x  x  3
x   x x  2
  x   x x  1
6 5 4 3 2 1
  
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If my directions should say to treadle 2 then 4 alternately this is what you would do on your loom. For treadle 2 you would depress two treadles at a time - the treadle tied to harness 1 and the treadle tied to harness 2. For treadle 4 - you would depress the treadle tied to harness 3 and the one tied to harness 4. In other words you want to lower the harnesses that I show tied to certain treadles.

I hope this clarifies the tie-ups for you and that you will decide to remain a subscriber to *The Looming Arts*. Happy Weaving!

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION
AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The *Looming Arts* is published bi-monthly beginning January 25 of each year. Subscription rates: United States and possessions and Canada: Issue with 4-harness designs and samples \$4.25 a year or \$1.00 single copy; above issue plus an additional multi-harness design \$6.00 a year or \$1.35 single copy. Pan-American and foreign - \$1.00 a year extra. Mary Pendleton, editor and publisher. Business office: Box 233, Jordan Road, Sedona, Arizona 86336.

Interstices ~

Engravings on the Leaden Heart

*Engravings on the leaden heart
Are cut with acid, Ask the young,
They will tell you how it stung
At the first meeting, and the parting,
Oh, the parting.*

*Images are set apart
To reexamine. Let them tell
Of the world spun in a glass bell,
The formed and formless yearning,
Oh, the yearning.*

*Outlines take a certain art
To make a form. Ask the old,
They will tell you how the cold
Does not wash away the burning,
Oh, the burning.*

*Renewed engravings, like the start
Require acid. Ask the sure,
They will tell you grooves endure
In hearts which ask no charity,
Oh, the clarity.*

Marilyn Francis

A copy of the above poem printed on quality parchment may be purchased by sending \$1.50 to - The Pendleton Shop, Box 233, Sedona, Arizona 86336. Frame this poem using a piece of your handwoven fabric for a mat.

SLEEVELESS WOOL JACKET WITH SIDE FRINGE

Sometime ago I wove three jackets and put them out for sale. It took a long time to sell the first two and the third one just hung there day after day. I finally decided that it would be mine and I took it off the rack and put it on. Within days I had a number of people that wanted that jacket. It must have looked better on me than on the rack. During our cooler months I literally live in this jacket. It is just the right weight and there are no sleeves to get in your way. Since the day I started wearing it, I have done quite a few on special order. I'd like to share this idea with you.

Use any threading that you like but I will give you the one that I used.

Warp: Sportsyarn - Chartreuse, Olive drab, Apple Green, Fuschia

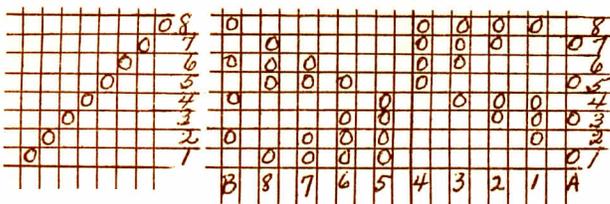
Weft: Sportsyarn - Fuschia

Note: If you use a sportsyarn that is very elastic, allow a little more in length and width.

Reed: 12 dent - 1 end per dent - 28" in reed

Threading

Tie Up



Treadle A and B for tabby.

For Pattern treadle 1 through 8 and repeat.

Weave 4 rows tabby before and after pattern areas.

Pattern area - 16 to 18 picks per inch on loom with tension.

Tabby area - 12 picks per inch on loom with tension.

Warp is unweven where diagram shows "fringe". See diagram for details.

These directions will make a Size 16 garment - fits loosely.

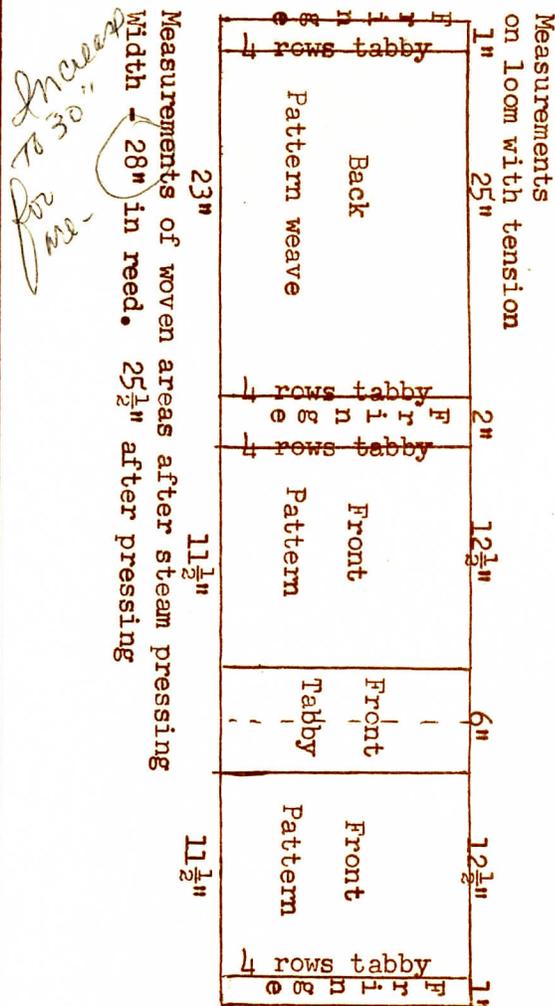
After steam pressing, cut on dotted line (6" front tabby area) to divide fronts. Cut 2" long fringe area in middle to divide front from back. Lay front pieces over back with right sides out and stitch underarm seam . . . 12" up from bottom. Turn wrong side out and stitch shoulder seams beginning 2" down from top at armhole edge and 7" toward center. Press seam open and tack down. Sew bias tape to back neck edge to prevent stretching. Turn back front edges and saddlestitch with matching yarn

MULTI-HARNESS DESIGN THIS ISSUE

The extra sample for the multi-harness design subscribers for this issue is a warp face drapery fabric on eight harnesses. It's a striped fabric called RIVERS OF REMEMBRANCE.



Sleeveless wool jacket with side fringe.



BILLBOARD-LESS BEAUTY

The past issues of Looming Arts have told you about the beautiful red rock country around Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon. The color photographs have backed up our statements. I would like to tell you about the plan for preserving this beauty. As handweavers you should be interested in any program that improves our visual enjoyments.

Sedona is one of the first communities to attack the problem of billboard elimination along its highways. Almost every businessman in this community has signed a pledge not to erect any signs, billboards, posters, other than on his own place of business. Billboards



Photo by Bradshaw

View from Red Rock Road just off Highway 89-A

have been torn down. Obsolete signs removed. The oil companies, the motels and restaurants have endorsed this program and have taken down their signs. There are still a few hold-outs but the billboard removal committee hope for 100% results within a year or so. In place of billboards the community is erecting at each entrance to our area an attractively designed directory listing the businesses and services offered.

When you visit Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon, you can't help noticing the lack of billboards. You can enjoy our beautiful scenery without visual interruption. We are proud of this achievement and hope other communities will initiate similar programs.

WEAVING IN A ZOO by Virginia Cabot

One would wonder how an inexperienced weaver (with three weeks of lessons) can work when one enters my home. It isn't easy!

First of all, we have an eight year old dachshund that prefers to sleep under the raised treadles, and to top it off, she snores! She only snores when I weave, and I get the uneasy feeling that she doesn't appreciate my efforts. Maybe the answer is to weave her a dog sweater!

The second addition is our Siamese cat, and if you've ever heard a Siamese talk (and they really do), a police siren is quiet in comparison. The cat's favorite hobby. (she gave up chasing mice) is to sit on the window sill and play (!) with the spools on the spool rack, all the time talking in her native tongue. She prefers to play with the spools ONLY when I am winding a warp. About half way through the winding, her head is revolving so much that her dizziness forces her to abandon that game.

And last but not least is Blackie. You will notice his magnificent profile in this issue, as Mary and Fred took care of him recently. If you know anything about Minah birds, then you know that they are true clowns. Blackie sits behind me at the loom, and if I don't talk to him (I have wondered about myself at times talking to the bird), he squawks, jumps up and down, and emits a whistle that could loosen the warp. His repertoire is quite extensive from: "Hi, Jinny" (to this I MUST answer "Hi, Blackie"), "Want some coffee" ("No, thank you, Blackie"), "Here, Kitty, Kitty" ("No, Kitty, I wasn't

calling you"), "Let's go" (Be QUIET, Blackie"), "ho-ho-ho-ho" (and I quietly lift Blackie and his cage outside!).

Aside from weaving in the zoo, I must chuckle once in a while about this art. I feel no one could possibly make as many mistakes as I have!

I'll never forget putting the back cross on the apron bar and pulling out the wrong string of the cross, leaving the stick AND the string in the same part of the cross. I remembered then the invaluable adage said by a Food's instructor in college - - BURY YOUR MISTAKES. My, the fire burned brightly that day!

When I was being instructed by Mary, it was very reassuring on the small loom to know that she was, in essence, at my right arm. BUT . . . well, ah, er, ah, the day my 46 inch loom arrived, I then wondered if I really wanted to carry on in weaving!

I sat down at my new loom and to me it seemed 146 inches wide instead of 46! All those heddles and treadles! And no teacher right there to ask anything! My husband thought it was an interesting piece of furniture that went with our early American scheme, and he just stood for several minutes staring at it, shaking his head.

I was so eager to start, that I wound the warp 2 yards TOO SHORT, and after the preliminaries, I wanted to "share" my enthusiasm with my husband, so I asked him to hold the warp as I wound it on the loom. True togetherness, I felt. Together we managed to break 4 strings, but somehow managed.

(continued on page 7)

MOUNTAIN ARTISTS GUILD, INC., Prescott, Arizona

Arizona has some very fine arts and crafts groups and one of the best is the Mountain Artists Guild of Prescott. I'm not saying this because they invited me to participate in a show in their gallery in February but because it is an active group accomplishing much. This Guild has grown from 10 members to over 100. Their biggest project is operating the Pioneer Art Gallery adjoining the Pioneer Bank in the central business district. They also have an annual Outdoor Art Festival each year on Smoki Day. If you are planning to visit Arizona, include Prescott in your itinerary. Visit the Pioneer Art Gallery and other places of interest. Sample in Vol. 2 No. 1 issue was first shown at the Pioneer Art Gallery.

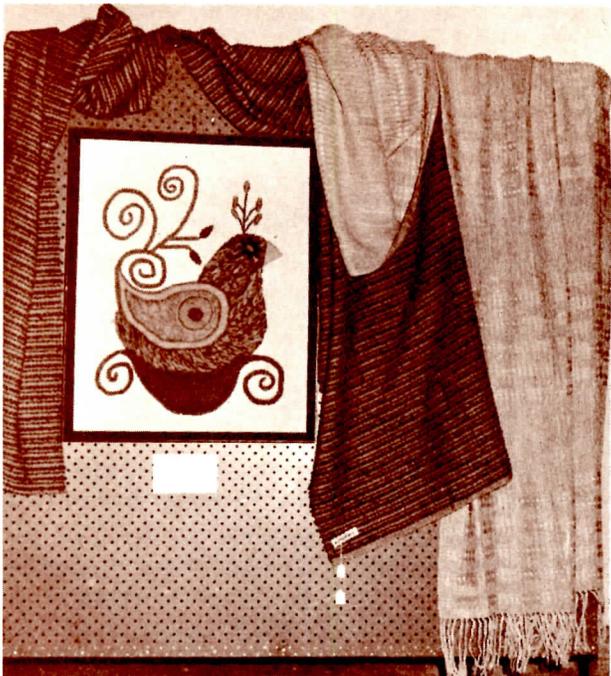


Photo by Whetson

L to R - Wool coat fabric - worsted and loop yarns in beige and brown. Stitchery by Margaret Libby, Tempe, Arizona. Drapery fabric - gold. Woven on the same set up as sample in Vol. 1, No. 1.

STUDIO ACTIVITIES

Things continue at a fast pace around this studio. Dr. and Mrs. Edgar C. Long of Monroe, Michigan spent another week studying. This was their third visit to the studio. Dr. Long produced a half dozen wall hangings while his wife, Caroline, did a Caduceus in double weave pick up.

We had a good time while Mrs. Rita Nagy and Mrs. Katherine Emery from Lakeside, California worked on creative design warps. Mrs. W. W. Gubbins, who recently moved to Sedona, spent a week experimenting on an 8-harness double weave set up.

A number of our subscribers have dropped in and it was nice visiting with everyone.

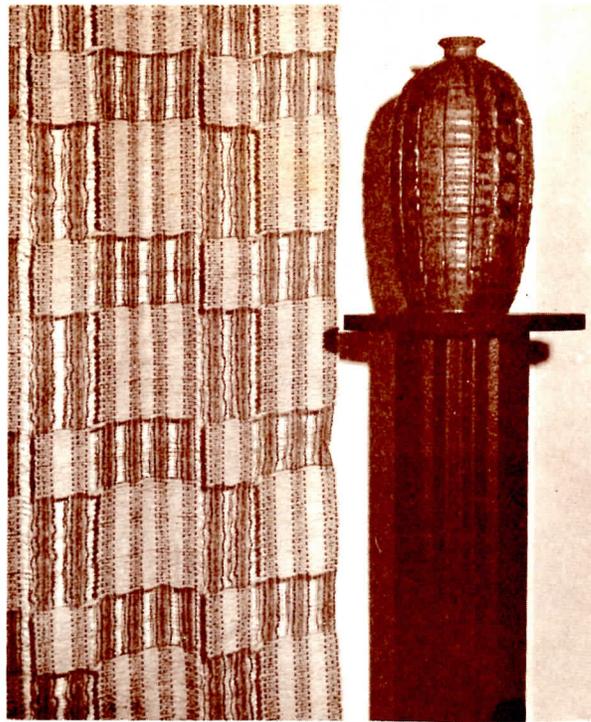


Photo by Whetson

Casement "Pink Blocks" - Bright colored warp yarns set in reed with 1" spaces between. Weft is pale pink wool roving. A fine 2/20 spun rayon is alternated with the roving to tie the whole piece together. Each large block with small block to the left requires one shuttle. Took six shuttles to weave this fabric. Pottery by Maurice Grossman, Tucson, Ariz.

REPORT ON KNOX MERCERIZED LINENS

Finally our shipment arrived - six months and two weeks after ordering . . . but it was worth waiting for . . . such lovely colors. We have mailed out sample cards to everyone that sent in stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Our shipment of 150 lbs. is more than half gone already. Before I can even sample the colors in The Looming Arts, I will have to get some more in. I will be ordering again as soon as I return from the Northern California Handweavers Conference in Sacramento this month, and I feel the next shipment will not take as long.

Fred says ~~

Have any of you weavers heard the beautiful poem called SPRING?

Spring has sprung

The grass is riz

I wonder where the flowers is? **

Here in Arizona spring has been around for quite awhile. Most of the trees are leafed out and the flowers are blooming. It's hard to get the yard work done without getting fishing fever. Reports keep going around of big Northern Pike being caught in Lake Mary and huge cat fish taken from the Verde River. Sigh . . . If a guy only had more time . . .

** Editor's Note: Apologies to Marilyn Francis



* **A STICKY PROBLEM**

An important bit of information in purchasing yarn is "how many yards per pound?". If the manufacturer gives the yardage per pound on his price list, it makes it easy - if you have a price list. Many times all the information you have at hand is the size of the yarn printed on the tube or cone.

Probably the three most used yarns by handweavers are cotton, linen and wool, so let's discuss these. Take cotton. Cotton yarn is numbered according to the quantity of Hanks of 840 yards each required to weigh one pound. If you can remember the number 840, you can always figure how many yards in a pound of cotton. The formula is as follows: 840 multiplied by the weight of the single ply used in the yarn in question divided by the ply gives you the yards per pound. For example: 20/3 cotton would be 840 times 20 (16,800 yds.) divided by the ply (3) equals 5,600 yards per pound.

Linen is calculated in Leas - 300 yards equal one Lea. Worsted is calculated in Counts - 560 yards equal one Count. Use the same formula as for cotton but substitute the proper figure for the 840.

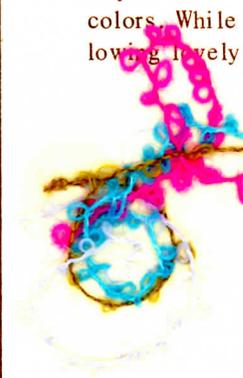
When it comes to figuring yardage per pound for novelty yarns, there isn't any set formula that I know of. Unless the manufacturer lists the yardage, you'll have to figure it yourself. Count the yardage in one ounce of yarn and multiply that by 16. If one ounce equals 150 yards, then one pound would have 2,400 yards.

It isn't really necessary for a handweaver to be a mathematician but it surely helps.

***OCOTILLO** (*Oh-koh-TEE-yoh*) *Fouquieria splendens*
Common to all of the deserts crossed by the boundary between the United States and Mexico. Its many long, stiff, green-barked and thorn-guarded stems bearing at their tips clusters of bright red flowers from April to June. Following rains, the stems cover themselves with clusters of bright green leaves. When drought comes these leaves are shed, to be renewed again after another rain. This procedure may be repeated half a dozen times in one year. Cahuilla Indians eat both flowers and seeds, and make a beverage by soaking the blossoms in water. When planted as hedgerows the thorny wands make an impenetrable fence.

YARNS SELECTED FOR YOU

The loop mohair yarns can be used in so many ways but at times they are hard to find in bright colors. While our supply lasts we offer you the following lovely colors:



Bright and Light Blue mohair loop
Approximately 4800 yds. per lb.
\$4.00 per lb.
Turquoise and Bold Pink mohair
loop. Approximately 2400 yds. per
lb. \$4.00 per lb.
Minimum order one cone - approx.
1½ lbs.

The beautiful Nordic Homespun 100% wool yarn used in the sample in this issue comes in many lovely colors. See Vol. 1 No. 4 - 3½ oz. skein 650 yards - \$1.50. Allow approximately 6 weeks for delivery. It's worth waiting for.

We still have some of the cotton and rayon nub in natural color at sale price of \$1.50 per lb. See Vol. 1 No. 3 for sample.

Order yarns from The Pendleton Shop, Box 233, Sedona, Arizona 86336. Add 85¢ for first pound and 22¢ for each additional pound or fraction of.

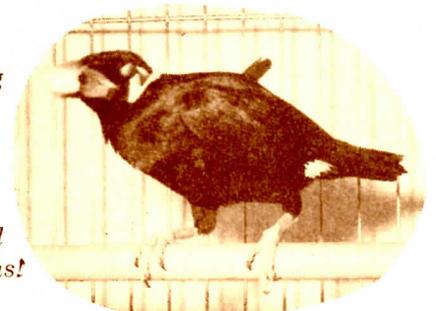
Arizona residents add 3% sales tax.

WEAVING IN A ZOO (continued from page 5)

I have regained some confidence by weaving every spare minute that I can find. I have finished 10 placemats (one is slightly burned from a coal popping out of the fireplace onto the loom as I was weaving it), and I am about ready to cut into the bathroom drapes I have just finished weaving, washing and ironing. GULP! I guess it just takes sheer courage and irrevocable faith to cut into such gorgeous material (I KNOW you have NEVER seen anything so beautiful . . . well, anyway, I haven't!). Maybe I'll think about it for a while. After all, Blackie just said "Don't do it", so maybe he knows best.

Virginia Cabot, a newcomer to Sedona, is a new and enthusiastic weaver. She is a graduate of Iowa State University majoring in Dietetics. In private life she is Mrs. Hugh Cabot III and the mother of two children. She writes a foods column for the local weekly newspaper.

Blackie, the talking Minah bird, "we couldn't get a word in edgewise" was our star boarder for two weeks. Lady and Potsy were so jealous!



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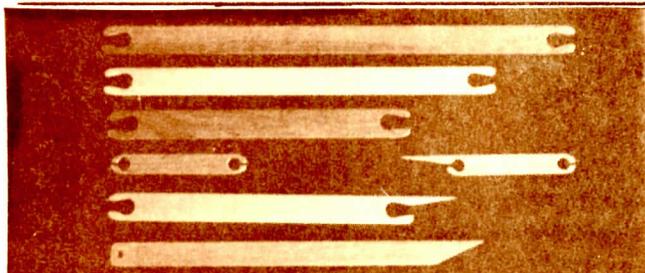
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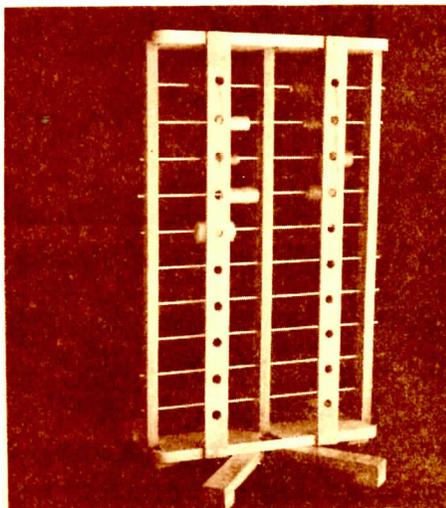
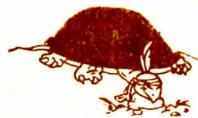
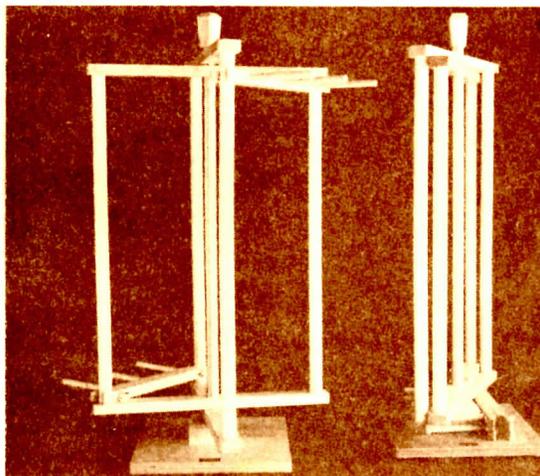


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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

New unused 33" Macomber loom, reeds, yarns, horizontal warper rack, bench, extras - \$225.00 Hogle, 10316 Corte Sol Este, Sun City, Ariz. 85351