TWO HONEYCOMB FABRICS ON M’s AND O’s

The M’s and O’s technique, when threaded in the simple arrangement of two alternating blocks, both of the same size, produces a very high quality Honeycomb fabric. The classical four-thread rep-rib may be used, or the three or five-thread rib. The illustration shows the Honeycomb built up with a dark colored weft on a light colored warp (of Lily 8/2 Drapery cotton, art 108), and the heavy outline thread (in this case Lily 6-cut chenille, Art 106) the same color as the warp, as is customary in Honeycomb weaving. The warp set here is twenty-four ends per inch. The weaving method is the same as for classical M’s and O’s, with the addition of a tabby or a pseudo-tabby shot of the heavy outline-thread, following each woven block. The photographed piece was woven on the six-harness threading which gives a true-tabby for the outline.

Another Honeycomb interpretation, and a most interesting one, is shown in Volks- und Handwerkstechniken by A. von Schimmelmann, illustrated here. This shows the customary color arrangement of a dark weft, tightly beaten, with a light warp, and a heavy outline thread the same color as the warp. However, the Honeycomb outline is formed by substituting the heavy thread as the first and last shot of each block, using the normal treadling order. (Draft, tie-up and treadling directions are given in the February 1957 SHUTTLE CRAFT.) Through this unusual method, the heavy thread develops a texture resembling that of a thick-and-thin novelty yarn, but more effective because the texture is controlled instead of heterogeneous.

The M’s and O’s Honeycomb fabric is particularly effective for draperies. It also makes exceptionally lovely baby blankets if done in fine and heavy worsted yarn such as Bernat Fabri and Germantown knitting worsted.