KHELM, AKLAE AND ROLAKAN

by Gretbe Poul Poulsen

Aklæ

1 square = 2-4-6 or 8 warp-threads.
It is supposed that the work is done with the right-side upwards and that one square equals 2 warp-threads.

Prepare a dolly for each colour; the threads used must be of equal thickness.
Weave first some rows of the background-colour, and place the shed so that the warp-thread at the extreme left is in its lowest position.
Put in the dollies from the right side towards left below so many of the uppermost warp-threads as the pattern shows. If there f. inst. are 8 squares the dolly is put below 8 over-threads while it at the same time covers 8 under-threads.
When the dollies have been placed, they all lie to the left side of the warp-threads they have been placed below, while the thread-ends lie to the right of the same warp-threads.
When all the dollies have been placed the shed is changed, and before you begin the next row all the loose thread-ends must be put in below the next 2 or 3 warp-threads of its own colour. Pull the ends down below and cut them later. If the loose end is to be put below only one warp-thread, the end must be fastened when the work is finished.
After the loose ends have been arranged the dollies are again put in according to the same pattern-row from left towards right, but this time the threads must be interlocked where two colours meet. Note, however, that the weaving from the right side towards the left is done without interlocking, the weaving from left side towards right is done with interlocking.
(Interlocking [slinging, twining] is done by putting the one thread under and around the other.)
The two weavings are repeated until every square in the weaving is alike the corresponding one on the pattern on the draft. Then may next pattern-row be begun, which always must be begun from the right towards left (without interlocking).
When the dollies shall be placed in the next pattern-row, it will be evident that some of the dollies shall be put in not so long, and others longer as in the preceding row, but the pattern on the draft must be followed, as the difference will be adjusted in the next row.
Aklæ may be woven with the right-side upwards so that the thread-ends are put down during the work; or you may leave the thread-ends lying on the top of the weaving so that the right-side turns downwards, but when all thread-ends have been fastened and cut, both sides of the weaving may be used.
Rollakan

1 square = 2-4-6 or 8 warp-threads.

Rollakan is done in the same way as aklæ, but the thread-ends are fastened on the upward side of the weaving, so that the rollakan is woven with the wrong-side upwards.

Khelim

1 square = 2-4-6 or 8 warp-threads.

To weave khelim the dollies are put in in the same way as used with aklæ, but the weft-threads are not interlocked, with the result that slits ("button-holes") appear where the colours meet. It is therefore important to choose patterns that will not give too long “buttonholes”; however if you have chosen such a pattern you may now and then interlock the weft-threads as is done in aklæ-weaving; or you may – when the work is finished – stitch together the longest “buttonholes” on the wrong-side. The pattern will show better and cleaner if you use the stitching.

If you are able to do plain-weaving – or tabby-weaving – you may also do the pattern-weaving mentioned in the following, but always remember to beat the weft so that the warp-threads will be entirely covered.

In all kinds of weaving it is important that the warp-threads are firmly stretched and of even tension and that the weft-thread is laid in loosely so that you avoid the “pulling in” of the outer edges towards the centre.

To wind the dolly (butterfly or finger bobbin) you twist the thread between your thumb and forefinger, and at the same time the remaining fingers hold the first end of the thread firmly against your palm. The thread is crossed 12–15 times between the fingers and cut. Take the dolly off the fingers and twine the last end firmly round the middle of the dolly and make a loop or knot. The dolly may then be used by pulling out the first thread-end as required.