A SIMPLE METHOD FOR KEEPING SAMPLES OF WEAVING

Writers and teachers of hand weaving are agreed in urging weavers to keep samples of their work, some going so far as to say that one should keep a sample of every piece put upon the loom. The real problem is how to keep them. If stored in a box or drawer they must be handled as one seeks a certain piece and soon become mussed and soiled, sooner or later, disappear. Further, and more troublesome, one may even forget the threading and tie-up for a pattern it becomes desirable to reproduce.

The writer found the first suggestion of a better way in the sheets of samples accompanying LaCour and Siegumfeld's "Vaebog for Hjemmene" in which small samples are gummed on the sheets and each is accompanied by its threading draft, tie-up, and treading draft. It was good but the samples were not large enough for any save small all-over patterns.

Before anything was worked out to make this fit our needs, an ex-student of Miss Walker, Berea College, Kentucky, showed us her sample book made in the class work at that school. It was almost exactly what was wished. Berea still uses the Swedish notation and their form had some items for which we did not care but it was easily revised and put into the form shown here.

The sheets are 10" x 13" of tough white stock that takes ink well and are punched at one end for binding. One side of the sheet is blank and upon this the sample is stapled. Unless one side of the goods is as important as the other a staple is driven in each corner of the simple. If both sides are to be studied, the two upper corners only are fastened. To reduce bulk the non selvage edges are simply turned under and stitched on the sewing machine. There is no wear to cause them to ravel and complete hemming would simply add another thickness. All samples are pressed before being mounted. Any stapler such as those found today in practically every office will do the work. In its absence tacking the sample on with strong thread will serve nicely. At pres-

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ent a patented fastener is being used to hold sheets and
covers together but the old-fashioned shoe string has advan-
tages that are not to be scorned.

The large page permits a sample large enough to show
the pattern in most cases. The one illustrated shows the
corner of a runner with side and end borders as well as
one and two half repeats of the body pattern. If a small
sample shows all that is desired, more than one may be
placed on a page and the note space on the back can then
be arranged to suit.

The page of data tells its own story and, if notes are
added whenever a variation of the pattern is worked out,
will become more valuable with each addition. For personal
use one may put in as much or as little as he pleases but if
the book is to be used by students rather complete notes are
desirable. One change in this form will be made with the
next printing: Beginners find the ruled lines for the treadling
draft somewhat troublesome and a cross ruled section will
be used instead. A heading, “References,” is being con-
sidered also.

The writer has a number of samples 20” square that are
used for demonstration purposes in teaching and has made
these up into books similar to the above. The paper is
heavier and is not printed. Threading draft and tie-up are
usually written on the back. The books are unwieldy to
handle but keep the samples in the best shape ever and it is
easy to find the ones desired. As needed for class work the
sheets are taken from the books; they are easily held before
a group; they can be passed around the class or hung on the
wall.

This method of keeping samples is practical. They are
kept clean and straight; each is accompanied by pertinent
data; they do not get lost; and it is easy to locate any one
that is desired.