HANDWEAVING NEWS

ANCIENT PERUVIAN DOUBLE WOVEN CLOTH.

IT WAS IN MARCH OF 1934 THAT I FIRST WROTE UP HOW TO DO DOUBLE WEAVING ON A FOUR HARNESS LOOM. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME DIRECTIONS FOR THIS WEAVE WERE WRITTEN IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. THE METHOD DESCRIBED IN THIS NEWS IS MUCH SIMPLER THAN THAT, BECAUSE THE ROUND STICK HAS BEEN LEFT OUT. THE EFFECT OF THE TECHNIQUE IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO MATTER MUCH.

THE TWO PHOTOS ABOVE SHOW AN ANCIENT PERUVIAN PIECE FROM MY OWN COLLECTION, AND A MODERN PIECE WOVEN BY MRS. HELEN HILL. THE PATTERN FOR THE ANCIENT PIECE IS GIVEN ON THE NEXT PAGE. THE JOY OF THIS TECHNIQUE IS THE FACT THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO CREATE ONE'S OWN DESIGNS FOR THIS WEAVE. BECAUSE ANY CROSS SECTION PAPER DESIGN CAN BE WOVEN. THUS THIS WEAVE HAS A GREAT MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR THE CREATIVE WEAVER.

DIRECTIONS FOR A SAMPLER IN THIS WEAVE. FOR THE FIRST ATTEMPT IN THIS WEAVE IT IS BEST TO PRACTICE AND WEAVE A SAMPLER IN CARPET WARP. THIS IS COARSE AND ONE CAN EASILY SEE WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND HOW THE WEAVE WORKS.

THREAD THE LOOM TO TWILL, MAINLY 1, 2, 3, AND 4. USE A TWO-COLOR WARP, THREAD A WHITE THREAD ON HARNES 1, BLUE ON HARNES 2, WHITE ON 3, AND BLUE ON 4. SLEY TWO WARP THREADS IN EACH DEN OF A 15 DENT REED. THE RULE HERE IS TO SLEY THE REED TWICE AS CLOSE AS YOU WISH THE FINISHED CLOTH.

TIE-UP: ON THE NEW 6-HARNES FOLDING FLOOR LOOM THE HARNESSES RISE. LEAVE THE PLAIN WEADE TREADLES, THE CENTER ONES A AND B, TIED AS THEY ARE FOR ORDINARY WEAVING. HITCH UP JUST ONE HARNES TO A TREADLE FOR THE OTHER FOUR TREADLES, MAINLY 1, 2, 3, AND 4. USE TWO FEET TO WEAVE AS NECESSARY.

FIRST PRACTICE WEAVING DOUBLE PLAIN CLOTH, LIGHT ON ONE SIDE AND DARK ON THE OTHER.

TO WEAVE WHITE OR LIGHT ON TOP,-

TREADLE 1 ALONE, THROW SHOT OF LIGHT WEFT IN SHED THEN 1 3 2 , THROW SHOT OF DARK " " " 3 ALONE, " " " LIGHT " " 1 3 4 , " " " " DARK " " "

REPEAT THIS OVER AND OVER FOR A FEW INCHES UNTIL THE METHOD IS CLEAR TO YOU. WEFT FOR THIS CAN BE SAME AS THE Warp, BLUE FOR ONE WEFT AND WHITE FOR THE OTHER.

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To weave dark on top, treadle 2 alone, throw shot of dark weft.

Treadle 1, 2-4, and 3, throw shot of light weft, use two feet.

Treadle 4 alone, throw shot of dark weft.

B, or 2-4, and 1, throw shot of white weft.

Now for the pattern. Take Figure No. 1 below. Treadle A, or 1-3, raises all the white warp threads up, with a flat pickup stick longer than the width of the warp, go over 2 warp threads or each black square of the pattern, and under 2 white warp threads for each white square of the paper pattern. For the first row of Figure No. 1, there are 13 white squares, so with the pickup stick go under 26 white warp threads. Next there are 2 black squares, so go over 4 of the raised white warp threads. Repeat all across the warp. Treadle 2 alone to change shed. Turn pickup stick on edge. Pass shuttle through shed thus made with dark weft. See drawing Figure 4. This shows how this shed looks from the side of the loom.

Hang shed with treadle 4 alone. Push first weft in place with shuttle. With pickup stick on edge, pass second shot of blue weft through this shed. Push close with shuttle. These two shots of dark weft weave the dark square of the paper pattern. The pickup stick can be pulled out now, but I think it is easier to leave it in until after the next row is picked up with second pickup stick. If left in, push close to last row of weaving.

Change shed with treadle B, 2-4, which brings up all the blue warp threads. With a second pickup stick, go over 26 blue warp threads and under 4 blue warp threads for the width of the warp. Pull out first pickup stick. Turn second pickup stick on edge. Treadle 1 alone, pass white weft through this shed. Push it close to last row with the shuttle. Treadle 3 alone, pickup stick on edge, pass second shot of white weft through this shed. Pull out the second pickup stick. Beat lope with the reed. This weaves the light background on the paper pattern, and completes the first row of the pattern as shown. There are two shots of dark and 2 of light for each square.

For the second row of pattern, and each succeeding row, keep the same order as given in detail above, at 3 and then 4. But pick up with the pickup stick as indicated by the paper pattern.

Figure No. 3 Pattern for textile on Page 1.

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