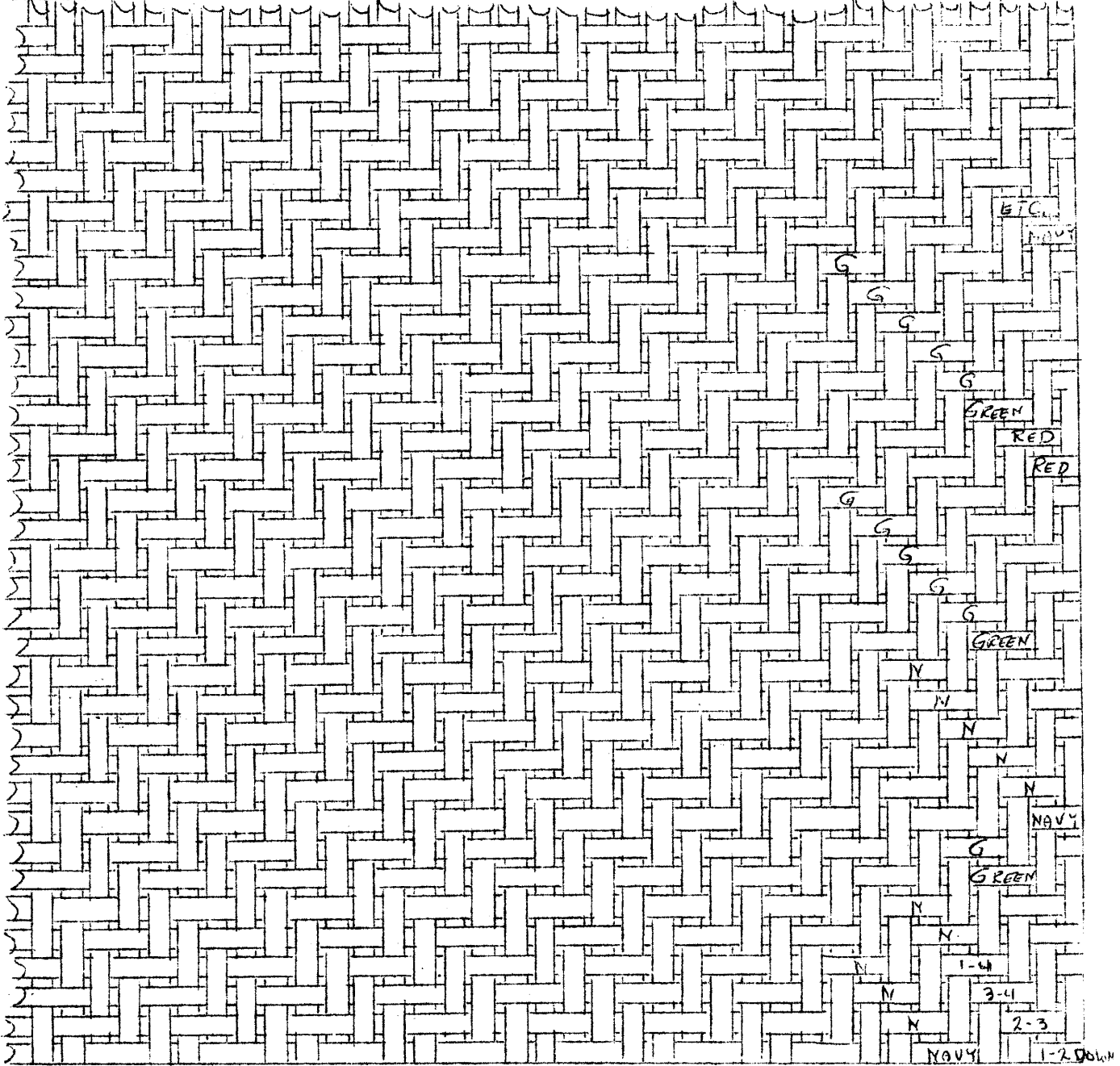


KENTUCKY WEAVER

VOL. IV. NO. 2. FEB. 1951

BARCLAY HUNTING TARTAN - MINIATURE DRAFT

N	N	G	RED	G	N	N	N	N	N	1
N	N	G	R	G	N	N	N	N	N	2
G	N	G	G	G	G	N	G	N	N	3
G	N	G	G	GREEN	G	N	G	N	NAVY	4



14 In offering this group of tartans from the Scottish Highlands, the KENTUCKY WEAVER has tried to take into consideration the present day uses of these colorful plaids. Originally the tartan was used for identification and there were just a few dozen clans and tartans. The 1746 Act of Abolition marked the end of this era. But a single century later, the tartan was even more popular- more tartans in use in Scotland, and the tartan the height of fashion in English society. Today, another century later, the liking for the tartan has increased. It has spread to all society. In our more democratic world and with modern mass production, tartans are more used than ever for clothing, sports robes, drapery, upholstery, etc.

If you hear some decry this change from the "authentic tartan and useage", let us remember Scottish chiefs of the older clans were decrying the upstart chiefs and newly created titles in the 15th to 17th centuries. During this time, the number of clans increased from a score to several score. Even by the mid 18th century when the traditional use was abolished, its original use had changed and tartans were worn by many - changes thru warfare so prevalent, thru the adoption of children from other families to maintain a name, thru gifts from a chief, thru courtesy to the household where employed, thru branch clans and new titles. By that time, too, there was a wide difference in the in the fine silk or wool tartans "shot with gold" or "handsomely embroidered" in France or in the newly industrialized Scottish weaving centers, and in the homespun tartans woven for the shepherds and tribesmen. Even before the industrialization in the 18th century, much material was woven for export and the selling of woolen and yarns in typical Scottish tartan colors was a national industry.

For over a score of years now, American concerns have provided yarns for weaving the tartans- following the pattern set over a century before by Scottish and English manufacturers. Industrially several small concerns have specialized in weaving tartans for many years. First of the large American manufacturers to feature tartans was Botany Co.Inc. which marketed tartan ties and material. As a result of the popularity of the ties, Mr. Chas.F.H.Johnson,Jr. published the booklet "BOTANY CALL'O THE CLANS" in 1937. Today the tartans may be purchased in all price ranges- from authentic tartans, chic suiting in modern textured yarns, handsome upholstery, and sturdy and sheer cottons. Many of these are far from the authentic tartan. Yet, they are in keeping with this age and show how the tartan has kept pace with modern living. They reflect also our American liking for the Scots- a liking augmented by the friendly reception given American soldiers on furlough in Scotland during the war.

To go deeply into the history of the tartans would take many people many years of research into old handwritten records. Most so-called research and history is merely a rehashing of 19th century publications which were not always accurate. You can possibly read these in your local library or get them thru your state extension library. Of the modern books, the favorite is "THE CLANS AND TARTANS OF SCOTLAND" by Robert Bain, published by Collins, London and Glasgow. The latest edition may be obtained from Collins' New York office at 424 Fourth Ave., N.Y. 16.

"SIMPLE TARTAN WEAVING" by Agnes MacDonald is also a booklet which all interested in the tartans will want to own. The color plates are excellent. It is designed for use in schools and by new weavers. "SIMPLE TARTAN WEAVING" is a very practical book- at the Little Loomhouse, we find the youngsters have kept the review copy sent the KENTUCKY WEAVER in continuous use. You can get "SIMPLE TARTAN WEAVING" for \$1.25 from the Chas. A. Bennett Co.Inc.,Peoria 3, Ill. and will enjoy its resume of the background of the tartans, the weaving instruction for two and four harness, and the good collection of tartans in color.

You will also enjoy reading some of the travel accounts of the 18th century as these give you first hand accounts of the Scottish Highlands- two are Johnson's "TOUR OF THE HEBRIDES" (914.117) published with Boswell's journal of the same trip; and Thomas Pennant's "TOUR OF SCOTLAND".

KENTUCKY WEAVER-Vol.IV.No.2.February 1951	The KENTUCKY WEAVER is published monthly.
Cover-BARCLAY mineature, misc. 13-15	Little Loomhouse, publisher.
CLERGY, ELLIOT, LESLIE.....16-18	Lou Tate, editor.
LOGAN, MACALPINE, MACLEOD, MACMILLAN19-22	Annually-\$3.00, Little Loomhouse, Kenwood
2 MACPHERSONS, MACQUEEN, WALLACE....23-26	Hill, Louisville 8, Kentucky.

Usually the true tartan is a large design of 300-500 threads woven on a 1-2-3-4 twill with 50-50 or even amounts of warp and weft, treadled 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 1-4. As early as the time of the Romans, there are records of the Highlanders bringing their commodities- skins, woven and knit materials, butter, cheese, etc. down to fairs held in the seaport towns where the Norse, Danes, Germans, French, etc. came to trade. You may enjoy the description of the Highlanders who came to such a fair at Inverness on the threshold of the Highlands where lived Clan Chattan or the Mac-Intoshes....."The fair was a very agreeable circumstance, and afforded a most singular group of Highlanders in all their motley dresses. Their breacan, or plaid, consists of twelve or thirteen yards of a narrow stuff, wrapped round the middle, and reaches down to the knees; is often fastened round the middle with a belt, and is then called a breacan-feill: but in cold weather is large enough to wrap round the whole body from head to feet: and this is often their only cover, not only within doors, but on the open hills during the whole night. It is frequently fastened on the shoulders with a pin of silver, and before with a brooch (like the fibula of the Romans) which is sometimes of silver, and both large and extensive; the old ones have very frequently mottoes.

"The stockings are short, and are tied below the knees. The cuaran is a sort of laced shoe made of skin with the hairy side out, but now seldom worn. The truis were worn by the gentry, and were breeches and stockings made of one piece.

"The colour of their dresses was various, as the word breacan implies, being dyed with stripes of the most vivid hues: but they sometimes affected the duller colours, such as imitated those of the heath in which they often reposed: probably from a principle of security in time of war, as one of the Scotch poets seems to insinuate.

"The feil-beg, i.e. little plaid, also called kelt, is a sort of short petticoat reaching only to the knees, and is a modern substitute for the lower part of the plaid, being found to be less cumbersome, especially in time of action, when the Highlanders used to tuck their breacan into their girdle. Almost all have a great pouch of badger and other skins, with tassels dangling before: in this they keep their tobacco and money.

"The women's dress is the kirch, or a white piece of linen, pinned over the foreheads of those that are married, and round the hind part of the head, falling behind over their necks. The single women wear only a ribbon round their heads which they call a snood. The tonnag, or plaid, hangs over their shoulders, and is fastened before with a brooch: but in bad weather is drawn over their heads. "...In the county of Breadalbane, many wear, when in high dress, a great pleated stocking of an enormous length, called offan preaffach; in other respects, their dress resembles that of women of the same rank in England." From Thomas Pennant TOUR OF SCOTLAND.

Our use of the tartan for a sports robe or afghan reminds one of Martin's 17th century account of its ancestor- the extra plaid loaned him when hunting and fishing in the western isles. The drapery of our day had its counterpart in the bedcurtains much admired by Dr. Johnson during his 18th century tour of the Hebrides.

Our use of new yarns- nylons, rayons, textured yarns, present a new approach to the tartans tho even the sheerest of our silks and evening wear cottons do not exceed the early dress silks used when Holyrood was a "tartan court".

The Scottish people were skilled dyers and had an excellent range of colors-mostly from the lichens. Some of these were exported to other countries for use in dyeing. You will find variation in color and in the set of a tartan in early days, and later as families grew, different branches used different variations. In this group of tartans, we have given the basic proportions for your ease in making the size tartan you prefer. The present day tendency is towards smaller designs, and many, especially cottons, are woven in plain weave. The BARCLAY tartan used on the cover has a 5-1-5-5-1-5 proportion in both the dress and hunting tartan- 5 Green or Yellow, 1 Red or White, 5GY, 5 Dblue or Black, 1GY, 5Db or B. These small patterns are liked by the youngsters who can setup and weave them without supervision.

The LESLIE tartan is a stunning one- green with black and very dark blue, crossed by red and white. Compare with the Colquhoun, Farquherson, Campbell, and Douglas tartans.

At the Little Loomhouse, we set the Leslie tartan for the KENTUCKY WEAVER warp in nylon 24 threads to the inch for a man's lounging coat. It will also be handsome for a dinner jacket in the current vogue for tartans. The pattern was scaled to twice the basic proportions or to half the typical Scottish setting- 1/2 B (2R,18Be,18Bk), A(2W,20G,4Bk,20G,2W),B,A, 1/2(18Bk,18Be,2R) for 372 threads on a 15 1/8 inch width. On a larger loom, thread 6 patterns(or 7)- 1/2B, 5AB,A, 1/2B for 744 threads. Check with your tailor on best width and yardage- 4 to 6 sq.yds. according to size of wearer and style. For a small man, we setup 9 1/2 yards on the narrow width, using 12 oz. Green, 12 oz. Black, 11 oz. Blue, 2oz. White, 2 oz. Red, for warp and weft of nylon. Like other Scottish tartans, it was warped 1-2-3-4 and woven 1-2,2-3,3-4,1-4.

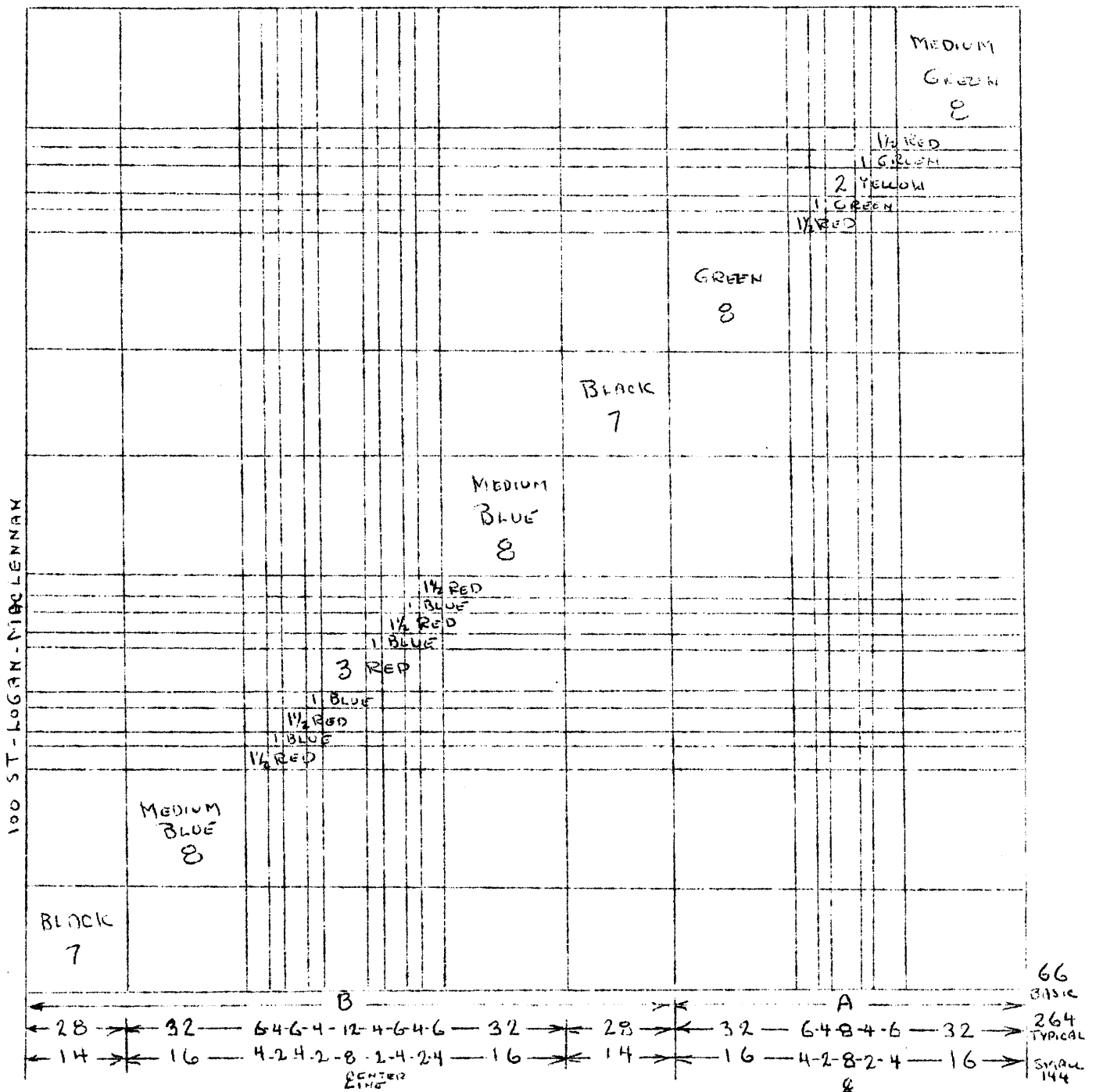
Probably your tailor will prefer to do the shrinking. Ask him to give it one of the permanent wrinkle resistant finishes.

100 ST Leslie										WHITE	
									MEDIUM GREEN 10		
									2 BLACK		
									MEDIUM GREEN 10		
									1 WHITE		
								BLACK 9			
								DARK BLUE OR NAVY 9			
								2 SCARLET			
								DARK BLUE OR NAVY 9			
								BLACK 9			
										TOTAL THREADS	
BASIC	9	9	2	9	9	1	10	2	10	1	62
TYPICAL	36	36	8	36	36	4	40	8	40	4	248
VARIANT	44	44	8	44	44	4	44	8	44	4	296
VARIANT	48	48	8	48	48	4	48	8	48	4	312

The Logan tartan has a red and blue block and a green, yellow, and red block, separated by black. Like other tartans in several bright colors- see MacBean, MacPherson- it is vivid and most suitable for afghans, upholstery as well as for clothing, bags, and scarfs.

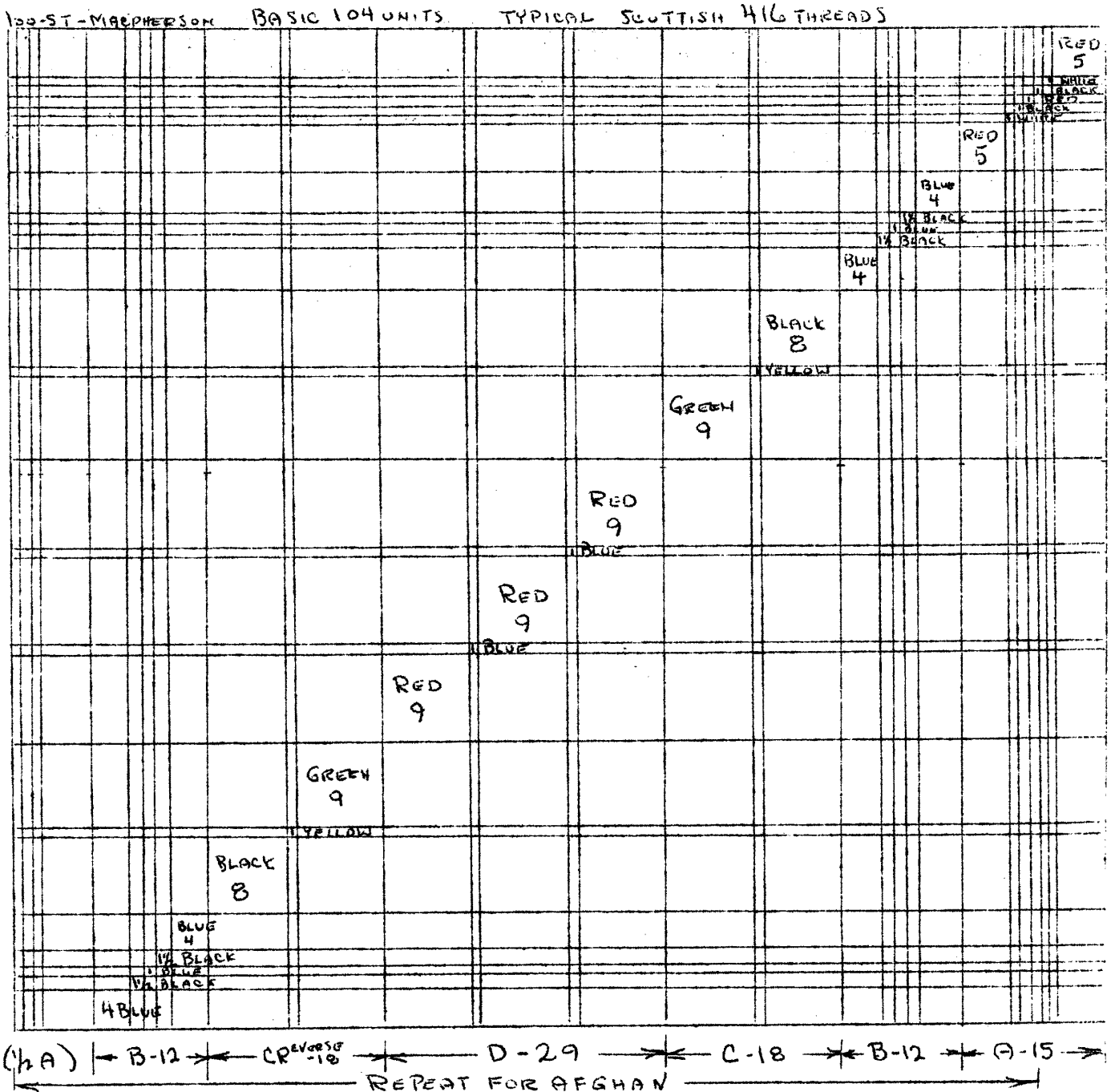
One branch of the Logans was a Lowland clan associated with the Douglas and Bruce clans. Another branch was a Highland clan- the MacLennans. Both branches are numerous in the U.S. and Canada.

For an afghan, you may want to use a large pattern or to scale the pattern to half the usual Scottish setting (or to double the basic proportions) for 144 threads. Use heavy wool set 12 to 15 threads to the inch, or use nylon set 20 threads to the inch- we used the latter. If you need seam your afghan, set-up your pattern so the seam will fall where least noticed. When you first look at the Logan tartan, you will first see the red-so do not use the red or B block. Either the edge of the black or center of the green block (A) make suitable seaming lines. Men like this tartan so it makes striking shirting material in finer wools- either 288 or 144 threads.



This Macpherson tartan is one of the most colorful of the Scottish tartans and is elegant for any use where a large pattern is wanted. At the Little Loomhouse, we set the KENTUCKY WEAVER warp of the Macpherson tartan in nylon, 20 to the inch for an afghan. A single repeat of 304 threads was used on a small loom for 15 inch width; the centerline of A was used for the seaming point. Or 1/2A (4R,4B,4W,16R), B (10Be,6B,4Be,6B,10Be), C (20B,4Y,24G), D (24R,4Be,24R,4Be,24R), C reversed, B, 1/2 A (16R,4W,4B,4R).

As we wanted a fringed afghan, we allowed 72 inches for woven length plus 8 inches on each end for fringes or 88 inches for each of the three strips. As a large pattern may run over the allotted length, we added 2 1/2 yards to the 8 yards needed for the afghan and wastage at ends for a total of 10 1/2 yards. This extra gave us any needed length plus a stole for another of the weavers. Needed for the afghan alone are 11oz. red, 7 oz. black, 6 oz. blue, 5 oz. green, 1 oz. white, 1 oz. yellow for a total of 31 oz. At current prices, this costs \$17.00 to 22.00 depending upon whether you purchase locally by the oz. or order by the pound. These nylon afghans are popular and may be dry cleaned or laundered. One of the cleaners told us he thought anyone could launder nylon successfully.



KW-IV-2-24 The MACPHERSON Tartan- the celebrated grey of Cluny 100-ST-MacPherson-3

One of the best liked tartans is the grey hunting tartan. It rivals in style the fine black and white crossed with red and yellow dress tartan.

The Macphersons were fairly well spread out but seem to have been a very stable and constructive clan. The clan was active in Clan Chattan the they were often engaged in battle with the feuding MacIntoshes. As early as the 14th century, the Cluny branch of the clan had assumed leadership and the present chief is a member of the Cluny Macphersons.

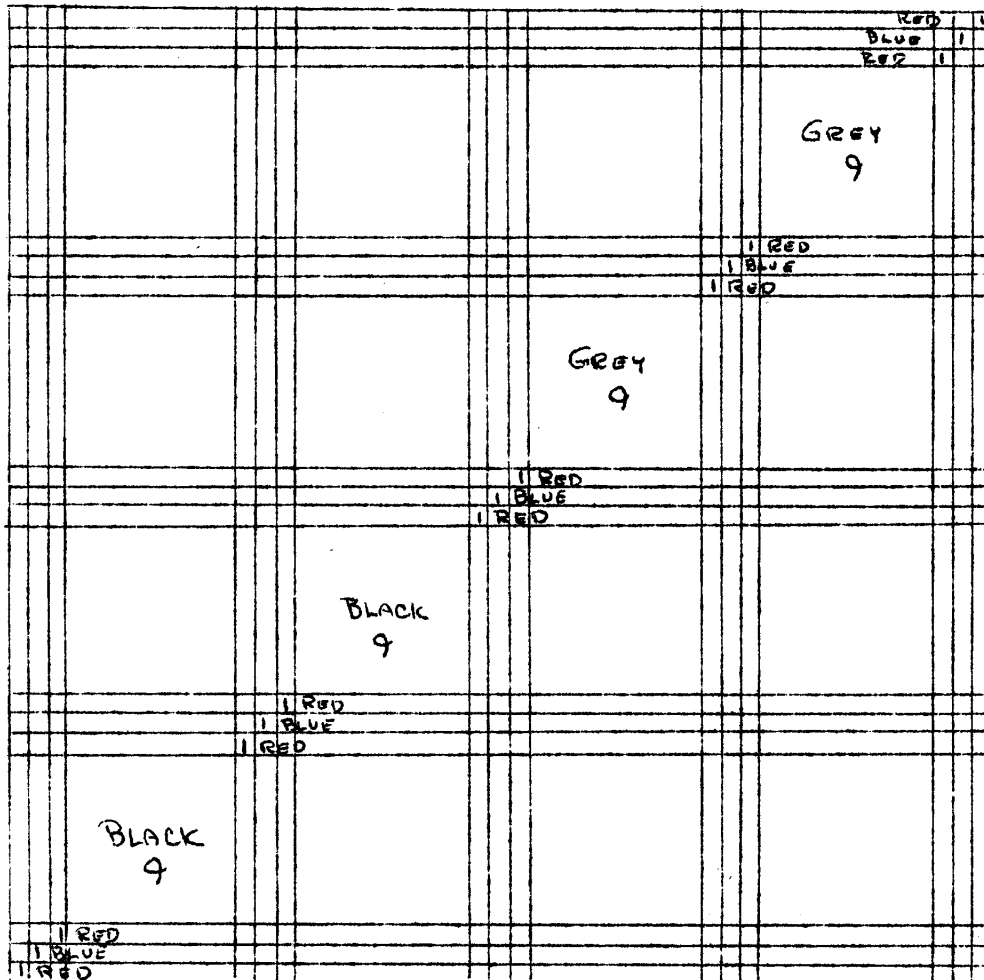
We setup several warps in the grey tartan. For upholstery, we warped 3/2 mercerized cotton, 12 to the inch and wove the tartan with corde for very handsome couch upholstery. Cushions were woven on the same warp with all grey corde weft for striped material. These would also be excellent for dining chairs. For the small blocks we used 4 threads, and cut the large blocks from the typical 36 to 24 threads, for a 144 thread or 12 inch pattern repeat.

For an experimental warp on the small loom, we used very rough textured yarn for the small blocks, a smooth grey, and a slightly textured thread for the dark.

Another of the weavers wove a grey skirt and tartan coat in fine wool set 30 to the inch with pattern repeat being 4 times the basic units or 192 threads. Grey squirrel tails were used for trimming- effective reminders of the decoration on the sporran.

This grey Macpherson tartan can well be scaled down tho not to a mineature size- the small blocks may be 2 threads and the large blocks 10 to 18 threads for pattern repeats of 64 to 96 threads.

The dark color of this tartan is usually black but is sometimes seen in dark brown, or dark green,



100-ST-MACPHERSON
HUNTING - SOMETIMES
OTHER DARK COLORS ARE
SUBSTITUTED FOR THE
BLACK.

↑ C → A ← C.9 → A ← B → A ← B.9 → A.3 ← BASIC - 48

The Wallace tartan is as stirring as is the proud history of the Wallaces. As one of the Border clans, the Wallaces had the English invade and ravage their lands many times. The valient leadership of Sir William Wallace is the basis of many inspiring stories, and was the rallying point for the Scottish warriors of other clans even after his treacherous betrayal. With all the heroic stories and the skill of the Scots at fighting, there are also stories of perfidy and brutality. However, without question of doubt, the Scots regard for their liberty is one of the factors in the long struggle towards freedom and democracy.

The Wallace tartan is even blocks of red crossed with black and black crossed with yellow. Like all the tartans of simple construction, the Wallace tartan can be scaled to a small or even mineature size now popular for scarfs and bags. The larger size is handsome in homespun wools, which when teazled and water-proofed makes wonderful hunting coats.

For the KENTUCKY WEAVER warp, we made upholstery in 3/2 mercerized cotton set 12 to the inch in 1-2-3-4 twill, woven 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 1-4. You will like a chair in such material. Or you may want to use the 3/2 mercerized cotton for warp and a corde in the same colors for weft. We used this combination for upholstery in another tartan and found it very elegant. If you are weaving upholstery and drapery in the tartans, you may want to use these two yarns. A third is good in a smooth yarn combined with textured yarn for one of the colors. Using the 120 thread pattern repeat, we setup a pattern and a half on the small loom and three and a half patterns on the larger loom for couch upholstery width.

The 3/2 cotton may be found in the tartan colors, especially if you will check the color cards of the different companies carrying this size mercerized cotton. Exact costs are hard to give at this time as most companies are having to increase prices. The material we wove cost about \$2.85 a square yard at current prices. Incidentally, The Conway Thread Company which furnished sample yarn for some of the pages in different issues of the KENTUCKY WEAVER has changed address. You may want to change your records in case you have not already done so to:

CONWAY THREAD COMPANY
27601-21 Ford Road
Garden City, Michigan (and change the address on page 80 in your July issue.

			BLACK 9
			YELLOW
		BLACK 9	
	RED 9		
	BLACK		
RED 9			

In this issue, we could not give many tartans- in fact we added two pages in order to give these. But we do have a number of others if there is any special one you want. And if you have woven some of the other tartans, we will be glad to "horse-trade" and swap samples. If you especially want a certain tartan or type of yarn, specify when you send in your sample. We do not have all but have a few samples in a goodly number of tartans.

100-ST-WALLACE

B-19		A 19		BASIC UNIT - 38
72 - 8 - 72	72 - 8 - 72	72 - 8 - 72	72 - 8 - 72	TYPICAL SCOTTISH - 304
28 - 4 - 28	28 - 4 - 28	28 - 4 - 28	28 - 4 - 28	UPHOLSTERY - 120
12 - 4 - 12	12 - 4 - 12	12 - 4 - 12	12 - 4 - 12	SMALL FOR FINE SHIRTING
10 - 2 - 10	10 - 2 - 10	10 - 2 - 10	10 - 2 - 10	MINIATURE 44 THREADS

Your Jan.51 issue on Spider Lace and transposing is delayed by the detailed plates. We thought you might like this page from the "guinea-pigs" with your Feb.51 issue.

The BARCLAY Tartan page 100-ST-Barclay-2

In 1563, William Barclay wrote of the royal hunting match which the Earl of Athol gave for Queen Mary Stuart. Some 2000 "wild Scotch" rounded up as many deer for the royal party to hunt. The reckless queen started a stampede-in the ensuing turmoil several Highlanders were killed. The party killed about 360 deer. The Barclay is one of the later clans and comes from the Berkeleys who invaded England with William the Conqueror. Two centuries later the Barclay spelling appears. Many Barclays emigrated to America in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The dress tartan is yellow and black; the hunting tartan is of the same proportions in green and dark blue. The construction is simple so the pattern may be scaled to any size:

dress	hunting	basic	typical	small	smaller	mineature	For warp 20 to the inch
yellow	green	5	60	20	10	6	selvage- navy 2
white	red	1	12	4	2	2	B group.....14
yellow	green	5	60	20	10	6	6 times AB...168
							selvage-navy.. 2
black	navy	5	60	20	10	6	186
yellow	green	1	12	4	2	2	navy-88
black	navy	5	60	20	10	6	green-86
		22	264	88	44	28	red- 12

Some of the girls in the 12 year old "guinea-pigs" at the Little Loomhouse, setup the mineature 28 thread pattern. Usually, after a warp is first threaded in a 1-2-3-4 twill, the other warps may be tied on. We suggest before cutting the old warp in front of the reed, that several threads be woven and a pair of shed sticks run in. Then it is easy for the new weavers to tie-on the new threads in exact order. Also we suggest the pattern repeats be indicated as a check to make certain the new warps ties the new warp on accurately. The shed sticks are removed before winding the warp.

As far as tying on the new warp, the new weaver does not need the threading draft but for their own knowledge, we like for them to make a water color sketch of their draft and weaving as is shown on the cover of the Feb.51 KENTUCKY WEAVER.

Most of the youngsters like to weave the 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 1-4 twill. Sometimes a youngster who has not woven before will use a plain weave- 1-3 and 2-4. The youngsters wove the samples included with some of these pages so if there are errors, check it off to their being very new young weavers.

