

Raffia Craft

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in the other two mats, colors may be changed to achieve engaging patterns.

THE RECTANGULAR PLACE MAT

A loom with an easel support (the Todd adjustable hand loom) is necessary for the perfection of a place mat constructed of raffia. The upper left-hand sketch on page 22 shows such a loom with mat in stage of construction on it.

Various attachments insure perfect regulation to the size mat one desires to make. The headpiece can be let down to regulate length, and the side rods moved inward to regulate width. The latter are important in effecting straight mat edges, the woof threads being passed around them as weaving progresses.

A similar contrivance can be made at home, care being taken with measurements so that warp may be threaded absolutely straight and taut.

For a raffia mat, use a warp of raffia, fairly coarse, and strung rather closely for firmness.

In the creation of a simple kindergarten pattern such as the finished place mat on page 22 illustrates, the woof threads determine the color effect. Use a tape needle for weaving. For fringed edge, stop weaving within an inch of ends of warp threads. When work is removed from loom, mat edges may be pressed flat with warm iron.

ANNOUNCEMENT

of the Penland Weaving Institute

EDWARD F. WORST, well-known authority on hand weaving and author of *Foot Power Loom Weaving* and *How to Weave Linens*, will conduct the fourth annual Weaving Institute at Penland in Western North Carolina from August 14th to 25th inclusive. This interesting project is sponsored by the Penland Weavers and Potters under the direction of Miss Lucy Morgan. The course is designed to offer to students and teachers of hand weaving an intensive, but thorough study of all the phases of foot power loom weaving, with special emphasis upon such types of hand weaving as have long since been considered a lost art.

Mr. Worst announces for this year a number of other courses in handcrafts which will be conducted in connection with the weaving course. Among these will be classes in spinning, (of both wool and flax) basketry, folio and simple book-

binding, pottery, leather work, jewelry-making (using native North Carolina stones), block-printing and vegetable dyeing. It is hoped that this variety will make the course of study particularly desirable to teachers of Industrial Arts and to Occupational Therapists.

BALANCE

C. J. Burchard

THE hand weaver who is not fortunate to possess a fixed balanced harness on her loom, will appreciate what I am trying to bring about as a remedy for "UNBALANCE," for most of the four harness four treadle looms in operation today are not in perfect balance when it comes to the operation of the harness; and by harness I mean that portion of the mechanism of the loom hung between the cross head and the treadles by means of which the shed is produced, and most of this off balance is because of misalignment or side pull between treadle and heddle shafts, and because of this misalignment a side or off center pull is exerted upon the lower heddle shaft or frame; mostly caused by the cords which carry the action being made fast at the treadle, so that even if other conditions were equal there would still be no ability to automatically balance the down pull as applied to the treadle, with the result that the harness gets a motion imparted to it which is not harmonious and neither does it move in straight perpendicular lines, one of the reasons for hanging the harness on most of this type loom to the rear and outside the plane of the side pilasters, this swing or side motion had to have space to operate in.

Now with a very simple device recently perfected by the writer, these same heddle shafts or frames can be hung between the pilasters and immediately behind the reed, and be made to operate in this position without interference of the other parts, the result is a more perfect and larger shed opening because of this nearness to the reed.

The four heddle shafts or frames are made to operate in a nearly fixed plane, not fixed in only one direction but, to operate fixedly in three separate planes; vertically, horizontally and laterally, which of necessity removes possibility of unbalanced conditions.

This device can be applied to any four-harness four-treadle loom, with a very little labor and at a nominal cost in comparison with the great advantage gained in the ease and accuracy of operation. It's named the "JIB."