SHORTCUTS

DEKNOTTING

This strangely looking word means removing knots from fabrics. Many weavers take unnecessary precaustions when they find a knot in the warp, or when a warp end breaks, and they must tie a piece of yarn to repair the damage. For instance they tie long pieces of yarn and let them hanging on bobbins in the back of the loom, or make temporary draw-knots to attach the new piece of yarn to the old warp end, and then shift them back over and over again.

If there is a knot in the warp and it holds, then leave it alone and weave it in. If the knot shows a tendency to slip, tighten it from time to time; weave for a while with only partly open shed; close the shed (but do not change it) before beating. If the knot parts in spite of all our efforts, release the cloth beam, and tie the two ends together. Tighten the warp again and proceed.

If there is no way of tying the two loose ends together, or if an end breaks closely to the fabric, take a pin, and insert it horizontally in the fabric. Take a piece of yarn about 18" long; tie it to the broken warp end at the back of the harness (between the shafts and the lease rods). Use a square (reef) knot, and make it as tight as possible short of breaking the yarn. Thread the yarn and pass it through the reed, and finally wind it around the pin. Trin the loose ends of the knot to about 3/8".

This means of course that we shall have knots in the fabric, after it is taken off the loom. Now comes the "deknotting".

First look for knots on both sides of the fabric. If they are invisible, there is little to worry about. If you can see a knot, take a needle, and pull the loose ends to the same side of the fabric. Pull a little more so that the knot will project above the fabric. Now with a needle and a few inches of yarn identical with the warp yarn darn in the new piece of yarn for about ¾" on both sides of the knot exactly parallel to the warp end. Then cut off the knot.

The advantage of this method is that it does not stop the weaving for mending, and the result is as good.

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