IWILL ----- LACE.

When writing about the unsymmetrical huckaback, we rather rashly dismissed the smallest possible weave of this kind, i.e. 4x4 lace. We had to change our mind on this subject when we tried this weave with single linen. It gives undoubtedly a lace effect, and this lace is not only the finest, but also the strongest of all, and can be used in many articles where any other kind of lace would make the fabric too weak.

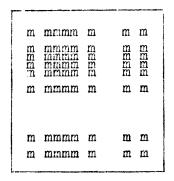
But it is questionable whether we have any right to call this weave a huckaback lace. It may be derived from 6x6 huck by subtraction, as in fig.1.

On the left we have 6x6 huckaback. When we eliminate heddles marked x we have plain twill threading on the right. In the same way we have changed 10x10 huck into 8x8, and 14x14 into 12x12. Thus theoretically we can call this weave a 4x4 huck. On the other hand plain twill threading is plain twill threading, and we cannot get around this fact. In the treadling we are using two tabby sheds, and two opposite twill sheds (fig.2).

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Therefore for the time being we decided to call this weave a Twill Lace. It has in common with huckabacks the possibility of weaving tabby in both: horizontal and vertical direction around blocks of lace, as in fig.3, and thus all single-block patterns such as in fig.4 can be used.

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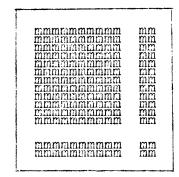


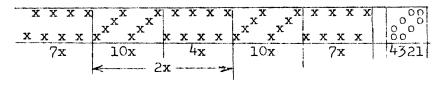
Fig.4

There is nothing particularly difficult about weaving this kind of lace. The sett of warp is the same as for tabby. In sleying, heddles 1 and 2 must be in the same dent, and so are heddles 3 and 4. The fabric should be exactly 50:50, that is the number of picks per inch is the same as the sett of warp.

The same weave will produce more complicated patterns with more shafts: two shafts for each additional block of pattern. We shall describe these multiblock patterns in the next issue of the Master Weaver.

PRACTICAL PROJECT for 4 shafts.

Linen towels.



Warp: 25/2, or 12 single linen half-bleached or natural. No.of ends: 456; sett 28 ends per inch; reed No.14; 2 ends per dent.

Weft: same as warp, or single weft on two-ply warp.

Treadling: 6" of tabby (23); 2413 - 24 times, 23 - 16 times; repeat the last two groups until the desired length is reached; finish with 2413 - 24 times, and 6" of tabby.

Finishing: boil in water with soap for 10 minutes; rinse; iron damp with a very hot iron and plenty of pressure.
