practical weaving suggestions

VOL. 4-70



Table Runners

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This issue of "Practical Weaving Suggestions" is devoted to a project that may be varied in many ways. The pattern, adapted from a piece of weaving brought from Finland may be wide or narrow, as for the table runners described here. They may be woven any length as required by the table size. Of course, standard size table mats may be made on this same threading. The mat showing pattern is illustrated on front cover.

Variation of the width depends on the number of times threading B to C is repeated. As each repeat contains 36 warp ends, and the sleying in a 12 dent reed is 36 ends to the inch, it is quite easy to figure changes in width. Threading of the borders remains the same; A to B - 6X, C to D - 7X.

The set of runners illustrated below at right is for a large rectangular table on which the two long runners are placed at the edge of the long sides, the short ones along the two narrow ends. The drawing showing the placing of these runners is of the table top, but does not picture the ten inch fall at each end of the runners. The threading was as shown in the draft for a total of 516 warp ends, or 14-1/3 inches in the reed.

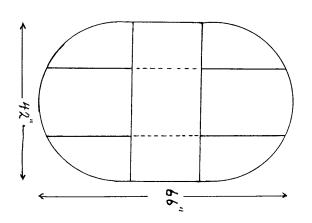
The drawing at the left shows two wide runners on an oval table. The long runner is placed down the center of the table, a shorter runner across the table. For longer oval tables six may be seated by using a second short runner across the table, and for eight places a third short one may be added. Again the ten inch fall is not shown in the drawing. For these wide runners on the oval table threading from B to C was repeated 14 times for a total of 660 warp ends, or 18-1/3 inches in the reed.

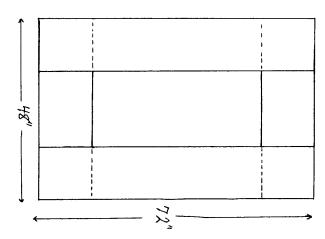
For place mats, tray cloths or a short piece for the center of the rectangular table, the 516 warp ends is suggested. If narrow pieces are desired the threading from B to C may be reduced by as many repeats as required, keeping in mind that each repeat provides one inch of warp in the reed.

To secure the required warp length for your project measure the length of the table, add 20 inches for a 10 inch fall at each end of the runner, multiply by the number of long runners required. Then repeat the above calculation for the width of the table. To the resulting total length of runners add 10% for shrinkage, plus one yard for loom loss.

Assuming that the warp is now beamed, this seems a good place to discuss the threading, sleying and tie-up, which may seem strange and unorthodox. We hope you will find it as satisfactory as the weaver of these pieces did. Lily Art. 107, White Linen size 20/2, was used for the warp, with the threading in pairs, but each end in its own heddle so they would lie flat in the weave. This threading is the beginning of an intersting warp-wise texture effect, which

WARP: Lily Art. 107, Linen, size 20/2, White PATTERN WEFT: Lily Art. 207, Linen, size 10/1, Oyster Tabby: Lily Art. 107, Linen, size 10/2, White





is then emphasized by sleying alternating 4 & 2 warp ends in a 12 dent reed. Lily Art. 207 Oyster Linen, size 10/1 was used for the pattern weft, which is woven only across the center section, threaded from B to C. Lily Art. 107 White Linen, size 10/2, was used for the tabby and woven across the entire webb.

To simplify treadling, the tie-up given in the draft was worked out, and the following back and forth sequence used. Pattern pick from the right, using treadle #1 was followed by a tabby pick from the right, using treadle #2. Then pattern pick from the left, using treadle #6 was followed by a tabby pick from the left, using treadle #5. Treadles #3 and #4 were dropped out of the way. This tie-up is for a sinking shed. If you have a rising shed loom tie the blank spaces.

The linen yarn used for this sample set is quite firm. It was necessary to weave with a rather tight warp and place the pattern and tabby picks straight across the shed, but not tight enough to pull the edges in. One firm beat on the closed shed was satisfactory. The ends of the runners may be finished as you prefer, but hemstitching and fringe seems especially suitable with the heavy linen. If you have not used hemstitching on the loom detailed instructions given in a previous PWS will be repeated at the end of this article.

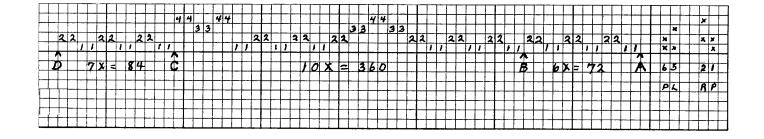
After the warp is tied-in spread it with strips of cloth or heavy yarn and check threading and sleying. To start the weaving leave a space of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches for fringe, then do a row of hemstitching using 6 picks of the 10/2 tabby and 6 pairs of the 20/2 warp ends. Then weave $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches of plain tabby with the 10/2 before starting the pattern weft. The above sequence was reversed at the other end of the runner.

Each runner in a set must have the same amount of fringe, hemstitching and plain weave at each end. This is easy to measure if you cut a piece of card $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long to check the plain weave, with a small notch at $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches for checking the fringe length. Getting the correct length of pattern weave between these two borders is more of a problem because of the length. Pinning a tape to the weaving will give you an approximation, but not the length you will have when the runner is off the loom and relaxed for several hours. Having the same amount of fall on both ends of all runners on a table is certainly important so we make these suggestions.

If the fringe, hemstitching and plain weave measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches on each end, or a total of 13 inches, and for example you want a 68 inch runner, you would require 55 inches of pattern weave between the two borders. After completing one end border, and a few inches of pattern weave, pin a tape to the work with the 55 inch mark at the first pattern pick, then a second pin below it for safety. As you weave remove the bottom pin before it reaches the cloth beam and move it ahead of the upper pin. This will avoid rolling the tape in with the cloth. Thin sticks placed around the cloth beam will prevent bumps in the material where it passes over knots and cords.

When you reach the end of the tape, showing that 55 inches of pattern has been woven, release the cloth beam latch and pull the material out over a card table or bench. Do not untie from beam. Leave it relaxed over the table until the next morning. Then without stretching it more than it would be on a table, measure the length of pattern weave you now have. The amount of draw-up, or shrinkage, in this length of weaving may surprise you. The difference between this measurement and the 55 inches of pattern you need must be added, after you carefully roll the material back on the cloth beam. If more than a few picks are required it would be well to add 10% to this additional weaving to provide for further draw-up. Then complete the runner with $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches of plain weave, the hemstitching and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches of fringe.

While all that has gone before is based on the linen runners illustrated, the instructions and draft may be used for many yarn combinations. A few suggestions are given here to help you plan other projects using this draft.



If a color is desired in a part cotton runner use the same linen warp and tabby but Lily Art. 121 Six Strand Floss for the pattern weft. This comes in a large selection of colors.

For an all cotton runner there are a number of possibilities. For all mercerized yarn, and in colors, use Lily Art. 114; Pearl 20 for the warp, Pearl 10 for the pattern weft, Pearl 5 for the tabby.

Another combination could be Lily Art. 314, size 20/2 for the warp and size 10/2 for the tabby. For the pattern weft use either Art. 121 Six Strand Floss, or Art. 114, size Pearl 10. This combination of unmercerized background and mercerized pattern is quite effective in any weave.

Heavier yarns may be used by reducing the number of ends to the inch in a six or eight dent reed and adjusting the pattern repeats.

HEMSTITCHING ON THE LOOM

For those who have not tried hemstitching on the loom this is repeated from a previous issue of "Practical Weaving Suggestions."

The normal way of doing this is with 6 warp ends and 6 weft picks, but for these linen runners 6 pairs of warp ends were used to more nearly equal the bulk of the 6 tabby picks. The number of warp ends and weft picks may be varied according to the yarn being used, how tight the weave is, etc.

At the beginning of the piece leave a length of the weft yarn at the right selvage approximately 5 times the width of the warp. Then weave 6 picks, beating them in place at the top of the fringe allowance, then another to the left that is not beaten in. Place the shuttle out of the way on the shuttle race and begin the hemstitching on the right with the long end of tabby yarn threaded in a blunt tapestry needle.

The four steps in hemstitching are briefly as follows: away from the fringe end — around the warp ends above the 6 tabby picks — toward the fringe end — around the warp ends below the weft picks.

In detail these steps are as follows. To get started the length of weft yarn must be secured at the right selvage. Therefore, take it around the right warp end below the six weft picks and then just above them. This takes the place of the first step above for the first group only. Then go to the left under the 6 warp pairs to be drawn together, up to the top, right over these same warp pairs securing this first loop only with a half hitch. Then go diagonally under these warp pairs and the 6 weft picks coming to the top at the fringe side of the weft picks and to the left of the 6 warp pairs. Now draw the loop snug about the warp ends above the weft picks and hold it so with the thumb and first finger of the left hand (finger through the warp — thumb on top). The final loop is now made on the fringe side of the weft picks, by going right over the warp ends, left under them, up to the top and through the loop of the weft with which you are hemstitching. Draw this knot tight, and against the weft picks, to prevent any slippage as you go on to the next group.

The first step of the second and all succeeding groups is over the 6 weft picks from the fringe end and down between the group just completed and the next 6 warp ends. When hemstitching the other end of the piece the long weft end (5 times the width of the warp) will be an extension of the last pick, and at the right. To make this hemstitching balance that at the beginning of the piece, and have the knotted loop on the fringe side of the weft picks, just reverse the detailed instructions above as to direction.

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PRINTED IN U.S.A. 15M-10-70