

VARIATIONS OF "THE HUMANESQUE FIGURES"

By LELAH FRISBIE ADLER

I wonder if any member of the "weaving family" has had as much fun playing with Mrs. Atwater's "Humanesque Figures" (The Shuttle Craft Guild Bulletin, March, 1941) as I have had with this type of weaving.

I have used it for upholstering materials, peasant aprons, rugs, luncheon sets and wall hangings. It gives a tapestry effect and works up rapidly. The design possibilities are all most endless. I have used it for aprons with sailors in blue uniforms, soldiers with nipped in waists and Sam Brown belts, red cross nurses in white uniforms against deep blue background, garden flowers such as hollyhocks, corn flowers, for-get-me-nots, Dutch boy and girl with tulip borders, Peruvian cats and many others.

The tulip luncheon or breakfast set, diagram No. 1, works up rapidly and is as colorful as one could wish. For warp, I used 24/3 natural, set 24 threads per inch. For weft, a soft coarse cotton, natural cream color, of about the grist of 10/2. For the design, Bernat's Perle Cotton No. 10. Green-1017, Red-1046, Black-1031. Weave 2 inches plain tabby of cream colored cotton (weave extra for desired width of hem, I wove the runner 28"/14" in the loom, to finish 24"/12".) In the following treadingling the numbers designate the treadle to be used, one shot on each.

Weave—

- *1-2-3-4-black1x
- 1-2-3-4-green2x
- 1-green 2-cream 3-green 4-cream6x
- 1-green 2-3-4-cream2x
- 1-2-red 3-4-cream6x
- 1-red 2-3-4-cream2x
- 1-2-3-4-black1x**

Weave the body in cream cotton, repeat from ** to * for opposite border. Weave mats with the same border, to finish 18" long. Napkins have one border so placed to cross the top when folded in thirds.

For upholstering material, diagram No. 2, I used 24/3 natural, doubled in the heddle, for warp; set 20 threads per inch. For weft, Bernat's Fabri, tan-137, blue-596.

Weave—

- *1-blue 2-3-4 tan4x
- 1-tan 2-blue 3-4-tan4x
- 1-2-tan 3-blue 4-tan4x
- 1-2-3-tan 4-blue4x
- 1-blue 2-3-4 tan4x
- 1-2-3-tan 4-blue4x
- 1-2-tan 3-blue 4-tan4x
- 1-tan 2-blue 3-4-tan4x**

Repeat from * to ** for length of the piece. This produces a material with a tan background and a blue figure, warp does not show. A third color can be introduced with pleasing results.

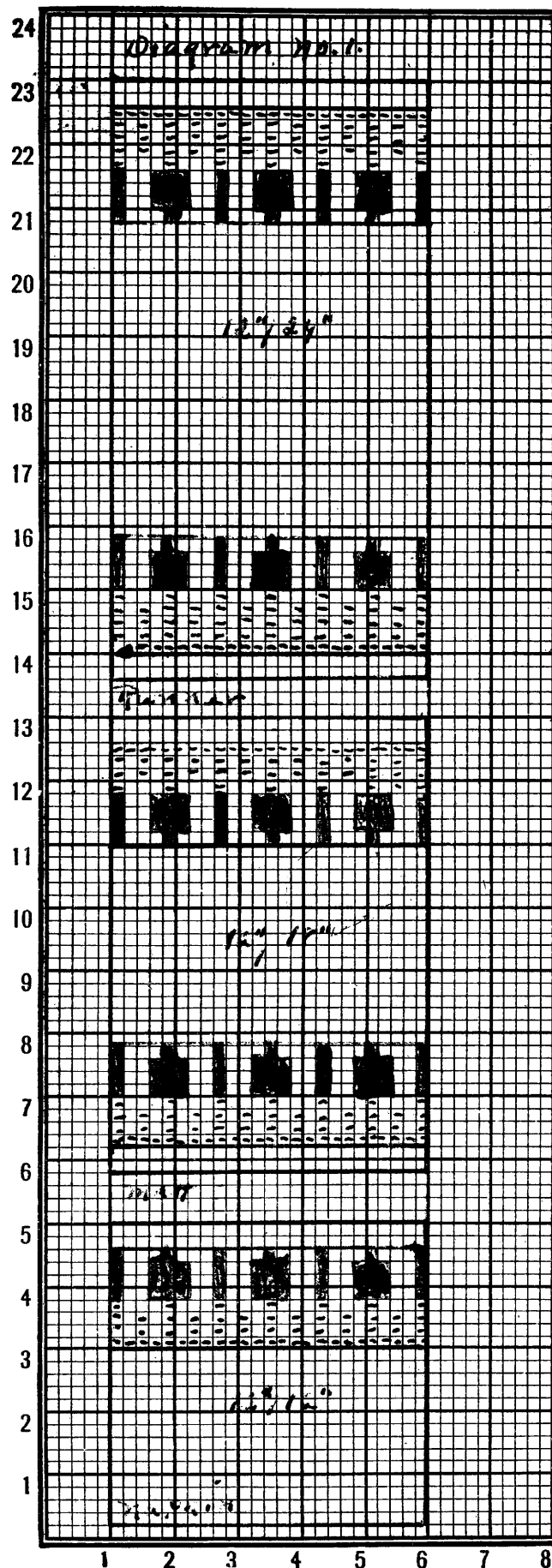
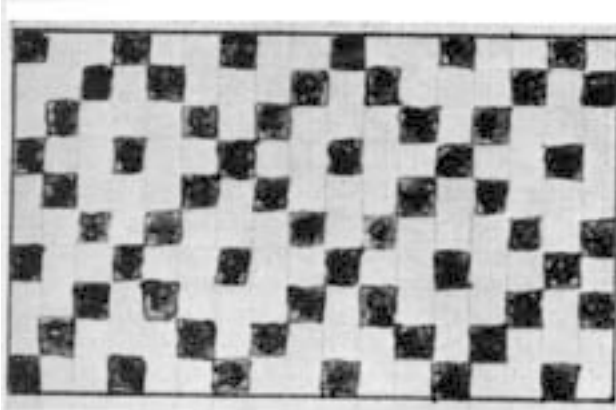
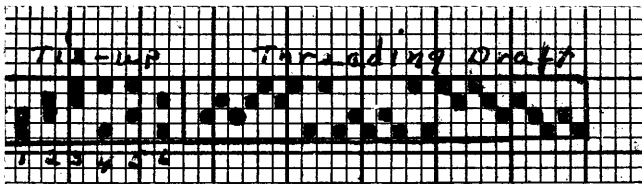


DIAGRAM NO. 2



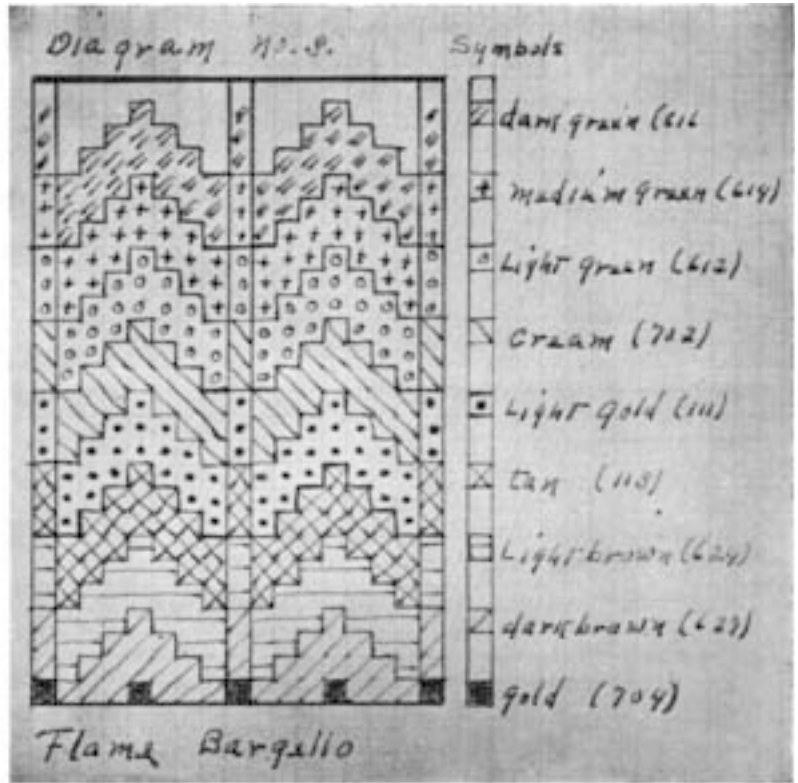
UPHOLSTERING MATERIAL



One of the nicest things worked out in this technique, is a simulation of Flame Bargello embroidery, diagram No. 3. Use a tapestry warp, set 15 threads per inch. Bernat's weaving special for weft; any color combination can be used. The following worked out very nicely, dark brown 627, light brown 624, golden tan 113, light gold 111, cream 702, light green 612, medium green 614, dark green 616. Use the darkest color at the bottom of the design and shade to light tones, as shown in the diagram. This is nice for bags, upholstery material or wall hangings.

Weave—

- 1-gold 2-3-4-dark brown2x
- 1-2-3-dark brown 4-light brown2x
- 1-2-dark brown 3-4-light brown2x
- 1-dark brown 2-3-4 light brown2x



- 1-2-3-light brown 4-tan2x
- 1-2-light brown 3-4-tan2x
- 1-light brown 2-3-4-tan2x
- 1-2-3-tan 4-light gold2x
- 1-2-light tan 3-4-light gold2x
- 1-tan 2-3-4-light gold2x
- 1-2-3-light gold 4-cream2x

Continue for the following colors, all ways introducing the new color on treadle 4. The work is rapid and if colors are carefully shaded, a very lovely fabric is produced.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

By MARY M. ATWATER, Basin, Montana

Question: "I have a quantity of Bernat's "fabri" yarn in a good blue shade and wish to make a fabric for a suit. I do not want herringbone or twill. How shall I weave it?"

Answer: If you do not wish herringbone or any variation of the twill weave, the best weave to use is plain tabby. A tabby fabric in fabri has a slight "crepiness" however, that may or may not be agreeable to you. This results when a hard-twisted yarn such as fabri is used for both warp and weft. To avoid this effect it is necessary to use a warp twisted in one direction and a weft with the opposite twist. The crepe effect, however, is not unpleasant,—unless you happen to object to it.

For a firm fabric with splendid wearing qualities, set the warp at 30 ends to the inch and weave 30 weft shots to the inch. Set the warp 33½" to 34" wide in the reed for a

"finished" width of 32",—which, tailors tell me, is the width that cuts to best advantage. Allow generously in length for shrinkage.

Wash the fabric in warm, mild, soap-suds when it comes from the loom. Wash it thoroughly with a kneading action. Rinse. Allow to dry somewhat and press lightly through a cloth while still damp. Don't let anybody tell you that steaming or dry cleaning will do as well. The washing is necessary to give the fabric finish and pleasant texture, and to take all the shrinkage out of it. Any all-wool fabric should be finished in this manner. If you have any doubts, weave a good sized sample, cut it in two and wash one of the pieces as above, leaving the other piece unwashed. Then compare the two samples. Seeing is believing, and this will surprise you.