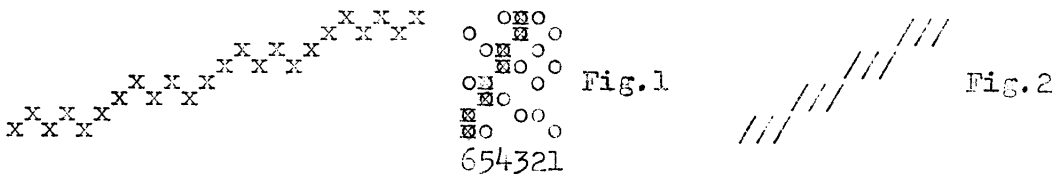


INFORMATION SERVICE

Overshot drafts on 8 frames.

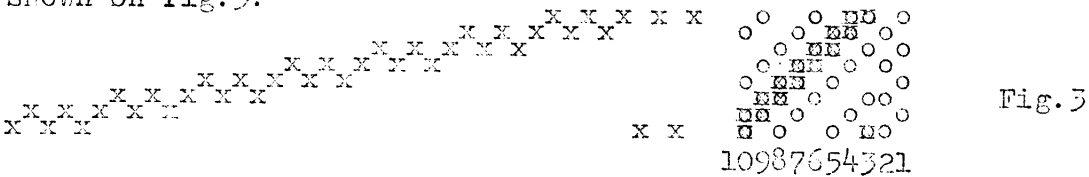
As everybody knows, the overwhelming majority of overshot drafts are written on four frames. An exception are drafts written on opposites. Here each block of pattern requires two frames, and consequently 4 blocks must be woven on 8 frames. Since however the floats at the back become very long, they must be stitched to the fabric. Thus a typical 8 frame draft will have in the tie-up two kinds of ties: one for the pattern floats, and one for the stitching. For instance a draft for a diagonal of 4 blocks will be as follows:



Treadles 1 and 2 (fig.1) are tabby, 3 to 6 - pattern. Ties marked "x" are pattern ties, and "o" - stitching ties. Thus the longest float on either side of the fabric will have 6 ends.

Colonial drafts of this kind are very rare, and often written in the same way as twills, particularly turned twills. The above draft in such a notation will look as on fig.2. At the first glance it looks as a four block turned twill. The tie-up will show whether it is twill, or overshot.

Now the question arises whether 8-block overshot could be woven in a similar way. The answer is yes, but it is doubtful whether this was often done in colonial times. An example of such a draft is shown on fig.3.



This is just a diagonal or a small part of a pattern. The treadling: 10 - 5x, 9 - 5x, 8 - 5x, 7 - 5x, 6 - 5x, 5 - 5x, 4 - 5x, 3 - 5x, plus the tabby binder of course.

It is rather obvious why the straight overshot was seldom if ever woven on 8 frames. Even the four-frame overshot gives quite elaborate patterns. With 8 frames they would be much more so, but at the same time they would not give the weaver much freedom of design, because here as well as in 4-frame overshot, the blocks can not be combined, i.e. not more than one block of the pattern can be woven at a time. From this point of view even a 6-frame summer-and-winter is superior to 8-frame overshot. With 8 frames available more interesting weaves could be attempted and so they were. Thus 8 frames were used occasionally to transcribe 4-block straight overshot into one woven on opposites, but not to create still more involved patterns.