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# Questions and Answers

ADDRESS YOUR QUESTIONS TO MRS. MARY M. ATWATER, BASIN, MONTANA

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*Question No. 1.* What is "warp-dressing?" Where can one get it? And how is it used?

*Answer:* Warp-dressing is a material applied to a refractory warp to make it easier to weave. A "singles" linen warp should always be treated with warp-dressing, and any soft, fuzzy wool warp behaves better if dressed. There are several commercial warp-dressings on the market but as these have to be purchased in wholesale quantity they are not available to most hand-weavers. An entirely satisfactory warp-dressing may, however, be prepared very simply: Boil flax-seed in water—the exact proportions are unimportant—and use the jelly-like solution. This should be diluted, if very thick, down to about the consistency of thin starch. A very refractory warp requires a heavier dressing than an easier warp. If the warp-material is in skeins the easiest way to apply the dressing is to soak the skeins before warping. A warp-chain may be dressed in the same manner. If the warp is on spools and the sectional method of warping is used the dressing may be applied to the bout of warp as it is beamed. Or the dressing can be applied to a warp already on the loom, by simply dabbing it on with a sponge or cloth. When properly dressed a linen warp may be woven dry though it is better to keep it damp even when the dressing has been used.

*Question No. 2.* What is a good weave for an afghan?

*Answer:* I take it that by "afghan" is meant a light blanket for the couch or chaise longue. Such a piece can be made in many different ways. A pattern in overshot weaving is not desirable, however. In a general way, any of the standard linen weaves will prove satisfactory,—"Bird-Eye," "Goose-Eye," "Huck," "Ms and Os," "Bronson weave" and for those who have looms equipped with more than four harnesses, the double-face twill, the many variations on the eight-harness and ten-harness twill threadings, and many "fancy" fabric weaves. Plain tabby in the "Log Cabin" effect makes a very attractive blanket if effective color ar-

rangements are used. The chief charms of a piece of this type are in texture and color. A soft, rather coarse yarn should be used both for warp and weft. Plaid patterns in color are good. Or lengthwise, or cross-wise stripes of color, or a plain colored center with borders in contrasting colors. Germantown yarn is excellent for these pieces, and should be warped at 8 or 10 ends to the inch. The weft should be woven the same number of shots to the inch. These pieces should be lightly woven. Knitting yarns and various "fancy" yarns may also be used. For a more elaborate piece the Finnish double weave developed in finer yarns is excellent. The simple "marquissette" leno weave is also a possibility for these light blankets. For this I would suggest a warp of "Fabri" yarn set about 20 ends to the inch and weft of German-town.

*Question No. 3.* What is the best way to mend a broken warp-thread?

*Answer:* Do not attempt to tie the broken ends together. Attach a piece of warp-material to the broken end that comes from the warp-beam. Draw this through the empty heddle and the empty dent in the reed, and attach it to the web by winding it around a pin inserted in the fabric opposite the break. After the piece is taken from the loom the loose ends should be darned into the fabric with a needle. In overshot pattern weaving the knot in the warp may be woven in, as it usually does not show, but in a piece of tabby or fabric weaving the knot is bad. The following method is somewhat more troublesome than the process described above but avoids the knot and does not require darning in later. Take a length of warp-material and tie it to the back-beam, attaching it to a pin in the web as described. Weave till the broken end can also be brought into the fabric and weave a little way with both threads together; then drop the end tied to the back-beam. The loose ends may simply be clipped off when firmly woven in.