

BLENDED DRAFTS AND WEAVES

Something new in Honeysuckle and other Patterns

by DONALD W. GREENWOOD

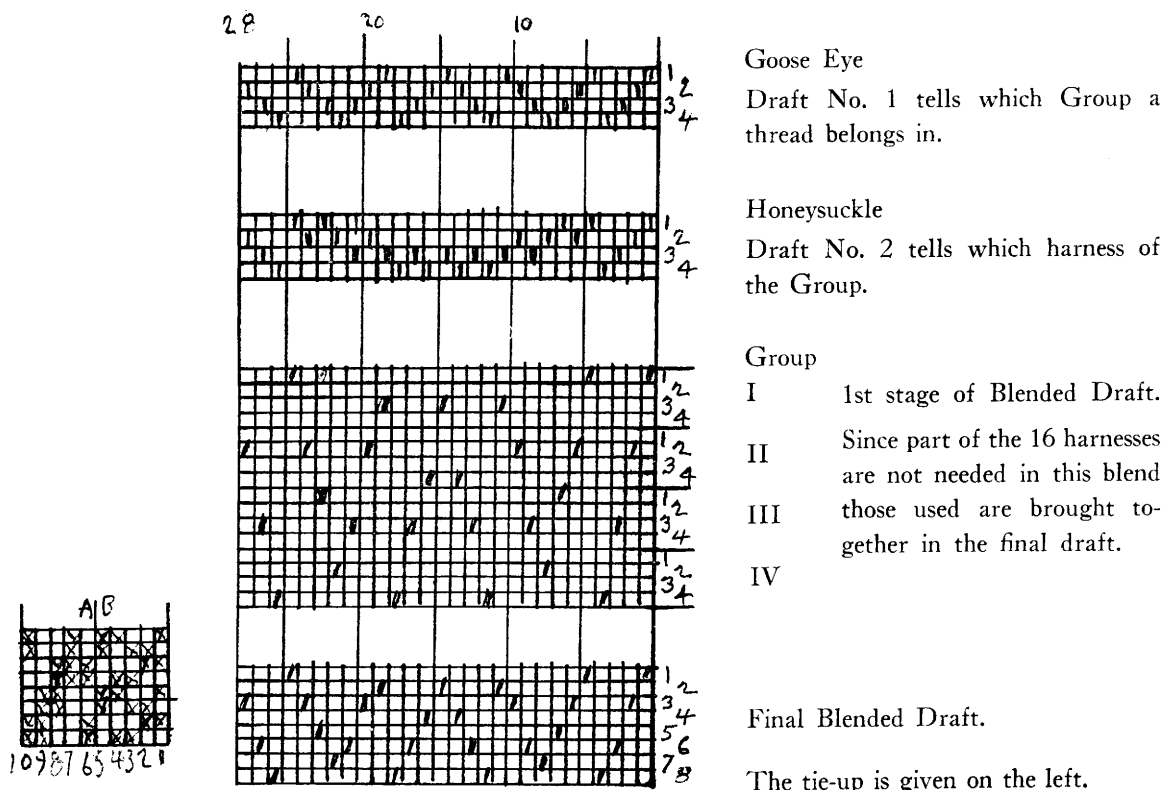
"There is nothing new under the Sun" is an old saying that is true more often than not. I am sure the idea of blending the fine qualities of two or more patterns has been considered often in the past years and has been tried with more or less success at times. I am equally sure that if the system of blending described in this article had ever been tried it now would have been well established and widely known. It is the system that makes the blending a practical thing.

This system of Blended Drafts, worked out on paper last year, was given its first real trial recently at Berea College. I presented the idea to two of Berea's experts, Miss Ledford and Miss Walker, who were very much interested and arranged to have a "blended draft" tried out on a loom in the classroom of Miss Walker.

The paper work of last year was largely done using the Honeysuckle and the Twill drafts chosen because of the radical differences between the two drafts. For the purposes of this trial Miss Walker selected Goose Eye as the companion draft of the Honeysuckle and placed two extra threads in the long overshot of the Honeysuckle so that the two drafts might have the same number of warp threads per repeat of the drafts. This is of obvious advantage both in threading and in weaving.

A totally independent structural modification of the loom was being made which necessitated an entire new tie-up and delayed the start of weaving. Long before I could have done any weaving Miss Walker began and made the first few inches of the sample cloth illustrating this article, thus she was the first to weave from this blended draft. If her thrill was equal to mine I know she will be a long time forgetting it. The first few bands of the cloth show that the two patterns can be used independently while the remainder of the cloth display a few of the possibilities of intimately blending the two patterns.

There is very little to say of the possibilities in weaving from the blended drafts that the sample cloth can not say better than words can. The two patterns can obviously be woven absolutely independently or intimately blended as the weaver may desire. It may be in order to say a few words to the two extremes, as far as fondness for honeysuckle is concerned, that may interest both groups. Honeysuckle is so remarkably versatile that some people "honeysuckle thru life" in perfect bliss. These people will find a vast new field for their honeysuckle to parade itself in thru being combined with less conspicuous backgrounds. Those weavers who abhor the whole ubiquitous honeysuckle family may find it is ideally suited to decorating other weaving patterns such,



for example, as the goose eye which is versatile in its own right. To all weavers the blending of patterns opens up unlimited possibilities for investigation and experimentation.

This blending system is based on one fundamental principle and that is this; draft number one determines which "set" of harnesses a certain warp thread will be placed in, draft number two determines which harness of that set shall "get" the thread.

The accompanying drafts shown in detail just how to blend any two four harness drafts, other drafts using more than four harnesses may be similarly blended but the blending process is especially fitted for the four harness drafts. The four harness Summer & Winter drafts will reduce to six required harnesses while the four harness Bronson drafts may require ten harnesses.

To aid in following the "1st" stage of the blending process several random threads are followed thru the blending.

Thread No. 1. Draft No. 1 indicates Group No. 1

Draft No. 2 indicates Harness 1 of group 1.

Thread No. 2. Draft No. 1 indicates Group No. 2

Draft No. 2 indicates harness 2 of group 2.

Thread No. 3. Draft No. 1 indicates Group No. 3

Draft No. 2 indicates harness 3 of group 3.

Thread No. 4. Draft No. 1 indicates Group No. 4

Draft No. 2 indicates harness 4 of group 4.

Thread No. 7. Draft No. 1 indicates Group No. 3

Draft No. 2 indicates harness 1 of group 3.

Thread No. 8. Draft No. 1 indicates Group No. 4

Draft No. 2 indicates harness 2 of group 4.

In the Tie-up the treadles 1,2,3,4 will weave from Draft No. 2 (Honeysuckle); treadles 5 & 6 will weave plain or tabby; treadles 7,8,9,10 will weave from Draft No. 1 (Goose Eye). The blended weave will, of course, use any of the ten treadles according to the desires of the weaver.

The foregoing directions for blending drafts is, I hope, quite complete but should there be any question about the blending procedure, or should anyone desire Blended Drafts or sample cloths such questions or requests may be sent to the writer, Donald W. Greenwood, Olcott Artcrafts, Whea-

ton, Ill. enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope. For questions other than to explain an apparent vagueness or a definite incompleteness in the article there will be a suitable charge.



Illustration B
Blend of Honeysuckle and Goose-Eye