

Shuttle-Craft Bulletin: Lace Weaves

This year's Guild challenge is on weaving lace. And, this month's Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Article is on two 1932 Bulletins, February and June, on a lace weave, or an open work weave as Mary Meigs Atwater referred to it.

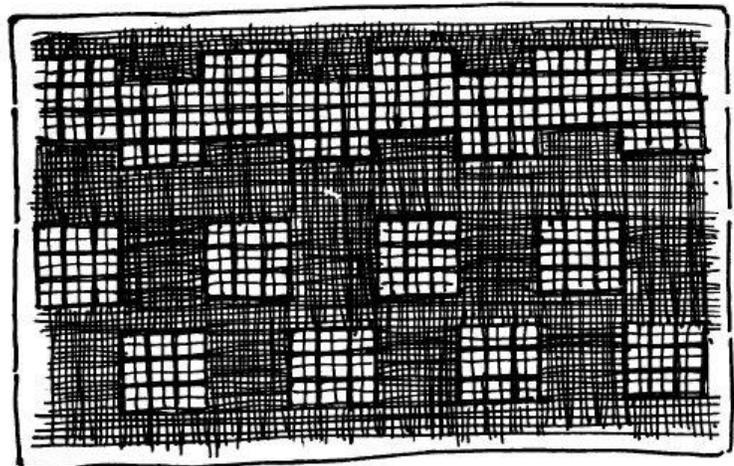
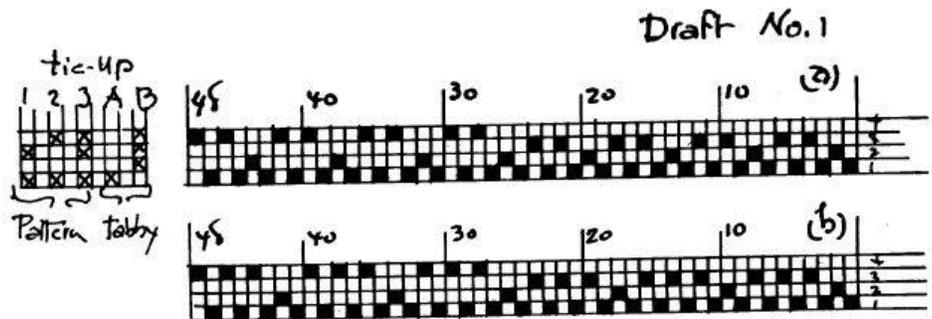
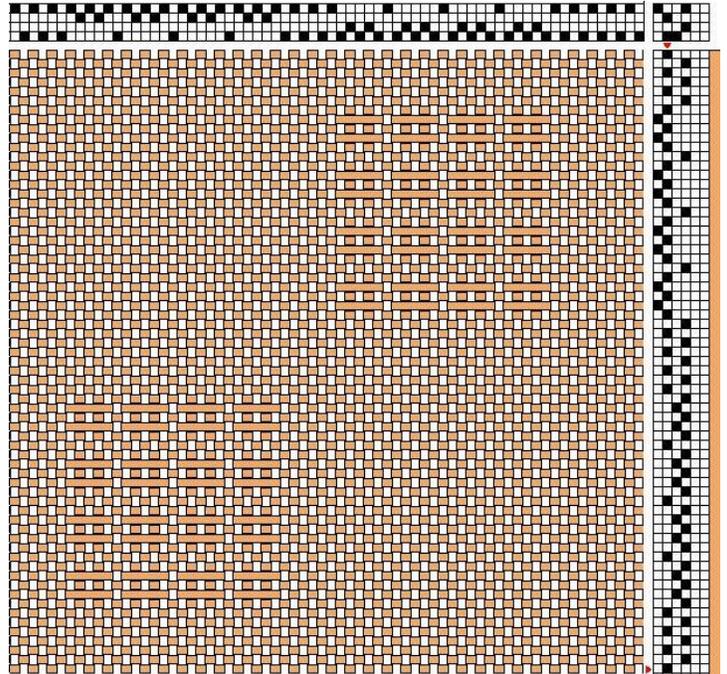
Mary wove coverings using the open work weave for the two lights or narrow windows on either side of the door to her house in Cambridge. She used linen and the weave featured in the February issue and available at the link provided last month, opening up the sett for the weave. She recommended a fine wool yarn for clothing, shawls and scarves in the open work weave, using the same yarn for both warp and weft. The February issue draft for the alternating open work squares is shown here. She identified this draft as done in the Scandinavian method.

She included a revision of the draft in the June issue shown below in Mary's original drawing, calling it a special type of Bronson weave that gives a lacy effect.

For the alternating squares treadle: A, B, 1, B, 1, B, each one shot, repeated 4 times (do not forget, the tie-up is for a sinking shed), tabby: A, B, A, B, A, B as desired or not, then A, B, 2, B, 2, B repeated 4 times.

Four more 4-shaft Bronson lace drafts were given.

Mary listed her notes for proper lace weaving in the June Bulletin: the warp and weft should

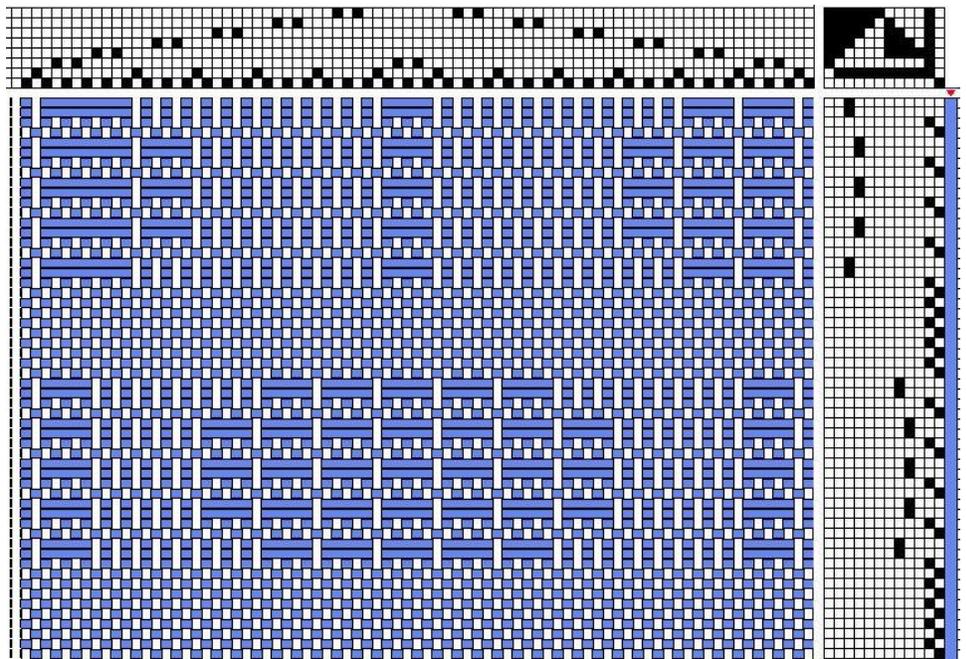
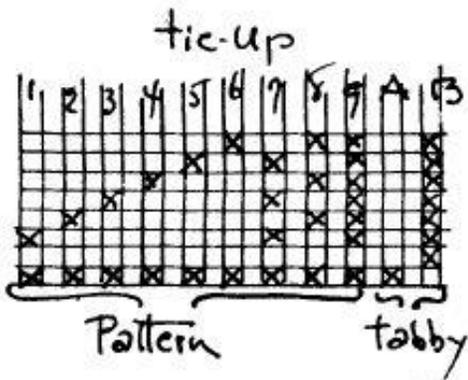


be of the same or similar materials, set the warp more open than for plain weave, and weave a balanced weave.

The lace effect will be more pronounced once the fabric is wet-finished, and a generous amount of shrinkage allowed. Best effects are seen when the warp and weft are in the same color, although she suggested weaving a delicate pastel shade over a white warp.

Mary added an 8-shaft Bronson-Weave threading for openwork weaving at the end of the February issue, with 4 different treadlings. She described this threading as done in 5 thread blocks separated by little 3 thread blocks, giving a much greater variety of patterns, see a section of it in blue and white here.

She included it again In the June 1932 issue, with a different tie-up, again done for a sinking shed:



Melissa Hankens wove a sampler of all three of these and you can find it at this link: <https://schachtspindle.com/weaving-a-lace-sampler/> .

There are also many options for hand-manipulated lace weaves such as leno, Brooks Bouquet and others. I found a lovely review online of hand manipulated laces at this link: <https://www.weavingindiana.org/PDFs/EleanorBest/LaceByHand.pdf>

Although,

as Mary wrote, the fabric is essentially the same on both sides. These are examples of what would become to be known as the "Atwater-Bronson" lace, just one of the loom-controlled lace weaves. Other weaves that you might consider are huck and Swedish lace.

There are many options and resources for this year's Guild lace weave challenge, check the Guild library and online sites.