



## As the Whorl Turns: What's Happening at Schacht

### CRANBROOK LOOM DAY, APRIL 30, 2005



Our weaving experts Betsy Blumenthal and Jane Patrick will be hosting an intensive one-day Cranbrook Countermarche Loom workshop. This workshop is geared toward anyone who owns a Cranbrook Loom or is thinking about buying one. We'll start the day by assembling a loom and then move into

understanding countermarche tie-ups and troubleshooting. By the end of the day, you'll understand how a countermarche loom works, what it can do, and the situations in which countermarche action excels. We'll top off the day with a dinner party at Barry's and Jane's house. Please [click here](#) to download our brochure or call us at 1-800-228-2553 to register.

### RIGID HEDDLE LOOM TABLE CLAMPS

These new clamps will make it possible to attach any of our rigid heddle looms to a table top. The clamps attach to the loom using the same holes as the trestle stand and therefore will fit any rigid heddle looms with this capability (very early looms will need to be modified). The table clamps keep the loom securely fixed on the table and at chair height, allowing you to weave comfortably.



(continued)

### A Letter from the Editor

Dear Weavers and Spinners,

If you've been wondering why there was no winter newsletter, the best answer is that I've been busy weaving for and writing a book for Interweave Press. Due out in 2006, it will feature beginning weaving projects woven on simple looms. I've been having a blast looking at weaving basics and designing projects that I hope will inspire non-weavers and weavers alike. I'll keep you posted about the release date as The Book gets closer to publication. Meanwhile the factory has been working on new products. Read on to learn more. Sorry you've had to wait so long for this latest installment.

If there are topics you'd like us to cover in our on-line newsletter, please write to me at [janep@schachtspindle.com](mailto:janep@schachtspindle.com)

Best regards,



p.s.: We've been having some fun, too. Here's Barry and I trying out our new Hi-Lo Spindles.

## What's Happening at Schacht, continued

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### NIDDY-NODDY

Lots of inquiries for our long-awaited niddy noddy. Just to let you know that all is not forgotten—look for them to be available in about six months.



### HI-LO SPINDLES



Our popular drop spindles just got better. Now available are our 3" and 4" Hi-Lo Spindles. A brass hook has been added to the shaft for high-whorl capabilities; we've kept the shaft groove in the opposite end of the shaft for low-whorl spinning. The 4"

spindle has kept its familiar profile, but the 3" has a new, thinner shape that resembles the 4". The 3" weighs 2.2 ounces; the 4" weighs 3 ounces. Retail price: \$15.00.



Low-whorl spinning



High-whorl spinning



We want to hear from you! If there are products you don't find in our line that you'd like to see there, write us at [info@schachtspindle.com](mailto:info@schachtspindle.com).

### Fiber Conferences

A great time to learn more, make new friends, visit vendor booths, and get recharged for spinning and weaving. Plan now to attend these conferences, and look for Schacht products at many of our vendors that you'll find there.

#### APRIL 30

*Cranbrook Loom Day*  
Schacht Spindle Company, Inc.  
Boulder, CO

#### MAY 7-8

*Maryland Sheep and Wool*  
Howard County Fairgrounds, Glenwood, MD

#### JUNE 12-18

*Midwest Weavers Conference*  
Lakeland College, Sheboygan, WI

#### JUNE 18-19

*Estes Park Wool Market*  
Estes Park, CO

#### JULY 12-17

*Mid-Atlantic Fiber Association Conference*  
Nat'l Conference Center, Landsdowne, VA

#### JULY 28-31

*Intermountain Weavers Conference*  
Durango, CO

#### OCTOBER 1-2

*Taos Wool Festival*  
Taos, NM

#### NOVEMBER 10-13

*Spin-Off Autumn Retreat (SOAR)*  
Interweave Press, Park City, UT

*Dear Violet Rose*

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*Dear Violet Rose,*

I was wondering if someone could possibly explain what the numbers mean in yarn sizes. I have been looking at cone yarns and I'm confused as to the sizes. I am trying to clear up the difference between yarns that may say something like 10/1, 20/2 or 30/2. What does each number mean? I need to know what numbers represent the thinner yarn and what numbers represent the thicker. I hope someone there can help me.

-- *Ginger**Dear Ginger,*

Yarn counts can be a mystery, but here's a way to think about it. The first number represents the size: the bigger the number, the smaller the yarn. The second number represents the number of plies, i.e., 2 means the yarn is a 2-ply, 3 indicates a 3-ply yarn.

This explanation from *Yarn, a resource guide for handweavers*, text by Celia Quinn, Interweave Press, 1985 (now out of print), will help clarify how yarn counts work:

In the count systems..., the number indicates how many skeins of a standard length equal one pound. The higher the count number, the finer the yarn. Example: #1 cotton = 840 yards per pound. Example: #10 cotton = 8400 yards per pound (ten 840-yard skeins weigh one pound).

If there are two numbers with a slash between them, such as 10/2 or 7/3, the 2 and 3 refer to the number of strands in the yarn....To determine the yardage per pound of a count number which has a ply number, you must calculate the yardage of the count number and then divide that by the ply number. For example: #10/2 cotton: 1 #10 cotton = 8400 yards per pound divided by 2 = 4200 yd/lb. Some of the count systems....

- cotton, silk, some synthetics: #1 = 840 yd/lb.
- linen: #1 = 300 yd/lb.
- Bradford worsted for some wools, hair fibers, some synthetics: #1 = 560 yd/lb.
- Run system for some wools: #1 = 1600 yd/lb.
- Cut system for some wools: #1 = 300 yd/lb.

A place to further understand yarn counts and yarn sizes is the yarn chart in each issue of *Handwoven* magazine. You'll find the yarn chart in the "Getting Started" section where there are pictures of the actual yarns used in the issue, along with their count and yardage per pound. Keep in mind that a 10/2 pearl cotton, for example, will be a different size than a 10/2 worsted wool, because the count is based on a different number.

Good luck with your weaving.

*V. R.***Our expert responds to your Schacht product questions.**

Have a question about a Schacht Spindle product, or a weaving or spinning question? Our expert Violet Rose is not quite omniscient, but we're convinced she's the closest thing to it. Violet Rose will answer as many questions as she can through this column. Write her at [violetrose@schachtspindle.com](mailto:violetrose@schachtspindle.com). While she can't answer your questions directly, look here for the answers.



G) wefts along the edge of the weaving. Since each contrast color weaves only two picks per block, leave a short tail at the beginning of the the first pick and tuck the tail in at the end of the second pick. Cut the second pick flush with the edge of the weaving.

After completing the border, weave the background again with (T, G) five times followed by (G, T) five times. Weave until approximately 16" of warp remain, ending after (G, T) five times. Weave the border again, as described above, then weave one more repeat of the background.

*A note about weaving with two alternating weft colors:* There is no perfectly neat way to cross the yarns at the edge when you are weaving with alternating weft colors. The most important rule is to be consistent. You can choose to always wrap the second weft yarn over the first, or you can choose to always avoid wrapping the wefts. Whatever choice you make, be sure that you do it the same way every time your wefts are on the same side. This will produce a consistent edge on both sides.

## **Finishing**

Trim the ends to approximately six inches and finish in groups of five ends with a twisted fringe, or a firm knot. We used a twisted fringe, carefully choosing one color for each side of the twist for a dramatic effect.

Machine wash, line dry, and press.

### **How to make a twisted fringe:**

Divide a group of 5 threads into two groups by color. One group will have three threads, the other will have two threads. Twist each group of threads clockwise until it kinks. Hold the ends so that they don't untwist. Put the two groups together, secure with an overhand knot, and allow them to twist counterclockwise around each other.

