

June 28, 1996

Dear Krokbragd Study Group,

I've long admired the Norwegian tapestries with borders woven in geometric motifs, and wondered if I could try for a similar effect using a loom technique on a rug or wall hanging. Krokbragd seemed like a logical approach.

Then, when I had a woven piece rejected from a juried exhibit because it was framed, I became even more determined to work on a way to weave borders or border-like areas for wall hangings and rugs. So, rather than danskbragd, this became my focus.

I wove 9 samples trying various colors, shadings and motifs. Enclosed are color xeroxes of three I feel are most successful. For these samples a relatively fine tow linen warp was used, making it easier to weave rug wools doubled using the clasped weft technique. This technique proved so tedious, with 9 shuttles and 2 different krokbragd motifs developing in 3 places at the same time, that I wove only one sample.

The rest of the samples were woven putting a 4th color over the ends on shaft 4, which occurred only in the center of the warp. This produced central stripes of a strong color against a background and border of other colors. Although this was not my original intent, I will weave at least 2 wall hangings in this fashion, and then pursue the woven border idea further. I may even get back to clasped weft again.

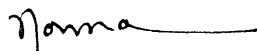
The samples were begun and ended with a row of twining. Treadling A was used where possible to decrease the tendency of the weaving to curl. Weaving this tabby shot once in each sequence of 3 or 4 shots cuts down considerably on the amount of weft on the back surface.

The ridges where the dark stripes begin and end is minimal, but a rug probably would wear faster there.

I had originally planned to send everyone woven samples in the clasped weft technique. These dreams fell by the wayside. As the group grew to 14 I realized that color xeroxes would have to suffice, and after weaving one small sample in clasped weft I knew that was no longer my immediate goal.

I'm eager to see where everyone else's krokbragd study has taken them.

Happy weaving,



Norma Smayda
P.O. Box 517
Saunderstown RI 02874
401-294-3676

NORWEGIAN BREAKFAST CLUB

Name: Norma Smayda Date June 1996

Weave Krokbragd Source _____

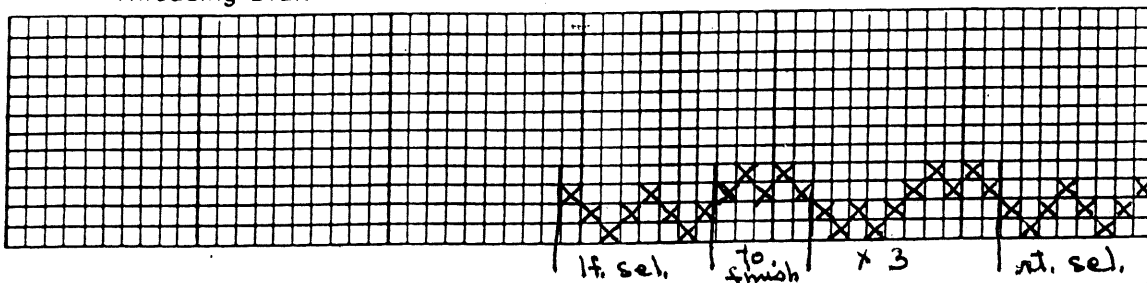
Warp (Size, Color, Source) 12/2 linen, Tow

Weft (Size, Color, Source) assorted rug wools

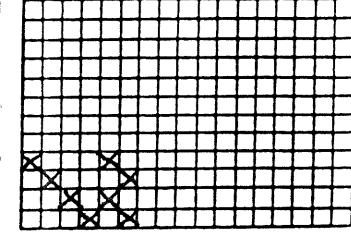
Reed 6.25 Sett 6.25 Sley 1

Ends per repeat 55 total and to balance use doubled floating selvedges

Threading Draft



Tie-up, Sinking
1 2 3 4 5 6



A
B

Goal:

To weave a krokbragd hanging that has the effect of a woven border around a central area of interest. Clasped weft technique was tried first, using 9 shuttles or butterflies to weave 2 motifs in 3 different areas; this proved tedious and cumbersome. The borders were threaded to a 3 shaft krokbragd, with occasional warp ends threaded on shaft 4 for contrasting stripes in the center of the weaving.

Treadling A was used for borders, which helped prevent curling. Treadling B was used when weaving the center stripes, putting the stripe color in on treadle 1. Floating selvedges were used, and the 3 colors that reached the border went around the floating selvedge. The stripe color was brought into the web from under the warp at the first end on shaft 4, and out of the web at the last end on shaft 4.

