



From the Editor

MADELYN VAN DER HOOGT

I am a loomaholic, an equipment junky, a collector of any weaving tool, large or small, new or old. I have pick-up sticks in exotic woods, shuttles that carry two bobbins (one that carries *three*), spool racks, cone holders, swifts, reed stands, warping reels, ball winders, and fringe twisters—not to mention looms. Some of my tools only look like they might be for weaving; I have no idea what they are really for. Weavers' spouses who see the bottom floor of my house, crammed with weaving paraphernalia, teeter between feeling very lucky they're not married to someone like me and feeling very worried about their own futures.

For some, it's the yarn that turns them into weavers; for others, it's the tools. The first loom I ever saw in action was an awkward table loom, and I thought it was marvelous, magical, and mysterious—and I had to have one. How was it possible that moving those levers made threads produce such incredibly patterned cloth? That loom was only the first in the parade of looms I brought into our house. As they began to multiply (I soon needed treadles, then more shafts, wider weaving widths, sturdier construction, and, finally, countermarch, dobby, and drawlooms) so did a few issues. Like: Who needs a dining room? A guest bedroom? What's wrong with a loom in the kitchen?

In my life, looms have meant appropriating rooms and thinking differently about spending money. Dinners out are soon forgotten; a loom is forever. No matter what kind of loom it is, it can bring you that incomparable moment—after the thinking and warping and threading are done and you're ready—when you finally sit down, the conductor lifts the baton, and you begin. With that first pick, you enter an absorbing and meditative world where you watch something beautiful grow, pick by pick, minute by minute, just you and your loom.

Of course, you can do all this with only one loom, unless you're a loomaholic, like me. Be glad if you are a yarnaholic, instead. You can't tuck most looms in a drawer or under the bed.

Madelyn

FUTURE THEMES

January/February 2009 Finishing, Fulling, and Felting!

Finishing techniques for creating fulled fabrics and fabrics with holes, bumps, and waves—with special tips for wet-finishing wool for felt-like results.

March/April 2009 Weaving 101: Get New Weaving Skills.

Special resources (book lists, directory of classes, and instructional projects) for learning to weave and for improving your weaving skills.

May/June 2009 Go Neutral!

Projects and resources featuring natural, unbleached, and undyed yarns with a special section including tips for weaving with linen.

September/October 2009 Summer and Winter—a New Look!

Revival of old weave using color, unusual yarns, and contemporary designs.

November/December 2009 Weave Green: Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse!

Projects using recycled yarns and yarns produced by environmentally friendly methods; tips for making handwoven leftovers into new creations.

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