



From the Editor

MADELYN VAN DER HOOGT

There should be a support group for people like me. "My name is Madelyn, and I'm a loomaholic." I'm not a danger on the highway because of this problem, but it does have repercussions.

Some people start weaving because they want to make fabrics. The first time I saw a loom, I pictured one by my fireplace, the bench inviting me to sit down. It seemed only a bonus that if I did, I would be doing something productive like making cloth. I wanted a loom in my room, no matter what.

When you are first bitten by the loom bug, everyone is very supportive. In fact, sometimes it isn't even you who brings the first loom into your house. Many a spouse has given his loved one a loom as a gift, thinking: This would be a nice hobby for her. In the years that follow, the spouse will frequently look back to the turning point represented by that day.

If you are a loomaholic (could this be genetic?), for some time the joy brought into your life by that first loom is very fulfilling. You do weave on it, but you also move it about the house, loving it by this window, in that nook. You try it *with* the family and *away* from the family, seeing if you weave more on it here or there. After awhile, you decide it needs its own room and your studio is born.

Your loom needs some things in its room, too—shelves for yarns and books, tables for measuring the fabrics it will weave, a sewing station, a warp-winding corner. For awhile, you and your loom are very happy there, acquiring wooden shuttles, colorful cones of yarn, a weaving library. One day, though, you realize that a project you want to do is too wide for your loom or needs more shafts. Also, you remember the special joy of the days when your loom was new. You want that feeling back.

This is probably the point at which a loomaholic can be distinguished from a normal person. A normal person would say: I can learn how to weave doublewidth on the loom I have. Or: In a lifetime of weaving, I'll never come to the end of what I can weave with the number of shafts on this loom. But if you're a loomaholic, sooner or later you'll be rearranging first your studio and then your house to welcome one loom after another, and your loved ones will be thinking: intervention.

Normal people can follow the advice: Love the loom you're with. For the rest of us, there is nothing like a new loom.

Madelyn

A CALL TO GUILDS AND STUDY GROUPS!

The May/June 2010 issue will share fabrics resulting from sample exchange and study groups and give great ideas for forming new groups. Send photos of projects or samples from your group to madelynv@interweave.com.

FUTURE THEMES

January/February 2010 Texture! A focus on texture made by unusual weave structures (corduroy, pleats, velvet) and other clever ideas.

March/April 2010 Doubleweave A handbook of doubleweave techniques: doublewidth fabrics, stuffed and stitched fabrics, and *lots* of pattern.

May/June 2010 Sample Mania. A collection of projects inspired by sample exchanges and study groups.

September/October 2010 Weaving and Folk Art. Projects and design inspiration from weaving in indigenous and other cultures.

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