

The Bateman Weaves: Multiple Tabby Weaves

William Bateman's interest in handweaving began as a child – noticing the rhythm of a weaving shop during his childhood in Salt Lake City. He was again exposed to the joys of handweaving when his wife assisted Mary Atwater at a summer workshop. He received a Ph.D. in physiological chemistry and taught at Stanford University, the Pei-Yang University in China then returning to finish his career at Montana State University. It was only after his hearing loss and subsequent retirement to the Seattle area that Dr. Bateman began his serious exploration of weaving.

And exploration it was. His original plan was to prepare a weaver's reference collection to be used as study material for weaver's organizations and for classes teaching weaving, design, and textiles. Using an eight-harness Missouri table loom, he also produced boxes of samples beginning with overshot, twill, crackle, and summer & winter. His plan to document the unit weaves led to variations on established weaves and to the discovery of new weave systems.

He approached weaving with the organization and precision of a scientist. A draw down on graph paper was followed by a woven sample. He reweave areas of errors and discarded any samples that were not perfect. He shared his samples generously, organizing traveling exhibits.

Dr. Bateman died in 1965 (at age 82), in 1975 his manuscript; notes and samples were given to Virginia Harvey with the understanding that she would prepare them for publication. And thus the Monographs.

Interpreting the Monograph

Each sample has a threading draft:

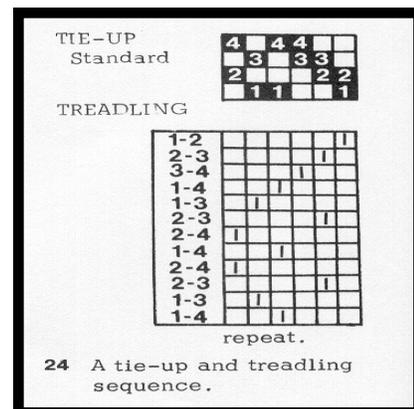
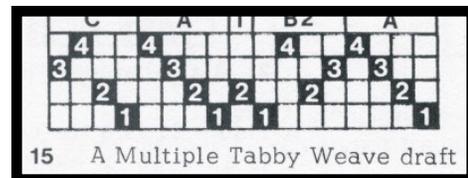
All drafts are read right to left. The number designates the shaft on which one thread will be threaded. Blocks are labeled using capital letters above the draft.

Each threading is followed by the warp yarn size, fiber, color, and sett used by Dr. Bateman.

A tie-up is shown for each sample (all tie-ups in the monograph are sinking shed) and most of the four harness drafts use the same standard tie-up.

The treadling sequence shows both the treadles used on a floor loom and the levers used on a table loom.

The treadling sequence to the right is for a one shuttle weave.



Multiple Tabby Weaves

Multiple tabby weaves are block weaves; each block has a different tabby. Dr. Bateman began with three, four thread blocks:

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Dr. Bateman then played with the threading within each block, each of the multiple tabby blocks can be written several different ways and still maintain its characteristic tabby.

Any one of the arrangements of a block can be repeated as many times as desired in a draft.

Combining blocks can present some problems—the tabby sequence may be disturbed creating a multiple thread float which disturbs the character of the weave.

Bibliography

Multiple Tabby Weaves: Based on Dr. William G. Bateman's Manuscript, edited by Virginia Harvey.