

November Weaving Sample by Doreen McLaughlin

The After 5 Weavers decided to study Ms & Os. Since I love to follow a pattern (and hate to design my own), I looked up Ms & Os patterns in the *Weaver's Index*. In Issue 32, pages 50-51, Mimi Smith's "Found Treasure: Lace and Honeycomb Mat" was listed as a Ms & Os pattern. After reading the article, I began to key the pattern into my WeavePoint software and ran into trouble. In the article, Ms. Smith stated she set up the pattern as a multiple of three to make it easy to sley the reed (3 ends to a dent in a 12 dpi reed). Well, the draft as printed in the magazine is not in groups of three. So I revised the draft to be groups of three, with the white warp indicating a doubled yarn in the heddle.

Next, I changed the draft for yarns I could easily locate. I found a cone of 10/2 cotton in emerald green. Since the original pattern used 16/2 cotton for the fine and 8/2 cotton for the thick, I knew I would need to recalculate the sett and size of the pattern. I decided to aim for a sett of 24 epi and a 44 inch width. I doubled the 10/2 rather than try and find a 5/2 in the same color. After pages of math, I decided to go with 932 pattern ends including 7 selvedge ends not shown on the threading but using shafts 9 and 10 in the tieup, plus 146 doubled ends, for a total of 1078 ends or 49 ends in each of the 22 two-inch wide sections of my AVL PDL's sectional warp beam. For 6 yards, I needed a minimum of 6468 yards for the warp and 5760 yards of weft.

10/2 cotton has 262.5 yards per ounce. The emerald green cone weighed 39 ounces, for a yardage estimate of 10,237.5 yards, not enough for both the warp and weft. I then went down to the stash and found a cone of mystery yarn (inside the cone was written "Blueberry") that looked to be very similar to the size of the 10/2 emerald green cotton and weighed 32 ounces. The Blueberry yarn became my weft yarn.

I warped on to my AVL 16-shaft Compudobby loom using the AVL warping wheel. Over the 22 sections I only had one end that was too short (those short ends make an interesting sound when they snap). Since I had tied colored thrums to the cross, I was able to insert the lease sticks and route the warp over the warp rod and into position for sleying the heddles without sitting inside the loom. The sleying of the heddles and the reed went quickly.

While weaving, the only variable was adjusting the old-fashioned AVL cloth advance. I finally settled on 34.75 picks per inch. The left hand selvedge is fine, while the right side is pitiful, even with a temple and sticky warp beam. I did notice the cloth going on to the cloth beam was not tight, I finally realized why when I spotted Amanda kitty snoozing on the fabric.

