A theoretical threading draft is included for each hand-woven coverlet in this catalogue. It is assumed that coverlets which require up to twenty-four shafts may be handwoven, although it is impossible to determine for a fact whether they are woven on looms with or without mechanical attachments. Those which have more complex patterns would certainly have been more easily woven with a mechanical addition to the loom, such as a dobbly head which provided for the automatic selection of shafts in a predetermined sequence. Drafts were reconstructed on the principle that all warp threads which behave in exactly the same way (that is, all rising or not at the same time in any given row) may be threaded on the same shaft. Certain common weaves that follow a predictable sequence, such as overshot, were reconstructed by studying the progression of the blocks and the number of threads in each block. Un-familiar weave structures were plotted thread by thread on squared paper in order to determine threading, tie-up, and treadling directions. There are numerous threading possibilities for any design, all of which would weave exactly the same patterns if the tie-up and treadling directions were altered accordingly.

Technical information in this catalogue is directed toward the experienced weaver. Readers who wish to expand their weaving knowledge will find valuable information in a variety of sources. Excellent general information will be found in Mary Black, *New Key to Weaving*. Weavers who wish to develop skills in pattern drafting should refer to *Weaves and Pattern Drafting* by John Tovey. Information on weaving and drafting overshot and summer and winter will be found in *The Shuttlecraft Book of American Handweaving* by Mary Atwater. *Designing and Drafting for Handweavers* by Berta Frey is excellent for the study of block-weave designing.

There are many acceptable methods for writing weave drafts. The form which will be used in this catalogue is as follows (Fig. 1):

*Threading*: Each horizontal space represents one shaft. The corresponding numbers will be found at the far right. Dots show the order in which warp ends are “drawn in” or threaded on the shafts. Threading directions are always read from right to left.

*Tie-up*: The box in the upper right hand corner indicates which shafts are controlled by which treadles. The treadles are numbered across the top.

*Treading*: The column below the tie-up indicates row by row
which treadle is to be depressed in order to weave the pattern.

Owing to limitations of catalogue space, tie-up and treadling directions may appear separately rather than being attached to threading drafts.

**Profile, short, or block drafts:**
Where groups of warp threads behave in a predictable fashion for certain weave structures, a profile draft serves as a shorthand method of presenting threading information. Rather than indicating directions thread by thread, a solid blacked-in area represents a group or block of warp ends. Letters at the far right designate the blocks. Assigning letters to blocks is just as arbitrary as assigning shafts to warp ends; it is the overall consistency of threading (or blocks), tie-up, and treadling orders which determines the coverlet pattern (Fig. 2).

Some weaves are written as threading drafts and some as short or profile drafts. Most of the twill derivatives are given as threading drafts, as they may be unfamiliar structures. Overshot is also presented as a threading draft. Profiles are used for summer and winter, for block weaves based on twill, and for doublecloth.

Treading sequences are included only if they are not “as drawn in,” that is, following the same progression as the threading sequence.

A description of the coverlet weaves follows:

**Simple weaves:** one set of warp threads and one set of weft threads, each of which contributes equally to the structure and pattern of the fabric.

*Catalogue Numbers 1–3; Twills, W.L. US-1268, 18, 15.*

Areas or blocks of warp-faced twill contrast with areas of weft-faced twill to form complex geometric patterns. This weave is variously known by the terms “twill diaper,” “twill damask,” “turned twill,” “counter-changed twill” and “double-faced twill.” Each block requires four shafts. Each coverlet in this collection has a four-block pattern, requiring a sixteen-shaft loom.

*Catalogue Number 4, Point twill, W.L. US-1083.*

A twelve-shaft twill which reverses regularly on shafts one and twelve. Each weft thread is offset from the one in the previous row by one warp thread.

**Compound weaves:** (a) one set of warp threads, two sets of weft threads.

In the case of every coverlet of this type in this collection, one weft weaves with the warp to form a plain weave foundation fabric of linen, cotton, or
a combination of the two. The secondary pattern weft is wool, heavier in diameter than the plain weave weft. All of these compound weaves are based on twills and twill derivatives. In every case, alternating rows of plain weave are to be woven between pattern rows, although this is not indicated in the weaving directions.

Catalogue Numbers 5–9; Twill Derivative (Overshot), W.L. US-2171, 16, 27B, 149, 1680.

One of the most common and easily recognizable twill derivatives is overshot. Virtually all overshot patterns require only a four-shaft loom. In overshot weaves, the pattern weft floats over two or more warp threads to form the design. The length of the float, and hence, the width of the block, is limited only by the imagination of the designer and the use to which the fabric is to be put. To avoid snagging, floats in these coverlets are usually no more than a half inch long. In a properly designed overshot draft, odd and even threads always alternate so that a good plain weave may be woven. In W.L. US-27B, this rule was periodically disregarded and the ground weave is consequently full of flaws.

Catalogue Numbers 10–12; Twill Derivative (Summer and Winter) W.L. US-151, 1004, 1063.

Another readily identifiable twill derivative is summer and winter. Characteristics of this weave are that pattern wefts always float over or under three warp threads, and are tied down by the fourth. The design is composed of contrasting areas in which the pattern weft appears predominately on either the face or reverse side of the fabric. As traditionally woven, the tie-downs alternate in every other row so that the weft floats form a bricklike appearance. Shafts one and two are reserved for the tie-downs, and each block requires one additional harness. Therefore, a four-block pattern requires a six-shaft loom. Plain weave is woven in rows of shafts one and two together alternating with rows of all the remaining shafts. Many similar designs may be woven in either overshot or summer and winter, but as summer and winter never has long floats, the width of the blocks is not limited.

Catalogue Number 13; Twill Derivative, W.L. US-2204.

At first examination this coverlet appears to be summer and winter weave. However, the weft floats over groups of five warp ends rather than three. The structure is such that two shafts (one and two) are reserved for tie downs, and each block requires two additional shafts. This five-block pattern requires a total of twelve shafts. In drafting, care must be taken to alternate odd and even shafts in order to weave the plain weave foundation. For example, block A would be 1, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, etc. The smallest possible block unit is three warp ends. A complete threading draft is not included, due to limitations of catalogue space. It is suggested that summer and winter be used for this design, requiring only seven shafts. Tie-up directions are given for summer and winter weave.

Catalogue Numbers 14, 15; Twill Derivative, W.L. US-1782, 70.

These coverlet weaves are closely related to that in W.L. US-2204, having the same brick-like appearance based on weft floats of five threads and alternating tie-downs on shafts one and two. The threading drafts of W.L. US-1782 and 70 are very similar, the difference in design being primarily in the tie-up. They combine features of block weaves with those of straight-draw twills. Tie-downs are introduced to prevent long floats in areas with large motifs, and omitted for the smaller motifs. The com-
plexity of these designs would suggest that some mechanical device, such as a doby head for controlling shedding sequences, may have been used.

Catalogue Number 16; Twill Derivative, W.L. US-68.

Again, the tie-downs are on the first two shafts, however, they occur together every ninth and tenth threads. Blocks each require two additional shafts, are usually four threads long, and usually two blocks are woven together. Weft floats are over four, five, or nine warp ends (one or two blocks plus one tie-down). This eight-block pattern requires eighteen shafts. In his book Keep Me Warm One Night, Burnham suggests another system for this type of weave, which involves two sets of heddles, one for the ground weave and another for the blocks.

Catalogue Number 17; Twill, W.L. US-36.

This is a ten-shaft point twill. The primary difference between this weave and that used in W.L. US-1083 (Catalogue number 4) is that the pattern weft in this coverlet is woven in a twill sequence on a plain weave ground.

Catalogue Numbers 18–25; Doublecloth, W.L. US-17, 1085, 2164, 13, 14, 7, 1005, 22.

In this category is doublecloth, in which one set of warps forms a plain weave with one set of wefts, so that two complete fabrics are woven. Designs are based on geometrics of four, five, or six blocks. Each block requires four shafts, hence these coverlets require from sixteen to twenty-four shafts. One layer in each of these coverlets is of indigo blue wool warp and weft. The other layer is a solid color unless indicated otherwise in the threading directions. The second layer in one coverlet (W.L. US-17) is red wool warp and weft. In all of the remaining doublecloth coverlets, the second layer is composed mainly, if not entirely, of white cotton warp and weft. In those coverlet drafts which indicate threading and treading in red and white, the red is wool.

Joyce Marquess

Compound Weaves: (b)
Two sets of warp threads and two sets of weft threads.
SIMPLE WEAVE: TWILL
W.L. US. 1268

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Treading: As drawn in
Seven repeats

Tie-up

Cat. no. 1
SIMPLE WEAVE: TWILL

W.L. US. 18

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

*Color:* First repeat, "A" is red, "D" is white
Second repeat, "A" is white, "D" is red

Tie-up

Treadling

Cat. no. 2
SIMPLE WEAVE: TWILL
W.L. US. 15

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Tie-up: Same as W.L. US. 1268

Treadling:

Cat. no. 3
SIMPLE WEAVE: POINT TWILL
W.L. US. 1083

Threading  Tie-up

Cat. no. 4
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—OVERSHOT
W.L. US. 2171

Threading

Tie-up

Threading: Four repeats

Treadling: As drawn in
Nine and one half repeats

Cat. no. 5
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—OVERSHOT

W.L. US. 16

Threading

Unit A

Tie-up

Unit B

Threading: Unit A 1X
B 2X
A 1X
B 2X
A 1X
B 2X
A 1X
B 1X

Treadling: As drawn in
All "A" and "C" blocks red
All "B" and "D" blocks green
Eight repeats for length

Cat. no. 6
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—OVERSHOT
W.L. US. 27B

Threading: Four repeats. The original coverlet has many threading mistakes (bracketed), which should be corrected to make good plain weave. Two odds or two evens should never occur together.

Treading: As drawn in
Eleven repeats

Cat. no. 7
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—OVERSHOT
W.L. US. 149

**Threading**: Three repeats plus beginning to center of table

**Treading**: As drawn in. Pattern on opposites (do not treadle 2–3 or 1–4 combination unless there are more than two in sequence).

**Color**: All "A" blocks red
All "B", "C", "D" blocks blue

Cat. no. 8
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—OVERSHOT
W.L. US. 1680

Threading

Tie-up

Threading: A to B twice
A to C once

Treadling: As drawn in
Four and one half repeats for length
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—SUMMER AND WINTER

W.L. US. 151

Threading: Profile draft

Threading: Border
   A to B two times

Treading: As drawn in
   Five times for length

Cat. no. 10
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—SUMMER AND WINTER

W.L. US. 1004

Threading: Profile draft

Threading: Border
A to B three times

Treading: As drawn in
Eight times for length

Cat. no. 11
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE—SUMMER AND WINTER

W.L. US. 1063

Threading: Profile draft

Threading: Border
A to B four times

Treadling: As drawn in
Ten repeats for length

Cat. no. 12
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE
W.L. US. 2204

Threading: Profile draft

Tie-up (for summer and winter)

Threading: A to B three times
A to C one time

Cat. no. 13
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE
W.L. US. 1782

Threading

Reverse to beginning for whole unit.

Threading: Border
1 – 17 five times
Five units

Treadling: "Overshot" area – repeat treadles 1 and 2
 to square blocks
Small flowers: one row each treadle 3 – 15 – 3
Large flowers: three rows each, 3 – 15 – 3

Cat. no. 14
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE
W.L. US. 70

Threading

Tie-up

Reverse to beginning to complete unit

Threading: Four and a half units

Treadling: 1 - 19 - 1, One row each for short unit
Three rows each for large unit

Cat. no. 15
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, TWILL DERIVATIVE
W.L. US. 68

Threading

Reverse to beginning to complete.
Reverse order of blocks (i.e. 3,4,3,4)
to maintain odd-even sequence for tabby.

Treading: Weave each pattern row four times
Reverse to complete motif

Cat. no. 16
COMPOUND WEAVE: SUPPLEMENTARY WEFT, POINT TWILL
W.L. US. 36

Threading:

Tie-up:

Threading: Repeat A to C three times
A to B one time

Treading: As drawn in to square blocks
Tabby shot between each pattern weft

Cat. no. 17
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLE CLOTH
W.L. US. 17

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Treadling
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOBLECLOTH
W.L. US. 1085

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Threading: Border
A to B seven times
A to C one time

Cat. no. 19
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLECLOTH
W.L. US. 2164

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Color: All "B", "C", "D" blocks white
All "A" blocks red
Second layer all blue

Cat. no. 20
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLECLOTH
W.L. US. 13

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Threading: Border
A to C three times
A to B one time

Cat. no. 21
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLECLOTH
W.L. US. 14

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Threading: Border
A to C four times
A to B one time

Color: All "A", "B", "C" blocks white
All "D", "E" blocks red
Second layer all blue

Cat. no. 22
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLECLOTH
W.L. US. 7

Threading: Each square equals four ends.

Threading: Second layer all blue
All "D", "E" blocks red
All "A", "B", "C" blocks white

Cat. no. 23
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLECLOTH

W.L. US. 1005

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Treading

Cat. no. 24
COMPOUND WEAVE: DOUBLECLOTH
W.L. US. 22

Threading: Profile draft. Each square equals four ends.

Threading: Border
A to B two times
B to C one time

Treadling

Cat. no. 25