LLD – 2002 – OCCONEECHEE LODGE 104

AIA – LOOM BEADWORK ***Jeff D. Brewer***

Style of Dance: Grass, Fancy, and Straight Dancer Belts

Geometric and Flora Designs.

Research the Beadwork – Some color combinations go with certain tribes

Looms:
Tandy, Crazy Crow, and others. You can make you own. See Powwow Vendors.

Beads:

Larger the Number = the small the bead
Cuts = shinny beads

If you have a huge project, purchase them all at once.

Suppliers:

Tandy, Crazy Crow, and others. See Powwow Vendors

I use #10 Tandy Beads.

Graph Paper or Bead Paper for design's.

One System to Use:

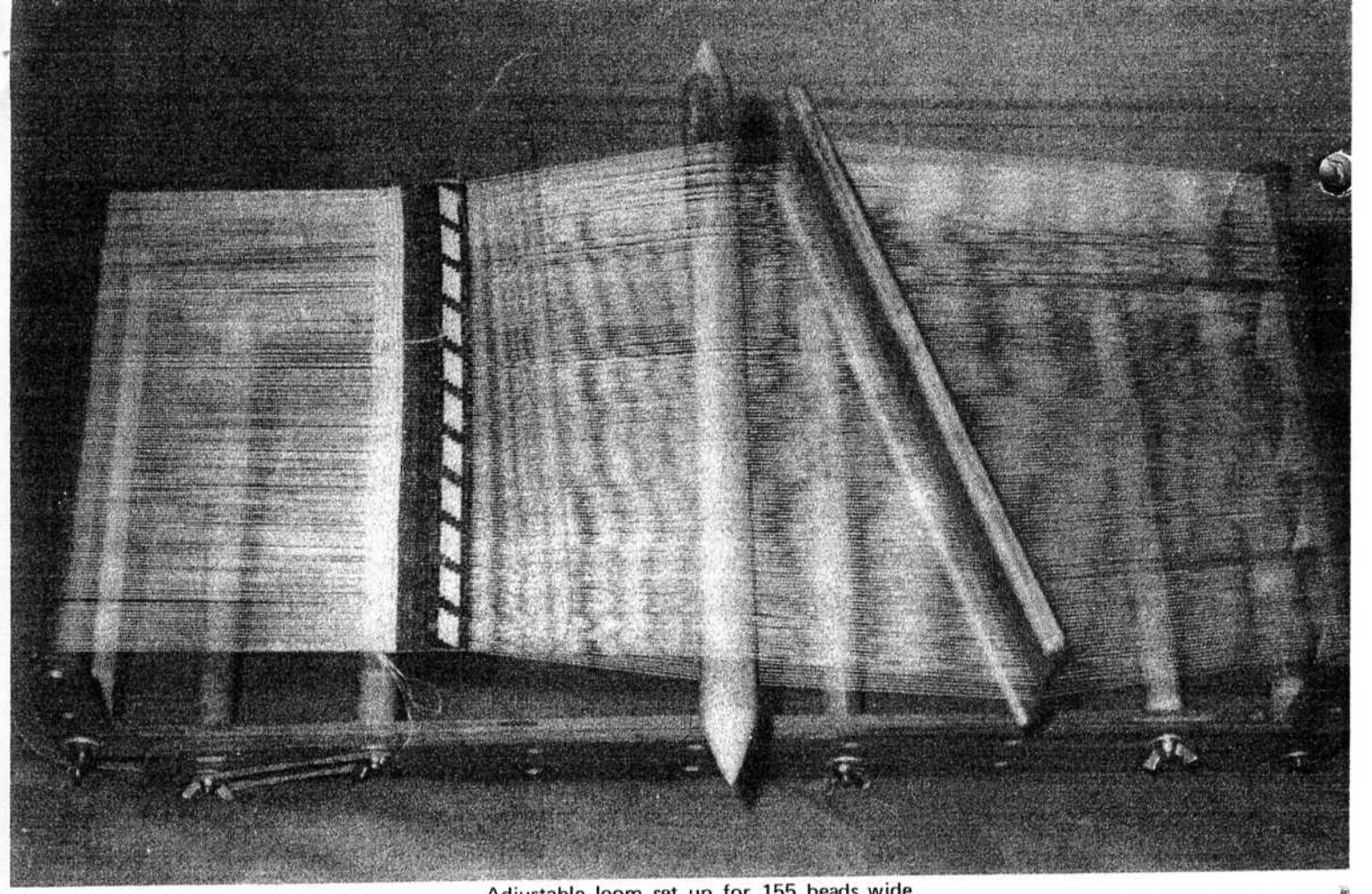
☒ = Red
☒ = Orange
☐ = White
⊡ = Blue
⊟ = Yellow
⊡ = Black

Heddle's = Faster way to do Beadwork, it separates the lines for you.

Suppliers: Some Powwow vendors, Calvin Terry Sr. in the Lodge, and Hoyt's Heddle and Looms – Karen Hoyt – 704-786-5705 or kdh1993@yahoo.com

String:

Polyester and use Bee's Wax
Key = One more wrap thread is needed than the number of beads in you design. If there are 19 beads in your design, a total of 20 wrap threads are needed, meaning there will be 19 spaces to place beads.



Adjustable loom set up for 155 beads wide.

Heddle Loom Beading

by John Lotter

(Ed. Note: For a good number of years now non-Indian (and a few Indian) craftsmen have been laboring with great pain and frustration when doing loomwork. Those with patience have mastered the technique which at best is truely not a traditional Indian method of loom style beadwork and it is certainly not the favored method among those tribes employing "loom style" work.

Two of "Indian lore's" early writers, Bernard Mason and Ben Hunt, have been partially responsible for the continuation of this "error" among Scouts and Indian lore groups. Until articles appeared in *American Indian Tradition* magazine, no other technique was tried or researched by most groups or individuals.

Robert Salzer's diagram in *American Indian Tradition*, May 1961, is incorrect and will confuse a person attempting to begin a heddlework project.

We will not attempt to delve into traditional methods used by Indian craftsmen at this time as a series on beadwork techniques is now in preparation for future publication. The author of our article, Mr. Lotter, has been an advocate of heddle work for a great many years and has made believers of many in the Illinois areas. I was told that during his spring vacation one year he began and completed a bandolier bag. This should substantiate the claim of speed of doing this style of beadwork. Bear in mind that this is a contemporary loom designed for ease in handling and flexibility of projects.

We are deeply grateful to John Lotter for sharing with us his knowledge and experience.)

PREFACE

The May 1961 issue of the *American Indian Tradition* carried an article by Robert Salzer, using a Heddle in loom beading as practiced by Central Algonkin tribes. The description is brief and refers mainly to a double warp method, using a semi-fixed loom. Since loom work usually was not sewn to a backing, it necessitated the use of coarse, strong thread. The use of modern Dacron or Nylon thread and double warp, strength requirements are adequately met. Whereas stringing the loom requires more time and patience than the usual or traditional single warp loom, the resulting product is much stronger

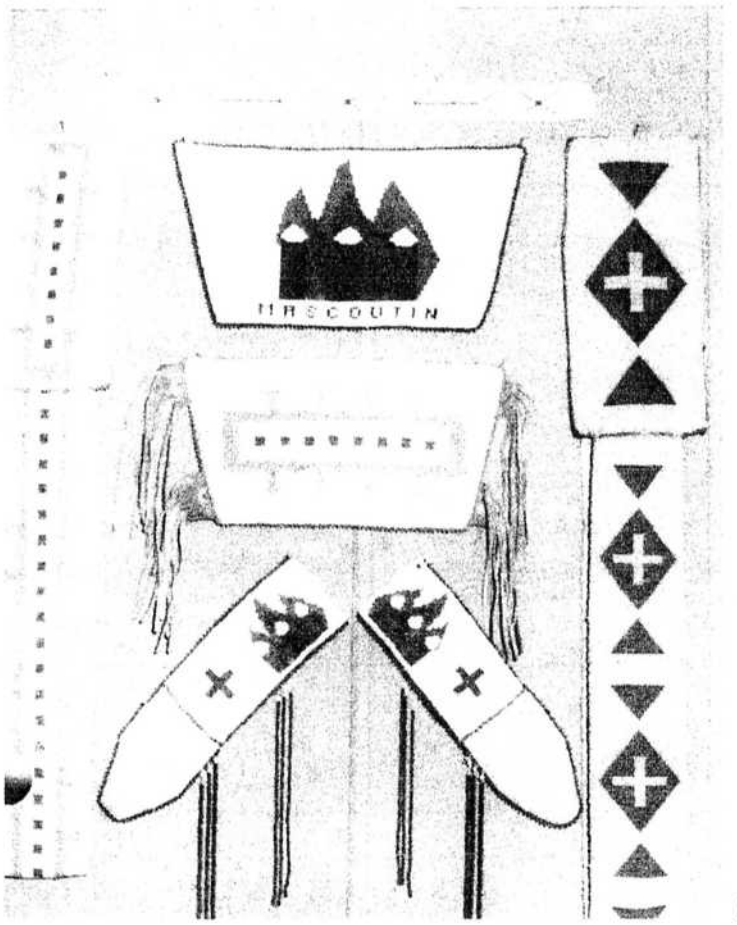
and durable. Another factor is the greater speed that can be attained with the use of a Heddle, especially on wider work such as belts, harnesses, cuffs, etc. Also edge beads can be attached at the same time that the bead weaving is done.

A Heddle consists of a thin piece of wood or other material in which holes are drilled and slots cut, through which the warp threads are strung. By the use of a Heddle and double warp, each bead is locked in place by the crisscrossing of the warp threads. (See fig. 1) Single warp appears as in fig. 2. Another advantage is that the beads need only to be strung once on the weft thread, eliminating the possibility of breaking a bead while making a second pass through the beads as in the ordinary loom beading method.

In Salzer's description of a double warp loom, the ends of one of the warp are fastened to two fixed points and the ends of the other warp thread is tied to a fixed point and to the Heddle itself. For work of considerable length the loom would be very long and difficult to operate. A fixed loom with its length adjustable is more practical. A useful loom for Heddle work should be at least 18 inches long, since about 6 inches of this length is needed for the operation of the Heddle.

STRINGING THE LOOM

Here is a procedure that can be followed in stringing a fixed loom. Variations to suit your own methods can be used.



Starting with the center hole in the Heddle, moisten the end of the thread and push it through the hole 'A' in the Heddle (wax 4 or 5 inches of the end, waxing helps knots hold better) then over and in the groove in rod 'B', down to the screw or peg in rod 'A', and tie securely. The standing part of the thread which is to be warp 'A', continues over and in the groove in rod 'C', down and under rod 'D' to and under rod 'E' and around screw or peg in 'E' (do not tie here, just loop around) back under rod 'E' and under rod 'D', up and over and in the same groove in rod 'C'. Now estimate the length of thread needed to go to rod 'A' allowing sufficient thread to tie to the screw at 'A', cut the thread from the spool, wax at least 5 inches of the end of the thread and pass the end through the slot in the Heddle at 'A', over and in the same groove in rod 'B' down and around the screw at 'A' and tie securely. Keep moderate tension on this thread and allow no slack. Follow the same procedure with warp thread 'B', use the next hole in the Heddle and its adjacent slot, but tie it to the other screw at 'A'. Alternate from one side of the Heddle holes and slots to the other, being sure that the slots are on the same sides of the holes. Keep tension as even as possible. When nearing the outer sides of the Heddle if you notice that the center threads are becoming slack, you are putting too much tension on these latter warp threads.

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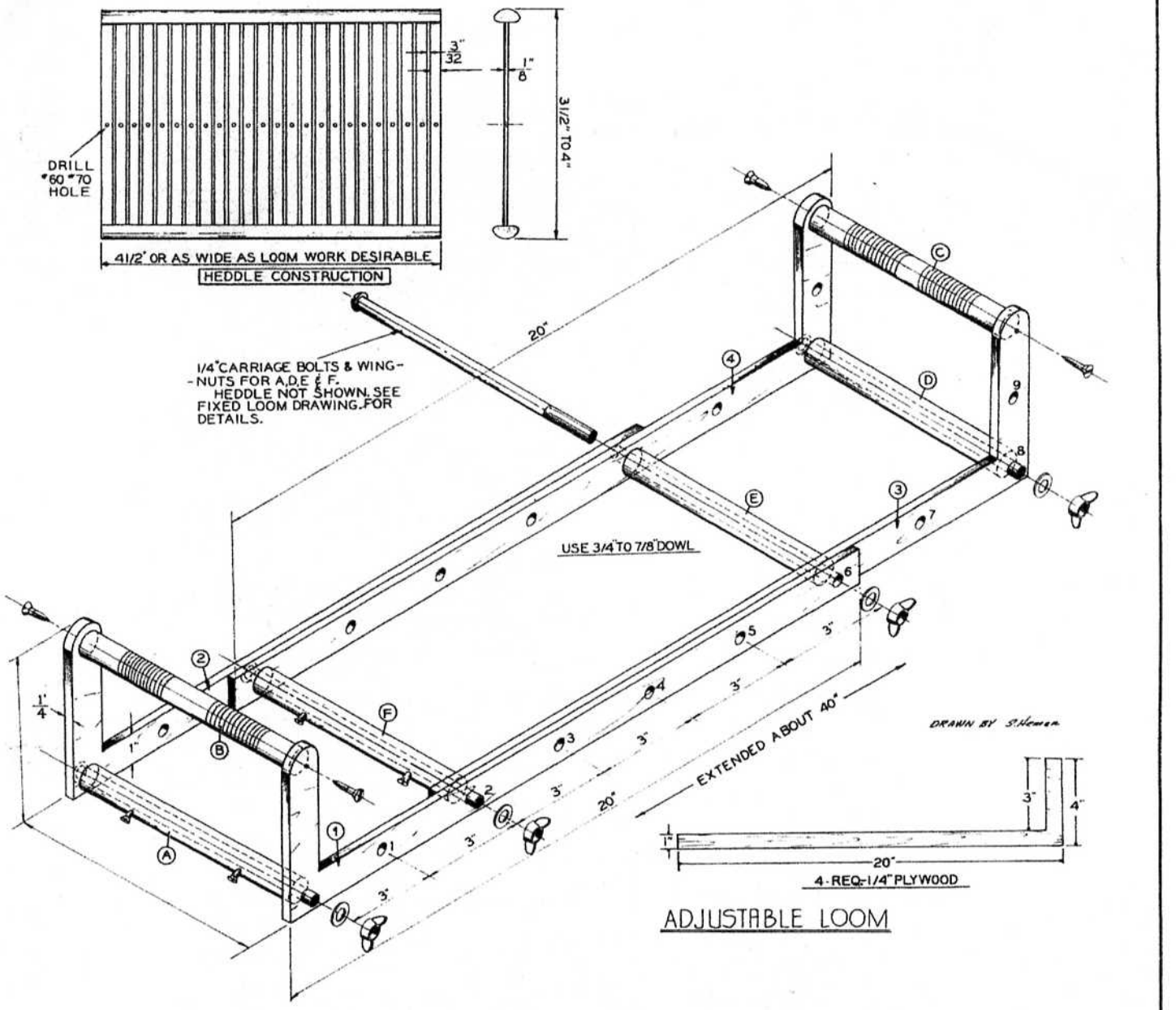

Rod 'E' can be divided into two or more pieces with a screw or peg in each piece. This allows tightening of the warp threads in the different sections of the work. On wide work this is very helpful. Rod 'E' can be moved to any position from 1 through 8 to provide enough length for warp threads for longer pieces of beadwork. If rod 'E' is started in position for maximum length, that is, in position '1', it can be moved along to positions 2 through 8 and the finished beadwork can be rolled up on rod 'A'. The loom can also be strung starting with the outside holes in the Heddle and continuing towards the center, using the same method as outlined above.

For clarity only 4 warp threads are shown. One more warp thread is needed than the number of beads in your design. If there are 19 beads in your design, a total of 20 warp threads are needed, meaning there will be 19 spaces to place beads.

TECHNIQUE

The procedure for weaving with the loom is as follows:

With the end of the loom towards you, and the loom strung, grasp the Heddle with the left hand and pull it upward. This separates the warp threads. With the right hand insert the separator rod between the separated warp threads. (This separator rod is a piece of dowel rod, broomstick or other round material, about 3/4 inch in diameter, pointed at both ends, and a little longer than the projected work is wide. (See diagram) It merely serves to hold the warp threads apart, freeing both hands. It is suggested that the cross thread, the weft, be used double, making for a strong piece of work. Dacron is very suitable for the weft thread. Take the weft thread with the needle on it, (without beads) and pass it from the right side to the left between the