



HANDWOVEN TABLE LINENS: 27 FABULOUS PROJECTS FROM A MASTER WEAVER by Tom Knisely
Stackpole Books, 4501 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 200, Lanham, Maryland, 20706.
2017. Softcover. 88 pages. \$22.95.

In his latest compilation, veteran weaver and Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center instructor Tom Knisely focuses on table linens—mats, runners, napkins, mug rugs, and a tablecloth.

Utilizing a variety of weave structures, the author takes advantage of teachable moments which result in both an appealing collection of finished projects and several opportunities for less experienced weavers to learn about profile drafts, “use tabby” notations, and other aspects of weaving.

Along with a brief history and cultural perspective on table linens themselves, considerations regarding appropriate materials and finishing techniques are given in the

introductory chapters. Rosepath, pinwheel, complementary plain weave, warp rep variations, and Quigley are some of the structures presented; over two-thirds are designed for four-shaft looms, with the remaining projects requiring eight shafts.

Close-up photos show the detailed interlacements and, as in Knisely’s earlier rag rug and baby blanket books, the threading and treadling diagrams are in a large, clear typeface (although they lack some consistency in labeling, layout order, and orientation on the pages). Each project description includes a suggested yarn (many specify 8/4 or pearl cotton), color, sett, total ends, and width.

Readers, however, are encouraged to make their own modifications and calculations will need to be done to determine preferred warp length and fiber amounts—prior knowledge of basic warping and weaving procedures is required. Commentary on each project’s design inspiration—be it tableware collections, color palettes, or the opportunity to adapt patterns from classic weaving texts by authors such as Harriet Tidball, Bertha Gray Hayes, or Marguerite Porter Davison—adds an insightful dimension to this attractive volume.

*Reviewed by Susan Knorr
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