

KNOTTING STITCH

from Kathy Sehnert

I found the reference to the knotting stitch as a reprint in an old weaving newsletter from my first attempts to weave 20 years ago. It was taken from Nancy Arthur Hoskins' book, "Universal Stitches for Weaving, Embroidery, and other Fiber Arts," Skein Publications, Eugene, Oregon, 1982. I have found a used copy of this book on Amazon, which I have ordered to be donated to the FCWG library.

I have since started using it as a hemming stitch for all the mug rugs that I make. It is simple to do and is faster than the hemstitch. It is best done on the loom under tension; however, I like to secure the hem threads of my little mug rugs with glue that will wash out (i.e. "school glue") so that they are held in place when I remove the rugs from the loom. Then I can do the hemming with the knotting stitch in the comfort of my easy chair when I watch a movie. Here are the basic directions.

Nancy Arthur Hoskins:

"If I could choose only one stitch to introduce to weavers, I would select the basic knotting stitch. The stitch is easy to learn, versatile, and useful in many decorative and functional ways. Weavers are rarely familiar with the stitch, although the basic structure of the stitch is a simple knot.

"The knotting stitch in its most basic form is a simple or overhand knot. The stitch can be worked with a single element and without implements."

Working from right to left across the warp: See diagram.

1. The needle slips under a single warp, or a small group of warps, and comes out over the looped portion of the stitching element (i.e. thread or yarn or whatever you are using to make the knot.)
2. Hold the thread snug along the line of stitching; slip the needle under the next warp or warp group and behind the thread. Bring the needle out over the looped portion of the thread.

The secret of success with this stitch is to keep a little tension on the working thread.

For use as a hemming stitch, leave a length of weft on the right selvedge about 4 to 5 times the width of the weaving.

