



e-shuttle VOLUME IV, number 6
September 19, 2001

Welcome to the **18th Edition** of the AVL e-shuttle!

In this issue:

1. **eLift ... It's Here!**
2. **Upcoming Classes AVL Weaving School**
3. **Used Loom Update**
4. **Ann Sutton Foundation**
5. **A Pause to Remember**

1. eLift ... It's Here! We are pleased to announce [eLift™](#), the electronic marvel that makes lifting harnesses a breeze. **eLift** can be added to any AVL dobby loom built since 1979. Among its many virtues is the fact that it does away with noisy and expensive compressors forever.

Many of you first saw **eLift** at Convergence 2000 in Cincinnati. That **eLift** was being used on our new 40 harness dobby loom, AVL 40. Many of you asked for a retrofit kit for your current dobby looms. It took awhile, but here it is.

AVL's engineering staff worked for over a year on the **eLift** project. They tested a wide variety of systems and worked overtime to make sure it fit on all AVL dobbies ... be they 16 or 24 shaft; Production, Technical, or Studio. And to make sure that it's easy to set up, too.

The retrofitting won't take long. You'll need to drill a couple of holes, then you attach **eLift** to your loom and plug it into a normal wall socket. A mere touch of the foot pedal raises the harnesses. Touch it again and they go down. It's that simple.

Beneath its outward simplicity, though, lies a system that reflects the absolute latest in high technology. **eLift** uses a Stepper Motor similar to the one found on the seek arms in your computer's hard drive. As such, it is ultra-reliable and capable of performing millions of operations without any service. The brains of the **eLift** are located in its own Programmable Logic Controller; a mini-computer, if you will, that tells it just how much to raise and lower the shed.

Just to make sure that you won't have any problems with the installation, though, each **eLift** comes with a CD-ROM instructional video that's suitable for both Windows and Mac.

There's no need for an air compressor as on the Air Dobby and it's very quiet.

If you are interested, then we can send you the CD-ROM, so you can see how it works and how to install it. Just drop us an e-mail.

2. Upcoming Classes AVL Weaving School. We have an exciting [new schedule of classes](#) for the Fall and Winter. Our new instructor, Sandy Fisher, will teach all classes. Sandy's 20 years of experience, as both a production weaver and instructor, promise to make these classes our best ever. Just look at this schedule: **Maximizing the Use of Your AVL:** October 10-13 and January 16-19; **Production Weaving: How to Make Money Using My AVL Loom:** March 6-8; **Weaving a Color Wheel:** April 3-5. For details, . For more information on Sandy, take a look at her [Web Site](#).

3. Previously Owned AVLs. For a while this Summer, our [Used Loom Inventory](#) was rather depleted. But recently, we have had a great number of looms show up on our loading dock. And some of them are incredible bargains. Peter Straus, AVL's President, recently picked one up here in Northern California and reports, "this loom is in fabulous condition. I've never seen one this well-cared for and in such great shape". Peter's pick is Serial number 01294. It's a 1994 60" Production Dobby Loom.

4. The Ann Sutton Foundation is a new exciting venture that will launch officially in Spring 2002. It is a place of research into woven textiles of all types, where the research Fellows work on projects from art, science, and industry. Three research Fellows have been appointed and will start in early September 2001 and there is a **FOURTH LOOM** which is available for hire, together with accommodation.

The loom is an AVL Compu-Dobby, 24 harnesses, 20 inch weaving width, and two warp beams. It is available, on a monthly basis, to competent weavers who are conversant with AVL looms, WeaveMaker Pro software, and iMacs.

There is no tuition, but tutorials with well-known weavers can be arranged.

WHO WILL USE THE LOOM?

- Teachers on sabbatical leave or during holidays
- Freelance designers wishing to prepare a collection
- Designer/makers developing their work
- In-house designers from industry
- Potential purchasers of an AVL loom, etc.

WHY USE IT IN THE FOUNDATION STUDIOS?

Because the Fellows are highly talented young weavers and the working atmosphere will be conducive to creative personal development. For more details, and an application form, please e-mail Joanne at jb@theannsuttonfoundation.org

5. A Pause to Remember. Like everyone else in the civilized world, we have had a terrible week. The horrifying events of September 11th have been seared into our brains like nothing before ... ever. Yet we have been greatly gratified by all of the wonderful notes we received from our friends around the world. We got e-mails and calls from weavers in Australia, Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Taiwan, and Thailand, as well as notes and letters from folks around the U.S. and Canada.

It's our hope that the tragedy will bring us all a little more together. After all, the rapid transmission of both the events in New York and Washington and then the following e-mails and calls that circumnavigated the globe only served to remind us just how small this global village of ours has become ... and how much we have all come to rely upon one another.

Here's hoping that in the end (as written by D. Brazil, of Ireland, in the New York Times) "we, peace lovers, will win and the world will be a better place. That is probably the best we can offer to those who have lost loved ones this week."

[home page](#) > [newsletter](#) > e-shuttle vol. 4, #6