



e-shuttle VOLUME V, number 2
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Welcome to the **22nd Edition** of the AVL e-shuttle!

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1. AVL Factory-Refurbished Looms

Now is a great time to look into getting a Factory Refurbished AVL Loom. Why? Because we have an unprecedented number in stock, so prices have never been lower. But that's not the only reason.

Before a refurbished AVL is released for re-sale, AVL employees painstakingly inspect it according to an exhaustive set of standards. Each loom is judged according to exacting demands for appearance, operation, performance, and overall soundness. Any parts that don't meet standards are replaced, tweaked, or re-worked until they are approved. ALL parts are cleaned, waxed, and checked for structural integrity. The final product is a refurbished AVL loom that will give you the performance and pleasure that is AVL.

Please don't think that we're exaggerating, just take a look at what a recent buyer, Darlene Fitzpatrick,

had to say to us:

We started unpacking on the truck and carrying the pieces into the house. We had it together by Sunday night. All during the assembly, my husband kept saying, "Are you sure this is a used loom?"

I just wanted to thank you for a spectacular job, it is beautiful. I had to be gone all last week, but I'm threading it now and have 90 bars pegged up and ready to put on. I'm really excited.

Furthermore, when you purchase a factory-refurbished loom directly from us, you get a **Full One-Year Warranty**. The certainty this warranty provides will give you the feeling of confidence you get with any new AVL loom.

So take a look at our [Used Loom Page](#); you'll find some incredible deals, especially in 40" Small Frame 16 Harness Dobby looms.

2. Crossmaker is here

Now available through AVL: the [Warping Wheel Crossmaker](#). Many of you were not completely satisfied with the masking tape cross system that we advocate, so longtime user, Dick Lindell, prevailed upon us to make a change. Actually, he did the heavy lifting; now we're going to make it available to the public.

The Crossmaker is an easy add-on to the Warping Wheel and making a cross is a breeze!

3. Upcoming AVL Tour Stops

Conference of Northern California Handweavers, April 12-14 (see Item 6 below).

Convergence 2002 in Vancouver, August 1-4. Keep watching this space for details of what we'll be bringing.

4. On Succeeding (as a Weaver) by Peter Collingwood

The following short and pithy list was developed by Peter Collingwood, in answer to the question of how to succeed as a handweaver. Mr. Collingwood may be the most widely known and successful Rug

Weaver in the world today (although his son, Jason, is giving him a run for his money!). He has authored numerous books on weaving and can still weave, at age 80, any of the macrogauzes shown on his wonderful web site at <http://www.petercollingwood.co.uk>.

Succeeding (as a weaver). In no particular order.

- 1) Throw out all traditional methods and techniques which are slow, however many designs possibilities they offer.
- 2) Concentrate on one type of weaving, so that eventually your name is associated with it.
- 3) Develop new ways of patterning using the shafts and not your fingers. I initially tried applying all sorts of techniques normally used in fine fabrics.
- 4) Work fast and long and be willing to repeat. My aim was to weave a 3' x 5' rug in two days; so that meant at least three rugs per week. And that meant I could sell them inexpensively and just get by. So don't think of yourself as an artist, but as an artisan weaver.
- 5) At first, take them to shops which from magazines seem to favour hand made objects. Private orders will not come at the beginning.
- 6) Join as many exhibiting craft societies as possible and always send in many pieces to the annual shows.
- 7) Get in touch with furniture/design magazines; be willing to weave a rug simply to go in one of their advertising photos.
- 8) Don't try to expand or employ assistants. Do everything yourself, making, packing, delivering (on a bicycle in London!).
- 9) Don't worry about house style, special note-paper, fancy packing, printed business cards. Hand write all your correspondence.
- 10) Be obstinate in your belief that you are going to succeed.
- 11) Don't think you can do a little pottery, sketching, carpentry on the side.
- 12) Be super-critical of your work. Don't let the glow that results from producing something yourself dull you to the fact that it may look very ordinary or derivative to others! Is it worth weaving it by hand if to the non-weaver it looks as if it were machine-woven?
- 13) Be lucky!

- Peter Collingwood

5. Production Weaving Classes at AVL

Is it creativity or business planning that helps a production weaver to succeed? As artisans, we would like to think it's all luck and creativity, but in reality it also takes a systematic approach to one's business. AVL's new workshop, [Production Weaving, Making Money Using Your AVL](#), is an inspirational way for weaver's who are starting or maintaining a weaving business to get focused on what works in the market place. In AVL's Production Weaving, students learn from weaving and business experts. The instructors focus on AVL loom tips for weaving quickly and efficiently, how to develop a business and market your woven product, and how to care for your weaver's body. It is the instructor's tried and true experiences that make the difference between theory and reality.

"This course was fantastic and the materials and resources were, and are, very useful. I was a little nervous about the time and expense of taking the course, but it was well worth it!" ~ Stefanie M., Ann Arbor, Michigan

The next Production Weaving workshop will be held at AVL's headquarters in Chico on September 18-20, 2002.

6. Attention! Northern California Handweavers!

Once again, AVL Looms will be setting up a booth at the [Conference of Northern California Handweavers](http://www.cnch.org) (http://www.cnch.org). This year's show will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center, across from Great America, April 12-14.

We will be showcasing some of our new products. The Workshop Dobby Loom will be there and we'll have a few in boxes ready for a few lucky weavers to take home. We'll also have our new Compu-Dobby equipped eight shaft Home Loom. A new and inexpensive way to learn doobby weaving. We'll also have the new Warping Wheel Crossmaker, and a Warping Wheel, too.

Plus we'll have software and a full-sized loom and, of course, we'll be offering some fabulous **CONFERENCE DISCOUNTS!** See you there.

7. French Web Site. Now in English.

[Lanavette](http://lanavette.com) (http://lanavette.com) is the premier handweaving site in France. The site has recently added an English language section and is, therefore, not to be missed. Clicking on almost any link reveals wonderful images of old-time European weaving or fascinating articles on the history of weaving. Check out, for example, the article on the "caviar" of weaving by longtime AVL owner, [Augusta Uhlenbeck](http://lanavette.com/articles/augusta/caviar_facticeUS.htm), (http://lanavette.com/articles/augusta/caviar_facticeUS.htm); it's not to be missed.

8. Bobbins and Condoms and Weavers? Oh my!

From the Internet, Thursday August 2 11:08 AM ET

Weavers Discover Condoms Smooth As Silk

VARANASI, India (Reuters) - Doctors in the Indian city of Varanasi have finally discovered the reason

for a surge in the popularity of the free condoms they have been dishing out for family planning.

Weavers in the holy Hindu city, also known for its silk industry, have been using government-distributed condoms to help in producing hand-woven silk sarees.

Weavers rub the condoms on bobbins to speed up the weaving and stop yarn from snapping while making their world-famous brocade sarees.

"It is the fine quality lubricant on the condom that does the wonder trick of speeding up the spin of the bobbin while preventing frequent snapping of the yarn", said weaver Mahfooz Alam.

It takes 14 condoms to produce one Benarasi saree. There are more than 100,000 weavers in the city.

Doctors said there has been an unusual surge in the number of condoms distributed at government-run hospitals and health centers and they had long had a sneaking suspicion they were not all being used for family planning.

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