



**e-shuttle VOLUME VII, number 2**  
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Welcome to the **31st Edition** of the AVL e-shuttle!

***In this issue:***

1. AVL Olympics. A Little Over a Month Left!
2. Handweaving.net
3. Yarn from Corn???
4. Automatic Cloth Advance - One Weaver's Good Idea

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**1. AVL Olympics. A Little Over a Month Left!**

The AVL Olympics are in now in full swing. One Guild, in the Minneapolis Area has already won a Gold Medal (that's a California Traveler in the AVL Olympics!) and now they are going for another! Other guilds are already at the Silver Medal level and are going for the Gold, er Guild.

Read all about the AVL Olympics at: [http://www.avlusa.com/links/AVL\\_Olympics.htm](http://www.avlusa.com/links/AVL_Olympics.htm) (PROMOTION HAS EXPIRED).

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**2. Handweaving.net**

Whether you're thinking of making the move from four harnesses to eight or sixteen or if you're an experienced drafter of ultra-complex pegplans, the new site [www.handweaving.net](http://www.handweaving.net) will fascinate you. Currently the site has close to 9,000 weave drafts; all available for your instant viewing and downloading pleasure. All the designs on the site are WIFs, so they are recognizable by virtually all the

software on the market.

Plus, the site allows you to upload any design you want to share with others. So the site will continue to grow and become increasingly valuable.

In time, handweaving.net could become the leading repository of weaves in the world. Check it out at: <http://www.handweaving.net/Home.aspx>. Registration and use of the site is free.

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### 3. Yarn from Corn???

*In our continuing effort to comb the globe for the NEXT BIG THING, here's one that might work incredibly well in the Midwest. Special thanks to the Associated Press.*

#### The Feel Of Cornhusks

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) -- Some day, your red Cornhusker sweater might literally be made of just that.

A University of Nebraska textile scientist has developed a process to convert cornhusks into textile fibers, which can be made into yarn and woven into fabric.

Researcher Yiqi Yang already has one prototype sweater made from the cornhusk fibers -- in Nebraska red, of course.

"My interest is corn byproducts, and I'm interested in using my application to help farmers," Yang said. "It is a natural match to use husks, a material that has limited value, to make clothing and to increase corn's value for our farmers, our state and the world."

Yang's method uses basic chemistry to extract cellulose fibers and purify them. While still under development, the technique is inexpensive and efficient.

The United States produces about 20 million tons of cornhusks a year. Yang, a scientist with the College of Education and Human Sciences, estimates that at least 2 million tons of fibers could be extracted from those husks each year.

About three pounds of husks are needed to make enough fiber for an average T-shirt.

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#### 4. Automatic Cloth Advance - One Weaver's Good Idea

*Some of our best ideas come from AVL owners. Here's one as regards the new-style Automatic Cloth Advance. She actually had more than one suggestion, but the other one is going to be secret for a while.*

I've now installed my new auto advance, and it's great!

I have a suggestion for an improvement.

Rather than using a marker to mark my setts, I went to the local Lee Valley Tools store (fabulous woodworking and gardening tools, and yes, they have a website) and got a self-adhesive metal tape measure, made by Starrett. It's a half inch wide, fits perfectly on the beater leg bracket forward of the slot.

I'm now developing a table, similar to the table for the old pick wheel system, recording the measurement where the top of the connecting rod sits on the tape for the different setts. The advantage over using a marker is that it can be changed easily as I learn to use it.

-- Joyce Newman