



# From the Editor

MADELYN VAN DER HOOGT

**A**t my gym, they call the people who show up in early January and then disappear sometime in the middle of March “Resolutionaries.” I guess I am a Resolutionary—and not just with exercising. I love the clean slate (arbitrary as it might be) that the first of January represents. On that day, making big changes looks easy to me. This year, for example, I’m going to stop using plastic bags of every kind (when I figure out what to line my trash cans with). I’m going to walk to the Post Office every day instead of driving (unless there are big packages waiting for me there). I’m going to eat more of what I grow than what I buy (easy to say in January since it’s too early to garden). I’m going to reduce my carbon footprint, starting with walking to the Post Office.

I make Weaving Resolutions, too. Every year, number one is always: Weave More—also easy to say in January. What could be better than sitting at a loom watching vibrant colors play when it’s dreary and cold outside? Another one is: Organize Yarn Shelves. Still another: Set Up Shaft Switching. The problem with a lot of my Weaving Resolutions is that they depend on tasks that aren’t on the list. Take Weave More, for example. You don’t just sit down and weave. You have to have a plan, get the yarn, empty a loom, wind the warp, etc., etc.

My resolutionary visions never include the first steps. I see me skinny and muscular on the stairstepper and my yarns arranged like rainbows on cherry shelves that I haven’t built yet. By the middle of March, I’m already thinking that I’ll do much better next year.

As a high school teacher, I learned to break a big goal like Term Paper into smaller steps with an easy-to-achieve first step like Choose Topic. Maybe I need to do that for Resolutions, too. Walk to the gym on Mondays, to the Post Office on Wednesdays. Weave a project a month (first weekend: Wind Warp). I could start with the scarf challenge on page 25, but the first step isn’t so easy to achieve (Choose Yarn)!

This issue is about finishing. But you have to start to finish.

*Madelyn*

## FUTURE THEMES

**March/April 2009 Pushing the Limits** Inspiration for learning new techniques, inventing weave structures, breaking rules, getting better results.

**May/June 2009 Go Natural!** A celebration of the United Nations Year of Natural Fiber with projects that use natural yarns and materials.

**September/October 2009 More Bang for Your Buck** How to save money (stay home and weave!) with projects using yarns and materials efficiently. And: we celebrate our Thirtieth Anniversary with a surprise look back.

**November/December 2009 Your Space!** Weavers and yarn shops share their tips for studio design and yarn and equipment storage ideas.

**January/February 2009 Texture!** A focus on texture made by unusual weave structures (corduroy, pleats, velvet) and other clever ideas.

**March/April 2010 Doubleweave** A handbook of doubleweave techniques: doublewidth fabrics, stuffed and stitched fabrics, and lots of pattern.

# HANDWOVEN®

VOLUME XXIX  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

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*Handwoven* (ISSN 0198-8212) is published bimonthly except July/August (five issues per year) by Interweave Press LLC, 201 E. Fourth St., Loveland, CO 80537-5655, (970) 669-7672. USPS #129-210. Periodicals postage paid at Loveland, CO 80537, and additional mailing offices. All contents of this issue of *Handwoven* are copyrighted by Interweave Press LLC, 2009. All rights reserved. Projects and information are for inspiration and personal use only. *Handwoven* does not recommend, approve or endorse any of the advertisers, products, services, or views advertised in *Handwoven*. Nor does *Handwoven* evaluate the advertisers' claims in any way. You should, therefore, use your own judgment in evaluating the advertisers, products, services, and views advertised in *Handwoven*. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited, except by permission of the publisher. Subscription rate is \$31.95/year in the U.S., \$35.95 in Canada, and \$38.95 in other international countries (surface delivery). Printed in the U.S.A.

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