



# AL SADU

The Techniques of  
Bedouin Weaving

KUWAIT

1998











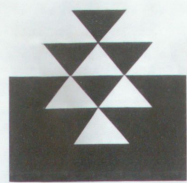




*In memory of Najat H. Al Sultan a founder and board member of ALSADU project*

*In recognition of Abab Farhan Al Azmy skilled and prolific weaver*





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for funding the Publication of this book.



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## The Techniques of Bedouin Weaving

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AL SADU  
KUWAIT

1998



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*Chair* Abab Farhan 1991 - 1993

Nawal Al Attiyah 1993 - 1998

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1998

### **Credits:**

- Kuwait Central Library for the indexing.
  - Mrs Tahani Al Ayoub, photograph on spinning P. 18.
  - Ms Diala Al Jabri, photographs P. 10, 12.
- Cover photograph by Jack Wozniak.  
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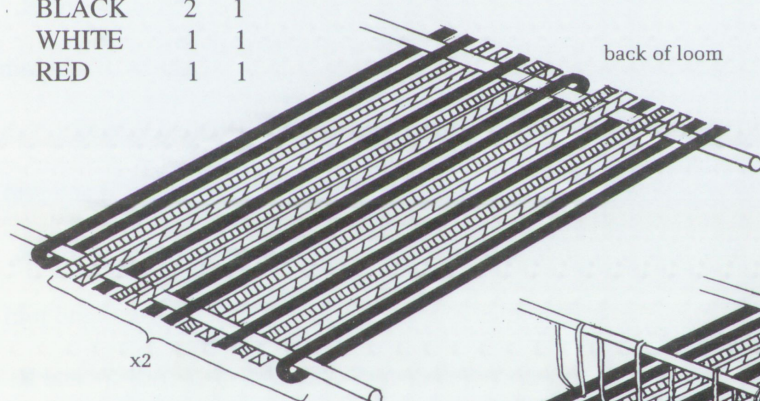
# 'UWAIRJAN

The Bedouin of the Arabian peninsula are well known for their skilfulness in this design. The 'UWAIRJAN, a warp face weave, is a single vertical row of pyramids. Each pyramid is seen either as red 'dots' on a black background or white 'dots', on the black background. The black warp threads are continually interlaced and therefore never float on the reverse of the fabric. The red and white threads when not needed on the face are left to float on the reverse. Floats can vary in length from 1 to 5 cms depending upon their warp position in the pyramid.

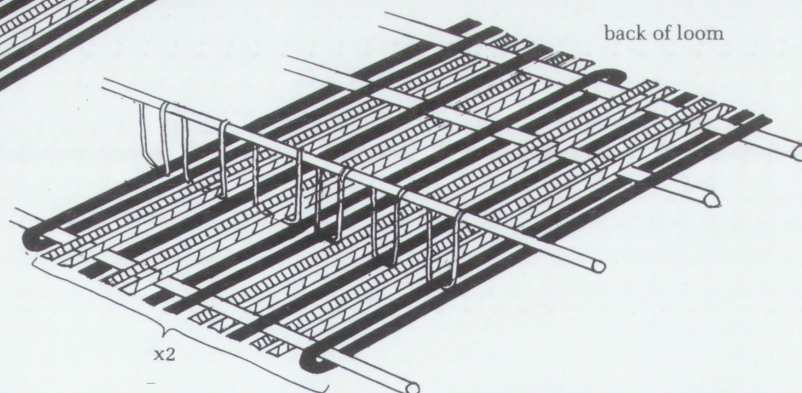
The difference between warping the 'UWAIRJAN and the *FLAT WEAVE*, is that instead of warping with a single yarn, a red with a white yarn are warped together the length of the warp. The 'UWAIRJAN always starts and finishes with two black threads, and can have either an even or an uneven number of 'dots'.

## WARPING PLAN OF ONE 'DOT'

BLACK	2	1
WHITE	1	1
RED	1	1



WARPING OF UWAIRJAN



HEDDLING OF UWAIRJAN

As with all warp face weaves there are two sheds. The weaver must select from each shed presented to her, the warp threads that she wishes to be on the face of the fabric. She chooses in a predetermined order these warp threads and lets fall to the reverse, the ends that she does not require. The weaver then inserts the weft and beats it into the fabric. The next shed is made and the process of choosing, repeated. The black warp threads, always interlace and therefore it is only from the red or white warp threads that a choice is made.

The width of the 'UWAIRJAN can vary from 2.5 to 8 cms and the length from 1 to 9 cms. The ends per cm in the 'UWAIRJAN are always more than the ends per cm of the bordering *FLAT WEAVE*. This is because of the 'UWAIRJAN'S compact structure.

When heddling, instead of one warp yarn being put in a heddle and one left loose, the red and the white yarn are treated as a single warp thread and are either put together in a heddle or left out.



Three types of yarn can be used in the 'UWAIRJAN The black background is either wool or goat, the white is either wool or cotton, and the red is wool. No examples have been seen using any other colour or yarn combination.

The 'UWAIRJAN can be seen as a vertical selvedge stripe or as part of the border to the *SHAJA-RAH*. The 'UWAIRJAN is usually bordered by *FLAT WEAVE* and the *HUBUB*. Many Bedouin products have this design and its most popular application is in cushions. However it can also be seen in the tent divider, on floor rugs and storage bags.

### DEMONSTRATION OF THE 'UWAIRJAN

Weaver: Um Nasser

Tribe: Awazem

#### YARN USED

**WARP** - BLACK WOOL, 2 ply, Z twist, 2

twists/cm

RED WOOL, 2 ply, Z twist, 7 twists/ cm

WHITE WOOL, 2 ply, Z twist, 2

twists/cm

**WEFT** - BEIGE WOOL, 2 ply, Z twist, 2 twists/ cm

WIDTH OF SAMPLE - 10 cms

WIDTH OF UWAIRJAN - 4 cms

LENGTH OF UWAIRJAN - 5 cms

WARP ENDS PER CM - (Flat Weave) 6  
- (UWAIRJAN) 8

WEFT PICKS PER CM - 1

### WARPING PLAN

Start at back of loom

Warp 6 B	- at b. of L. break B and join W
Warp 6 W	- at b. of L. break W and join R
Warp 6 R	- at b. of L. break R and join B
Warp 2 B	- at b. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at f. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 1 B	- at b. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at f. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 2 B	- at f. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp. 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at b. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 1 B	- at f. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at b. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 2 B	- at b. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at f. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 1 B	- at b. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at f. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 2 B	- at f. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at b. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 1 B	- at f. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 1 W, 1 R tog.	- at b. of L. break W and R, and join B
Warp 2 B	- at f. of L. break B and join W and R
Warp 6 R	- at b. of L. break R and join W
Warp 6 W	- at b. of L. break W and join B
Warp 6 B	- finish at b. of L.

This sample warped by Um Nasser is 'UWAIRJAN with 4 'dots'

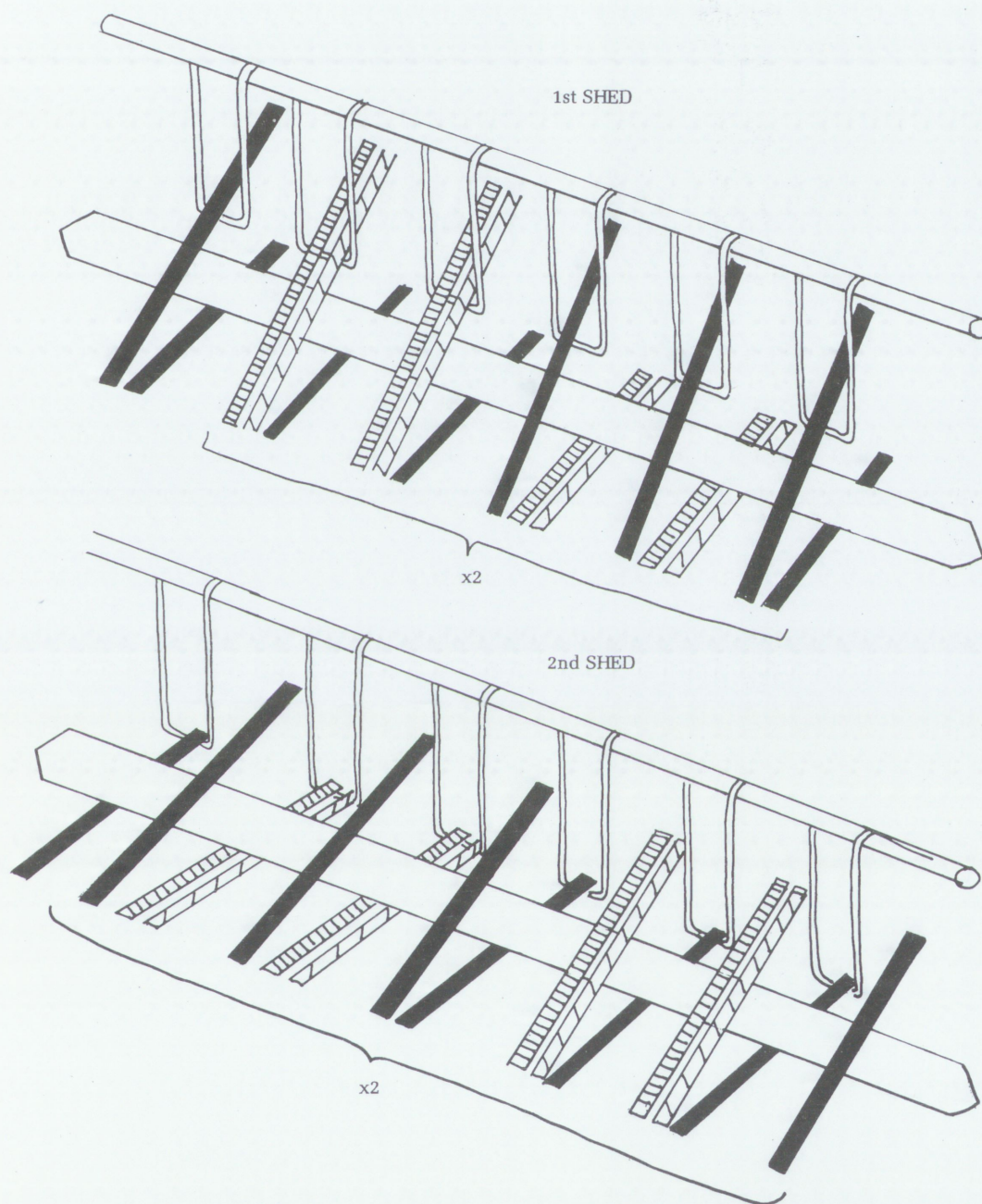


# NUMBER OF THREADS IN WARP

BLACK	26
WHITE	20
RED	20
TOTAL	66

# NUMBER OF WARP THREADS IN THE 'UWAIRJAN

BLACK	14
WHITE	8
RED	8
TOTAL	30



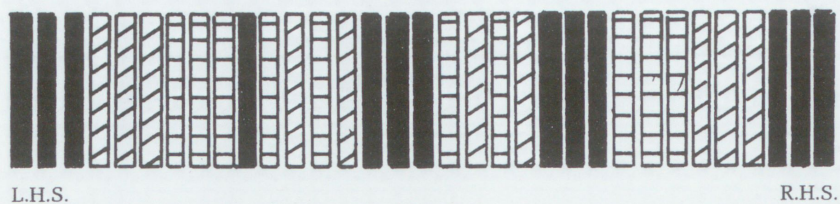


## 'UWAI RJAN

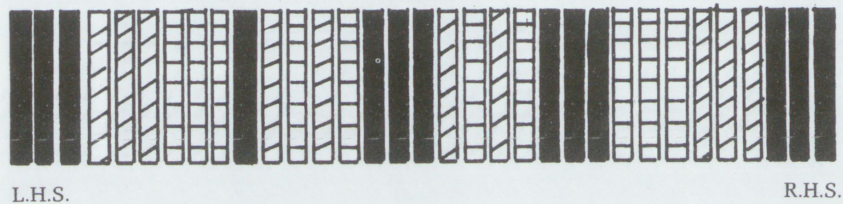
DIAGRAMS SHOWING THE YARN POSITION ON THE BEAMS

WARP ENDS THAT COME OVER BREAST BEAM

TOTAL 33 WARP ENDS

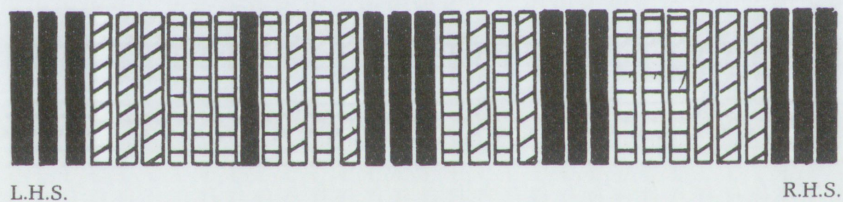


WARP ENDS THAT COME OVER BACK BEAM  
TOTAL 33 WARP ENDS

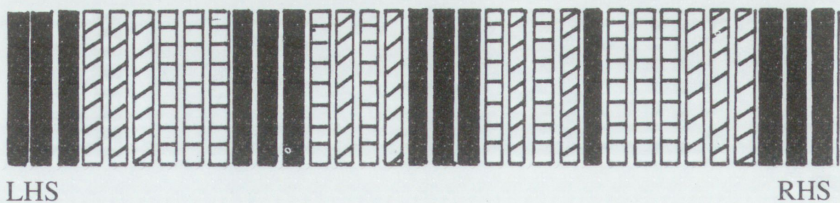


DIAGRAMS SHOWING THE YARN POSITION WHEN WEAVING

1st SHED - ALL ENDS IN HEDDLES RAISED - TOTAL 33 WARP ENDS



2nd SHED - ALL ENDS NOT IN HEDDLES RAISED - TOTAL 33 WARP ENDS





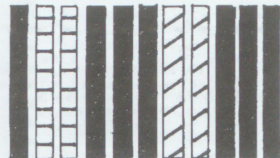
# 'UWAIRJAN

## DIAGRAMS SHOWING THE YARN POSITION ON THE BEAMS

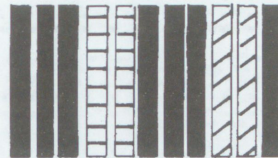
NOTE - THE 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th AND 9th PICKS ARE CHOSEN FROM THE 1st SHED

THE 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th PICKS ARE CHOSEN FROM THE 2nd SHED

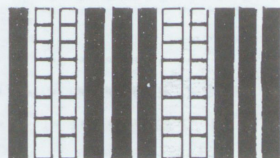
1st PICK



2nd PICK



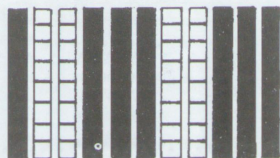
3rd PICK



4th PICK



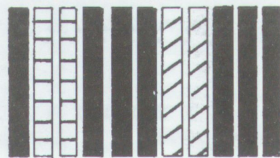
5th PICK



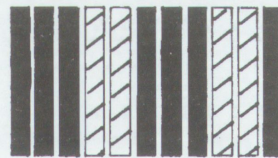
6th PICK



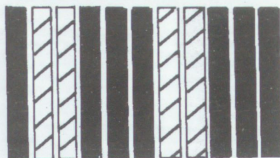
7th PICK



8th PICK



9th PICK



10th PICK

