

(Rk)

"How To Make A Quilt in the
Soukhor Tradition"

by
Linda Markoff

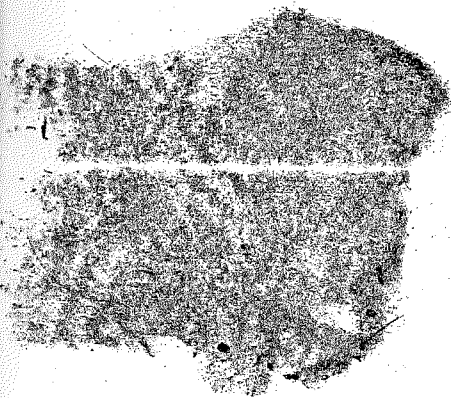
Anthropology 101

(A+)

Submitted to
Dr. Mark Mealing
on
April 17, 1974.

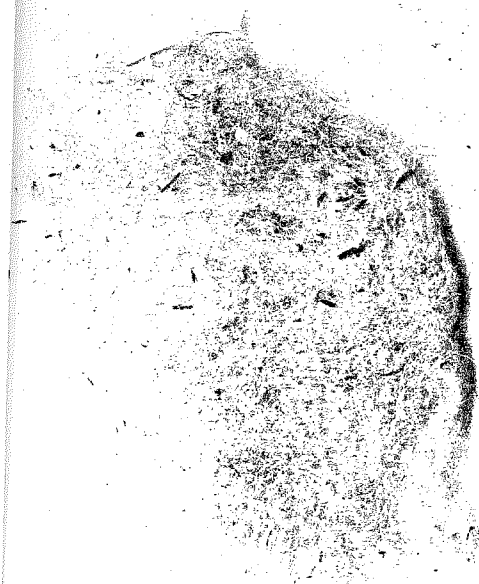
A quilt is very important in the Doukhobor culture. Quilts are given to children (boys and girls -- both) for their hope chests, and only before their weddings. The girl's family makes one for her and the boy's family makes one for him. The quilt is hand-made by either the mother or female relatives ~~of~~ of the family -- alone or in quilting bees. For one woman, a quilt would take approx. 2 days (not counting evenings), because of the fine, delicate stitching.

The first major step in making a quilt would be gathering the raw sheep's wool and preparing it for washing. The sheep wool is very dirty and must be washed in several waters to retain cleanliness. A good detergent for this would be sunlight. The first few waters of the wash would have to be heavily ~~sudsed~~ sudsed. After the majority of the dirt is removed, lighter sudsy water is used. To dry,



Raw Wool

- as taken from the sheep



Primary Treatment of Wool

- washed in several waters, with Sunlight soap.
- must be rinsed very well.
- hung outdoors to dry in hot, sunny weather.



Combed Wool

- either by hand carter or by carding machine
- ready to use for the quilt

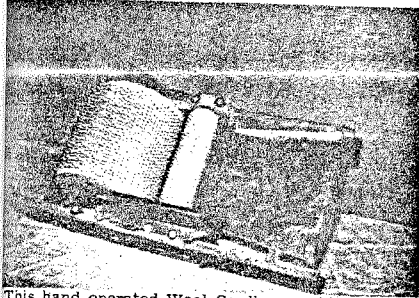
years ago, people would hang it outside on a hot summer day. Today, people who still make quilts, throw it in a dryer-- this tends to fluff it nicely. After the wool is nicely dried, it is ready for carding.

The carding procedure can be done in 2 ways. The old way, which is carding by hand carders. The hand carders were usually made by a male member of the family. The wool would be placed between the carders, and pulled two opposite ways-- thus coming and fluffing the wool. The modern and faster way of going through this process would involve the use of a wool carding machine. With the machine, the same process is carried out, only a lot faster. After the wool has been carded (by either method), it lays out flatly in bats. The bats form the inside of the quilt. Now, the wool is ready

for the quilting process.

The wool bats are placed evenly on the lining of the quilt. This lining is usually cheesecloth, but can be any light-weight cotton. An approximate dimension of the cheesecloth or cotton layer would be 74" x 86". This is the regular size for a double bed. Other dimensions are made to suit a single, $\frac{3}{4}$ or queen size bed. [It really depends upon the size of the bed] The wool is spread out onto the cheesecloth. First lengthwise and overlapping, then crosswise. It is spread to the very outside edges of the cheesecloth. If there is a small overlap, it just stays outside the cheesecloth, because later it will give fluffiness to the outside edge of the quilt. The thickness of this total wool covering would be about 2"-2½". Now, to seal the two layers of wool together, another layer of cheesecloth (or light cotton)

WOOL CARDING MACHINE



This hand operated Wool Carding machine cards wool batts for making home spun yarn. The machine can be used by anyone in a home, clubs or by any institution making products of virgin wool. This machine has a 7 day trial-money back guarantee. Price \$69.50 FOB Glendale, CA.

WOOL HAND CARDERS (heavy duty) \$12.95 pr.

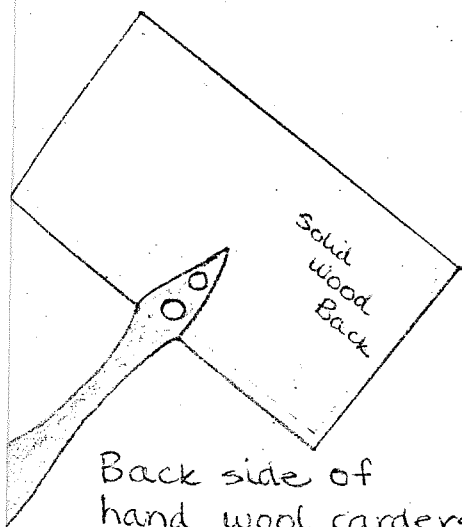
C. FRICKE

P.O. Box 4574, Glendale, CA 91202

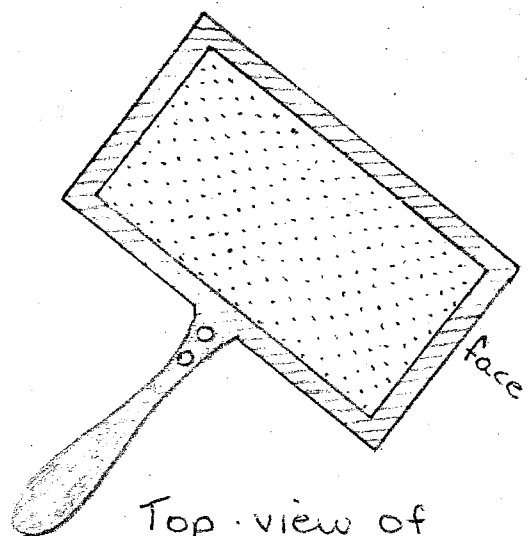
Calif. residents add sales tax

Wool carding machine now takes over carding the wool, from the hand carders pictured below.

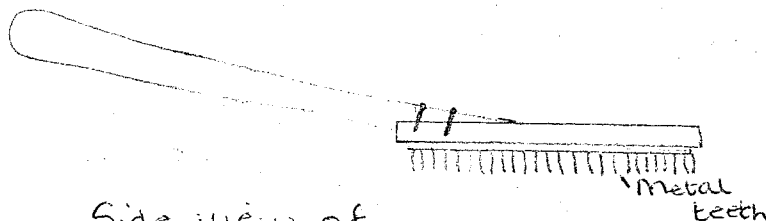
Below: hand wool carders.



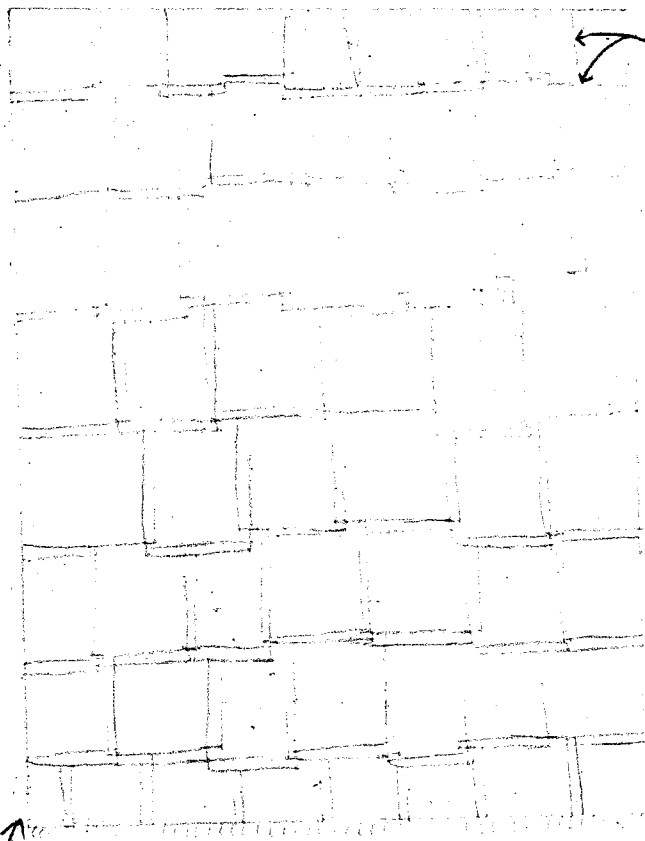
Back side of hand wool carders.



Top view of wool carders (hand)



Side view of Hand wool Carders



overlapping of each wool bat.

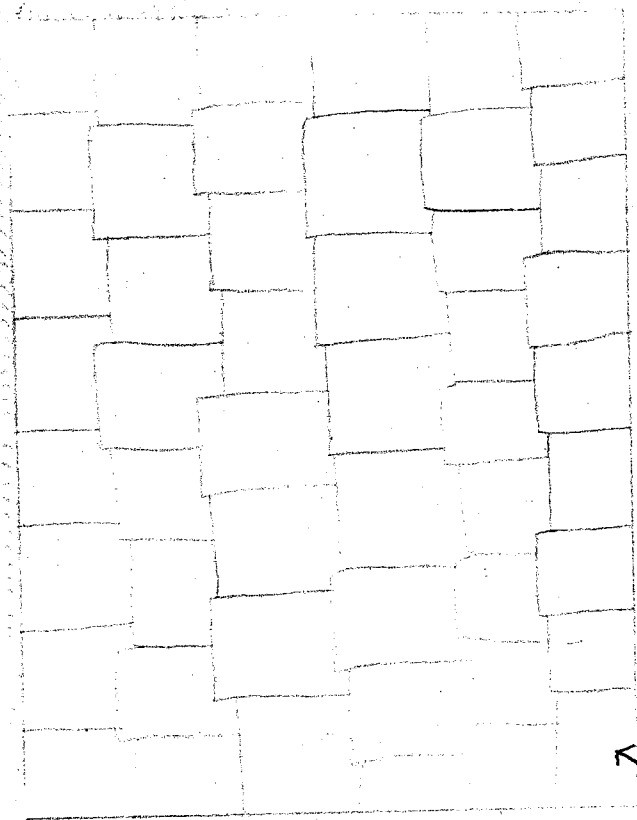
Lengthwise direction of laying down the wool batting, overlapping each piece with the one previously laid down.

- Primary layer of wool batting on cheesecloth.

wool hanging out over edges



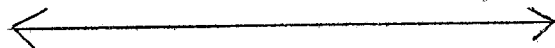
Layout of Wool Batting on Cheesecloth or Cotton



Crosswise Batting

- each piece is laid down in a cross way direction
- these pieces do not have to overlap.
- this is laid over top of lengthwise batting on the cheesecloth cover.

Each square represents a piece of wool batting.



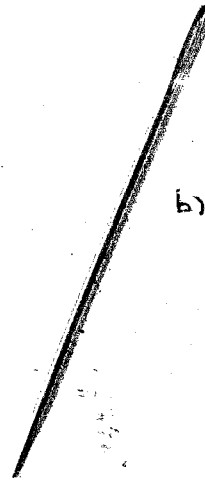
is put overtop of the wool. The dimensions of that piece are proportionate to the one on the bottom layer. The two layers of material with wool between are then basted together. Long, running stitches in the middle and stockier stitches to hold the sides firm. See the sample.

The quilt is now ready for the more delicate work - the ^{designed} covering. First, the covering must be stitched on the machine on three sides. The fourth side is left open for the insertion of the cheesecloth-wool layer. Material used for this covering could be any lightweight material such as polyester, crepe, perma-press broadcloth or satin. Before, in the olden days, such materials as cotton were used, also some satin. Materials such as polyester were not yet invented. The wool and cheesecloth layer is stitched to the wrong side of the material covering, in order to insure no sliding of the

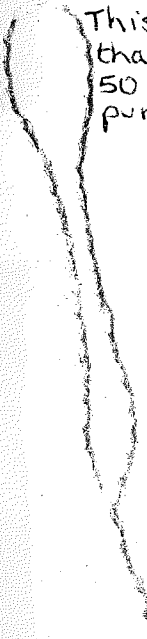
Type of Needles and Wool used in Quilting (thread)



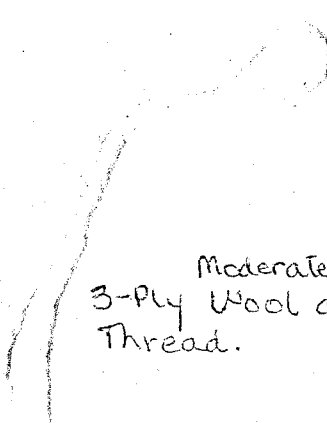
a) This needle is used in quilting the wool to the cheesecloth. First Stage.



b) This needle is used to quilt the top of the quilt. Finishing Stage.



This is home-spun wool that was used about 50 years back, for such purposes as quilting and mending.



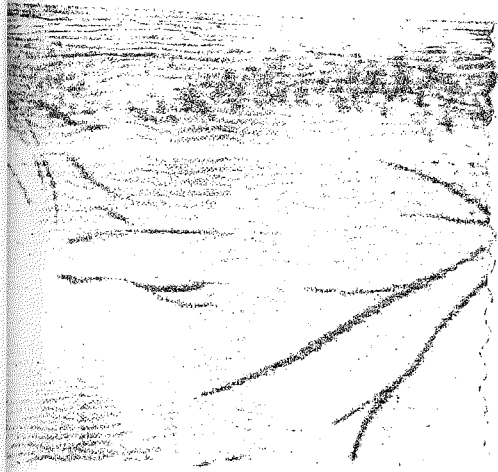
Moderate Thickness
3-Ply Wool and Nylon Thread.



very fine wool
-Nylon wool thread. Strong for quilting.

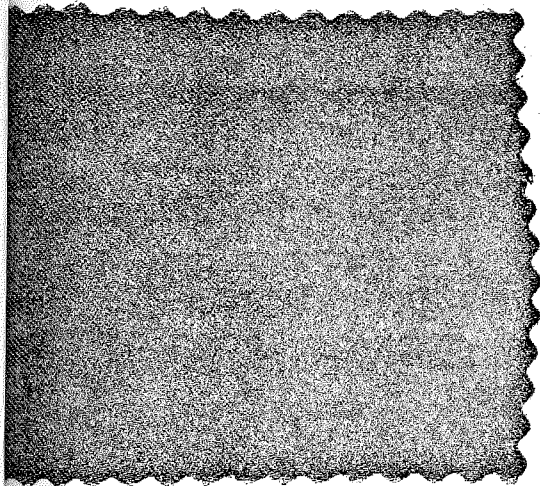
Color of Wool Thread is matched with the top facing of the quilt.

Materials Used For Quilts



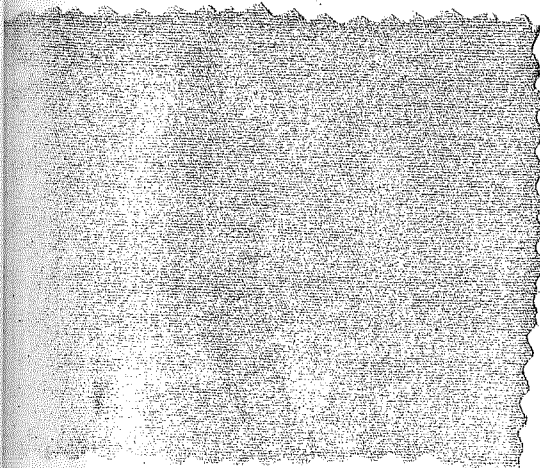
Polyester Crepe Material

- can be used as the material for a boy's wedding blanket.
- can use both sides the same if preferred.



Rayon Satin Material

- use mainly for wedding blankets
- used on one side only, other side would be a cotton or perma-prest broadcloth.



Perma Prest Polyester Broadcloth

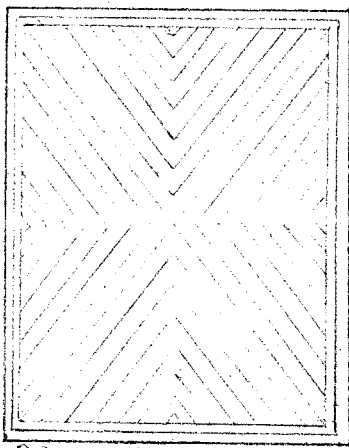
- used for the whole blanket -- both sides or one, does not matter.

inner layer. After, you turn the cover of the quilt to the right side. Then, stretch the quilt out on the floor or quilting table and tack the outer edges of it to the floor. This is to retain fluffiness after the quilting process is complete.

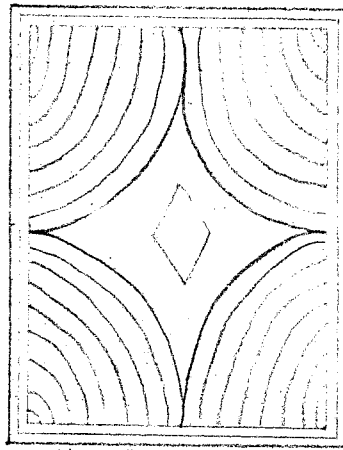
The stitches that are involved in the quilting process are very fine and delicate. A well-made quilt will have stitches that are the same length on both sides. These stitches are for the purpose of just tacking the top layer of the quilt to the bottom.

Various designs may be used to secure the quilt. Long ago, the women used to quilt very simple and plain patterns. The designing of it was really not too important to them.

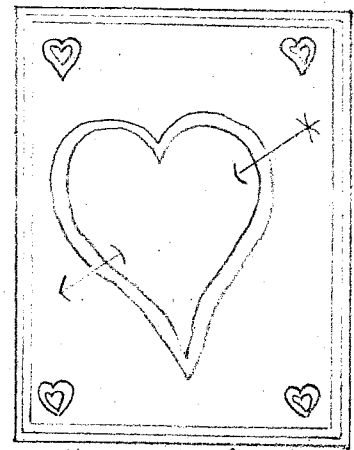
Today, women have invented various new quilting designs. They vary from the easy to the extremely different shapes. The centering of the



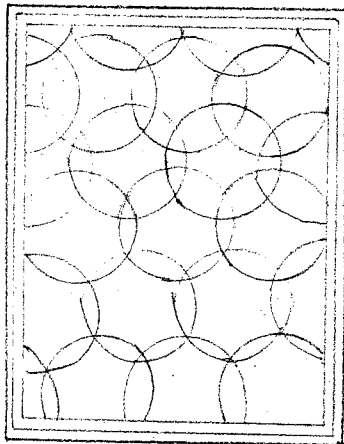
Ripple Pattern



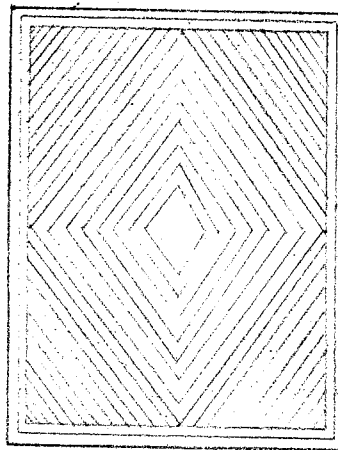
Half Moon



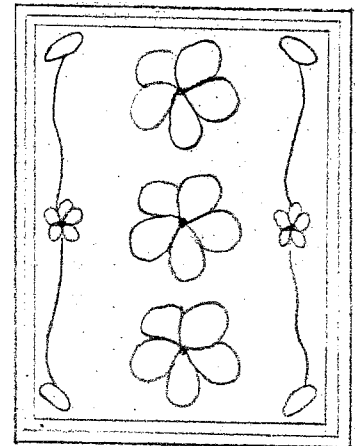
Heart Design



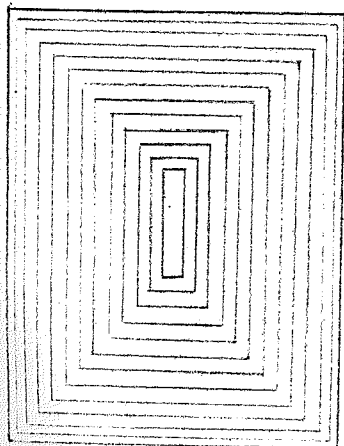
Wedding Ring Pattern



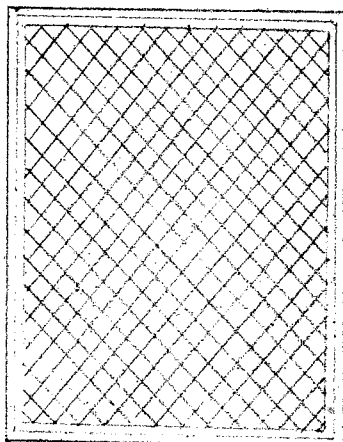
Diamond Design



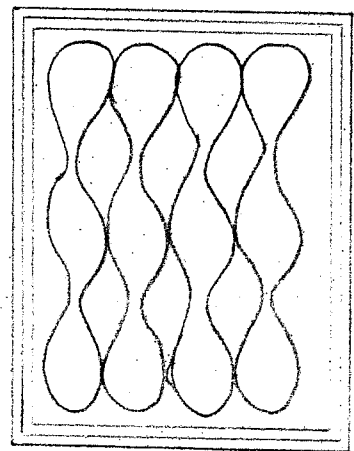
Floral Pattern



Plain Pattern

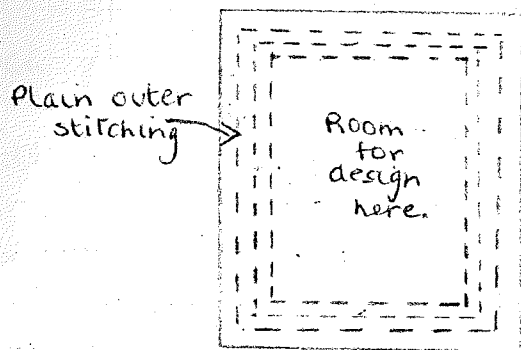


Simple Check Design



Bell shape curves

pattern seems very important to the effect it will have. An outer border of plain square stitching (as shown below) is used to give the



inner design, a sort of picture frame effect. Usually 3 or 4 rows of this stitching are used.

For the top covering of the quilt to be the same as the bottom, is quite ordinary. Both similar sides and matching sides are used for quilt covers. Once the design is stitched on them, they both look equally attractive.

After the fine quilting is complete, the quilt is finished and ready for use. The quilts are very warm, light and fluffy. They are ideal for both the summer and winter months. If one prefers, a summer quilt can be made with a

thinner layer of wool batting.

Making this quilt has been a very good learning experience. I'm sure that I learned much from it and enjoyed doing it. It was exciting to see how the little sample quilt would turn out.

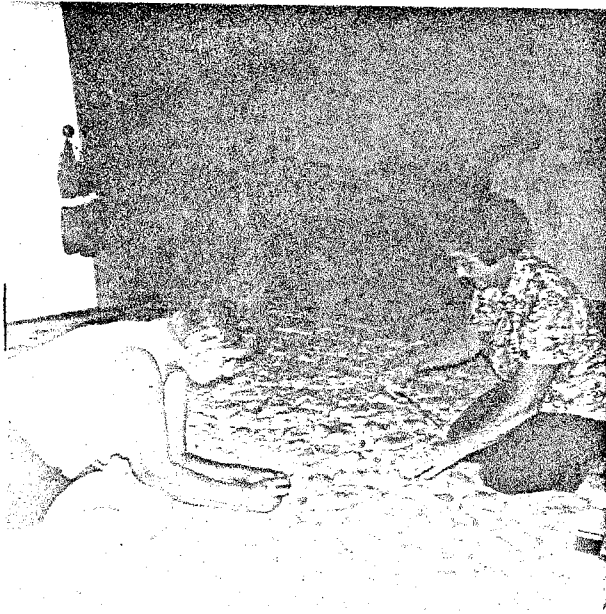


①

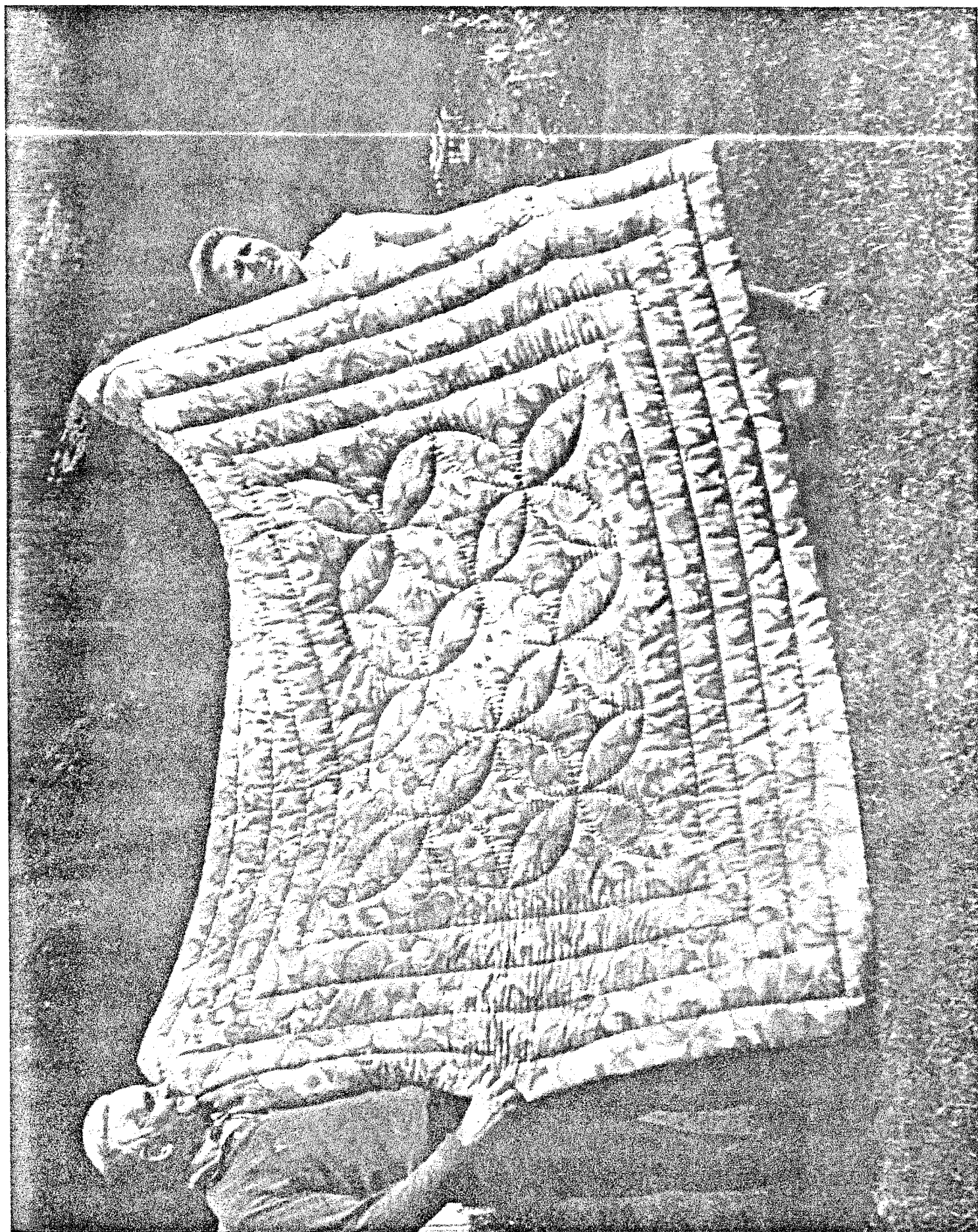
Pictured are two women quilting
a wedding blanket for a boy.
Various stages of quilting are shown.
- Later finished product is shown in
blow-up.



②



③



Wool is laid: one layer width-wise and the other layer length-wise. First layer of wool is overlapped. Then, cheesecloth covering is quilted together. This cheesecloth covering precedes the outer covering.

Miniature Quilt Sample.
The larger quilt would
be fluffier. The pattern
shown is just a simple
diamond pattern.

