

(continued from Page 4) Once this lap blanket is off the loom, I plan to go around the perimeter with an I-cord knitted edging before washing it by hand to full the fabric.

So, You'd Like to Self-Publish a Book? Here is What We Have Learned

I had often heard from other authors of the travails of working with some established publishers whose editors sometimes drop important paragraphs, or change the wording so much the meaning of the work of the author is distorted. Then the book is outsourced for printing in China and all the royalties go to the publisher. This scenario didn't seem workable for me or for my photographer daughter Rose. We had successfully self-published our previous 452-page book *Continuous Strand Weaving Method, Techniques and Projects on Triangle, Square, and Rectangle Frame Looms* with over 190 projects. In that book all the color pages were separate from the black and white pages, even had their own numbering system labeled Picture Page #, and were grouped in several areas of the book: Technique pictures in the front, Project pictures in the middle, and Gallery pictures at the end.

Nature Provides Dyes for Rainbows, however, has colored pictures on most of the text pages. We hadn't realized the challenges. After five years of Rose taking pictures during my Missouri Dye workshops and traveling from Florida for the Ancient Dye workshops and me going to Florida with file folders, dyes, and other items needed for photographs, I produced the text on my Desktop Publisher program. After editing her photographs on her In-Design program, Rose inserted them via Team Viewer onto my text pages. We copied and sent our original product to about seven volunteer reader/editors for corrections and suggestions, and then incorporated those into our product. Our web master, Phil, then sent our "finished" product "through the cloud" to our printer in Florida.

Our printer then suggested the pictures be converted to CMYK (Cyan/Magenta/Yellow/Black) color format for printing. So, Phil, using Desktop Publisher to do this, did so and resent the book to the printer. Rose proofed the colors and realized the colors were distorted. The only way for true colors was for her to convert the pictures to CMYK on her In-Design program — more appropriate for color photos. This then required every text page be inserted into her program, one page at a time, all 190, as she converted the pictures. This required my going to Florida to watch little Roland while she worked on all this. Denny came with me we all thought for maybe three days of work and then to celebrate a finally finished book. However, the task took two weeks. Denny drove home after one week, and I flew home a week later.

And now the printing is taking much longer than anticipated. Many printing jobs have been exported to China, taking jobs away from domestic printers, many of whom have gone out of business. Not so with Whitehall Printing Company, although they had to streamline their operation and are now somewhat short-handed when large or many orders come in at once. (They used to work 3 shifts.) They do tremendous quality workmanship, with a special double-back binding so large books stay opened when laid down. I recommend them highly. I've been assured the soft-cover books are being shipped to us during the week of June 13 to 17, and the hard covers about 3 to 4 weeks later, as they are being shipped elsewhere for the hard-cover binding.

We had originally fully expected the books to be ready for last Christmas! Boy, have we learned a lot. In the future, and for any of you out there thinking of self-publishing, I suggest to put both text and photos into a photo-appropriate program from the beginning! Then expect to spend months in the editing process.

For those of you who have pre-ordered (over 125 of you) and have been waiting (some of you nearly a year) I'm offering the hard-bound version at the soft-bound price you have paid — if you are willing to wait an additional few weeks. Otherwise I will send to you a soft bound copy immediately. All will be auto-graphed, of course. Thanks for your patience.

