

# Over the Mango Moon Scarf

(Idea Gallery Project—  
*Handwoven January/February 2019*)

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**I RARELY DESIGN A PIECE WITH A SINGLE YARN** of a single fiber, preferring instead to mix and match yarns and work with blends. This is especially true on the rigid-heddle loom. Seeing how different yarns react to and with one another is always satisfying—it's also a fun challenge.

When mixing a variety of yarns, I start with one anchor yarn to hold the piece together so the design doesn't become too busy. The bulk of my designing happens during the warp layout. When direct warping a rigid-heddle loom, I can get a clear sense of how the warp will look. Sometimes I end up replacing some warp ends with different yarns. The best-laid plans don't always turn out as originally intended, but that is part of what makes designing with multiple yarns so exciting.

For this scarf, the anchor yarn is Mango Moon's Mulberry Meadow in Rain Cloud. Mulberry Meadow is on the thin side, so I mixed it with Mango Moon's Silk Ribbon and Merci to fill out the warp. For a denser weave, the Mulberry Meadow could be used double. Mulberry Meadow has a high superwash wool content, so it won't shrink much during the fulling process. With that in mind, I matched it with other blends with low shrink rates. Mixing fibers that full at different rates can be a lot of fun if that's the look you are going for, but in this case, I wanted the cloth to lie flat, so I steered away from yarns with 100% animal-fiber content.

I pay attention to color and sheen when picking my yarns. A mix of matte and shiny yarns as well as muted and vibrant colors creates a lot of visual and textural intrigue. I always want my pieces to look refreshing and feel great, and I kept that in mind as I selected the yarns for this piece. I pulled the blue and gray Mulberry Meadow colors from the variegation in the Silk Ribbon, which allowed for smooth color flow. Then to spice it up a bit, I tossed in the Merci in Peony. It is much brighter than the other colors, so I didn't need much to create the pop I wanted. The Silk Ribbon gives the piece extra shine, and the blend of silk and superwash wool in the Mulberry Meadow creates the right of amount of matte and sheen that I was after for the main yarn.

When designing handwovens, there are many factors to take into account: color, structure, fiber, and texture, just to name a few. Fortunately, I enjoy the challenge and love finding unlikely yarn combinations that come together in an appealing way.

Note: Mango Moon yarns are no longer available, but you can use this pattern as a guide to weave something similar using other yarns.

## STRUCTURE

Hopsack.

## EQUIPMENT

Rigid-heddle loom, 16" weaving width; 10-dent heddle; 1 shuttle.

## YARNS

**Warp:** Mulberry Meadow (75% superwash merino wool/25% mulberry silk; 218 yd/50 g; Mango Moon), Rain Cloud, 120 yd; Reflection, 228 yd. Silk Ribbon (45% silk/38% viscose/17% nylon; 75 yd/65 g; Mango Moon), Lunar, 72 yd. Merci (30% virgin merino wool/30% cotton/20% silk/20% polyamide; 328 yd/100 g; Tedman & Kvist; Mango Moon), Peony, 54 yd.

**Weft:** Mulberry Meadow, Rain Cloud, 695 yd.

## WARP LENGTH

158 ends 3 yd long (allows 4" for take-up, 24" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

## SETTS

**Warp:** 10 epi (1/slot and hole in a 10-dent heddle).

**Weft:** 18 ppi.

## DIMENSIONS

**Width in the heddle:** 15<sup>8</sup>/<sub>10</sub>".

**Woven length:** (measured under tension on the loom) 80".

**Finished size:** (after washing) 14" x 74" with 5" knotted fringe.



**1** Wind 158 warp ends 3 yd long following the warp color order, Figure 1. Use your preferred method to warp the loom. Sley 1 per slot and hole in a 10-dent rigid heddle, centering for a weaving width of 15<sup>8</sup>/<sub>10</sub>".

**2** Wind a shuttle of Rain Cloud. Spread the warp with scrap yarn, leaving 7" of unwoven warp for fringe.







1. Warp color order

	2x		2x		6x		2x		5x		2x		2x		5x		2x		5x		2x		2x					
18		1		1			1		1			1		1			1		1		1		1					
24		1				1				1				1			1		1		1			1				
40	1			1		4	1			1			1		1			1		1		5		1		1		
76	1	4	8			3			3			11	1	1			1	1		11		3			3	8	4	1
158																												

Merci Peony

Silk Ribbon Lunar

Mulberry Meadow Rain Cloud

Mulberry Meadow Reflection

- 3 Weave 80" using Rain Cloud and the following sequence:


a. Open shed and throw shuttle.

b. Beat and open the same shed.

c. Take the shuttle around the selvedge thread.

d. Throw shuttle through the shed.

e. Beat, open the other shed, and repeat steps a–d.
- 4 Weave a few picks of scrap yarn to hold the weft in place and remove the fabric from the loom, leaving 7" at each end for fringe.

- 5 Tie the fringe at the fell in groups of 4 using overhand knots.
- 6 Handwash with detergent in hot water. Lay flat to dry. While still damp, machine dry to full the fabric. 

SARA GOLDENBERG is a fiber artist who works primarily with weaving and stitching techniques. Her work explores the connection between past and present, traditional and modern, and handmade and technological.

