

DIVERGENT SCARF



RIGID HEDDLE

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Carly Jayne

Carly shied away from weaving the first time she tried it because of the counting required in most patterns. Rigid-heddle loom to the rescue! She designed this scarf visually, coloring her warp color pattern on a strip of paper and following her template as she direct-warped her loom.

MATERIALS

STRUCTURE Plain weave.

EQUIPMENT Rigid-heddle loom, 12" weaving width; 12.5-dent heddle; 3 shuttles. **Note:** Have a 12-dent heddle? Follow the same steps to design your scarf.

YARNS Warp: 2/18 superfine merino wool (5,040 yd/lb; Lunatic Fringe), Williamsburg Blue, 278 yd; Sage, 101 yd; Graphite, 131 yd. **Weft:** 2/18 superfine merino wool, Williamsburg Blue, 76 yd; Sage, 101 yd; Graphite, 105 yd. **Note:** Yardages are approximate as all scarves will be different.

WARP LENGTH 211 ends 86" long (allows 8" for take-up, 18" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

SETTS Warp: 12.5 epi. **Weft:** 12 ppi.

DIMENSIONS Width in the heddle: 11".

Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) 60". **Finished size:** (after wet-finishing) 10" × 55" plus 3" fringe.

PROJECT STEPS

Design pattern template

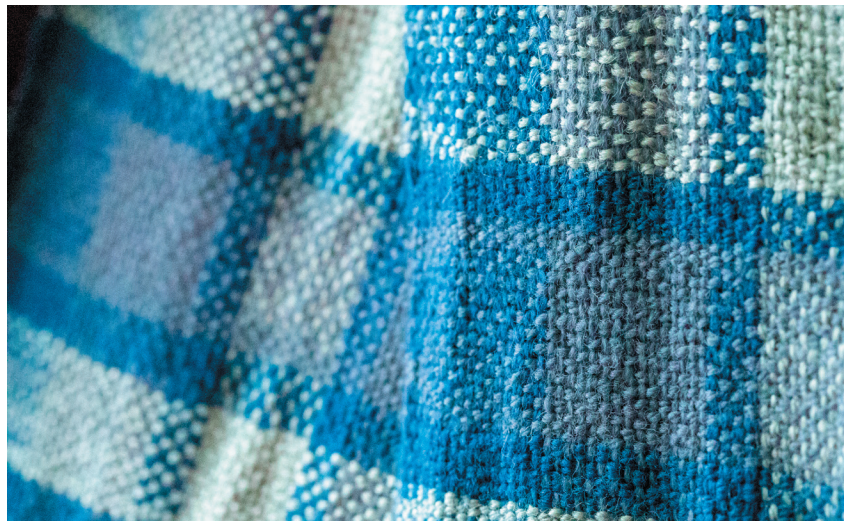
- 1 Cut a 1" × 11" strip from an 8½" × 11" piece of printer paper.
- 2 Design the windowpane plaid: mark a 1" block in the center of the paper for a window. Working outward, allow ⅜" for each frame and 1" for each window until 1-1¼" from the edges of the paper.
- 3 Using colored pencils, color in the pattern as desired, using the darkest value as the ⅜" frame and at the selvages.
- 4 Center the template on the heddle and tape it to the bottom of the heddle, see photo on next page. Place the heddle in the loom for direct warping.

Weaving

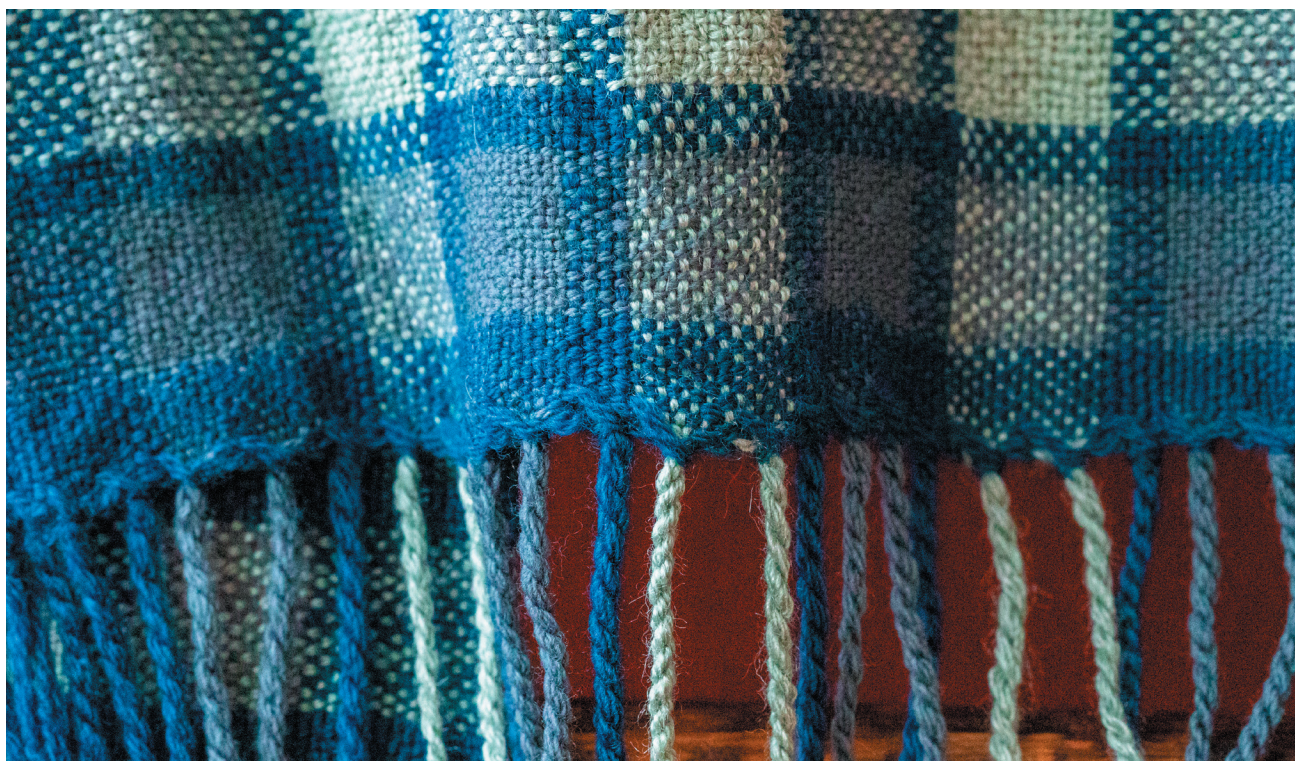
- 5 Set up your loom for direct warping a length of 86". Using the template as a guide for color changes, double the warp for the darkest value on the selvages and within the ⅜" sections, filling both slots and holes with loops on each pass. In the larger window blocks, pull loops of warp only through the slots. Carly used Williamsburg Blue as the darkest color, and Graphite and Sage in the windows. After winding the warp on the loom, move 1 end from each slot to an adjacent hole in the window blocks.
- 6 Wind two shuttles, one with Graphite and one with Sage. Wind a

third shuttle with a doubled strand of Williamsburg Blue.

- 7 Leaving a tail 4 times the width of the warp for hemstitching, weave 10 picks in Williamsburg Blue. Hemstitch in bundles of 8–10 warp ends using the long tail. Continue weaving following the same color order as the warp. The template can be removed from the heddle and used as a guide for changing colors as you weave. Do not overbeat; the weave is meant to be airy in the windows where the warp ends are single. Weave for about 60" or until you can no longer get a clean shed, ending the scarf as you began it with 10 picks of Williamsburg Blue and hemstitching.
- 8 Remove the scarf from the loom, leaving 7" of unwoven warp at each end for fringe. Trim the fringe to 6". Prepare a twisted fringe using one group of hemstitched warp ends divided in half in each fringe for a total of 28–30 fringe bundles on each end.
- 9 Wet-finish by handwashing in warm water with mild detergent. Be careful not to full the scarf by agitating too much but do allow the fibers to expand and grab each other; a few dips and swishes should be enough. Roll it in a clean towel to press out excess moisture; lay the scarf flat to dry, and press. *



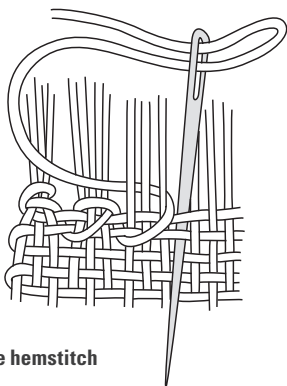
Close-up of Carly's scarf



FINISHES & SEAMS

Simple Hemstitch

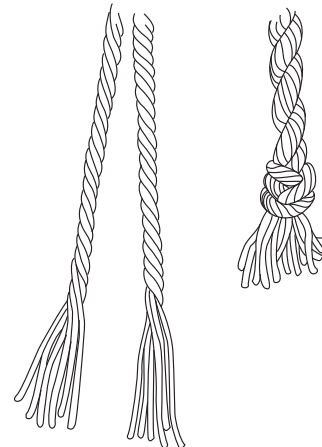
Hemstitching is an on-loom technique that holds the weft in place with the added bonus of being attractive. After weaving a scrap-yarn header, begin your project leaving a tail of weft four times the warp width hanging off the side. If you are right-handed, leave the tail on the right, and leave it on the left side if you are left-handed. Weave an inch of plain weave (or the basic weave structure of the piece). Thread the tail on a blunt tapestry needle. Pass the needle under a selected group of ends between the scrap yarn and your fabric. Bring it up and back to the starting point, encircling the ends. Pass the needle under the same group of ends, then angle the needle, bringing it up two (or more) picks into the fabric. Repeat for each group of ends across the warp. Needle-weave the tail into the selvedge and trim, or incorporate it into the edge bundle. If you are hemstitching at the end of a piece, leave a tail on your last pick and use it to hemstitch by encircling the same number of warp ends as you did at the beginning.



Simple hemstitch

Twisted Fringe

Twisting fringe keeps it from fraying and can make a piece look more “finished.” To create twisted fringe, divide the number of threads for each fringe into two groups. Twist each group clockwise, either by hand or with a fringe twister, until it kinks. Bring both groups together, secure the ends with an overhand knot, and let the fringe go. The groups will twist around each other counterclockwise. You can use the same method to make a plied cord by attaching one end to a stationary object, folding the kinked cord in the middle, and bringing the two ends together.



Fringe groups before and after twisting