

Striped Napkins with Pick-up

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STRUCTURE

Plain weave with pick-up.

EQUIPMENT

Rigid-heddle loom, 22" weaving width; 12-dent rigid heddle; 2 stick shuttles; 2 pick-up sticks.

YARNS

Warp: 8/2 unmercerized cotton (3,360 yd/lb; UKI), Maize #3, 204 yd; Duck #68, Turk #57, Special Green #11, Old Gold #34, 400 yd each.

Weft: 8/2 unmercerized cotton, Duck #68, Turk #57, Special Green #11, Old Gold #34, 166 yd each; Maize #32, 48 yd; bright yellow sewing thread, 32 yd (for hems).

WARP LENGTH

257 ends, 3½ yd long (warp yarn is used doubled; allows 6" for take-up, 26" for loom waste).

SETTS

Warp: 12 epi (1 doubled end/dent in a 12-dent rigid heddle).
Weft: 11 ppi.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 21½".
Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 94". **Finished size after washing:** 4 napkins 18" × 18" hemmed on 4 sides (doubled ½" hems on the ends, single ½" hems along the selvages).

When I began sampling for weaving pick-up with stripes on a rigid-heddle loom, it soon became clear that I needed to plan for the pick-up while doing the warping. I also learned that for every picked-up warp thread there is a corresponding weft float, and therefore another part of the planning is being aware of what will happen on the back of your cloth while you are concentrating on the front.

Unlike doubleweave pick-up on a shaft loom, pick-up on the rigid heddle loom is restricted to the slot threads. To balance pick-up on the rigid heddle, it is necessary to have an uneven number of ends because each pick-up unit shares a hole end with the unit next to it. In a stripe that has 19 threads, for example, you have room for a maximum of five 1-up, 1-down pick-up repeats, as each pick-up unit uses 4 ends.

In these napkins, I used an accent thread to separate and create stripes that started and stopped in holes, giving me an uneven number of threads per stripe and allowing me to center my pick-up pattern within the stripes.

I chose 8/2 cotton, used doubled, for this set of green and blue napkins, each of which was woven with a different color of weft thread and a modest amount of pick-up. The weft is used singly rather than doubled, creating a subtle color shift among the napkins (because the doubled warp is dominant).

RESOURCES

Patrick, Jane. *The Weaver's Idea Book*, Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2010, pp. 79–87.

1 Wind 257 warp ends $3\frac{1}{2}$ long using the color sequence indicated in the warp color order, Figure 1. Center the warp for a weaving width of $21\frac{1}{2}$ ". Each end is a doubled thread in the heddle. (If you direct warp, you will have 4 threads in each slot before moving 2 of them to a hole.) You may find it easier and faster to wind off a separate cone or ball of each of the stripe colors and warp 2 ends at once. Take care that the outside thread on each side is in a slot rather than a hole and that all of the Maize accent

threads are also in slots. (This is needed to balance the pick-up pattern within the stripes.)

2 *Napkins 1 and 2*: Wind 1 shuttle with sewing thread and another with Maize. Wind 1 stick shuttle with sewing thread (A spool of sewing thread in a long boat shuttle also works.) and another stick shuttle with Maize. Weave $\frac{1}{2}$ " (6 picks) with the sewing thread. Change shuttles and weave 9 picks of Maize. Then weave 1" of Duck, ending with a down-heddle pick.

A. Setting up a pick-up pattern: Keeping the heddle in the down position and working only on the slot threads in front of the heddle, use a pick-up stick to pick up every other raised end in the designated stripes of the pick-up pattern, creating a 1 up, 1 down pick-up stick pattern. Put the heddle in neutral, turn the stick on its side, and transfer the picked-up pattern to another pick-up stick behind the heddle. Push the pick-up stick toward the back of the loom.

B. Weaving pick-up (warp floats): With the heddle in the up position, slide the pick-up stick close to the back of the heddle, thereby lifting the picked-up ends. Throw a pick of weft. (This is

termed "up and pick-up stick" in the pick-up pattern.) Beat in, and repeat the same pick without moving the pick-up stick, turning around the edge thread with the shuttle to catch it. Slide the pick-up stick toward the back of the loom until needed again.

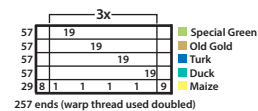
3 Follow the pick-up pattern for napkins 1 and 2 (see inset) and the pick-up diagram in Figure 2. Weave plain weave until the napkin measures 16" from the beginning, and repeat the pick-up pattern. Weave 1" of Duck, 9 picks of Maize and finish the napkin with 6 picks of sewing thread. Insert 2 threads of a contrasting color and weave the second napkin, substituting Turk for Duck.

4 *Napkins 3 and 4*: Using the same techniques as for the first 2 napkins, and following the second set of pick-up directions in the inset and the second diagram in Figure 2, weave 2 napkins. Use Old Gold as the weft for napkin 3 and Special Green for napkin 4.

5 Remove the napkins from the loom.

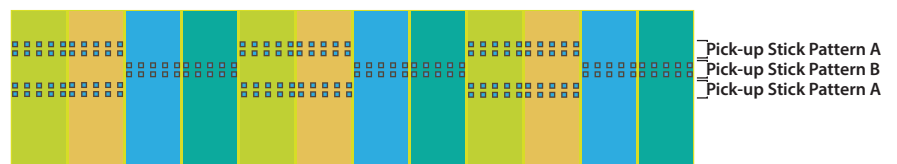
6 Zigzag the raw edges. Handwash in hot water and dry in a dryer with a terry-

1. Warp color order

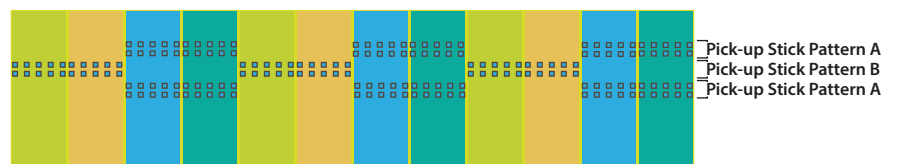


2. Pick-up


Napkins 1 and 2: Duck and Turk Wefts



Napkins 3 and 4: Old Gold and Special Green Wefts



■ = picked-up end

cloth towel. Cut apart between the contrasting threads. Turn and press under all 4 edges to create ½" hems, leaving 3 Maize warp threads showing on the right side along the selvedge edges. Turn under an additional ½" on the cut ends of each napkin, leaving 3 weft threads of Maize showing on the right side. Press. Hemstitch by hand. 

TECHNIQUE

Pick-up Pattern

1. Pick-up Pattern A, *1 up, 1 down; repeat from * in Old Gold and Special Green stripes.
2. [Up and pick-up stick] 2x wrapping the selvedge thread on the return pass.
3. Weave on a down shed.
4. Weave on an up shed.
5. Weave on a down shed.
6. Repeat steps 2–5
7. Pick-up Pattern B, *1 up, 1 down; repeat from * in Duck and Turk stripes.
8. [Up and pick-up stick] 2x wrapping the selvedge thread on the return pass.

9. Weave on a down shed.
10. Weave on an up shed.
11. Weave on a down shed.
12. Repeat steps 8–11.
13. Repeat steps 1–6.

Napkins 3 and 4: Old Gold and Special Green wefts

Follow the pick-up pattern for Napkins 1 and 2, with Pick-up Pattern A in the Duck and Turk stripes, and Pick-up Pattern B in the Old Gold and Special Green stripes.

