



TROPICAL SANDS FLIP-FLOPS

Jennifer B. Williams

Photos by George Boe unless otherwise noted

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Inkle-woven straps combined with store-bought flip-flop bases create the ultimate beach accessory.

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The essential summer wardrobe footwear is the flip-flop, simple and unassuming—until now. These summery inkle-woven flip-flops are sure to steal the show no matter what you wear. Weave them using Jennifer's palette or design them to match your favorite swimsuit or sundress.

MATERIALS

Type of Project: Inkle

STRUCTURE Warp-faced plain weave.

EQUIPMENT Inkle loom; inkle shuttle; band knife (optional); 29 string heddles.

YARNS **Warp:** 5/2 pearl cotton (200 yd/1½ oz; Lunatic Fringe Yarns), Teal, 50 yd; Coral and #5 Yellow Red, 8 yd each; Bleached White, 20 yd; #10 Green Yellow and Cobalt Blue, 30 yd each. **Weft:** 5/2 pearl cotton, Teal, 27 yd.

OTHER SUPPLIES One pair foam flip-flops with plastic thongs; sewing thread; contact cement adhesive; crêpe rubber sheet; fabric pen or permanent marker; Fray Check; rotary cutter and self-healing mat or sharp scissors.

WARP LENGTH 58 ends 2½ yd long (allows 8" for take up, 10" for loom waste).

SETTS **Warp:** 30 epi. **Weft:** 12 ppi.

DIMENSIONS: **Width:** 1". **Woven**

length: (measured under tension on the loom) 72".

Finished size: About 1" x 64" strap, sufficient length for constructing size small to extra-large flip-flops.

PROJECT STEPS

WEAVING

1 Wind a warp of 58 ends 2½ yd long following the warp color order in Figure 1.

2 Wind an inkle shuttle with Teal. Weave for 72" using the band knife or inkle shuttle to beat the weft at a consistent beat to achieve 12 ppi. Follow the pick-up sequence, Figure 2, for the body of the band.

SEWING

1 Remove the band from the loom. Cut appropriate lengths according to the chart in Figure 3.

2 With right sides up, overlap the top edge of 2 side pieces perpendicular to each other. With a fabric pen or permanent marker, draw a line on the top side piece from the outside corner to the inside corner of the overlapped area (Figure 4). This is a cutting line. Next, switch the bottom

side piece to the top and overlap the pieces in the same manner. Draw a line on the second piece. Apply Fray Check to the cutting lines and let dry completely.

3 Using a rotary cutter or sharp scissors, cut along the marked lines.

4 Place the 2 angled edges next to each other and zigzag stitch them together. Fold long (thong) piece in half, right side facing up, over the center of the sewn side straps.

5 Secure the thong piece to the straps by sewing a rectangle 1" by ¾".

6 Repeat Steps 2–5 for the second sandal.



Figure 1. Warp Color Order

		6x			6x		
Cobalt Blue	■	1		1			12
#10 Green Yellow	■		1		1		12
Bleached White	□	2		2		2	8
#5 Yellow Red	■	1		1		1	3
Coral	■	1		1		1	3
Teal	■	2	8			8	20
							58 ends total

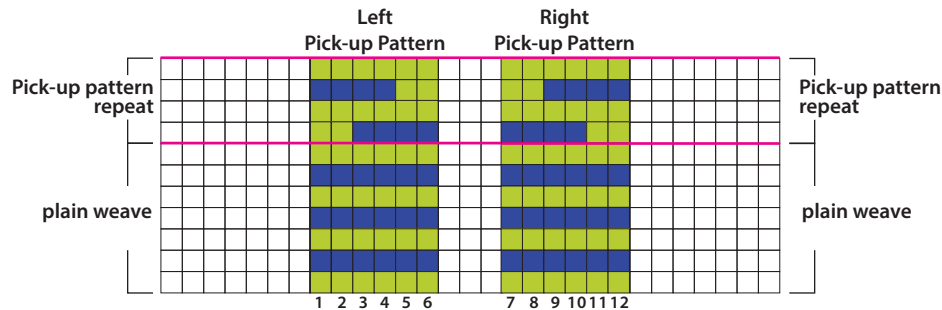
Figure 3. Size chart

	Sides (4 pieces)	Thongs (2 pieces)
Small	7"	9"
Medium	8"	10"
Large	9"	11"
Extra-Large	10"	12"



NOTE: Read inkle drafts from from left to right as they are threaded.

Figure 2. Pick-up pattern



Looking at the center "pick-up area" of your band, with heddled ends up (Cobalt Blue ends up), and starting at the left of the left pick-up area:

1. Pick up Green Yellow threads 1, 2, 11, and 12.
2. Insert weft, change sheds to the open ends up (Green Yellow ends up) shed, beat.
3. Insert weft, change sheds to the heddled ends up (Cobalt Blue ends up) shed, beat.
4. Pick up Green Yellow threads 5, 6, 7, and 8.
5. Insert weft in the shed, change sheds to the open ends up shed (Green Yellow ends up), beat.

Figure 4. Sewing diagrams

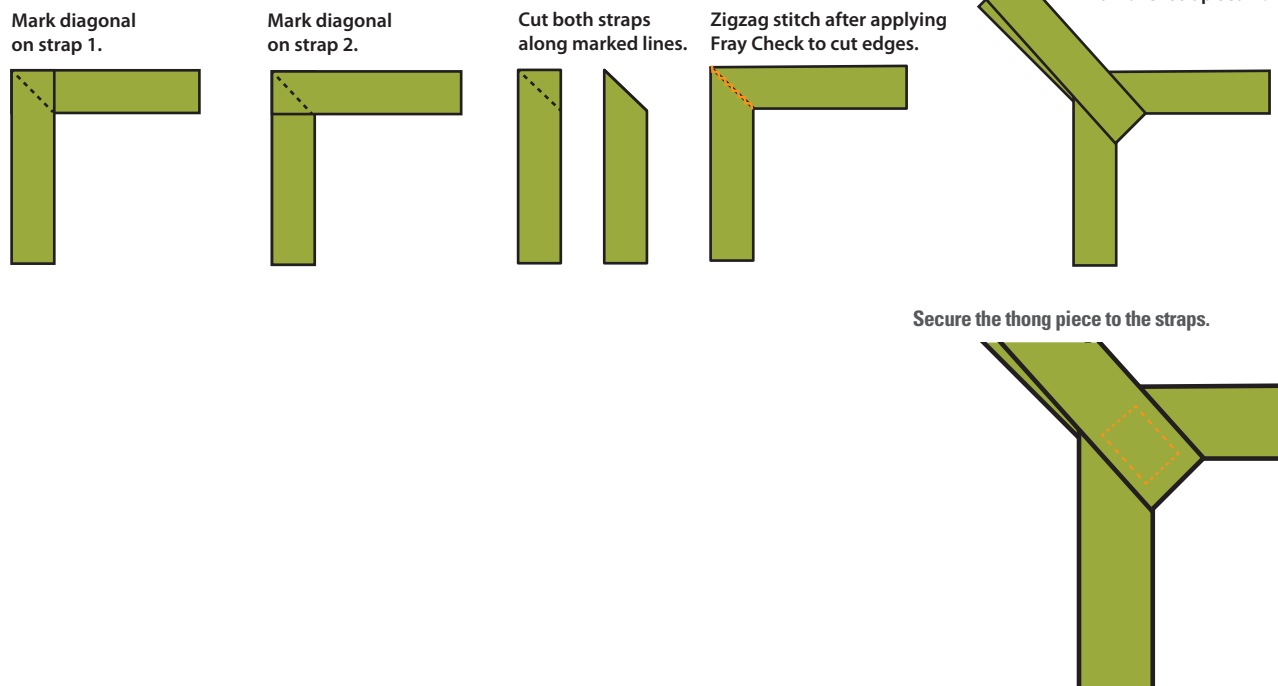
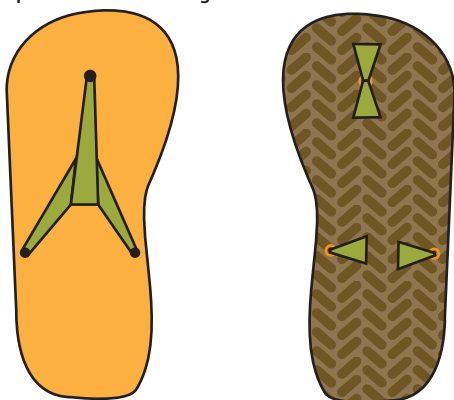


Figure 5.

Insert thong ends into top hole
and strap ends into left and right holes.



Glue tails in place
using contact cement
(follow manufacturer's instructions)

FINISHING

1 Cut the plastic thong off of the sole of each flip-flop.

2 Lay each flip-flop right side up on the back side of the crêpe rubber sheet. Trace the outside of each flip-flop with a ballpoint pen, being careful not to get ink on the flip-flop base. Label the right outline R and the left outline L. Cut along each traced outline.

3 Insert a woven thong piece into the toe hole on the top side of one flip-flop base. Adjust to center. Insert the left and right side pieces into the left and right holes, leaving at least a 1" tail on the back. Repeat for the other flip-flop.

4 Open the 2 tails of the thong on the bottom of each flip-flop, one pointing toward the toe and one pointing toward the heel. Fold the side-piece tails toward the middle of the base of the flip-flop (Figure 5).

5 Following the manufacturer's directions for the contact cement, glue the tails in place, pressing flat. Next, glue the wrong side of the left crêpe rubber sole to the base of the left flip-flop. Press firmly to secure a complete hold. Repeat for the right flip-flop. *

