



PAUL BUNYAN PLAID SCARF

Yvonne Ellsworth

Photos by Matt Graves unless otherwise noted

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Since childhood, Yvonne has been a big fan of the gentle giant Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe. Buffalo plaid also has a larger-than-life mythical background. Whether it was actually worn by Rob Roy MacGregor is yet to be determined, but it is clear this classic pattern belongs with a legendary character.



RIGID HEDDLE

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RESOURCES

Garton, Christina. "A Brief History of Buffalo Plaid." *PieceWork*, December 16, 2019. [pieceworkmagazine.com/a-brief-history-of-buffalo-plaid](https://www.pieceworkmagazine.com/a-brief-history-of-buffalo-plaid).

MATERIALS

STRUCTURE Twill.

EQUIPMENT Rigid-heddle loom, 12" weaving width; two 8-dent heddles; 2 shuttles. **Note:** Have 7.5-dent heddles? See the Heddle Conversion Chart at [LittleLooms.com](https://www.littlelooms.com).

YARNS Warp: Ultra Wool Fine (100% superwash wool; 400 yd/3.5 oz; Berroco), #5334 Cast Iron, 206 yd; #5350 Chili, 167 yd. **Weft:** Ultra Wool Fine, #5334 Cast Iron, 159 yd; #5350 Chili, 154 yd.

WARP LENGTH 134 ends 100" long (includes floating selvages; allows 7" for take-up, 18" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

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

DIMENSIONS Width in the heddle: 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) 75". **Finished size:** (after wet-finishing) 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " × 72" plus 6" fringe.

WEAVING TIP

Superwash yarn often expands rather than shrinking during wet-finishing. This means that after it is wet-finished, this scarf may be slightly longer than it was right off the loom.

PROJECT STEPS

1 Place the back heddle in the loom. Set up the loom for direct warping a length of 100" or wind a warp of 132 ends 100" long following the warp color order in Figure 1. Centering for a weaving width of 11" and working left to right, thread 4 ends in a slot, then 2 ends in the next slot. Repeat for a total of 132 ends. Measure 2 additional ends of Cast Iron for floating selvages and set them aside.

2 Adjust the back heddle threading: From each slot threaded with 4 ends, move 2 ends into a hole on either side of the slot: 1 end to the hole on the left, and 1 to the hole on the right. The back heddle will be threaded 1 end per hole and 2 ends per slot.

3 Thread the front heddle: Place the second heddle in the front position on the loom. Working from left to right, starting with the first end (it should be in a hole in the back heddle), thread 1 end from a hole and 1 end from the next slot in the back heddle through a

WEAVING WITH FLOATING SELVAGES

Develop a pattern for catching the floating selvedge with the weft on each pick. Two possibilities are:

- Entering the shed over the floating selvedge and exiting the shed under the opposite selvedge.
- Passing the shuttle over both selvages while weaving in one direction and passing the shuttle under both selvages while weaving in the opposite direction.

Try one of these techniques and do it consistently as you weave.

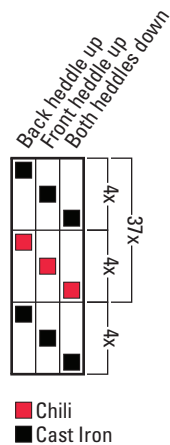
slot in the front heddle. Thread the remaining slot end through the next hole in the front heddle. Repeat across the heddle, maintaining the warp color order from Figure 1. The front heddle will be threaded 1 end per hole and 2 ends per slot.



Figure 1. Warp color order

5x		
60	12	#5350 Chili
72	12	#5334 Cast Iron
132 ends total		

Figure 2. Weaving sequence



4 Add floating selvages: Thread the floating selvedge ends through empty slots on each side of the warp (through both heddles) and weight them over the back beam.

5 Wind a shuttle with Cast Iron and another with Chili. Allowing 6½" for fringe, spread the warp with scrap yarn.

6 Leaving a tail 4 times the width of the warp for hemstitching, weave 3 picks in Cast Iron following the weaving sequence in Figure 2. Using the long tail, hemstitch in bundles of 4 for the first bundle, then 3 in the following bundles, to the last 4 ends. Continue weaving for about 75" following the weft color order and weaving sequence in Figure 2. Catch the selvedge on each side as you weave (see Weaving with Floating Selvedges). Hemstitch as you did at the beginning.

7 Leaving at least 6½" of unwoven warp at each end for fringe, remove the scarf from the loom. Trim fringe to 6½". Prepare a twisted fringe using 1 group of hemstitched warp ends in each fringe.

8 Wet-finish by handwashing in warm water with mild detergent. Lay flat to dry. Press with a warm iron. Trim ends of fringe. ✱