

Bag of the Month

October: evening bag and scarf

PATRICIA SPRINGER

Try this deflected doubleweave fabric for a bag and a scarf—or more! The textured fabric is soft enough to drape beautifully as a scarf, yet durable enough when lined for an elegant evening bag. Add beads to the fringe and a decorative closure. You can also use the bag pattern with other handwoven fabrics for bags with a different look.

My weaving often takes the form of samples because I like to try out many of the techniques I see in *Handwoven* magazine and other publications without necessarily making the items as shown. I often end up with lots of pieces—finished and unfinished—that have no real purpose. A year ago I decided to turn them all into handbags of one sort or another. The result is a collection of very useful bags!

The scarf and evening bag

This evening bag and scarf are the result of one of my sampling adventures. I originally made a scarf following project directions in an article by Ruth Morrison in *Weaver's* magazine; see Resources, substituting my own colors and yarns. After removing the scarf from the loom, to my dismay I found several errors. I loved the look and feel of the scarf, however, so I decided to warp the loom again to make a perfect one. Mission accomplished!

Last year when I began making bags from various leftover projects, I resurrected the scarf with the errors and turned it



Ruth Morrison's original "mosaic" scarf

into an evening bag to match my perfect scarf. The project instructions given here are for both a bag and a scarf. You can choose to make only one of the two pieces. If you do that, allow a 2¼ yd warp length for the bag and 3 yd warp length for a scarf.

Five colors of 10/2 pearl cotton plus black are used in this project. Choose your own colors—you'll love seeing how they work together even if they don't seem to have much relationship to each other on the cone. Pick a range of values from very light to dark for a dimensional plaid effect (you can also choose a single color with black or some other number of colors than five).

The only complication to using more than one color (with black) is that you

have to begin and end each of the colors every time you use it. The black weft can be carried up the selvages, but each color is used for only 4 picks.

Deflected doubleweave

In deflected doubleweave, groups of threads from each of two weaves alternate in both the warp and the weft. In the case of this scarf, each group consists of 4 threads. Both of the weaves are plain weave; one weave is black, the other is a sequence of colors. The black weft weaves plain weave only with the black warp; the colored weft only with the colored warp.

As you weave, the threads on the loom lie in their vertical and horizontal positions as usual. But when a deflected doubleweave fabric is removed from the loom, the warp and weft threads slide into the spaces where they float over or under the group of 4 threads of the other weave. The result is curved, wavy, or other shapes not normally produced in a woven cloth. In the case of this "mosaic" design, irregular little beanlike shapes are outlined in black.

Resources

Morrison, Ruth. "Mosaic Scarf." *Weaver's*, Issue 44, Summer 1999, pp. 62–63.
van der Hoogt, Madelyn, and Lynn Tedder. "Deflected Doubleweave: Start to Finish." *Handwoven*, January/February 2001, pp. 62–67.



Patricia Springer of Sun City West, Arizona, has been weaving for sixteen years. She teaches many techniques to the Weavers West Guild.



STEPS FOR WEAVING THE FABRICS AND SEWING THE BAG

Step 1 Wind a warp of 190 ends, 4 yd long following the color order in Figure 2. Use your preferred warping method to thread the loom following Figure 1 and the Project at-a-Glance. (If you don't have a 15-dent reed, the slewing order in a 10-dent reed will not coincide with the color order; in this case, warp back to front.)

Step 2 To weave the bag: Allowing 6" for fringe including the amount used to tie on, weave $\frac{1}{2}$ " plain weave using Black 10/2 cotton. Hemstitch, including 4 ends and 2 weft rows in each stitch. Weave at 30 ppi following the treadling repeat in Figure 1 for 39" and using the same color order as in the warp; end so that the last color used is Jade Green (followed by 4 picks Black). Then weave $\frac{1}{2}$ " plain weave with Black as at the beginning and hemstitch. Use a separate shuttle for each color. Carry the black shuttle up the selvage when the colors are weaving, but begin and end each color as needed and weave in tails. Allow 14" for fringe between the bag and the scarf.

Step 3 Weave the scarf for 65" beginning and ending with plain weave and hemstitching as for the bag.

Step 4 Remove the fabric from the loom and cut apart the two pieces allowing 6" for bag fringe and 8" for scarf fringe.

Twist and ply scarf fringe (I used 4 ends/fringe) and secure with an overhand knot. Tie the fringe for the bag piece loosely in 1" groups with overhand knots.

Wash the scarf and bag piece by hand in warm water with a small amount of Orvus Paste or dishwashing liquid. Agitate vigorously. Rinse several times and squeeze out the excess water—do not wring! Roll in towels to squeeze out more water. Untie the overhand knots in the fringe for the bag and smooth out the yarns. Lay both pieces flat to dry. Do not press—you do not want to flatten the little bumps.

Step 5 To construct the bag: Cut the bag piece into two pieces, one 23" long (for bag back and self-lined flap) and one piece 10" long (bag front), measuring from hemstitched edges to cut edges. Determine the wrong side of both pieces by placing the bag front on top of the back so that the fringe colors are aligned.

Step 6 Cut 2 pieces of stabilizer the same length and width as handwoven fabrics. Fuse to the wrong side of handwoven fabrics per stabilizer instructions. Cut 2 pieces of interfacing $1\frac{1}{4}$ " shorter and $\frac{1}{4}$ " narrower than handwoven fabrics. Fuse to stabilizer 1" from cut edge and $\frac{1}{4}$ " from other edges following interfacing instructions. Fold

over fabric 1" at cut edges of both pieces for hems and press.

Step 7 Place bag front on bag back, wrong sides together, lining up fringe. Machine stitch across the bottom of the bag in the plain-weave section next to the fringe several times.

Step 8 Fold over the bag flap 6" (wrong sides together to self-face the flap) and with black sewing thread and small stitches, blanket-stitch the sides of flap and flap facing together. Blanket-stitch side seams of bag (wrong sides together), joining bag front and bag back. There should be about $\frac{3}{4}$ " of single-layered fabric between the faced flap and the joined sides of the bag.

Step 9 Cut lining fabric 21" long and 1" wider than woven fabric. Fold under $\frac{1}{2}$ " on one end, wrong sides together. Fold this end up $8\frac{3}{4}$ ", right sides together, stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " side seams, backstitch both ends, and trim seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Turn lining right side out with folds at seamlines and press seams flat. Stitch a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on both sides from fold to hem edge. Turn wrong side out and press. (This is a French seam done in reverse; inside the bag, the finished edges of the lining seams will be next to the selvages.) Clip the lining seam allowances to stitching just above the side seams. Above the clip, fold the seam

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Weave structure for bag and scarf
Deflected doubleweave.

Equipment

8-shaft loom, 7" weaving width; 15-dent or 10-dent reed; 6 shuttles (or 2 shuttles, 6 bobbins); sewing machine.

Yarns

Warp: 10/2 pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb), Black #116, 441 yd ($1\frac{7}{10}$ oz); Jade Green #135, Duck #60, and Dusty Coral #77, 90 yd ($\frac{3}{8}$ oz each; Spice #58 and Pacific Blue #125, 72 yd ($\frac{1}{3}$ oz) each.
Weft: 10/2 pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb), Black #116, 314 yd ($1\frac{1}{8}$ oz); Jade

Green #135, 66 yd ($\frac{1}{4}$ oz); Duck #60
Dusty Coral #77, Spice #58 and Pacific
Blue #125, 62 yd ($\frac{1}{4}$ oz) each.

Yarn sources

10/2 pearl cotton by UKI is available from most weaving retailers.

Notions and other materials for bag

$\frac{1}{2}$ yd cotton (or silk) lining fabric in coordinating color with bag; 20" \times 1 yd polytricot knit interfacing for a stabilizer (such as Easy Knit Interfacing); Pellon Fusible Featherweight 911 Interfacing; Liquid Stitch; beads with holes big enough to accommodate plied fringe; Velcro circles, $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, for closure; black sewing thread.

Warp order and length

190 ends $4\frac{1}{2}$ yd long (allows 4" for take-up and 34" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe at beginning and end of warp).

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 30 epi (2/dent in a 15-dent reed or 3/dent in a 10-dent reed). Width in the reed: $6\frac{1}{3}$ ".

Weft: 30 ppi. Woven length: 40" for bag, 65" for scarf, 14" allowed for fringe between pieces.

Finished dimensions

Amounts produce one bag $5\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 9" with 3" beaded fringe and one scarf $5\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 60" plus 6" fringe at each end.

