

Best Of
Handwoven[®]

Top Ten Placemats



On Four Shafts

Here comes the sixth *Best of Handwoven* eProject collection: *Top Ten Placemats on Four Shafts*! Weaving a set of placemats is almost a weaver's rite of passage. True, there is a lot of weaving involved in placemats. And, you have to figure out how to make all the placemats more or less the same size. *And*, placemats require finishing with hems or fringe. Also true—you can buy placemats in the store. But think how satisfying it is to sit down at a table that is set with placemats you have woven. They really do go with your dishes. You can look at them every day. Placemats, in fact, might be the handwoven item we can enjoy looking at most often and from closest up.

In this collection, you'll find the ten best placemat projects on four shafts (or fewer) from the first twenty years of *Handwoven* magazine. Several of the projects are designed especially for beginning weavers. There are lace placemats, thick and sturdy placemats, and even placemats with inlaid designs. You'll find the directions easy to follow—either for making exactly the placemats shown or for substituting different yarns or colors to match your dishware and decor.

Madeelyn

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BLUE MAZE PLACEMATS

KATHLEEN MONAGHAN

PROJECT NOTES

Bias binding around the edges of these mats not only makes them reversible but allows you to make any weft changes at the selvages. You therefore won't have to deal with overlapping the cut ends when you start a new weft. And because there is no fringe, you can weave one placemat right after the other without stopping.

The mats shown here are woven with black and two closely related shades of blue, but for simplicity, the instructions are written for only one shade of blue. The yarn, Tahki Cotton Classic, comes in an amazing number of colors, so you can choose whatever coordinates with your dishes and decor.

The 2-shaft version alternates sections of vertical and horizontal pinstripes. You can use any 2-block log-cabin block design for checks or other arrangements (to change from one block to another, simply reverse the color order).

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Plain weave with color-and-weave effects.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four placemats 12½" wide by 18½" long each.

WARP and WEFT

Cabled mercerized cotton (four 2-ply strands softly twisted together) at 987 yd/lb: 550 yd each of blue and black.

YARN SOURCES

Tahki Cotton Classic in Dark French Blue #3876 and Black #3002 are available from most knitting and weaving retailers. (Royal Blue #3871 was used for these mats and is no longer available.)

NOTIONS 8 yd double-fold extra-wide black bias tape and black sewing thread.

E.P.I. 10 ends (5 working ends) per inch.

WIDTH IN REED 15⁴/₅".

WARP COLOR ORDER [2 black, 2 blue] 39x, 2 black.

TOTAL WARP ENDS 158 (79 working ends).

WARP LENGTH

3½ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.L.

6 working picks (each working pick contains 2 strands).

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE

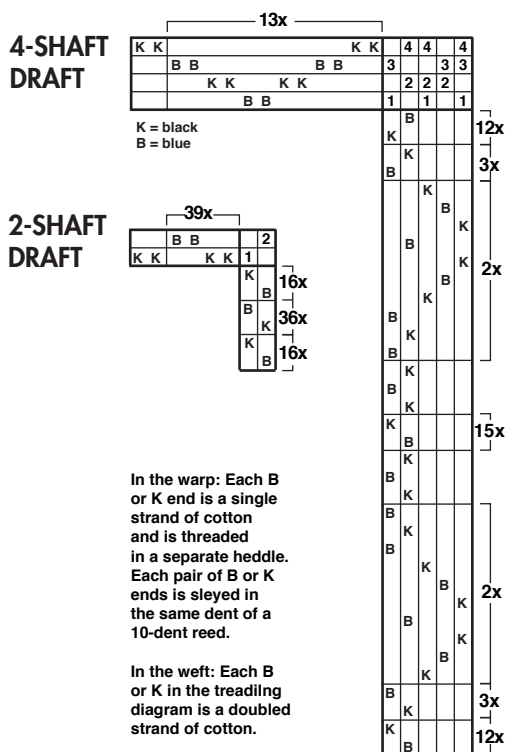
20% in width and length.

WEAVING

Weave the four placemats following the 2-shaft or 4-shaft draft. Take care to keep the double strands of weft parallel. Between mats, weave 2 picks of contrasting scrap yarn to mark a cutting line.

FINISHING

Remove the fabric from the loom and machine stitch along raw edges to secure. Wash by hand and lay flat to dry. Machine stitch on both sides of the contrasting-color marker and cut mats apart. Bind all edges with bias tape (for instructions for applying tape and turning corners, see wrights.com/wrights/class/sewing/doublefoldbias/doublefoldbias.html).





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QUICK AND EASY PLAIN-WEAVE PLACEMATS

JAN MEYER

PROJECT NOTES

I designed this simple project in plain weave especially for beginning weavers. It can be woven on a rigid heddle loom or on any shaft loom. Because it is so simple, this project allows the weaver to concentrate on the rhythm and mechanics of weaving without being distracted by complicated treadling or weft color changes. A novelty yarn in the weft adds texture and dimension while the tight twist of the carpet warp provides an interesting tracking effect.

In the photo, one of the four placemats is shown lying flat (the warp is all blue and the weft is all white except for a blue section at each end). On top of the placemat is a towel I designed to coordinate with the mats. The only differences between the two projects are: four colors are used in the warp for the towels instead of one, the band of carpet-warp weft is omitted from the beginning and end of the towels, and the placemats are woven much more firmly than the towels to provide the sturdy hand needed for lying flat on a table.

These placemats make a perfect gift for almost any occasion. They wear very well and don't require any special care in washing and drying.

To add to the number of placemats produced on the same warp, for each mat increase warp length by $\frac{3}{4}$ yd and for yarn amounts allow an additional 150 yd of cotton carpet warp and 110 yd of novelty weft.

If you prefer hems over fringe, no changes are needed in yarn amounts required. Weave 2" with carpet warp rather than 1" at each end of the placemats. When you take the placemats off the loom, machine stitch between placemats to secure raw edges, cut mats apart, turn hems under twice, and sew by hand or machine.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION Plain weave.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four placemats 11½" wide by 17½" long each plus 1" fringe at each end.

WARP and WEFT

Warp (and weft for 1" at the ends of the placemats): 8/4 cotton carpet warp at 1,680 yd/lb: 700 yd blue. Weft for placemat body: cotton slub novelty yarn at 1,000 yd/lb: 440 yd, natural.

YARN SOURCES

8/4 cotton carpet warp and the cotton slub novelty yarn (Twirly from Henry's Attic) are available from most weaving retailers.

E.P.I. 10.

WIDTH IN REED 15½".

TOTAL WARP ENDS

158 total threads (156 working threads; double the first and last warp thread on each side).

WARP LENGTH

3¾ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste). Part of the loom waste is used for fringe.

P.P.I. 12.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE

25% in width and length.

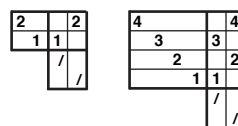
WEAVING

Hemstitch the ends of each placemat including 3 ends and 2 weft rows in each stitch. Begin and end each placemat with a 1" border of plain weave using the blue carpet warp as weft. With the cotton slub, weave 19" of plain weave, maintaining an even beat. Allow 3" for fringe between placemats. Allowing 1½" for fringe at the end of the last mat, remove the fabric from the loom.

FINISHING

Machine wash in very warm water and tumble dry. Cut the placemats apart and trim fringe evenly to 1".

DRAFT





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PLACEMATS IN TWO-BLOCK SUMMER AND WINTER

MARIANNE STEINER WITH JANICE JONES

PROFILE DRAFT



PROJECT NOTES

Using soft cottons that can be machine washed and dried makes these placemats practical and economical. Summer and winter is an especially sturdy block weave and as such is an ideal weave structure for placemats.

Four shafts allow two pattern blocks in summer and winter. The two blocks can be threaded and treadled in different proportions for many designs. The tie-down threads in summer and winter can also be treadled in several different ways to provide interesting textures. For these placemats, the tie-down shafts (1 and 2) are used in 1-2-2-1 order for the pattern picks to create little o's at the corners of the pattern areas. One rule must be observed: change pattern blocks only after a set of four pattern picks.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Summer and winter.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four hemmed placemats 12" wide by 20" long each.

WARP and WEFT

Warp and tabby weft: 8/2 unmercerized cotton at 3,360 yd/lb: 1,600 yd blue (UKI color #47). Pattern weft: Cotton Ripple at 1,050 yd/lb or Texas Cotton at 1,000 yd/lb, 530 yd natural. (The cotton novelty used for these placemats is Wendy by Halcyon and is no longer available.)

YARN SOURCES

8/2 UKI cotton is available from most weaving retailers, Cotton Ripple from Halcyon Yarn, and Texas Cotton from Webs.

NOTIONS

Matching blue sewing thread.

E.P.I. 18 (1-2 in a 12-dent reed).

WIDTH IN REED 14 $\frac{5}{12}$ ".

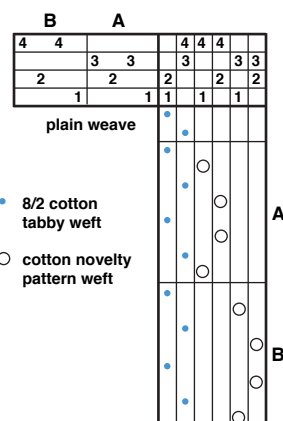
TOTAL WARP ENDS 258 (includes 2 floating selvages).

WARP LENGTH

3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.I. 28 (14 pattern and 14 tabby).

THREADING and TREADLING UNITS



TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE 16% in width and length.

THREADING

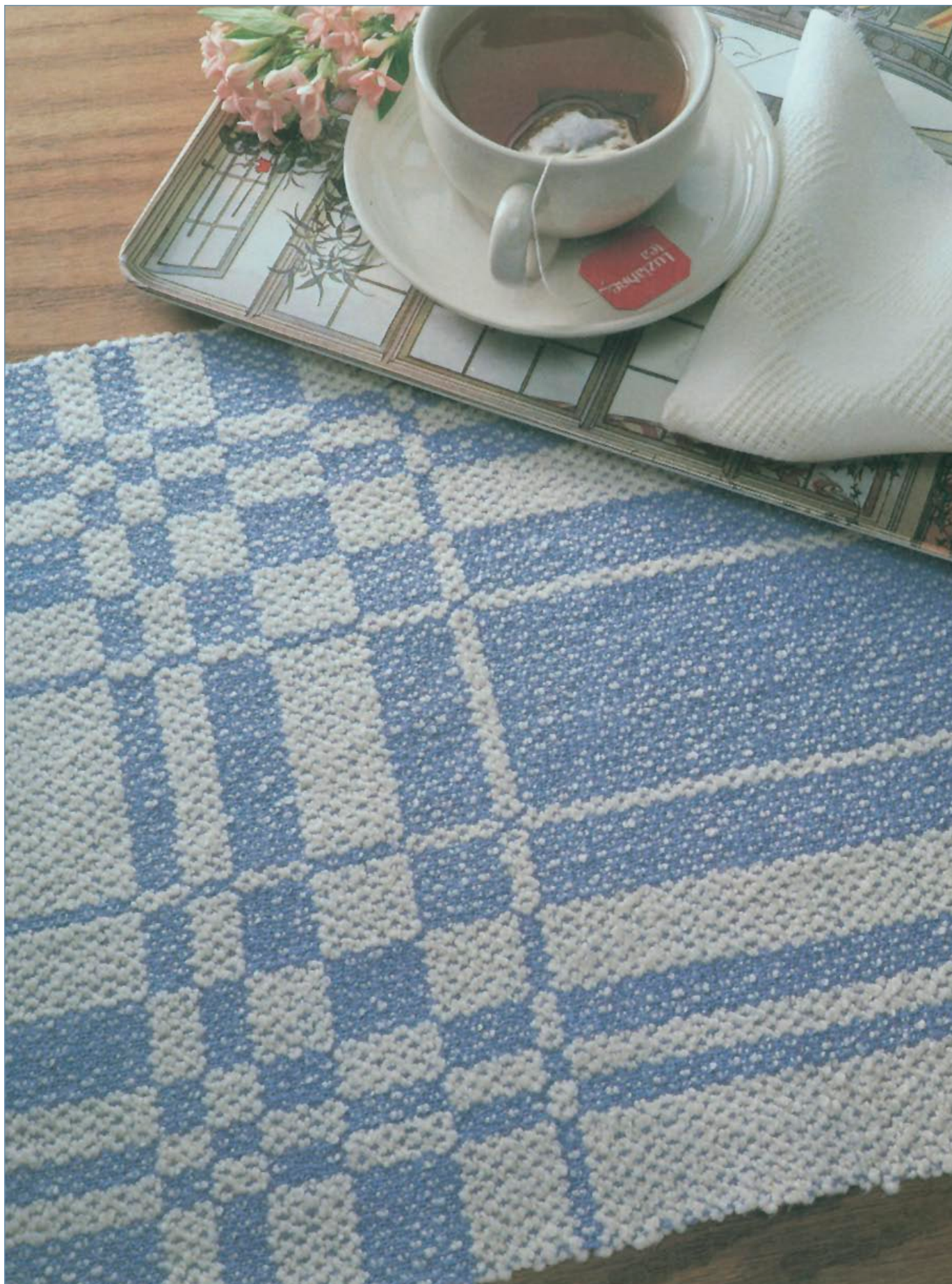
Allowing 1 floating selvage on each side, substitute one 4-thread unit of Block A or Block B for each square on the threading profile draft.

WEAVING

For each mat, begin and end with 1" plain weave using blue 8/2 weft only. Weave the placemat body by substituting one 8-pick treadling unit of Block A or Block B for each square on the treadling profile draft. Measure as you go. When you have woven pattern for 11", you should be in the center of the section that shows 31 squares of Block B, the center point of the mat. Measure how many inches of Block B you have woven and weave that same amount and then continue following the profile draft (rather than sticking to the 31 squares in case your beat is looser or firmer than for these mats). Separate the mats with 1 or 2 picks of a contrasting color.

FINISHING

Machine zigzag raw edges to secure. Machine wash and dry. Press lightly while slightly damp and cut the placemats apart. For the hems: Turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ " at each end and bring the fold to touch the first pattern row. Sew hems by hand.



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TEXTURED MATS IN ATWATER-BRONSON LACE

DONNA MULLER

PROJECT NOTES

Look at what only three shafts and two colors can do! The little windows that are the trademark of Atwater-Bronson lace are threaded in blue for emphasis and depth in the center field of these placemats. Plain-weave borders with blue stripes add smooth, stable edges as a contrast to the lace texture. If you can find an unmercerized cotton to substitute for the pearl cotton weft, you can add a subtle contrast in texture that accentuates the weft ridges. Choose two contrasting colors that coordinate with your dishware for your placemats; use the darker color where royal blue is used in this draft, the lighter color where natural is used.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Atwater-Bronson lace.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Six hemmed placemats 11½" wide by 15½" long each.

WARP and WEFT

5/2 pearl cotton at 2,100 yd/lb: 1,350 yd natural and 250 yd royal blue.

NOTIONS

Off-white sewing thread.

E.P.I. 15 (sley the last 2 ends on each side in a single dent of the 15-dent reed).

WIDTH IN REED 13".

TOTAL WARP ENDS 197.

WARP LENGTH

4¼ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

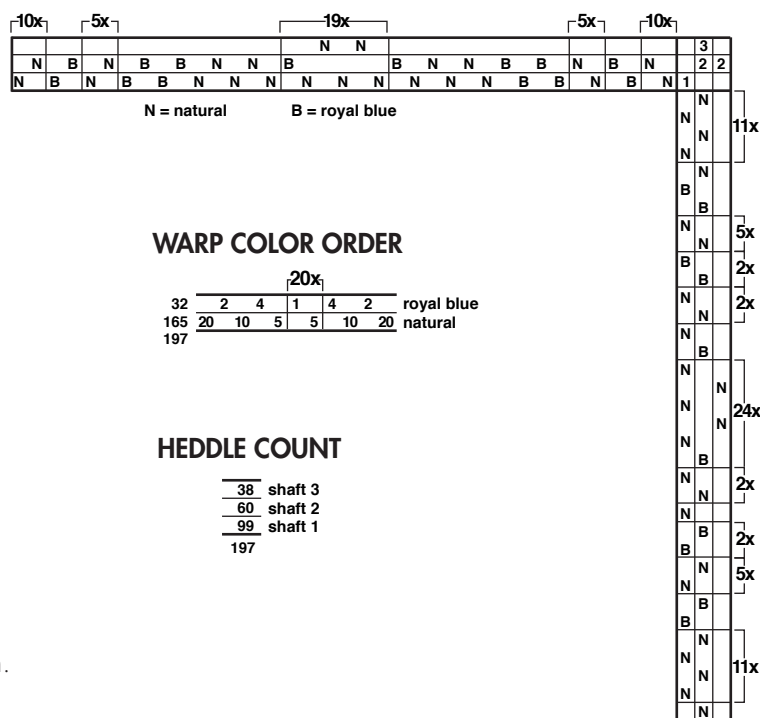
P.P.I. 14.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE 13% in width and length.

WEAVING

Weave each of the six placemats following the treadling in the draft using natural and royal blue 5/2 pearl cotton as indicated. Making attractive selvages with frequent weft

DRAFT



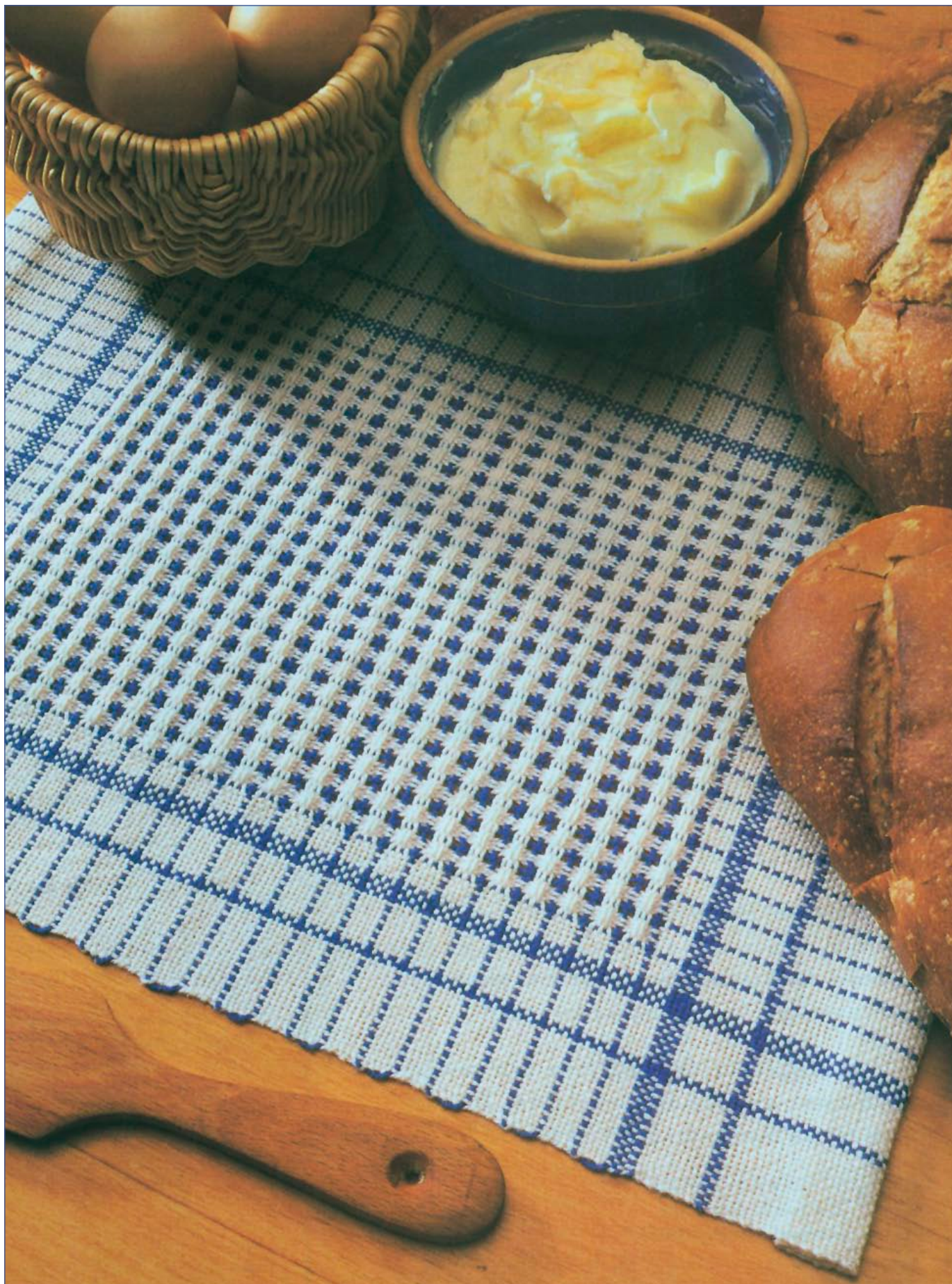
color changes is challenging, especially when one color is used for a single pick. After the 4-pick blue weft sequence, I carried the blue weft up the selvage without cutting between uses. Be sure you lay down and pick up the shuttles in the same order each time so the movement of the blue thread up the selvage is uniform. Separate each placemat from the next with 1–2 picks of a contrasting color.

FINISHING

Remove the fabric from the loom and machine stitch raw edges. Machine wash in warm water with a mild detergent; tumble dry. Steam press.

ASSEMBLY

Cut the placemats apart at contrasting-color marker threads. With the warp-float side as the wrong side, turn under the section of unbleached weft on each end until the raw edge meets the first blue stripe. Press, then tuck the raw edge under to make a full double hem. Line up the warp stripes, pin, press, and sew hems by hand.



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LACE PLACEMATS FOR BEGINNERS

CAROL STRICKLER

PROJECT NOTES

These simple placemats were one of my first experiments with both Atwater-Bronson lace and hemstitching after I became a weaver. They use inexpensive yarns and are fast to weave because they require only one shuttle. An effect known as "tracking" adds an interesting texture to the plain-weave areas of the cloth. (Tracking is the twill-like texture that can occur in plain weave with washing, usually a consequence of the degree of twist in warp and weft yarns.) The placemats are completely reversible.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Atwater-Bronson lace and plain weave.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four placemats 11¾" wide by 17" long each plus 1" fringe at each end.

WARP and WEFT

8/4 unmercerized cotton carpet warp at 1,680 yd/lb: 588 yd light gray-blue for warp and 432 yd medium blue for weft. (Add 25" to warp length, 120 yd to warp amounts, and 108 yd to weft amounts for each additional placemat.)

E.P.I. 12.

WIDTH IN REED 14".

TOTAL WARP ENDS 168.

WARP LENGTH

3½ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.L 12.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE

16% in width and 21% in length.

WEAVING

For each placemat: Leave 1" unwoven at beginning and end for fringe. Begin weaving plain weave, leaving a 56" tail of weft for hemstitching. Hemstitch, including 2 ends and the first 2 picks in each stitch. Continue weaving plain weave to 1 1/2". Weave lace in Blocks A and B 4 times, then weave lace in Block A for about 13". Weave lace in Blocks A and B 4 times, then 1 1/2" plain weave. Hemstitch the end with a final tail of weft, including the last 2 weft picks and 2 ends in each stitch.

DRAFT

12x												A												B												A												12x																																															
4x																								12x																								4x																								12x																							
												3												4												4												3												3												4																							
2												2												2												2												2												2												2												2											
1												1												1												1												1												1												1												1											

plain weave

lace in A and B

lace in A

168

HEDDLE COUNT

24	shaft 4
16	shaft 3
44	shaft 2
84	shaft 1

HEDDLE COUNT

<u>24</u>	shaft 4
<u>16</u>	shaft 3
<u>44</u>	shaft 2
<u>84</u>	shaft 1
168	

FINISHING

Cut the placemats apart along the center of the 2" fringe allowance between them. Trim all fringe evenly. Machine wash on a gentle cycle and machine dry until partly damp. Iron dry, stretching the placemats into shape.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THIS PROJECT

From the experience of weaving these placemats (and in my intervening years of weaving), there are some things I would now do differently:

1. Atwater-Bronson lace has quite a bit of draw-in. The wider the area of lace, the more difference there will be between it and any plain-weave sections in the cloth. Therefore, I might redesign this pattern so that the areas of plain weave and lace are more equal (increasing the repeats of Block A and decreasing the repeats of Block B in the threading).
 2. Dyes can run. Always test yarns before you use them.
 3. Cotton carpet-warps tend to fuzz and generate a lot of lint the first several times they are washed. If you use a filler weft yarn in the fringe areas during weaving and leave it in place through the first wash, this tendency may be reduced.
 4. This mat was hemstitched in groups of 2 warp threads. This tends to further spread the plain-weave ends of the mats. I would either stitch in larger groups (4, say) or use a finer yarn for the hemstitching. An alternative solution to problems 3 and 4 would be to hem the mats instead.
- Ah well, it's called "live and learn"!



COTTON PLACEMATS IN NATURE'S COLORS

BETTY LINN DAVENPORT

PROJECT NOTES

Here's a rewarding project that can be woven on either a shaft loom or on a rigid heddle loom using a pick-up stick. These placemats make an especially appropriate project for beginning weavers using any type of loom.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Plain weave with supplementary-warp patterning.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four hemmed placemats 11¾" wide by 17¾" long each.

WARP and WEFT

4/2 cotton at 1,680 yd/lb: 900 yd dark tan for a shaft loom, 860 yd dark tan for a rigid heddle loom (there is less loom waste with a rigid heddle loom); 26 yd natural and 59 yd green for a shaft loom, 24 yd natural and 54 yd green for a rigid heddle loom.

YARN SOURCES

The yarns used in these placemats are Fox Fibre naturally colored cottons by Vreese and are no longer available in the 4/2 weight. Earth Guild provides an ideal substitute (Dragon Tale Yarns) in the same colors in 8 oz cones: Curry (dark tan), Juniper (green), and Natural (off-white).

NOTIONS Matching sewing thread.

E.P.I. 12.

WIDTH IN REED 14".

TOTAL WARP ENDS 167.

WARP LENGTH

For a shaft loom: 3¼ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste). For a rigid heddle loom: 3 yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 18" loom waste).

WARP COLOR ORDER

18	4	1	4	4	1	4	Juniper
8	1	1	1	1	1	1	Natural
141	16					16	Curry
167							

DRAFT FOR SHAFT LOOM

8x												27x												8x																	
N N												N N												N N														3	3		
C	J	J				J	J	C	C	C	J	J			J	J	C			2	1																				
C	N	J	J	J	J	J	N	C	C	N	J	J	J	J	J	N	C	1																							
C = Curry												N = Natural												J = Juniper																	

THREADING

Thread the shaft loom following the draft. Thread the rigid heddle starting with a hole, centered for 14". In each border stripe, the two Natural warp threads in the center must be threaded in slots.

P.P.I. 12.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE

16% in width and length.

WEAVING: SHAFT LOOM

For the shaft loom: Follow the treadling sequence in the draft using Curry as weft throughout to make a continuous length of cloth (about 85").

WEAVING: RIGID HEDDLE LOOM

Place the heddle in the down position with the slot threads raised. With a pick-up stick, pick up the 2 middle Natural warp threads of each stripe behind the heddle. Slide the pick-up stick to the back beam when not in use. Weave the fabric for 85" using this sequence: *Up shed, down shed, up shed, down shed, up shed with the pattern stick brought forward, down shed, up shed with the pattern stick brought forward, down shed. Repeat from *.

FINISHING

Remove the fabric from the loom and machine staystitch ends. Machine wash in cool water with a neutral liquid dish detergent. Machine tumble dry until slightly damp, smooth out on a flat surface to continue drying, and press firmly with a hot iron before completely dry.

ASSEMBLY

Measure 18¾" for each placemat (or divide woven length into equal quarters) and mark cutting lines. Machine straight stitch on each side of the cutting lines. Cut the pieces apart. Turn each end under ¼" twice and sew hems by hand.



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COLOR TRICKS FOR STRIPED COTTON PLACEMATS

SHARON ALDERMAN

PROJECT NOTES

The stripes in these placemats look like ribbons of color laid over a neutral ground. Stripe size is the same throughout, but the color changes from stripe to stripe. The warp and plain-weave picks between the colored stripes are a neutral beige and the stripe colors a range of soft desert hues. Consider a more dramatic set of mats by using a black warp with brilliant weft colors or try different blues against a navy warp.

The colors in the stripes do not follow a regular repeat. You can use the photograph to choose weft colors or you can arrange them the way I did: Wind a bobbin with each color and line the bobbins up in an order you like. Use them in that order and then rearrange them for the next color repeat.

Two color juxtapositions were jarring to me: gray next to orange and rose next to yellow green. The gray contains a lot more blue than the sample card suggested and the orange seems brighter when surrounded by other colors than gray. It would be simple to omit colors that don't seem to work, but the resulting fabric would be less lively. Studying how colors work together this way will help develop your skill in using them!

The stripes are woven in a weft-faced (1/3) broken twill to emphasize the color but avoid a strong twill line. A broken twill also helps to combat the tendency for the edges of a weft-faced fabric to curl. The selvages still curl a little so they are hemmed with the smallest possible hem.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Plain weave and 1/3 broken twill.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Six hemmed placemats 16" x 16" each. (For more rectangular mats, plan a weaving width of 18–20".)

WARP and WEFT

10/2 pearl cotton at 4,200 yd/lb. Warp and weft for plain-weave (and occasional twill) stripes: 2,100 yd of beige (#107). Other twill weft colors: 190 yd each of med. gray (#104), rosy beige (#116), lt. yellow (#110), darker rosy beige (#117), yellow green (#111), pale orange (#118), gold (#112), rose (#119), and med. rust (#115).

YARN SOURCES All yarns are from Halcyon Yarn. The colors are available on 2 oz minicones. One minicone cone of each color is enough (plus a 1/2 lb cone of beige).

E.P.I. 24.

WIDTH IN REED 18½".

TOTAL WARP ENDS 444.

WARP LENGTH 4 yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.I. 30 in colored stripes, 24 for plain weave.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE 11% in width and length.

WEAVING

Follow the color order in the photograph or plan your own using the suggestions given here and weave the placemat fabric for 115". Carry the beige weft along the selvage where it will float between uses for ¾–1½", the width of the colored stripes. Change bobbins according to your color rotation, leaving the weft tails for the color stripes hanging from the selvages.

FINISHING

Hemstitch over the first and last 2 picks of the placemat fabric while it is on the loom (this hemstitching will not show in the final mats). Cut the fabric from the loom and mend any flaws. Trim weft tails at the selvages. Machine wash the fabric, warm water, regular cycle. Iron the cloth with a hot iron while it is still slightly damp.

Mark cutting lines in the cloth for six 17" lengths. Machine stitch along both sides of the cutting lines. Cut mats apart between rows of stitching; trim to stitching if necessary. Turn the selvages to the back and machine stitch. Turn the stitched ends of the cut edges to the back and machine sew the hems so that the mats are 16" x 16" each.

DRAFT

4			4		4
3	3		3		
2	2	2	2	2	
1	1	1			
beige weft	/	/	/	/	
color stripes			/	/	3x



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TODDLER'S PLACEMATS IN THEO MOORMAN

KATI REEDER MEEK

PROJECT NOTES

Although toddlers love to help set the table, they often have trouble remembering where everything goes. And, during a meal, they invariably set milk glasses at the edge of the table near an elbow, awaiting certain disaster. These placemats, with their place-setting designs woven in Theo Moorman technique, offer a happy solution to table-setting uncertainties and may even help reduce milk spills. The placemats also make a delightful present for baby showers and first birthdays.

"Theo Moorman technique" is the label given to a method that Theo Moorman devised for using very fine, widely spaced warp threads to tie an inlay weft to a ground cloth. The inlay weft does not go selvedge to selvedge, but is worked back and forth in design areas only. Any number of colors and/or yarn types can be used, and designing freedom is as unfettered as it is with tapestry. Since a selvedge-to-selvedge weft weaves the background, however, Theo Moorman technique is much faster to weave than tapestry.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Theo Moorman inlay.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four placemats 11¼" wide by 15¼" long each plus 1" fringe at each end.

WARP and WEFT

Ground warp: 10/2 pearl cotton at 4,200 yd/lb: 910 yd natural. Tie-down warp: 20/2 pearl cotton at 8,400 yd/lb: 460 yd black. Ground weft: cotton slub novelty yarn at 4,200 yd/lb: 500 yd blue/gray variegated for background, 60 yd gold/white for optional stripe. Inlay weft: 3/2 pearl cotton at 1,260 yd/lb: 150 yd natural for napkin, knife, fork, spoon, and plate rim. Cotton slub novelty yarn at 4,200 yd/lb: 90 yd natural for glass and center of plate.

SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTES and SOURCES

The cotton slub novelty yarn at 4,200 yd/lb used for the ground weft and for one of the inlay wefts is no longer available. Most available cotton-slub yarns are more than twice as thick. A suggested substitute for the ground weft is 10/2 pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb) in a variegated blue, gray, and violet (Blue Jay) and for the optional stripe, a variegated tan and white (Prairie) or natural (all from The Woolery). For the

cotton slub novelty inlay weft used for the glass and center of the plate, use Safari by Henry's Attic at 2,200 yd/lb to give your placemats a similar "slubby" texture to these.

E.P.I. 36 total ends per inch (24 ground warp threads and 12 tie-down warp threads) sleyed 3/dent in a 12-dent reed.

WIDTH IN REED 12".

WARP COLOR ORDER

[2 ground ends, 1 tie-down end] 144x.

TOTAL WARP ENDS

432 (288 ground ends and 144 tie-down ends).

WARP LENGTH

3 yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.I. 20 for the background weft, 20 for the inlay weft.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE 6% in width and 10% in length.

WEAVING

To make the cartoon (the pattern you'll use for the design), cut a piece of brown paper bag 12" by 16". Lay out a small plate, knife, fork, spoon, and glass in their proper places. Draw around the pieces and add a napkin shape. Wind a bobbin with the 10/2 variegated ground weft and wind each of the two inlay wefts into a butterfly.

Allow 1" for fringe at each end of each placemat and hemstitch over the first and last 2 ground picks. Weave the ground using the first two treadles (shafts 1-3 vs 2-4) with the variegated 10/2 cotton weft up to where your pattern indicates that you will start the inlay weft (see Note below).

To weave the inlay weft, lift the tie-down shaft that was included with the previous ground pick—shaft 3 for the 1-3 shed or shaft 4 for the 2-4 shed—and place the pearl cotton and/or slub yarn as indicated by the cartoon. Beat, weave the ground weft in the next ground shed, lift the corresponding tie-down shaft, and place the inlay weft (it will travel in the opposite direction from the previous inlay pick). You can include the stripe shown here beneath the plate and add the loops on two edges of the napkin as you weave the 3/2 pearl cotton inlay weft (or omit either or both of these).

Note: After you have started weaving, pin the cartoon in place a few inches below the fell of the cloth. To check de-



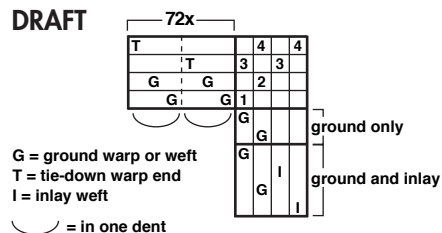
Weave these placemats to help your toddler learn to set the table. At the same time, you'll see how easy it is to use Theo Moorman technique to create inlay designs on any fabric. The inlay weft is used only in the design areas. It floats on the surface of the cloth, interlacing with fine tie-down threads in the warp. The inlay weft is a perfect way to use small amounts of expensive novelty yarns (eyelash, metallics, bouclés, and more)—different yarns can create different textural effects as well as create designs that range from opaque to almost transparent. Weaving the placemats will give you great ideas for other fabric designs using Theo Moorman technique.

sign placement, lift the cartoon up against the underside of the warp with a flat stick. Leap-frog pins so the cartoon does not advance over the breast beam.

FINISHING

Cut the placemats apart in the center of the fringe areas. Machine wash in warm water with a mild detergent on a gentle cycle. Lay flat to dry. Before the placemats are completely dry, press on the wrong side. Trim fringe evenly.

DRAFT



STURDY PLACEMATS IN COTTON CARPET WARP

JANE PATRICK WITH JUDY STEINKOENIG

PROJECT NOTES

This project was inspired by a swatch I found in an old issue of *The Looming Arts* at The Pendleton Shop in Sedona, Arizona. I used doubled cotton carpet warp for both warp and weft in a dense sett to produce thick, absorbent placemats that stay put on the table. Note that with this sett and structure, both the warp and the weft take up a lot during weaving, washing, and drying.

These mats are a quick, easy, and rewarding project—ideal for beginning and experienced weavers alike.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Huck variation (also called canvas weave).

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four mats 13" wide by 19¼" long each plus 1" fringe at each end.

WARP and WEFT

8/4 cotton carpet warp at 1,680 yd/lb used doubled: 1,269 yd tan for warp, 325 yd tan and 790 yd gray for weft.

YARN SOURCES

8/4 cotton carpet warp is available from most weaving retailers.

E.P.I.

12 doubled ends per inch (one doubled end per dent in a 12-dent reed).

WIDTH IN REED 15½".

TOTAL WARP ENDS

190 doubled ends, including 2 doubled floating selvages (380 actual ends).

WARP LENGTH

3½ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.I. 12 doubled picks per inch.

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE

20% in width and length.

WEAVING

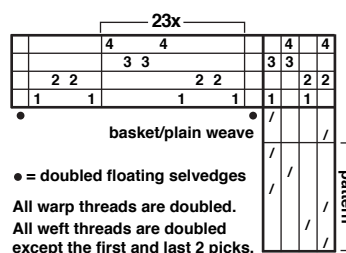
Since this lace weave structure creates a lot of draw-in, make a conscious effort to angle the weft in the shed (weft amounts include a generous allowance for weft take-up). Beat with a closed shed and use a very firm beat. The only place in these mats where the carpet warp is not used doubled is for the 2 picks at the very beginning and end of each mat.

Begin each mat with a single strand of the tan weft and weave 2 picks using treadles 1 and 4, leaving a long tail of the weft. (True plain weave is not possible with this draft; adjacent doubled ends on shafts 2 and 3 weave together.) Use the weft tail to hemstitch over these 2 picks. Then, using the carpet warp doubled, weave pattern for 3" with tan, 16" with gray, and 3" with tan. Finish the mat as at the beginning with 2 picks of a single strand of tan and hemstitch. Leave about 2" between mats for fringe.

FINISHING

Cut the hemstitched mats apart across the middle of the fringe areas. Machine wash on a gentle cycle. (Carpet warp fringe has a tendency to generate a lot of fuzz—the mats should be washed separately from other articles until they have ceased shedding lint.) Machine dry until just slightly damp. Lay flat to finish drying. Press only if necessary.

DRAFT





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PLAID PLACEMATS WITH EASY INLAY PATTERNING

JEAN SCORGIE

PROJECT NOTES

Black lines crisscross the surface of these plaid, plain-weave placemats, thanks to supplementary warp threads and inlay weft threads. The inlay design is confined to a few picks and is very fast to work. If you have never used linen before, you will be pleasantly surprised with this smooth, strong, and easy-to-use 16/2 linen (available in a wide range of colors).

Note: By the second placemat, the 4-strand black supplementary warp threads will become loose because they take up less than the ground warp. To restore the tension, lift shaft 4 and place a stick beneath the raised threads in back of the castle. Slide the stick toward the back of the loom, over the back beam, and down to rest below the warp beam. Add a weight to each end of the stick. (If you have two warp beams, place the heavy black threads on the second beam. Another option is to omit the ten 4-strand black threads from the warp when you wind it, leave empty heddles for them when you thread the loom, and then add the 4-strand black threads individually without beaming them and weight each one.)

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Plain weave with a supplementary warp and an inlay weft.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Four hemmed placemats 13¾" wide by 17½" long each.

WARP and WEFT

16/2 linen at 2,400 yd/lb: 900 yd black, 1,030 yd bleached white, 80 yd red.

YARN SOURCES

16/2 linen is available from the Lone Star Loom Room.

NOTIONS Black sewing thread.

E.P.I. 20 (each heavy black warp thread is 4 strands of black treated as a single end in the reed and heddle).

WIDTH IN REED 15".

TOTAL WARP ENDS 300 (includes 10 heavy ends, each made of 4 strands of black and counted as 1).

WARP LENGTH

3½ yd (includes take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste).

P.P.I. 16

TAKE-UP and SHRINKAGE 6% in width and length.

WEAVING

Wind a stick shuttle with 4 strands of black and a bobbin each of black, red, and white to use with a boat shuttle. Decide how you want to begin and end the 4-strand weft. On the picks that extend selvedge to selvedge, I left short tails and cut them flush with the edge after washing. At the ends of the inlay-weft picks (these do not travel selvedge to selvedge), rather than weave in tails of the inlay weft for each pick, I left one tail at the beginning and then allowed loops to form on the underside of the fabric as the weft moved from row to row. The loops don't show through the finished piece, but you'll have to be careful not to catch them with the tip of the iron.

To weave each placemat, begin with the single-strand black weft and follow the background treadling for 4¼". Weave 1 pick with the 4-strand weft, leaving ¼" extending from each selvedge. Weave 7 picks red, one 4-strand pick, and 3¼" white. For the inlay section, continue weaving the background in white and add a 4-strand inlay weft after each repeat.

To weave the inlay weft, with the stick shuttle enter the shed from beneath the web, weave across the desired width, and exit beneath the web again. To locate the entry and exit points for the inlay, lift shaft 3 and notice that there are 18 raised white warp threads on each side of the center stripes. The inlay extends beneath 3 warp threads on the outside of the center black stripes, then 6, 12, 15, and 18 raised warp threads respectively. Cut off the 4-strand weft leaving a tail.

The next six 4-strand picks weave selvedge to selvedge in the middle of the placemat. Then repeat the inlay picks in reverse, weave 3½" white, one 4-strand pick, 7 picks red, one 4-strand pick, and end with 4¼" black.

FINISHING

Machine zigzag raw edges and wash the fabric in warm water with mild detergent by hand or by machine on a gentle cycle. Roll in a towel to absorb moisture, smooth flat, and air dry until damp. Press on the reverse side with a hot iron. Cut apart mats, turn under ¼" and then 1" or until the black corner stripes form a square. Sew hems by hand. Care for the placemats by machine washing and line drying—machine drying will give the placemats a floppy and undesirable hand.

TIPS FOR PLANNING, HEMSTITCHING, AND FRINGING

TAKE-UP AND SHRINKAGE

Weft take-up and shrinkage. As you weave, extra weft length (beyond the width of the warp in the reed) must be placed in the shed to allow for weft take-up (in *Handwoven* projects, this amount is included in required weft yardage). The fabric then draws in as the weft bends over and under the warp threads, so that the width of the woven cloth is narrower than the width of the warp in the reed. The cloth narrows further after it is removed from the loom, and shrinkage narrows it even more if it is washed. To calculate the percentage of weft take-up and shrinkage, divide the finished width by the width of the warp in the reed.

Warp take-up and shrinkage.

As you weave, the warp bends over and under the weft threads. Fabric length is therefore less than the length of the warp threads that produce it (*Handwoven* projects give the number of inches allowed for this take-up under Warp Order and Length). When you release tension and remove the fabric from the loom, the fabric takes up in the warp direction. If you wash the fabric, shrinkage further decreases its length. To calculate the percentage of warp take-up and shrinkage, divide the finished fabric length by the woven length (measured under tension on the loom) plus the inches given for warp take-up.

To calculate how long to weave a fabric for a specific finished length, use the percentage derived by dividing the finished length listed in the project by the woven length measured under tension on the loom (for this percentage, do not include the inches allowed for take-up in the warp yarn).

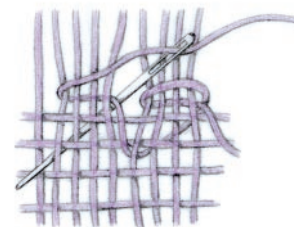
TWISTING (OR PLYING) THE FRINGE

Divide the number of threads for each fringe into two groups. Twist each group clockwise until it kinks. Bring both groups together and allow them to twist around each other counter-clockwise (or twist them together in that direction). Secure the ends with an overhand knot. (Use the same method to make a plied cord by attaching one end to a stationary object.)



SIMPLE HEMSTITCHING

Weave several picks of plain weave, ending with the shuttle on the right side if you are right-handed, left side if you are left-handed. Measure a length of weft three times the warp width and cut, leaving the measured length as a tail. Thread the tail into a blunt tapestry needle.



Take the needle under a selected group of ends above the fell and bring it up and back to the starting point, encircling the group. Pass the needle under the same group of ends, bringing it out through the weaving two (or more) weft threads below the fell. Repeat for each group of ends across the fell. Needle weave the tail into the selvedge and trim. (See * below.)

DOUBLE (ITALIAN) HEMSTITCHING

Weave several picks plain weave, ending with the shuttle on the right side if right-handed, left side if left-handed. Measure a length of weft four times the warp width and cut, leaving the measured length as a tail. Thread the tail into a blunt tapestry needle.

Take the needle under a selected group of warp ends above the fell and bring the needle back to encircle the ends. Next, pass the needle under the same ends but come up two or more weft rows down from the fell. Then bring the needle back around the same group of ends below the fell. Then begin again, encircling the next group of ends. (See * below.)

**For both methods: To hemstitch the first end of a piece, weave a header, weave four or five picks of plain weave (or of the basic weave structure used in the piece), and hemstitch over the top two or three weft rows. Weave the piece and then hemstitch the other end over the last two or three weft rows. Remove the fabric from the loom and discard the header and weft threads below the first hemstitching.*

