

LINDA LIGON

### STRUCTURE

Log cabin (plain weave with color-and-weave effects).

### EQUIPMENT

2-shaft, 4-shaft, or rigid-heddle loom, 23" weaving width; 12-dent reed; 2 shuttles.

### YARNS

Warp: 2-ply woolen-spun wool (1,800 yd/lb, Harrisville Shetland), Garnet and Topaz, 792 yd each; Marigold, 144 yd. Weft: 2-ply woolen-spun yarn: Garnet and Topaz, 675 yd each. For embellishments, 2-ply woolen-spun yarn: Marigold, 25 yd; Peacock, 16 yd.

### WARP LENGTH

288 ends 6 yd long (allows 6" for take-up, 38" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

### SETTS

Warp: 12 epi (1/dent in a 12-dent reed) except for the 12 Marigold selvedge threads at 24 epi (2/dent). Weft: 12 ppi.

### DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 23". Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 172" (includes 12" unwoven warp between two 80" woven sections). Finished size after fulling: two pieces 18" x 65" each (expect 20–25% take-up and shrinkage). This ruana fits fingertip to fingertip. To plan exact measurements, add to warp length and weave and finish a sample.

# Log-cabin ruana

THIS RUANA IS A SET OF IDEAS, A BLANK CANVAS, A PROJECT TO SUGGEST ANOTHER PROJECT!

You can think of this fabric as a background for fancy finishes or other embellishments. Try a tablet-woven or inkle band instead of a knitted one for the neck binding or the back seam. Plan long twisted fringes or embroidered hems. Whatever you choose, the richly fulled Shetland-wool fabric will show it off!

A soft wool ruana is a wonderful garment for winter. You can throw it over most any outfit—it can be casual enough for a run to the grocery store or classy enough to wear out in the evening. Ruanas don't have to look like the big-woolly-blanket types popular in the 1970s. This one, in relatively fine Harrisville Shetland yarns, is drapable and light, yet snugly warm. The lovely fabric hand is a result of the ways the yarns respond to careful finishing.

The straight, uncomplicated lines of the ruana's shape are an invitation to showcase fancy finishes. In this ruana, the fringe is trimmed into tiny balls, a knitted seam binding covers the neck edge, and a twisted cord in bright turquoise with decorative tassels at the ends is stitched onto back and neck seams. You can try other braids, cords, stitching, and/or tassels as finishing treatments (see McEneely in Resources for ideas).

## RESOURCES

McEneely, Naomi. *Compendium of Finishing Techniques*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2003. For finishes shown here and others to try: knitted I-cord, p. 97; twisted cord, p. 99; invisible seam, p. 67; baseball stitch, p. 69; braids, pp. 79–91.









## 1. Warp color order

		18x	96x	18x	
24	12				12
132		1		1	
132			1		
288		1	1	1	

Marigold  
Garnet  
Topaz

**TIP:** For faster warping: Wind the Garnet and Topaz ends together with a finger between them to prevent twisting. Make color-order changes as you thread the heddles.




1 Using your preferred warping method, wind the warp and thread the loom for plain weave following the color order in Figure 1 (see Tip). Tie the warp onto the front apron rod in 6-thread groups. This will allow you to begin weaving without needing a header to spread the warp. Weave 5" alternating Garnet and Topaz. Change the color order and weave 70" alternating Topaz and Garnet. Change again and weave 5" alternating Garnet and Topaz. This completes one panel. Leave 12" of unwoven warp and weave the other panel in the same way. (The Marigold edge threads at 24 epi are essentially warp-faced.)

2 Allowing 6" for fringe at both ends, cut the fabric from the loom and cut the two panels apart in the center of the 12" fringe section. Tie the fringe on both ends of each panel in overhand knots with 6 ends in each fringe. Trim all fringes to about 1". For each panel, loosely join the selvages with the same yarn as the ruana to form a tube. This will ensure that fulling is even along the length of the panel. Machine wash both panels on a gentle cycle, warm water (about 105°F). Remove the stitching that joined the selvages and lay flat to dry. Press lightly while still slightly damp. Cut fringes back to the knots for a miniball fringe effect (see Photo a).

3 To strengthen them, hem the edges that will become the sides of the ruana by making a fold along the center of the Marigold selvedge sections and whipstitching with Marigold yarn. Handstitch the two ruana halves together up the back using matching sewing thread in an invisible seam or baseball stitch (see Resources, page 48). Hold a favorite sweater or jacket against the ruana as a pattern to cut a shallow arc for the back of the neck. Slope the top front edges into a V and cut. You don't have to worry about the fulling fabric raveling—it won't!

4 With Marigold, knit a binding for the neck in stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) on 6 stitches using size 3 needles. Make it a little longer than the length to be bound. Handwash in warm (105°F) water, dry, and press flat. Fold this binding over the raw neck edge and stitch in place using matching gold sewing thread (Photo b).

5 Cut 4 strands of Peacock about 2 yd long and make a twisted cord; see Figure 2. Using matching blue sewing thread, stitch the cord to the neck edge outside the knitted binding and make a knotted tassel of the loose ends of the cord (Photo c). Make another 4-strand Peacock cord of the same length and stitch it over the back seam from the neck down as far as you please. Finish with another little tassel. 

## 2. Twisted cord



Attach the four strands of Peacock to a stationary object. Twist two pairs of two ends separately in the same direction until they kink. Twist them together in the opposite direction and secure ends with an overhand knot.