

Circles & Checks Towels in Turned Taqueté

SUSAN POAGUE

HANDWOVEN DISH TOWELS are a weaver's staple and a perfect long-warp project. They are welcome gifts, sturdy and thirsty, and they last forever. For some time now, turned taqueté has been my structure of choice for dish towels. Conventional taqueté is threaded exactly like summer and winter, but turning the draft 90 degrees so the threading and treadling orders switch places creates turned taqueté. It becomes a one-shuttle weave, with tie-down picks that alternate with pattern picks. Using highly contrasting colors in the warp makes shapes appear as if by magic as you treadle.

The circle is one of my favorite design elements, and I have found that turned taqueté is a great structure for weaving the circle shape with the fewest number of harnesses and treadles. I am always trying to find ways to make a warp do double or triple duty, so I've come up with variations to my original design by adding stripes to the warp, and I even developed a checkered treadling option.

This draft is something of a cult favorite with weavers on social media, with many people sharing it and mentoring other weavers who try it. Recently, I spotted a new variation on Instagram with an expanded tie-up that allows for the colors on the front and the back to change sides. Mary Bentley, who uses this variation for teaching, kindly shared her tie-up and treadling with me, and I have included it in this project as Towel 3.

For these towels, I designed stripes of six colors in the warp that contrast highly with off-white. Choose one of the warp colors for each towel as your weft and experiment with the three treadling variations.

RESOURCES

- ♦ Blumenthal, Betsy. "Turned Taqueté Towels." *Best of Handwoven, Yarn Series: A Dozen Projects in 10/2 Cotton*, eBook. Fort Collins, Colorado: Interweave, 2012, 5–6.
- ♦ Inouye, Bonnie. "Turned Taqueté: An Introduction." *Complex Weavers Journal*, June 2014, 36–40.
- ♦ Stubenitsky, Marian. *Weaving with Echo and Iris*. Drukkerwerk der Kinderen, Uden, Netherlands: Stubenitsky, 2014.

1 Wind a warp of 468 ends $6\frac{3}{4}$ yd long, alternating light and dark colors and following the warp color order in Figure 1. For easier and faster winding, hold a light and a dark thread together, keeping a finger between them to prevent twisting. If desired, measure 2 additional ends of Naturel to use as floating selvedges and set them aside.

2 Warp the loom using your preferred method following the draft in Figure 2.

STRUCTURE

Turned taqueté.

EQUIPMENT

8-shaft loom, 20" weaving width; 12-dent reed; 1 boat shuttle; temple (optional).

YARNS

Warp: 8/2 unmercerized cotton (3,360 yd/lb; Maurice Brassard et Fils), #100 Naturel, 1,593 yd; #8266 Olive Foncé, #5206 Aqua Marine, #5536 Sapin, #4616 Peacock, #1152 Vert Foncé, and #1510 Turquoise, 264 yd each.

Weft: 8/2 unmercerized cotton, #8266 Olive Foncé, #5206 Aqua Marine, #5536 Sapin, #4616 Peacock, #1152 Vert Foncé, and #1510 Turquoise, 472 yd each.

WARP LENGTH

468 ends $6\frac{3}{4}$ yd long (does not include optional floating selvedges; allows 19" for take-up, 26" for loom waste).

SETTS

Warp: 24 epi (2/dent in a 12-dent reed).

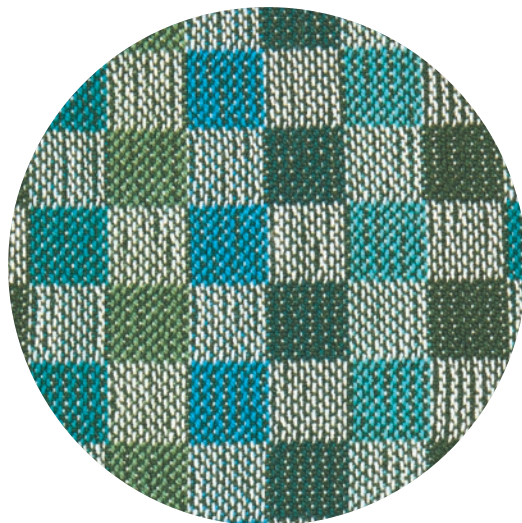
Weft: 24 ppi.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: $19\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) about 198".

Finished size: (after wet-finishing and hemming) 6 towels about $16\frac{1}{2}$ " x 25" each.






3 Start threading with the Naturel warp ends and keep the color order consistent, even while changing for different color stripes. Sley 2 per dent in a 12-dent reed, centering for a weaving width of $19\frac{1}{2}$ ". If using them, sley the floating selvedges in an empty dent on each side of the warp and weight them over the back beam.

4 Spread the warp with scrap yarn. Wind a bobbin with your choice of weft.

5 Weave following the draft of your choice for about 33" ending with a full repeat. Weave 2 picks of scrap yarn and start your next towel with the weft color and treadling of your choice.

6 Continue weaving until you have completed six towels. Weave several picks of scrap yarn to protect your weft.

7 Cut the towels off the loom. Zigzag or machine stitch on either side of the scrap yarn picks and on the ends and cut the towels apart.

8 Machine wash the towels and line-dry or tumble in a dryer. Turn under the hems $\frac{1}{2}$ ", then another 1", pressing and pinning securely. Machine stitch the hems, then whipstitch the ends closed. 

SUSAN POAGUE of Louisville, Kentucky, holds degrees in both art history and craft design. A handweaver for almost 50 years, Susan frequently blogs about her weaving at www.iowaweaver.wordpress.com.

2. Draft

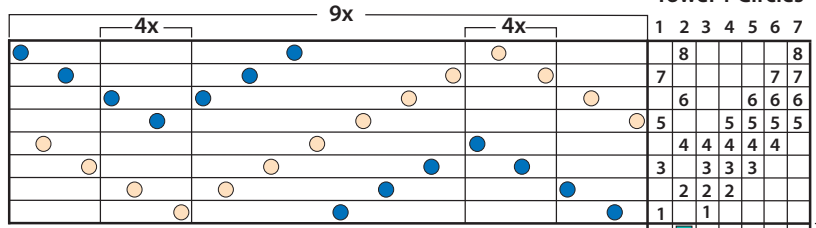
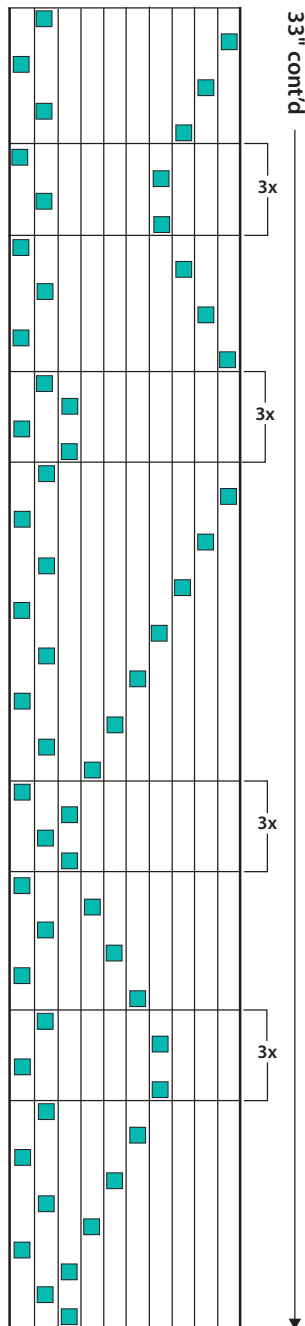
1. Warp color order

	3x					
	13x	13x	13x	13x	13x	13x
39	1					
39		1				
39			1			
39				1		
39					1	
234	1	1	1	1	1	1

468 ends total

Heddle count

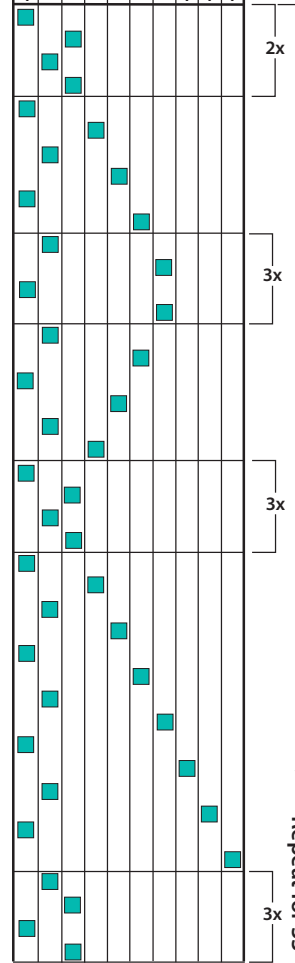
Shaft 8	54
Shaft 7	63
Shaft 6	63
Shaft 5	54
Shaft 4	54
Shaft 3	63
Shaft 2	63
Shaft 1	54
Total	468



- #1510 Turquoise
- #1152 Vert Foncé
- #4616 Peacock
- #5536 Sapin
- #5206 Aqua Marine
- #8266 Olive Foncé
- #100 Naturel
- 8/2 cotton - dark colors (see warp color order)
- 8/2 cotton - #100 Naturel
- 8/2 cotton weft color of your choice

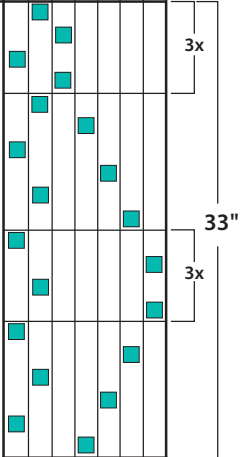
Towel 3 Circles Variation

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8					8	8	8	8	8	8
7				7	7	7	7	7	7	7
6			6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
5			5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1



Towel 1 Circles

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8							8
7						7	7
6				6	6	6	6
5			5	5	5	5	5
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1



Towel 2 Squares

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8							8
7						7	7
6				6	6	6	6
5			5	5	5	5	5
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

