

Zebras on the Serengeti

CARLA JEANNE HUBBART

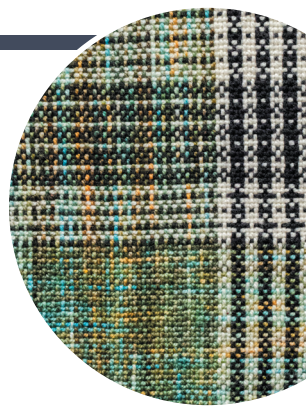


Photos by Matt Graves

HANDWOVEN

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STRUCTURE

Plain weave with color-and-weave.

EQUIPMENT

Rigid-heddle loom, 15" weaving width; 12-dent heddle; 3 shuttles.

YARNS

Warp: La Jolla (100% superwash merino wool; 400 yd/115 g; Baah Yarn), Serengeti Sunset, 345 yd; Black Pearl and La Perla, 63 yd each. **Weft:** La Jolla, Serengeti Sunset, 240 yd; Black Pearl and La Perla, 85 yd each. **Note:** Serengeti Sunset has been discontinued. Choose another handpainted fingering-weight yarn as a substitute, such as Muse Fingering (75% superwash merino wool/25% nylon; 423 yd/100 g; Knit Picks) in Untamed Hand Painted.

OTHER SUPPLIES

Fringe twister (optional); Eucalan or other no-rinse wash.

WARP LENGTH

180 ends 94" long (allows 4" for take-up; 18" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

SETTS

Warp: 12 epi.
Weft: 11–12 ppi.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 15".
Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) 72".
Finished size: approximately 13" × 71" plus 4½" fringe.

I find asymmetric design quite freeing and spontaneous. I enjoy the balanced randomness and lack of preciseness of asymmetry, so it often shows up when I warp a loom. During the actual weaving of this piece, I did not feel compelled to simply repeat the same pattern at the other end of the scarf. Asymmetric design in both directions is a win/win for me! Nature itself, never 100 percent symmetrical, also contributed to the design of this piece. The Serengeti was green at the end of the rainy season when my daughter and son-in-law went on safari for their honeymoon. The first animals they saw were zebras—her favorite!

If the Serengeti or zebras aren't your thing, this design works quite nicely in other color combinations. Pick a handpainted fingering-weight yarn in your favorite color and combine it with either black and white or two other contrasting colors for the pattern design.

1 Set up your loom for direct warping a length of 94". Centering for a weaving width of 15", thread 2 ends (1 loop) of La Perla in a slot followed by 2 ends (1 loop) of Black Pearl in the next slot. Repeat for a total of 12 slots (24 ends) for each color. Warp with Serengeti Sunset the remaining width for a total of 15". Beam the warp.

2 Rearrange the ends to sley the slots and holes with the Black Pearl and La Perla as 3 dark ends, 3 light ends. Sley the Serengeti Sunset in the slots and holes as usual. See the final warp color order in Figure 1.

Design Note

When Carla wove her scarf for the issue, she warped for 7 stripes each of the black and white yarns. In later experiments with the design, she realized you could simplify matters by using an even number of stripes. Doing so allows you to more easily direct warp the scarf without noticeably changing the design, so we've presented the pattern with this method.



3 Wind 3 shuttles with each of the wefts. Leaving at least 6" unwoven warp for fringe, spread the warp with scrap yarn.

4 Weave with Serengeti Sunset for 2"–3".

5 With the La Perla and Black Pearl, weave 15" of color-and-weave patterns 1, 2, and 3 following the weft color order in Figure 2, repeating several rows of each color-and-weave pattern to create blocks of zebra striping.

6 Continue weaving with Serengeti Sunset for 36".

7 Weave repeats of patterns 4 and 5 for a total of 15".

8 Finish weaving the Serengeti Sunset for 3". Leaving at least 6" for fringe on both ends, cut the fabric from the loom.

9 Wet-finish with no-rinse wash. Squeeze out excess water and hang to dry.

10 Trim fringe. Prepare a twisted fringe using 4 warp ends in each fringe and keeping the black and white ends separate from the green.

11 Steam-press. 

CARLA JEANNE HUBBART *has been weaving for over 37 years. She owns Alamitos Bay Yarn Company and teaches rigid-heddle weaving there.*



1. WARP COLOR ORDER

8x			
24	3	■	Black Pearl
24	3	□	La Perla
132	132	■	Serengeti Sunset
180 ends total			

2. WEFT COLOR ORDER

		□	■	■			
		La Perla	Black Pearl	Serengeti Sunset			
Pattern 1			1		3"		
		2				} 15"	} repeat patterns as desired for indicated length
Pattern 2			3				
		1				} 15"	} repeat patterns as desired for indicated length
Pattern 3			3				
		3				} 36"	} repeat patterns as desired for indicated length
Pattern 4			1				
		1				} 15"	} repeat patterns as desired for indicated length
Pattern 5			2				
		2			3"		