

Baby blankets in M's and O's

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Handwoven Presents

4-SHAFT PROJECT



STRUCTURE

M's and O's.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS

Two hemmed blankets,
32" by 35" each.

YARNS

Warp: 8/2 unmercerized cotton at 3,360 yd/lb, 2,409 yd white.
Weft: (for turquoise blanket)
8/2 unmercerized cotton, 422 yd
Light Turquoise #56, 153 yd
Champagne #66, 57 yd Pink #22.
#10 crochet cotton at 3,050 yd/lb
(300 yd/ball, Royale, J.P. Coats),
171 yd #0949 (variegated light
pastels).

Choose colors for a second
blanket, allowing 422 yd for
background weft and 400 yd
total for accent colors.

Hems for both blankets: 16/2
cotton (6,720 yd/lb), 41 yd.

WARP ENDS

741 (includes 2 floating selvedges).

WARP LENGTH

3 1/4 yd (allows 4" for take-up
and 27" for loom waste).

SETTS

EPI: 20.

PPI: 17.

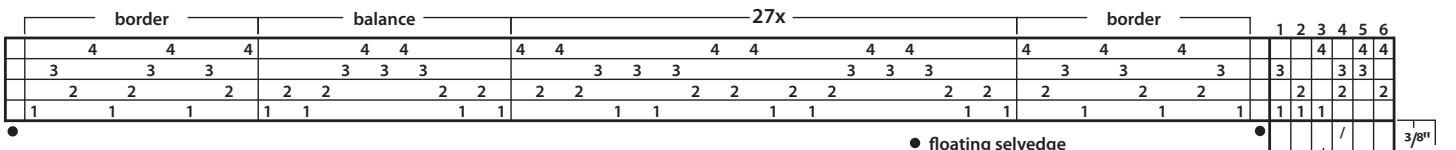
WIDTH IN THE REED

37 1/10".

TAKE-UP & SHRINKAGE

15% in width and length.

Draft



The floats in M's and O's provide an opportunity to play with color at the loom. You can change the pair of wefts any time, creating stripes and gradations of color and a different look for every piece.

In most M's and O's drafts, floats appear in an even number of columns. If two colors alternate in the weft, there will therefore be either dark/light (in two columns of floats), dark/light/dark/light (in four columns), or other multiples of two. I wanted to arrange floats symmetrically (dark/light/dark, for example), in three columns.

Inspiration came from an earlier M's and O's project in which I placed an extra thread in a turning block to make the threading symmetrical (see Resources). In the blanket shown here, all turning blocks have this extra thread to place colors symmetrically in groups of three columns.

TIPS FOR USING COLOR

You can select any pair of weft colors and change them at any time for weft stripes. Exchanging shuttles places the two colors in the opposite columns; either color can be a constant, or both can be changed for each treadling sequence of 10 picks. You'll need about $5\frac{1}{2}$ yd of each weft color for each 10-pick sequence. (Note that true plain weave is not possible on this threading.)

WEAVING

Instructions given here are for the turquoise baby blanket. Weave it first following the Draft given here and then choose your own colors for the second baby blanket.

TIP: To use two shuttles in M's an O's: Always place the resting shuttle in the same position (either closer to the reed or closer to you). If the last pick of one block is the same color as the first pick of the next, start the next block with the second treadle (and color) and end with the first.

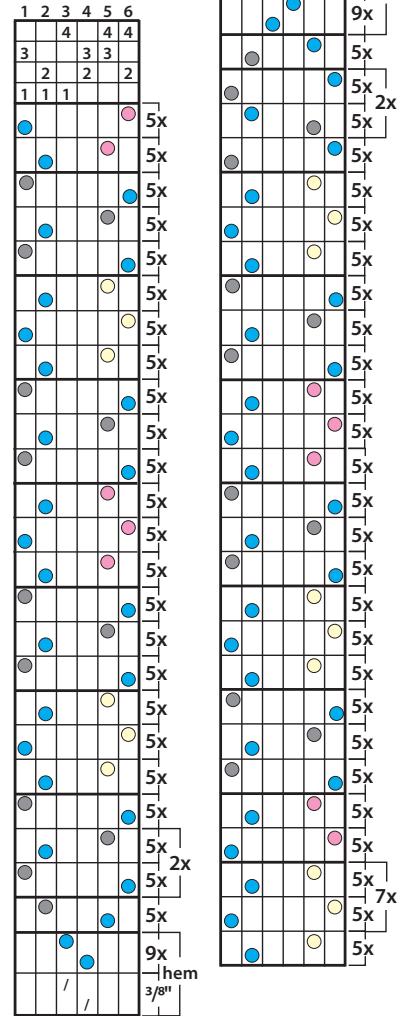
Before threading the shafts, check the Heddle Count to make sure you have enough heddles on each shaft.

Begin the hem section with $\frac{3}{8}$ " in 16/2 cotton, then change to 8/2 cotton (turquoise for the first blanket) for 1". Weave the body of the blanket, alternating two weft colors as in the Draft (about 39"). Repeat hem section, first with 8/2 cotton for 1", then with 16/2 for $\frac{3}{8}$ ". Separate blankets with 2 picks of a contrasting color. Repeat for the second blanket in your choice of colors and/or block arrangements (or weave the second blanket as you did the first).

Remove the fabric from the loom. Machine zigzag raw edges and on each side of contrasting-marker thread and cut blankets apart. Turn ends under twice and baste to secure. Machine wash and dry. Finish by machine sewing hems.

RESOURCES

Farling, Kathleen. "Learning from A Weaver's Exchange: Towels in M's and O's." *Handwoven*. January/February 2006, pp. 64-66.



Heddle count

Shaft 4	170
Shaft 3	171
Shaft 2	226
Shaft 1	<u>172</u>
	739