

February Weaving Sample by Linda Shaffer

Structure: Plain Weave-2 Block Rep Weave

Warp: 8/4 Cotton rug Warp

Weft: 8/4 Cotton Rug Warp (12-15 strands wound together for the thick weft)

Sett: 24 epi, 2 per dent in a 12 dent reed

Maximum Finished Width: 27"

Warp length: 9 yards

This project started as simple first project when I purchased my Glimakra loom and warping reel. I thought of rep weave as an appropriate first project on a Swedish loom. My rep weave design is based on the Vermillion Cliffs Placemats design (Pages 64-67) from the book "Rep Weave and Beyond" by Joanne Tallarvoic. I liked the idea of using the constants with the blocks shifting around the constants, and making the 2-block pattern appear more complicated. I wanted several rugs, so my warp was long. I threaded block A on shafts 1, 2; block B on shafts 3, 4; and the constants on 5,6.

As I started thinking of the possibilities, things became more complicated. My draft was symmetrical so I decided to warp it on the reel with 2 crosses and then cut it in half. All of this worked just fine even though it was rather time consuming even winding 4 threads at once, because I used over twenty colors. Also, this was my first time using the warping reel.

I was doing everything the Swedish way, so this was a total learning process. When I was placing the warp in the raddle, I somehow flipped one of my warp chains. I noticed this when I was placing the corresponding bout in the raddle and assumed that the first one was correct and matched my warp to it. As it turned out, the first warp bout was flipped, so I changed my pattern and did not know it until I started weaving. Because of this, I have not included my draw down because it is entirely different than my finished projects.

Even though I was using the DVD, "Dress Your Loom the Swedish Way" with Becky Ashendon, I was having trouble with the tie-up. Siv and Bengt Nelson were kind enough to make a house call, and help me with the tie-up. Once everything was set-up the weaving was easy.

My borders were too much with the altered design, so after weaving my first rug, I dropped some of the border and continued to do this on each project. My widest rug is 27" and my placemats are 16" wide. I wove 3 rugs, a table runner, 4 placemats, and the samples. I liked the possibilities for design on the loom that rep weave offers and have more projects planned.