

Doubleweave Log Cabin Runner

for fun at the loom

TRACY KAESTNER

The joys of log cabin are many—lots of color interaction and a design that looks complex yet is made with simple plain weave. These joys are more than doubled by using doubleweave to frame squares of log cabin. The log cabin squares can become brightly lit windows of color.

Log cabin is a color-and-weave effect. The design is created by color, not weave structure—the weave structure, in fact, is plain weave. The regular alternation of dark and light threads in both warp and weft produces either vertical or horizontal pinstripes. Changing the dark/light order to light/dark or vice versa changes the direction of the pinstripes. (For more about log cabin and other color-and-weave effects, see “Color-and-Weave Basics: An Overview,” *Handwoven*, March/April 2005, pages 34–37.)

In this doubleweave runner, log cabin is combined with a second plain-weave layer that frames the log cabin windows. The threading for each window produces six smaller squares in which vertical pinstripes alternate with horizontal pinstripes. The same light blue is used as the dark thread in all of the windows; yellow and white alternate from window to window as the light threads. Navy blue is used for the layer that provides the frame.



Tracy Kaestner of Katy, Texas, a weaver for over twenty years, enjoys opening the door to the joys of weaving for new students.

The warp and weft in the runner are both cottolin. Made of 50% cotton and 50% linen, cottolin is an ideal yarn for a durable, washable table runner. Cottolin comes in a wide range of colors and is especially easy to use for weaving.

The sett for each layer in the runner is 18 ends per inch (36 total ends per inch). This is a bit dense, so to keep the windows square, only five small squares of vertical vs horizontal pinstripes are made in the treadling direction while there are six in the threading direction.

Other considerations

In weaving doubleweave, you can choose to interlock the wefts so that the selvedge is closed, or you can make sure they don't interlock so that there are two separate layers at the selvedge. Before you start weaving the runner, decide how you want your selvedges to be and practice for an inch or two (see Step 5 on page 3). You can also add a floating selvedge if you want to interlock the edge without worrying about shuttle order.

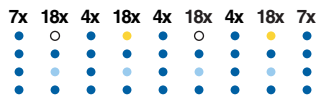
The small runner shown here is the perfect size for the center of a table or a dresser or sideboard. Pick colors to complement your decor and add a crisp runner to your home!



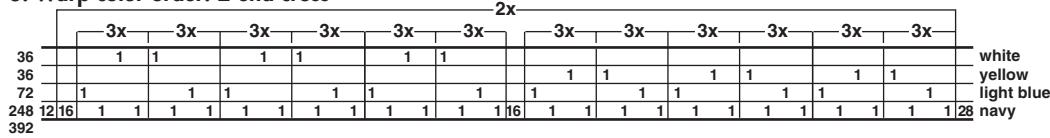


STEPS FOR WEAVING THE RUNNER

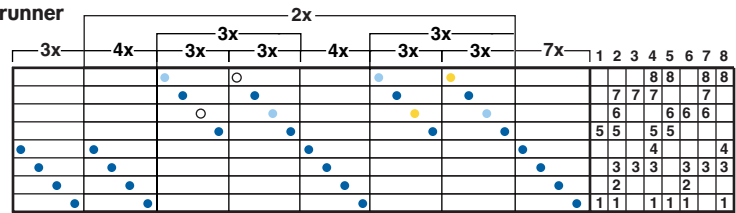
2. Warp color order: 4-end cross



3. Warp color order: 2-end cross



1. Draft for runner



Step 1 Wind a warp of 392 ends 2 yd long following Figure 2 or 3. You can hold 2 ends together, 1 navy with 1 of either navy, yellow, or white. However, you'll have to cut and tie after every light end except in navy areas. Here's a time-saving method for winding this warp (for it, use Figure 2): Hold 4 ends together but keep them separate with your fingers (or put each through a hole in a paddle). Place all 4 ends together in the cross. For example, begin with 4 navy and wind 28 ends (you'll end at the bottom peg). Cut and tie 1 yellow to 1 navy end and 1 light blue to 1 navy end. Then wind 60 total ends of this 4-end group (you'll end back at the top peg). Then cut and tie so that all 4 ends are navy, and continue in this way following the color order in Figure 2.


Step 2 Spread the warp in a 1" raddle for a weaving width of 10" (put ten 4-end groups in each dent; there will be 32 ends in the last dent on one side). Place lease sticks in the cross and beam the warp with firm and even tension.

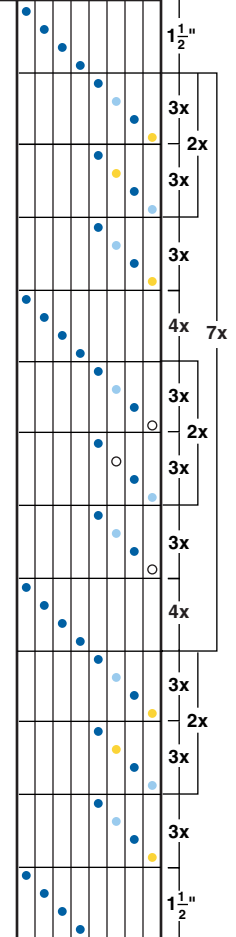
Step 3 Thread following Figure 1. Choose the colors from each group of 4 ends in the order indicated in Figure 1; any twisted or crossed threads will straighten when tension is applied during weaving.

Step 4 Sley 3 ends/dent in a 12-dent reed. Tie the warp onto the front apron rod. Weave several repeats using treadles 1-2-3-4 to spread the warp.

Step 5 Weave the runner following Figure 1. When you weave the log cabin windows, you'll use three shuttles, 1 navy and 2 log cabin colors, changing colors at the start and end of each window. You can interlock the wefts so that the selvedge edge is closed or keep the layers separate at the selvedges. This depends on shuttle placement. If you always place the navy shuttle closest to the reed, the edges won't interlock. If you always place the navy always closest to you, the edges will interlock (as they do in this runner). When you change colors, tuck tails between the layers.

Step 6 Remove the runner from the loom. Turn the top and bottom hem edges to the inside ½". Invisibly stitch the tube closed with the raw edges inside. Repair weaving errors (there will probably be some on the underside since you can't see it when you are weaving) and darn in any tails.

Step 7 Machine wash the runner in warm water, gentle cycle, with a mild detergent. Machine dry, warm; press with a hot iron. 



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Weave structure

Doubleweave (one layer plain weave, one layer log cabin).

Equipment

8-shaft loom, 11" weaving width; 12-dent reed; raddle; 3 shuttles, 4 bobbins.

Yarns

Warp: 22/2 cottolin (50% cotton, 50% linen, 3,175 yd/lb, 1,650 yd/250-gram tube), navy, 496 yd (2½ oz); light blue, 144 yd (¾ oz); yellow and white 72 yd (¾ oz) ea.

Weft: 22/2 cottolin (50% cotton, 50% linen, 3,175 yd/lb, 1,650 yd/250-gram tube), navy, 256 yd (1½ oz); light blue, 75 yd (¾ oz); yellow, 40 yd (½ oz), white, 35 yd (½ oz). Small amount of navy sewing thread for hems.

Yarn sources

22/2 cottolin is from Nordic Studio.

Warp order and length

392 ends 2 yd long in the color order in Figure 2 or 3 (allows 4" take-up and 28"

loom waste). Add 1¼ yd to warp length for each additional runner.

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 36 epi, 18 epi per layer (3/dent in a 12-dent reed). Width in the reed: 10"½". Weft: 30 ppi, 15 ppi per layer. Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 40".

Finished dimensions

After washing, amounts produce one hemmed runner 9¼" × 32".