

Scarves with Sea Silk Warp

and eyelash, bouclé, and elastic silk wefts

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*A Sea Silk warp and a versatile twill draft allow the weaving of many different scarves on the same warp—by varying the treadling sequence or the weft yarns or both. In some scarves, the weft is prominent; in others the warp. The weave structure can appear distinct or indistinct. (For more information about Sea Silk yarns (70% silk, 30% Seacell), see *The Yarn of the Hour, Handwoven*, November/December 2007, pages 62–63.)*

Sea Silk, the warp yarn for this project, is a blend of silk with one of the recently available “renewable” fibers—Seacell. Seacell is made with a lycell base to which a small amount of seaweed has been added. This silk/Seacell blend has a beautiful sheen and an affinity for dyes both natural and synthetic. As a fan of pure silk yarns, I was surprised to find Sea Silk has more luster than pure silk and an attractive “slippery” hand.

Seaweed is used in cosmetics because it is believed to impart beneficial minerals to the skin. The manufacturer of Seacell suggests that the same benefits may be imparted through the yarn. So in addition to looking good, fabrics made from Seacell may help the wearer feel good, too!

Four colors are used in the Sea Silk warp for these scarves: teal, purple, taupe, and a multicolored strand that combines the other three. They are arranged in a gradation from teal to purple to taupe.

The draft for the scarves

The twill draft for these scarves is derived



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WHY WEAVE (OR COLLECT) SCARVES?

Weave scarves instead of samples you keep in a drawer. Scarves are big enough to allow experimenting with color, sett, drape, yarn combinations, scale, and texture—yet small enough that failures are not devastating. You can study the finished product to visualize a shawl, throw, dress, or coat while also having a beautiful, wearable product.

From a wearer’s point of view, scarves can update or add excitement to any outfit—even changing its look entirely. You can never have too many scarves! A scarf can also make accessible handcrafted work that might be unaffordable as a larger garment.

Scarves can be displayed as works of art on their own. Place them over couches and chairs or grouped on a display rack. Each one can be removed, worn, and appreciated (yet another reason to have lots of scarves!).

from what has been called the “double two-tie” threading system (see Figure 1, page 3, and Resources). In this system, shafts 1 and 2 are repeated throughout the threading just as they are in summer and winter (a “two-tie” weave). In “dou-

ble two-tie,” two of the other shafts are threaded in each unit (1-3-2-4) rather than one (1-3-2-3) as in summer and winter; hence the label “double.”

Note, however, that the structure produced by the draft in Figure 1 is actually a twill, not a supplementary-weft weave with tie-down threads like summer and winter. The repeating ends on shafts 1 and 2 make possible a plaited-twill design on eight shafts instead of the twelve that would be required without them.

Possible scarf variations

It is possible to weave many different twill designs on this threading (and plain weave). The fanciest plaited-twill design (treadling c) requires twelve treadles. If you don’t have that many, however, a simpler plaited twill can be woven using fewer treadles (treadling a or b, Figure 1).

In addition to using different treadlings, changing weft colors or yarn types can produce a different look. Scarf A uses a teal silk bouclé weft. In selected spots, an elasticized silk is used to cause a rippled effect. Scarf B uses an unevenly spun black silk weft, and Scarf C combines black silk bouclé and black silk eyelash.

Resources

Barrett, Clotilde, and Eunice Smith. *Double Two-Tie Unit Weaves*. Boulder, Colorado: Weaver’s Journal Publications, 1983.

Scarf A (upper left) is woven with a teal silk bouclé weft (and in selected areas an elastic silk weft); Scarf B (center) is woven with a unevenly spun black silk weft; and Scarf C (lower right) is woven with alternating wefts of black silk bouclé and silk eyelash yarns.



STEPS FOR WEAVING THE SEACELL/SILK SCARVES

Step 1 Wind a warp of 404 ends 7 yd long following Figure 2 for three scarves (allow 80" each additional scarf). These directions are for warping back to front (for complete warping steps see Resources at handwovenmagazine.com). Except for the first and last 2 ends, wind 4 ends together, keeping them separate with your fingers but placing them together in the cross.

Step 2 Spread the warp in a raddle centered for 10" and place lease sticks in the cross. Beam the warp under firm, even tension. Thread the shafts following the draft in Figure 1 and the color order in Figure 2 (you don't have to maintain the exact color order).

Step 3 Allowing 8" for fringe including the amount used to tie on, weave Scarf A using treadling sequence a, b, or c (this scarf is woven with sequence c, but if you do not have 12 treadles, you can pick one of the other sequences for a slightly smaller plaited design). Weave 5" with silk bouclé, 1" alternating 2 picks elastic with 2 picks bouclé, 4" bouclé, ½" alternating 2 picks elastic with 2 picks bouclé, 3" bouclé, 1½" alternating 2 picks elastic with 2 picks bouclé (for a 15" border). Weave 31" bouclé. Then reverse the border for 61" total.

Allowing 16" between scarves for fringe (8" for each scarf), weave Scarf B using treadling a, b, or c with black uneven-spun silk for 61".

Again allowing 16" between scarves

1. Draft for scarves

	20x																					
		8																				
				7		8		7														
					6			6														
4			4						4											4		
	3									3											3	
		2			2			2			2			2			2					2
			1			1			1			1			1			1				1

2. Warp color order

	plain weave																				
	20x-15x-10x-10x-10x-15x-20x																				
100	1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1
102	2		3		2		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1
100					1		2		3		2		1								
102													1		2		3		2		
404																					

for fringe, weave Scarf C using tie-up and treadling d (1/3 plaited twill) for 57" alternating 1 pick black eyelash silk with 1 pick bouclé. Then weave 4" using uneven-spun black silk for a contrasting border if desired (the border is not shown in the photo on page 2; also, the photo shows the back side of the cloth as it is woven, not the face; more weft shows on the face with this 1/3 interlacement).

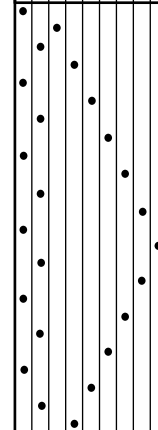
Step 4 Again allowing 8" for fringe, remove the scarves from the loom and cut apart. Prepare a twisted fringe for all three scarves including 14 threads in each fringe (twist two groups of 7 separately in the same direction until they kink; allow them to twist together in the opposite direction; secure with an overhand knot). Trim fringe evenly.

Step 5 Wash the scarves by hand gently in lukewarm water with a touch of mild soap (Orvus Paste or Ivory Snow). Rinse well. Hang over a padded rod to dry and steam press before scarves are completely dry.

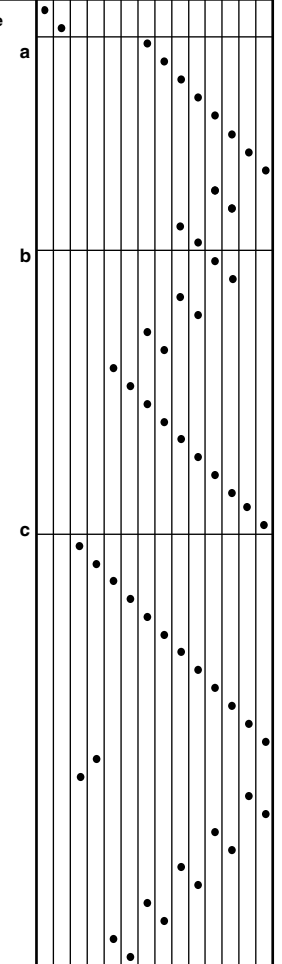
For all treadling sequences, weave the first 2 picks of the repeat at the end of the scarf to balance.

d

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



Tie-up and treadling sequence d weaves a 1/3 plaited twill.



Treadling sequences a, b, and c weave 2/2 plaited twills.

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Weave structure for scarves

Plaited twill.

Equipment

8-shaft loom, 11" weaving width; 10-dent reed; raddle; 3 shuttles.

Yarns

Warp: 30/2 Sea Silk (70% silk, 30% Seacell, 7,440 yd/lb), Teal #47 and Taupe #400, 714 yd (1⅓ oz) each; Purple #34 and Multicolored #401, 700 yd (1⅓ oz) each.

Weft for Scarf A: silk bouclé (7,440 yd/lb), Teal, 430 yd (1 oz); silk elastic (70,000

yd/lb), black, 15 yd. For Scarf B: 20/2 uneven-spun silk (4,960 yd/lb), black 389 yd (1¼ oz). For Scarf C: silk bouclé (7,440 yd/lb) and silk eyelash (2,970 yd/lb), black, 189 yd (1 oz) each; 20/2 uneven-spun silk, black, 25 yd (⅙ oz).

Yarn sources

#206 Silk/Seaweed (Sea Silk), #202 Silk Bouclé "Frisé," #205 Elastic Silk, #6 Uneven Spun Silk Fine, and #204 Silk "Eyelash" are all available from The Silk Tree.

Warp order and length

404 ends 7 yd long (allows 3" take-up,

34" loom waste; loom waste includes fringe at beginning and end of warp).

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 40 epi (4/dent in a 10-dent reed).

Width in the reed: 10⅒".

Weft: Scarf A, 24 ppi; Scarves B and C, 20 ppi. Woven length: 63" per scarf (32" total unwoven for fringe between scarves).

Finished dimensions

Amounts produce three scarves 9" x 57" each with 5" fringe (elastic sections in Scarf A are 6½" wide).