

Sunset Belt

a contemporary interpretation of monk's belt

KATRINA VOGEL

Welcome to our new online series: *Hip and Handwoven*—projects designed and woven by students from fiber departments in colleges and art schools around the United States. This belt is by Katrina Vogel, a master's candidate in Design Apparel at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. By coincidence—not connected to the selection of her belt!—she is now an associate book editor at Interweave Press.



This belt is designed to fit loosely around the hips. To adjust fit, make a pattern out of scrap fabric. Add 10% (or more) to warp length to allow for take-up—you can shorten the belt later if you need to.


Weaving the belt

Wind a warp of 122 ends black 5/2 pearl cotton 2½ yd long and warp the loom using your preferred method following the draft. Use cardboard spacers or scrap yarn in plain-weave sheds to conserve the first 12" for fringe, including the amount you used to tie on. Weave 2 plain-weave picks with 5/2 cotton and then weave the belt following the draft for 36", varying the sizes of the A and B blocks as desired (I began with 24 tabby/pattern picks per block and after that changed block sizes randomly). End with 2 plain-weave picks with 5/2 black pearl cotton.

Finishing the belt

Cut the belt from the loom allowing 20–23" of the remaining loom waste for fringe (you can allow more and adjust later). Taking out the 2 plain-weave picks as you go, tie each pair of warp threads into an overhand knot snugly against the fell to secure edges. Divide the 12" fringe into four sections. Divide each section into three groups and make a 3-strand braid 2–3" long. Tie the ends of the first and third braids and the second and fourth braids together in an overhand knot (see photo). Trim ends evenly.



Braid each of the four sections of the long fringe for 7–8", secure each with an overhand knot, and let hang free to tie into the looped braids as a closure. Trim to 14" length. 

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Weave structure

Monk's belt.

Equipment

4-shaft loom, 5" weaving width; 10-dent or 15-dent reed; 2 shuttles.

Yarns

Warp: 5/2 pearl cotton (2,100 yd/lb), black, 305 yd (2½ oz).
 Tabby weft: 5/2 pearl cotton (2,100 yd/lb), black, 91 yd (¾ oz).
 Pattern weft: 2-ply linen/silk (1,050 yd/lb, Fame), Hearth #1426 (variegated orange, red, fuchsia, and wine), 90 yd (1½ oz).

Yarn sources

5/2 pearl cotton is available from most weaving retailers, Fame by Classic Elite from

Lambspun, 1101 E. Lincoln Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80522, (800) 558-5262, www.lambspun.com.

Warp order and length

122 ends (includes 2 floating selvages) 2½ yd long (allows 5" take-up, 50" loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 30 epi (2/dent in a 15-dent reed or 3/dent in a 10-dent reed). Width in the reed: 4½".
 Weft: 40 ppi (20 pattern, 20 tabby). Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 36".

Finished dimensions

Amounts produce a belt 4" x 35" with two 5" loops on one end, four 14" ties on the other.

