

LIZ GIPSON

## Tunic scarf

A SIMPLE GARMENT—OR A SCARF!

### STRUCTURE

Plain weave.

### EQUIPMENT

Rigid-heddle loom, 13" weaving width; 10-dent reed; 1 shuttle.

### YARNS

Warp: 8/2 Tencel (3,360 yd/lb, Webs), Navy, 788 yd; Fire Combo (variegated), 675 yd.  
Weft: 8/2 Tencel, Blueberry (light blue), 380 yd.

### WARP LENGTH

280 ends 4½ yd long (allows 34" for loom waste; part of loom waste is used for fringe).

### SETTS

Warp: varies from 10 epi to 40 epi.  
Weft: 9 ppi.

### DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 13".  
Woven length: one piece 70" long and two pieces 19" long each.  
Finished size of tunic: 31" (neck to bottom fringe) × 42" (circumference).

Woven on one warp, this multiuse garment is made by stitching together one long and two short woven pieces. The lacy texture is created by varying the sett of 8/2 Tencel across the width of the warp.

I can't sew . . . yet. Someday I will tackle this skill, but until then if I want to make a garment, I have to create a work-around. This simple tunic is a good example of how I go about doing that. It is made with one long and two short strips of fabric, and it has only three seams.

Fabric drape is an important consideration with simply constructed garments that don't contain a lot of shaping. Loose setts and silk-like yarns are a good choice. In this warp, the navy and variegated threads are mixed in various proportions to create a rich color balance. The color order and sett changes after every five "spaces" (each space is either a slot or a hole of the rigid heddle); see Figure 1.

The hardest part of making this fabric is getting the right threads in the right places. To make the different arrangements of the two colors and varied setts easier to manage, I recommend winding five separate warp chains. For each chain, the threads that go into a designated slot or hole are placed together in the cross. For instance, for Chain A (see Step 1), hold two variegated threads and one navy thread together as you wind.

**TIP:** To wind the warp: Make a center-pull ball of each color so that you can wind two same-colored ends from one ball. Place each ball in a separate container, such as an empty coffee can, to keep it from rolling around.

Tencel is really slippery—make the balls somewhat small so they are manageable.





- 4 Remove the cloth from the loom. Cut the woven pieces apart using a rotary cutter and a self-healing mat and allowing 5" of fringe on each end of each piece.
- 5 Lay the longest piece of fabric flat lengthwise on a smooth surface (there is no right side). Turn one end over twice so that you introduce a twist in the fabric. Bring the ends of the right selvedge together so that the fringes on both ends of the piece are aligned. Using a tapestry needle threaded with a 40" piece of doubled light blue weft and starting from the ends with the fringe, whipstitch the selvedges together for 18". This will be the front panel of the tunic scarf.
- 7 Place the two smaller pieces side by side and whipstitch them together along the adjoined selvedges with a second 40" piece of doubled light blue weft. On one end, trim the fringe to the hemstitching, fold a hem 1/4" twice, and whipstitch. This forms the back panel of the tunic.
- 8 Place the back panel right side up on top of the front panel, aligning fringe ends. Whipstitch together along both sides. Trim all fringe evenly to 4".
- 9 To launder, either spot clean with a damp rag or, using mild soap and tepid water, gently handwash with little agitation. Lay flat to dry.

*Liz Gipson of Loveland, Colorado, is the author of Weaving Made Easy, and co-host of Knitting Daily TV on public television. She loves nothing more than to sit down at her loom and weave.*



**W**EAIVING MADE EASY is an accessible guide for beginning weavers to use the simplest of looms—the rigid heddle. This book is packed with clear step-by-step instructions for warping and weaving and includes abundant tips and techniques for color, design, construction, and embellishment (all also adaptable to a shaft loom). Whether you are using a rigid-heddle or a shaft loom, *Weaving Made Easy* is the ultimate idea book for the beginning weaver.

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