

LIZ GIPSON

# Basketweave scarves

IN WOOL SINGLES AND LACEWEIGHT YARNS

## White scarf

### STRUCTURE

Basketweave.

### EQUIPMENT

Rigid-heddle loom,  
10" weaving width;  
8-dent rigid heddle;  
1 stick shuttle.

### YARNS

Warp and weft: wool  
singles (1,800 yd/lb,  
Bartlettyarns, Halcyon),  
white, 824 yd.

### WARP LENGTH

78 doubled ends 3 yd  
long (allows 24" for  
take-up and loom waste).

### SETTS

Warp: 8 epi.  
Weft: 7 ppi brown.

### DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 9".  
Woven length: 85".  
Finished size after wash-  
ing: 8" × 78" with 4"  
fringe at each end.

From goat to loom,  
see a handspun  
version of this  
scarf being made,  
handwovenmagazine.com

Basketweave is a useful structure for the rigid-heddle loom. Fine threads doubled or tripled in both the warp and weft create lighter-than-air fabrics with beautiful drape.

**B**asketweave is like plain weave except that two threads work together in both warp and weft. You can go farther! The finer the yarn, the more ends you can put in one slot or hole of a rigid heddle.

## WEAVING THE SCARVES

Wind the warp and dress the loom following the specifications on this page for the white scarf or page 3 for the purple scarf.

To wind a shuttle with two threads, use a ball winder to make a 2½ ounce center-pull ball. Use both ends of the ball as one (one from the center, one from the outside) to wind doubled strands of weft on a stick shuttle. If you are using tripled ends, wind two balls and use one end from one ball and two ends from the other.

It is important that the ends are pulled onto the shuttle under similar tension. For instance, winding one end from a skein on a swift and one from a center-pull ball will cause the yarns to unwind from the shuttle unevenly.

Weave a few inches with scrap yarn to spread the warp. Weave a few picks with the white or purple weft leaving a 1 yd tail. Hemstitch using the tail, including 2 picks and 2 warp threads in each stitch. Continue weaving for 85". Finish with hemstitching as at the beginning.

## FINISHING

Remove the scarf from the loom by untying the warp from the back and front apron rods.



**TIP:** To wind doubled threads, pull both ends from a center-pull ball.

(Leaving the warp fringe long will help keep it from fraying and makes trimming the finished fringe easier to do.) Remove scrap yarn. Wash by hand or machine, gentle cycle, with delicate soap. Straighten the fringe and hang the scarf to dry.

Using a rotary cutter, trim the fringe to 3–4". The ends will naturally twist together in the direction in which the singles yarn was spun, creating the appearance of a twisted fringe.

**Good to know:** Some wools feel rough to the touch. This can be due to the spinning oils used during the manufacturing process or the sizing used to protect the yarns on the cone. Once the yarn is washed, many seemingly “scratchy” yarns will soften and bloom.

Create drape with ease in this woolly scarf for winter.

## Purple scarf

### STRUCTURE

Basketweave.

### EQUIPMENT

Rigid-heddle loom, 10" weaving width; 8-dent rigid heddle; 1 stick shuttle.

### YARNS

Warp and weft: 20/2 wool (4,700 yd/lb, Mora, Glimåkra USA), purple, #2059, 1,243 yd.

### WARP LENGTH

74 tripled ends 3 yd long (allows 22" for take-up and loom waste).

### SETTS

Warp: 8 epi.  
Weft: 8 ppi brown.

### DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 9 1/4".  
Woven length: 85".  
Finished size after washing:  
8 1/4" x 77" with a  
3" fringe at each end.

### RESOURCES

Davenport, Betty. *Hands on Rigid Heddle Weaving*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1987.  
Gipson, Liz. *Weaving Made Easy*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2008.



This scarf is featured in the January/February 2009 issue of *Handwoven* in the Yarn of the Hour, pages 64-65.

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