

GOLD DOUBLOONS and Silver Pieces of Eight—on Eight Shafts

ROSALIE NEILSON

A magazine advertisement for a gold casement cloth was the inspiration for deflected doubleweave scarves on four and eight shafts (for the 4-shaft scarf, see *HANDWOVEN*, January/February 2002, pp. 70–72).

The 8-shaft scarf

One-inch stripes of gold and silver alternate in both warp and weft. There are four treadling sequences. In sequence **a** (see Figure 1) the gold weft weaves with the gold warp over the silver warp threads in Block A, under them in Block C. In **b**, the silver weft weaves with the silver warp under the gold warp threads in Block B and over them in Block D. In **c** the gold weft weaves with the gold warp under the silver threads in Block A and over them in Block C, and in **d** the silver weft weaves with the silver warp over the gold threads in Block B and under them in Block D.

General weaving directions

Wind the warp and prepare the loom as in Project at-a-glance and Figure 1. The two weft colors are not cut between stripes. Because the yarn is very slippery, when you run out of weft and start a new one, whipstitch the two ends together for ½" or so with a needle and sewing thread.

Wind a cotton or linen towel between the cardboard fringe spacers and woven

material as it begins to wind around the cloth beam to protect the fabric.

Don't beat the weft—throw the shuttle, place the weft at a shallow angle, partially close the shed, and gently press the weft into place. Maintain a steady 12 picks per inch.

Weaving the scarf

Begin by inserting six pieces of thin cardboard (1½" × 12" each) in plain-weave sheds (treadles 9 and 10) for fringe.

Before weaving the first gold treadling sequence (**a**), cut a 60" length of gold. Starting at the first gold warp stripe on the left, leave a 12" tail at the selvedge and make double half hitches (also called clove knots or Cavandoli knots) around every two warp ends in the gold stripes. Pass the thread over the silver stripes in Block A, under in Block C as you move from stripe to stripe. Leave a 12" tail at the right selvedge. The tails will be incorporated into the first and last braids during the finishing process. Follow the same process before weaving the first silver sequence (**b**), but pass under the gold warp ends in Block B and over the gold warp threads in Block D as you work.

Begin both gold and silver wefts by wrapping each weft tail back into the shed to weave with at least two warp stripes.

Treadling sequence a: gold weft

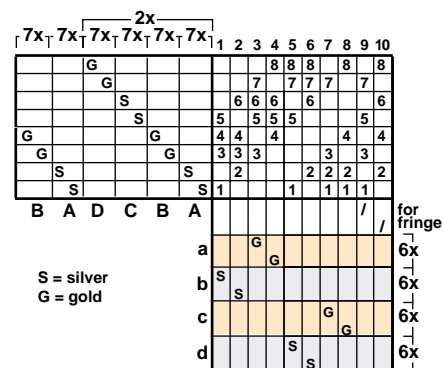
Weave sequence **a** beginning from right to left with the gold weft. The gold weft will exit the last shed over the last silver warp stripe on the right. So that the gold weft floats under the silver stripe when it weaves again, poke the shuttle down between the silver and gold stripes on the right and place the shuttle on the web.

1. 8-shaft draft for scarf

Warp stripe and block order

B A D C B A D C B A

Thread the loom so that the left stripe is gold, the right stripe is silver.



Treadling sequence b: silver weft

Weave sequence **b** beginning from left to right with the silver weft. On the last pick, the silver weft will exit the shed under the gold warp stripe on the left. Place the shuttle on the woven web.

Treadling sequence c: gold weft

Weave sequence **c** beginning from right to left with the gold weft. The gold weft will exit the last shed under the silver warp stripe on the right. Place the shuttle on the web.

Treadling sequence d: silver weft

Weave sequence **d** beginning from left to right with the silver weft. On the last pick, the silver weft will exit the shed over the gold warp stripe on the left. So that the silver weft floats under the last gold stripe, poke the silver shuttle down between the silver and gold stripes on the left and place the shuttle on the web.



Rosalie Neilson, of Milwaukie, Oregon, loves experimenting with new weave structures when she's not braiding or weaving warp-rep wall hangings and rugs.


Other weaving notes

Weave the four treading sequences 22 total times for a woven length of about 88" (plus 12" reserved for fringe).

When you have completed treading sequence **c** of the last repeat, the gold weft will be at the right edge of the scarf. Measure 48" and cut. Use this length to make double half hitches around pairs of gold warp threads as at the beginning, passing under silver warp threads in Block A and over them in C. Leave a 12" tail at the right side of the scarf. Weave 11 picks of silver with sequence **d** so that the weft ends at the right side. Measure 48", cut, and knot as at the beginning, passing over the gold warp threads in Block B and under them in Block D.

Finishing the scarf

Remove the scarf from the loom. Make a fringe of two 3-strand braids for each stripe, incorporating the 12" tails at edges. Secure with overhand knots.

Partially fill a sink with hot tap water and a bit of dishwashing liquid. Add a teakettle boiling water. Mix with a wooden spoon. Carefully layer the scarf into the water; push under with the spoon. Soak until water cools (about 30 minutes). Gently squeeze water out with your hands and rinse twice in cool water. Squeeze again and lay out on a bath towel. Fold the towel over the scarf, roll up, and step on the roll to absorb water. Unroll. Lay scarf on a dry towel until almost dry. Finish drying with a hair dryer. 



PROJECT at-a-glance

Weave structure for scarf

Deflected double weave.

Equipment

8-shaft loom, 10" weaving width;
12-dent reed; 2 shuttles; 12 cardboard
strips 1½" × 12" each.

Yarns

Warp: Rayon Chainette (1,900 yd/lb),
gold and silver, 245 yd
(2½ oz) each.

Weft: Rayon Chainette gold and

silver, 165 yd, (1½ oz) each.

Yarn sources

Rayon Chainette is from Halcyon Yarn.

Warp order and length

140 ends (70 gold and 70 silver in the
order in Figure 1) 3½ yd long (allows
32" for fringe, take-up, and loom
waste).

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 14 epi (for each stripe, sley two

ends in first and last dent; sley center
10 ends 1/dent, in a 12-dent reed).
Width in the reed: 10".

Weft: 12 ppi. Woven length (measured
under tension on the loom): 88" not
including the 9" on each end that are
reserved for fringe.

Finished dimensions

Amounts provide one scarf 7½" × 65"
(plus a 5½" braided fringe on each end
after washing).