

Reversible Hat and Scarf

in the Leaves and Berries palette

BARBARA HERBSTER

Here in the Northeast, not everyone thinks of winter in a kindly way—it is a season more or less to be endured. However, if you have a chipper hat to don, you can chase the chills and enjoy a good outing in style.

I have been making hats from handwoven fabric and fleece for more than eight years. I do not have one to wear myself. Why, you ask? Well, I remember that the shoemaker's children did not have shoes.... I guess it is like that for my hat. I plan to remedy the situation soon! All my friends look quite warm and stylish in their handwoven hats and coordinated scarves. The next red warp will have my name on it!

Designing the fabric

Daryl Lancaster's color forecasts are always inspiring to look at and suggest a myriad of projects to my creative side. Instead of choosing the colors shown here, select a color palette to explore and use this project as a springboard. Activity burns calories and keeps you warm!

It will help with your designing, of course, if you have a lot of luscious chenille and knitting yarns on hand. Look at it this way. You may use only small portions of the colors in one scarf—which

seems like an expensive investment. But if you continually use small bits, eventually you will get your money's worth out of all those colors, and you'll have loved looking at them and working with them the whole time.

The hat

The hat is cut from the scarf warp. The width of the scarf must therefore be great enough to accommodate the depth of the crown of the hat pattern. Lay the pattern piece so the straight edge is on the selvedge. For this hat I used a fleece brim, but the brim can also be made of handwoven fabric; the yardage suggested will allow for the brim. The hat is created using slightly altered McCall's Fashion Accessories pattern #9551, view H. The crown is lined with fleece to make the hat completely reversible.



Barbara Herbster of Manchester, Massachusetts, loves to create on the warping board using exotic weaving and knitting yarns.



Make Barbara's hat in view H of this McCall's pattern—or choose a different style.

The pattern gives many versions! Decorate the hat with tassels made of the yarns or other embellishments.

Use this project idea with other Fabric Forecast colors (this one is from the Leaves and Berries palette). The chenille warp stripes and the supplementary-warp novelty yarns invite the use of a palette of many colors. If you aren't a sewer, weave only the scarf. You can also expand the width of the warp for a sumptuous shawl.

STEPS FOR WEAVING AND SEWING THE SCARF AND HAT

Step 1 Wind a warp of 165 ends $3\frac{1}{2}$ yd long following the color order in Figure 1. These instructions are for back-to-front warping, which requires that all of the colors are wound in their proper order on the warping board. Note that you can use fewer colors of chenille and only one color of Fettuchina or other novelty yarn. Multiple colors can add a lot of pizzazz to a piece, however, especially when they are used for a supplementary warp.

Because of the number of colors in this scarf, it is easiest to cut and tie one color to the next at color changes on the warping board.

If you plan to beam using only a raddle (instead of beaming with lease sticks placed in the threading cross), make a raddle cross with 15 ends in each 1" bout, except 16 in one selvage bout, 17 in the other (ten total 1" sections). Don't count the supplementary-warp ends, they can just go in the sections with their accompanying chenille ends).

Step 2 Secure the cross(es) and tie a choke tie at each yard. Remove the warp from the warping board and insert lease sticks in the threading cross (or the raddle cross if you are beaming using only the raddle cross) and a rod in the end loops. Spread the warp in the raddle, attach the rod to the warp-beam apron rod, and beam the warp using smooth heavy paper or sticks.

Step 3 (If you beamed with a raddle cross, now place the lease sticks in the threading cross.) Secure the lease sticks in a comfortable position for threading. Thread the heddles following Figure 2 or 3. Sley 1/dent in a 15-dent reed (2/dent where there are supplementary warp threads).

Step 4 Weave following the treadling order in Figure 2 or 3 for 102". With the 5-shaft draft, you can use a supplementary-weft sequence for each border (2–2½" after the beginning the scarf and about 60" later). You can decorate the scarf with more of these if you like! Add weights to the supplementary warp threads if they become loose (3" S-hooks work well).

Step 5 Remove the fabric from the loom. Work 2 rows of machine straight stitching on both raw edges. Hand wash in mild soap, gentle cycle. Rinse two times, adding fabric softener to the final rinse; drain and spin out water. Machine dry, medium heat, checking frequently in order to remove the fabric as soon as it is completely dry.


Step 6 Machine straight stitch about 1" inside both ends of the length you will use for the scarf. Cut the fabric 1" beyond the straight stitching on both ends and unravel the weft threads in the fringe areas.

Step 7 The crown of this hat is lined with fleece, which makes the hat reversible. If you choose to line your hat with

fleece, add 1" to the pattern circumference (change 23" to 24" for example). Cut 4 handwoven pieces and 4 pieces from fleece or lining fabric and 1 piece of either for the brim.

Step 8 Follow the pattern directions for sewing the hat through the steps for marking the center front and back of the hat. Your sewing results will be best if you baste or frequently pin the fabrics. Placing right sides together, machine sew the fleece cap to the hat brim using a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam. Sew a crown of the handwoven as you did with the fleece. Pressing any seams open is tedious but essential. Use a pressing cloth and lightly press the wrong side.

Step 9 Place the handwoven cap over the fleece cap wrong sides together. To join the handwoven cap to the fleece cap and brim, fold the brim fabric edge toward the handwoven cap, and abut edges. Sew together by hand. (Abutting the pieces reduces the bulk of the seam.) Tack the cap and the lining in several places at the brim seam and at the top of the crown. Fold up the brim.

Step 10 Poke a crochet hook or needle through the top of the crown and attach a cord with beads or tassel that can be pulled to either side of your reversible hat. Don't be afraid to use your imagination for your hat! The McCall's pattern has many variations—send us pictures of your results. 

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Weave structure

Plain weave with supplementary warp.

Equipment

4-shaft or 6-shaft loom, 11" weaving width; 15-dent reed; 1 shuttle.

Yarns

Ground warp: rayon chenille (1,300 yd/lb), Black 180 yd (2½ oz); Tobacco, Khaki, Midnight Teal, and Cilantro 79 yd (1 oz) each; Black Cherry, 42 yd (¾ oz); Purple Passion, 38 yd (½ oz).

Supplementary warp: ribbon knitting yarn, 48 yd total; in this scarf Fettuchina (1,150 yd/lb), Chamois, Copper, and Borage

12 yd (¾ oz) each; Licorice 8 yd (½ oz).

Rail (1,300 yd/lb), Fuchsia, 4 yd (¼ oz).

Weft: rayon chenille (1,300 yd/lb), Black, 545 yd (6¾ oz).

Supplementary weft: small amount of knitting ribbon for borders if you are using the 5-shaft draft (about 2 yd total).

Yarn sources

Silk chenille (Silk City Fibers) and knitting novelties are available from Cotton Clouds.

Notions and other materials

Black sewing thread, McCall's Fashion Accessories pattern #9551, view H; $\frac{1}{3}$ 60" fabric fleece; notions required by pattern.

Warp order and length

165 ends $3\frac{3}{4}$ yd long following Figure 1 (allows 8" for take-up, 24" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 15 epi (1/dent in a 15-dent reed).
Width in the reed: 10¼".

Weft: 13 ppi. Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 102" total (66" for scarf, 36" for hat section).

Finished dimensions

After washing, amounts produce one scarf $8\frac{1}{2}$ " × 60" plus 1" fringe at each end and one hat.

