

# SUNSHINE HAT BANDS

Designed and woven by Sienna Bosch and Mackenzie Keller

We've been planting our garden the past few weeks. Our peas are beginning to bloom, and we have cages on the tomatoes. We needed protection from the Colorado sun during all that time outside. We bought matching sun hats, then decided to accessorize them! Handwoven bands would be the perfect way to personalize them.

One of the best parts about weaving is that even with the same idea in mind, we came up with completely different designs. Mackenzie decided on 4 colors with a pick-up pattern. Sienna dyed a tonal yarn for one warp color—the color variation adds interest to the simple pattern. (If you don't want to dye yarn but want the color variations, there are many commercial yarns with interesting color effects.)



## PROJECT DETAILS—PINK BAND

### MATERIALS

**Warp:** 6/2 unmercerized cotton in natural (80 yds dyed and 60 yds undyed)

**Weft:** 6/2 unmercerized cotton (10 yds dyed for main band, 8 yds undyed for straps)

### WEAVING EQUIPMENT

- inkle loom
- belt shuttle
- 30 Texsolv or string heddles
- Ultra Umbrella Swift
- ball winder
- rotary cutter and cutting mat or scissors
- sewing needle and thread

### DYEING MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

You don't have to dye your own yarn, but it's really fun!

- yarn (100 yds of unmercerized cotton)
- dish soap
- 1 tablespoon Dharma Fiber Reactive Procion Dye in 141 Terracotta
- 1/3 cup soda ash
- plastic gloves
- dust mask or respirator
- small containers, measuring spoons, and plastic spoons or stirrers to mix solutions—these items cannot be reused for food
- 2 buckets large enough for the skein to move freely

### PROJECT SPECS

**Weave structure:** plain weave

**Weaving width:** 1"

**Total warp ends:** 59

**Warp length:** 78"

**EPI:** 59

**PPI:** 9

## PROJECT DETAILS—PICK-UP BAND

### MATERIALS

#### Warp:

- Maysville Cotton Carpet Warp in Loden Green (15 yds), Navy Blue (8 yds), and Kentucky Cardinal Red (15 yds)
- Unmercerized 8/2 cotton in 100 Natural (100 yds)

**Weft:** Maysville Cotton Carpet Warp in Navy Blue (20 yds)

### WEAVING EQUIPMENT

- inkle loom
- belt shuttle
- 29 Texsolv or string heddles
- rotary cutter and cutting mat or scissors
- sewing needle and thread

### PROJECT SPECS

**Weave structure:** plain weave with pick-up

**Weaving width:** 1"

**Total warp ends:** 57

**Warp length:** 78"

**EPI:** 57

**PPI:** 8



Find out more at [schachtspindle.com](http://schachtspindle.com)  
Schacht Spindle Company 6101 Ben Place Boulder, CO 80301  
p. 303.442.3212

## MAKING THE PINK BAND

### DYEING

1. Wind a skein with at least 100 yds of 6/2 unmercerized cotton.

2. Tie the skein with at least 3 ties. If you want a consistent color, tie them loosely. I tied them tightly to act as resists; this creates more color variation on the finished yarn.

3. Scour the skein in one bucket. Fill it with lukewarm water and a few drops of dish soap. Mix the soap into the water and place the skein in the water. Let it sit while you prepare other solutions. Scouring removes any oils and presoaks the yarn, helping it to better absorb the dye.

4. While the skein soaks, prepare the dye solution and soda ash solution. **Wear a dust mask or respirator until all powders are thoroughly mixed with water. Wear gloves from this point forward.**

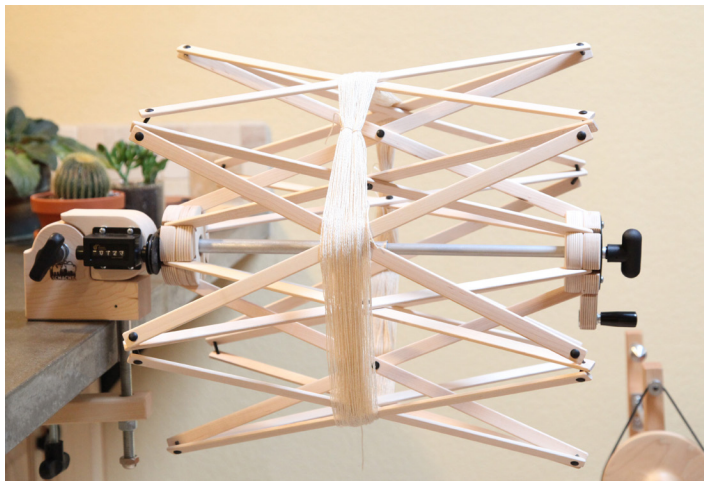
5. Measure out the dye powder and add it to a small container. Use a scale for the most accurate (and repeatable) results, or measuring spoons for more variety. I love the uncertainty of dyeing and push this further by measuring volume instead of weight. I used 1 tablespoon of dye powder, more than recommended, because I was dyeing other projects in the same vat.

6. Carefully add a teaspoon of hot water to the dye powder. Mix until you achieve a paste-like consistency, adding water as needed. Be sure that the powder is fully dissolved—undissolved powder can create undesirable dots of color on the yarn.

7. Once all the powder has dissolved, add more water to the dye solution. Fill the second bucket 2/3 full with lukewarm water for the dye bath. Add the dye solution to this bucket.

8. Measure out 1/3 cup of soda ash into a small container and mix with hot water until the soda ash dissolves. Add this soda ash mixture to the dye bath.

Now you're ready to dye. **Remember to keep your gloves on for all these steps.**



1. Take the skein out of the scouring bucket and squeeze out extra water. Place about 1/6 of the skein into the dye bath, letting the rest of the skein hang over the side. Let sit for 10 minutes.

2. Lower another 1/6 of the skein into the dye bath. You can clip it into place with a binder clip if you wish. Let sit for 10 minutes.

3. Continue lowering the skein into the dye bath every 10 minutes. I did this 6 times to achieve a smooth gradient. Please note that the dye will likely creep up the skein into the part that sits outside the dye vat; that's normal. Your skein will still have that gradient look.

4. Remove the skein from the dye and squeeze out extra water. Place the skein in the soapy water of the scouring bucket.

5. Rinse the skein in baths of lukewarm soapy water until the water is completely clear. I generally let it sit in soapy water overnight to be sure any remaining dye is removed from the skein.

6. Squeeze out excess water from the skein, or roll in a towel. Hang to dry.

7. Place the skein on your swift and wind it into a ball.

## WARPING

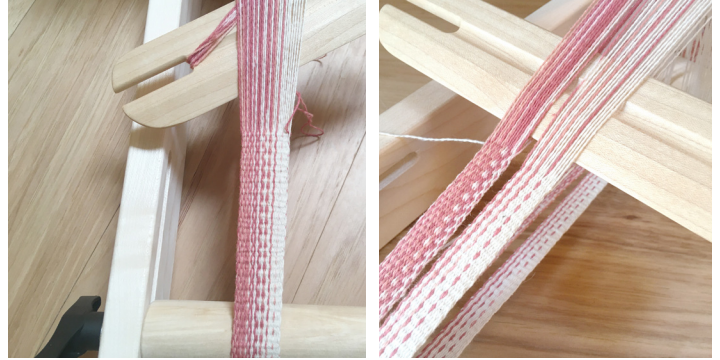
Warp the inkle loom following the draft. I made my warp 6-1/2 feet long, following peg sequence A-C-1-4-5.

## WEAVING

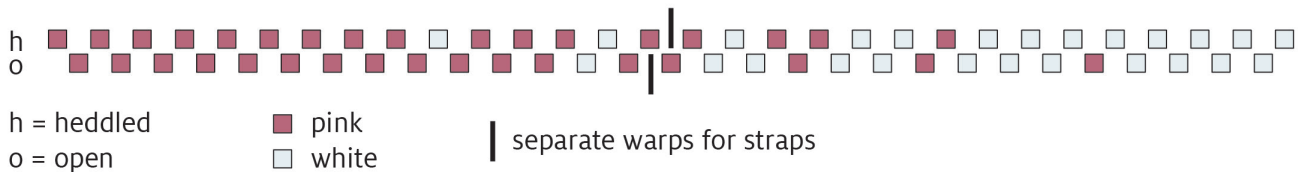
- Have a friend measure your head. Add 6" to that number for the decorative cross on the side of the hat—this total is the length for the full width band.
- Weave a header to set the width of your band at 1". I wove with the dyed yarn. Weave plain weave for the length of the full width (I wove 28"). Weave in the ends to secure the weft.
- Split the warp in half, pulling the heddles apart on the peg.
- Wind two butterflies of weft yarn. I made butterflies with the undyed yarn.
- Secure the weft and weave the two straps separately, each one with its own butterfly. Use the belt shuttle only for beating. Weave for 25" and weave in the ends to secure the weft.
- Cut the weaving off the loom.

## FINISHING

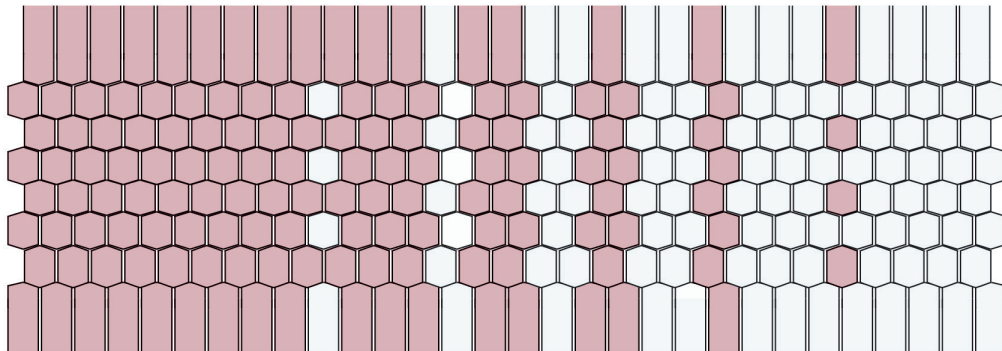
- Cut apart the main band and the straps. Trim the fringe on all bands to 1/4" with a rotary cutter and mat or scissors.
- Wrap the main band around the hat, crossing the ends on the left side. Pin into place and sew to the hat along one edge of the band. Sew the crossed ends to the hat through all layers.
- Pin the straps onto each side of the hat, just inside the band. Sew securely.
- Enjoy your accessorized hat!



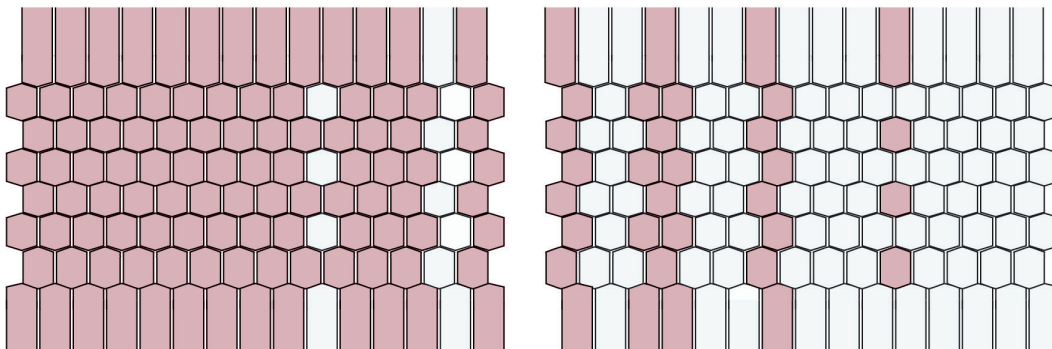
### Pink band—59 warp ends



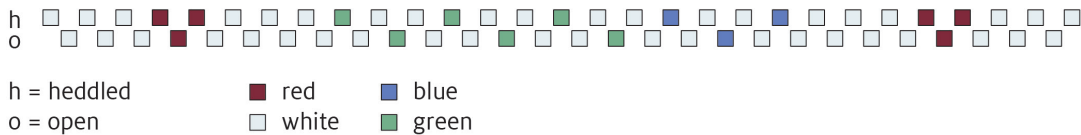
### Pink band—59 warp ends



### Pink band straps—29 & 30 warp ends



### Pick-up band—57 warp ends



## MAKING THE PICK-UP BAND

### WARPING

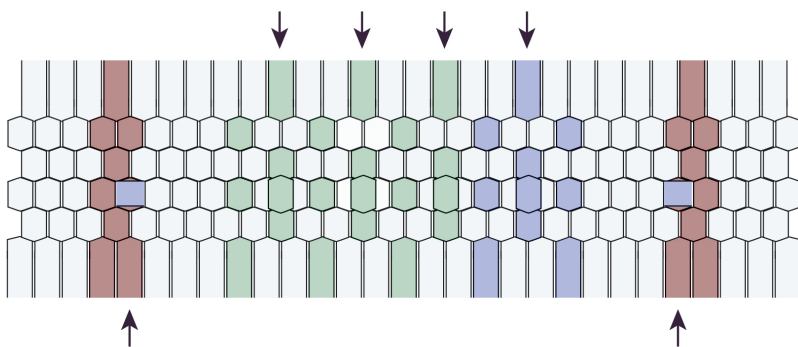
Warp the inkle loom following the draft. I made my warp 6-1/2 feet long, following peg sequence A-C-1-4-5.

### WEAVING

- Have a friend measure your head. Add 6" to that number for the decorative cross on the side of the hat—this total is the length for the full width band.
- Weave 4" of Pattern A. Weave the rest of the band in Pattern B (I made mine 29" long). Weave in the ends to secure the weft.
- Split the warp to weave the straps. I tied off 9 ends on each side of the warp, using a piece of yarn. Then I split the remaining ends into the green section and the blue section for the straps.
- Wind two butterflies of weft yarn.
- Secure the weft and weave the two straps separately, each one with its own butterfly. Use the belt shuttle only for beating. Weave 16" of plain weave and weave in the ends to secure the weft.
- Cut the weaving off the loom.

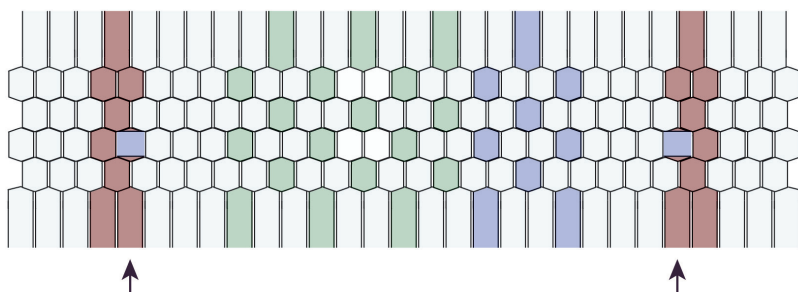


### Pattern A—57 warp ends



4 down shed  
3 up shed  
2 down shed—green & blue up, red down  
1 up shed—pick up green & blue

### Pattern B—57 warp ends



4 down shed  
3 up shed  
2 down shed—red down  
1 up shed

## PATTERN A

**Set-up row:** Make a shed with the open threads down. Weave across.

**Row 1 (pick-up):** Change sheds (open threads up). Beat and weave across. Pick up the open green and blue threads marked on the diagram.

**Row 2:** Change sheds (open threads down), keeping the pick-up threads up. Push down the inner heddled red threads marked on the diagram. Beat and weave across.

**Row 3:** Change sheds (open threads up), beat, and weave across.

**Row 4:** Change sheds (open threads down), beat, and weave across.

## PATTERN B

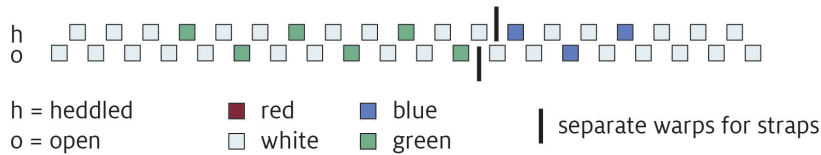
**Row 1:** Change sheds (open threads up), beat, and weave across.

**Row 2:** Change sheds (open threads down). Push down the inner heddled red threads marked on the diagram. Beat and weave across.

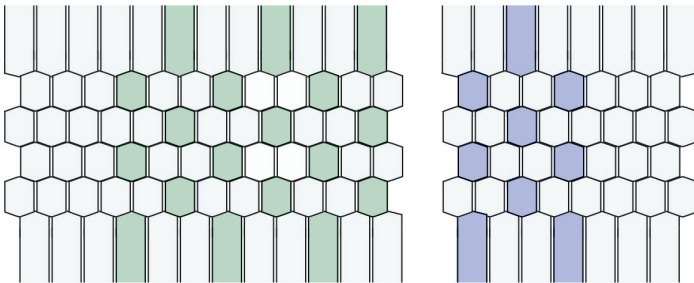
**Row 3:** Change sheds (open threads up), beat, and weave across.

**Row 4:** Change sheds (open threads down), beat, and weave across.

### Pick-up band straps—24 & 15 warp ends



### Straps—24 & 15 warp ends



## FINISHING

- Cut apart the main band and the straps. Trim the fringe on all bands to 1/4" with a rotary cutter and mat or scissors.
- Wrap the main band around the hat, crossing the ends on the left side. Pin into place and sew to the hat along one edge of the band. Sew the crossed ends to the hat through all layers.
- Pin the straps onto each side of the hat, just inside the band. Sew securely.
- Enjoy your accessorized hat!

## RESOURCES

Dixon, Anne. *The Inkle Weaving Pattern Directory*. Interweave, 2012.

Patrick, Jane. *Inkle Weaving A to Z: The Basics and Beyond*. Video download available from [Long Thread Media](https://www.longthreadmedia.com/).

Design your own inkle patterns [www.raktres.net/seizenn/v2/#/](http://www.raktres.net/seizenn/v2/#/)