

TAPESTRY SAMPLER BAG

DESIGNED BY JANE PATRICK

Try out tapestry weaving and make a handy little bag at the same time. You'll use many techniques in this project: shading studies, rya, soumak, weft-faced color-and-weave, interlocking weft, clasped weft, Damascus edge finish, pick-up patterning on an inkle band.

We wove the bag in one piece, starting at the top edge of the back. Shading studies in plainweave and soumak form a gradient with interesting textures. Rya knots mark the fold and create the fringe at the bottom of the bag. On the front, bright colors form bold patterns in plainweave, interlocking joins, clasped weft, and soumak. The Damascus edge, worked off loom, was used for the edge finish on both ends of the weaving. For the strap, we worked an inkle band with pick-up.



BAG

Equipment needed: Arras Tapestry Loom, Schacht weighted beater, 9" weaving stick, 2 stick shuttles, tapestry needle, sewing needle, iron (for fusible interfacing), sewing machine (optional).

Warp yarn for bag: #18 cotton seine twine, about 50 yards.

Weft yarn for bag and warp/weft yarn for inkle band: Jamieson Shetland Spindrift (105 m/115 yd per ball), in Ginger #462 (rust), Natural White #104, Pebble #127 (light gray), Sholmit #103 (medium gray), Oxford #123 (dark gray), Mermaid #688 (blue-green), Cornfield #410 (gold), and Black #999. One ball of each color will provide sufficient yarn for the bag and the inkle band.

Notions: Fusible interfacing, sewing thread, lining fabric for the bag, 60" of 1/4"-diameter cord for the inkle band.

Finished size: 5-1/2" x 5-1/2", excluding fringe. Bottom fringe is 1-1/2" long.

EPI: 6

PPI: to cover the warp.

Number of warp ends: 36

Warping: Warp length as wound on the Arras is 45"; you can weave two bags on this warp. Use a tight tension to make weaving easier.

Weft: We used 3 ends for the plainweave areas and rya knots. For the clasped-weft section, we used a single end because it is doubled in each row. For the soumak rows, we used a doubled weft (which translates to 4 ends in the braid).

Weaving notes: We wove this bag in one long piece and folded it in half along the rya knots. You will be starting at the top of the back of the bag and working to the top of the front of the bag.



Find out more at schachtspindle.com
Schacht Spindle Company 6101 Ben Place Boulder, CO 80301
p. 303.442.3212

© 2020 Schacht Spindle Company, Inc.

04.20

WEAVE THE BACK

See Figure 1 for a schematic of the back; the Damascus edge will be worked off loom. Use weft colors Ginger (rust), Natural White, Pebble (light gray), Sholmit (medium gray), and Oxford (dark gray).

Using a double end of the warp yarn, work a row of twining to establish a base for the weaving (Figure 2).

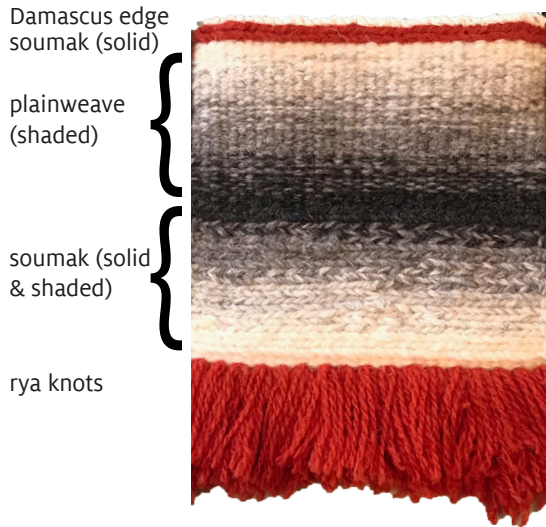


FIGURE 1: BAG BACK SCHEMATIC

Begin weaving:

1. Using 2 ends of Ginger, work 2 rows of soumak (Figure 2).
2. Using 3 ends of weft yarn, weave in plainweave, blending the colors as follows: 5 rows of Natural White, drop one white end and add in one end of Pebble (light gray). Weave 5 rows. Drop another white weft end and add another Pebble. You

Visit [youtube.com/user/schachtspindle](https://www.youtube.com/user/schachtspindle) for videos demonstrating warping, twining, and inkle pick-up.

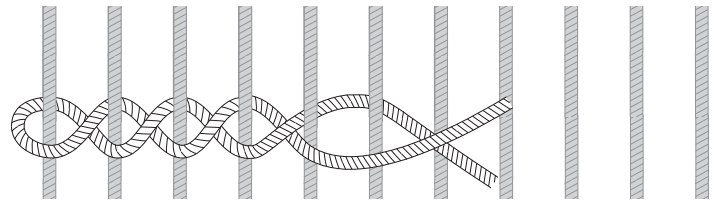


FIGURE 2: TWINING

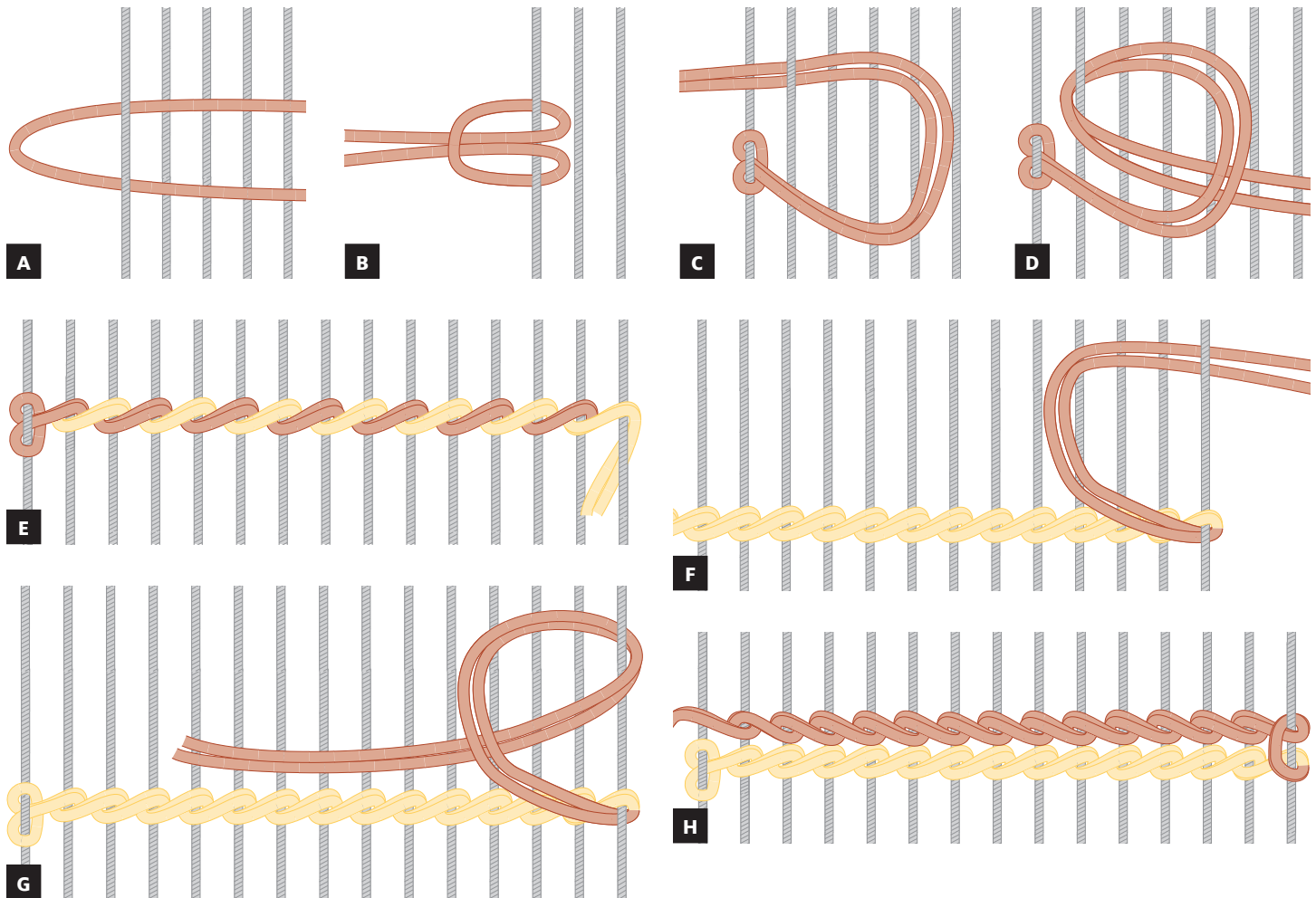


FIGURE 3: SOUMAK

now have 1 white and 2 Pebble ends. Weave 5 rows. Drop the last white end and weave 5 rows with 3 ends of Pebble. Drop and add weft ends in this way to gradually shade in Sholmit (medium gray) and Oxford (dark gray). End with 5 rows of Oxford.

Note: Bubble the weft before beating it in place; this allows enough weft in the shed to prevent excessive draw-in. We used about 1" bubbles across the bag and changed sheds prior to beating to keep the bubbles in place (Figure 4).

3. Begin soumak section, using 2 ends of weft yarn and making all color changes about an inch from the selvedge (which is easier than changing at the selvedge). Work 2 rows of soumak in Oxford. Drop one Oxford end and add in one end of Sholmit; work 2 rows. Drop the Oxford end and add a second Sholmit end; work 2 rows. Drop one Sholmit end and add a Pebble end; work 2 rows. Drop the Sholmit end and add a second Pebble end; work 2 rows. Drop one Pebble end and add a Natural White end; work 2 rows. Drop the Pebble end and add a second Natural White end; work 2 rows. The bag should measure about 5-1/4" long; if needed, work an extra row or two of soumak in Natural White.

4. Using 3 weft ends, weave the fold/bag bottom: work 1 row of rya knots in Ginger, 2 rows of plainweave in Natural White, 1 row of rya knots in Ginger, 2 rows of plainweave in Natural White, and 1 row of rya knots in Ginger. Here, we worked each rya knot from a length of yarn, then cut the ends to 1-1/2" long (Figure 5).

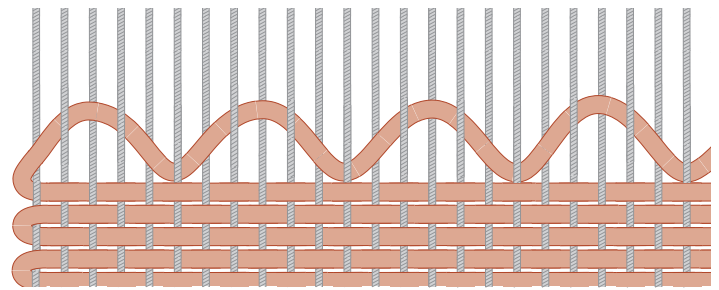
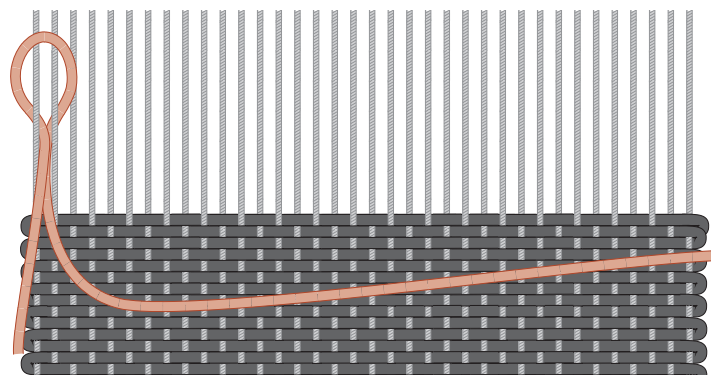
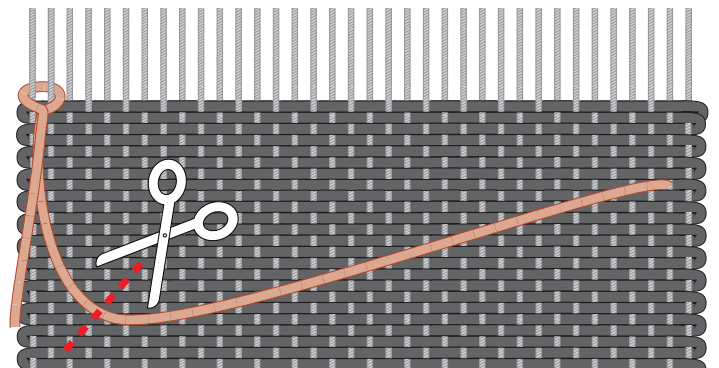


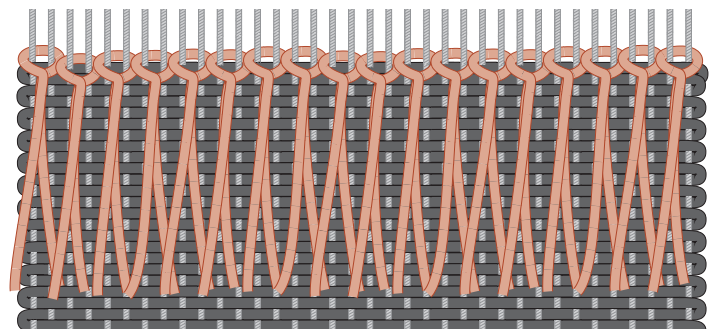
FIGURE 4: BUBBLING THE WEFT



A



B



C

FIGURE 5: RYA

WEAVE THE FRONT

See Figure 6 for a schematic of the front; the Damascus edge will be worked off loom. Use weft colors Ginger (rust), Natural White, Mermaid (blue-green), Cornfield (gold) and Black.

1. Using 2 ends of Ginger, work 2 rows of soumak.
2. Using 3 weft ends, weave selvedge to selvedge: 2 rows Black, 2 rows Natural White, 2 rows Black, 2 rows Natural White, 2 rows Black.
3. Using 3 weft ends, weave with interlocking weft for 3/4". Divide the warp in thirds (12 ends per section), working Mermaid, Cornfield, and Ginger from right to left (Figure 7).
4. Using 2 ends of Black, work 2 rows of soumak.
5. As in step 3, divide the warp in thirds for 3/4" of interlocking weft. This time, work Ginger, Mermaid, and Cornfield from right to left.
6. Using 3 ends of weft, weave selvedge to selvedge: 2 rows Black, then alternating 1 row of Natural White and 1 row of Black 4 times. End with another row of Black.
7. Using 1 end of weft, weave the clasped weft section for 2-1/4". Wind a shuttle with Mermaid and insert the shuttle from the right. Place a ball of Ginger on the left side of the loom. Go around the Ginger end and draw it into the shed with the shuttle—do not change sheds. Beat.

To begin this section, make the join at the center of the weaving and repeat for 4 rows. Now, move the join 2 warp ends to the left and weave 4 rows, then make the join 2 rows to the right of center and weave 4 rows. On the next pass, make a join 4 rows to the left. Alternate in this fashion, moving over 2 warps, on one side and then the other for 5 repeats. Then drop the Mermaid and add Cornfield. Continue weaving as before until 4 warp ends remain at the edge.

8. Using 3 ends of weft, weave selvedge to selvedge: 3 rows of Black, 1 row of Natural White, 3 rows of Black, 1 row of White, 3 rows of Black or until the front measures 5".
9. Check that the front and the back are the same length, except for the last two rows of soumak on the back. If necessary, weave additional rows on the front.
10. Using 2 ends of Ginger, weave 2 rows of soumak.



FIGURE 6: BAG FRONT SCHEMATIC

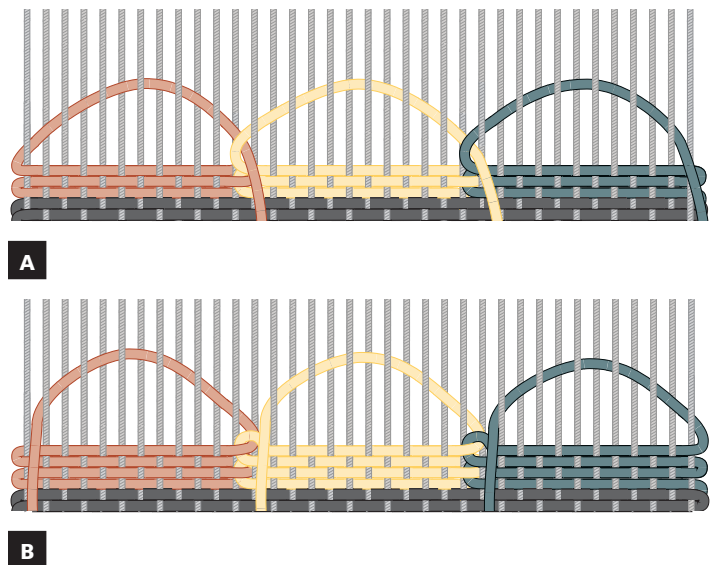


FIGURE 7: INTERLOCK

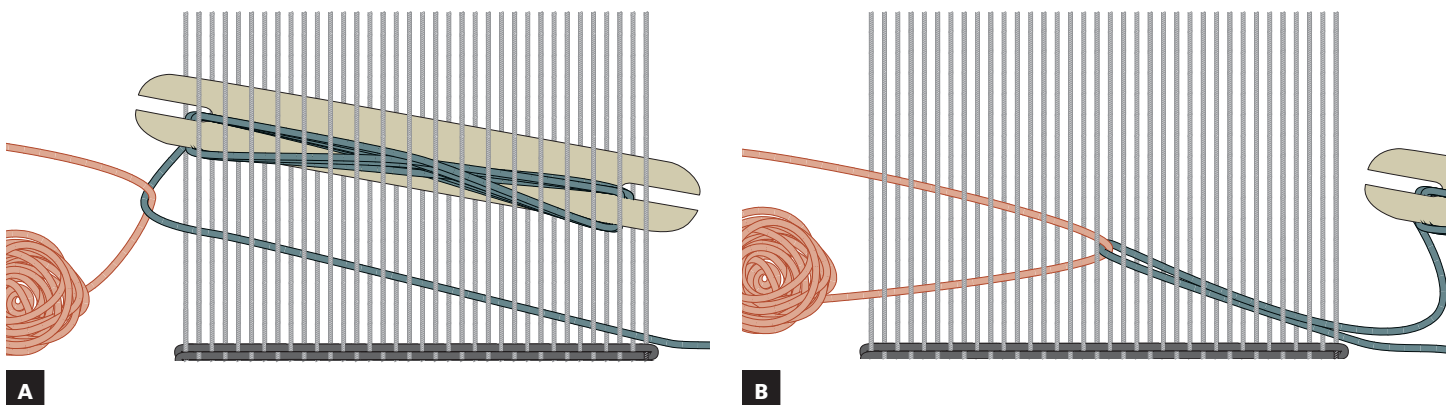


FIGURE 8: CLASPED WEFT

FINISH THE BAG

1. Cut off the warp, leaving 4" to 6" to work the Damascus edge. Remove the twining from the beginning of the weaving before working the edge. Place your weaving wrong side up and work the Damascus edge on the wrong side (Figure 9). The warp ends will lay on the inside of the bag.
2. Sew in the weft ends on the back and trim tails. Note: you can also leave the weft ends hanging, as they won't show once the bag is lined. This will add some bulk to the finished bag.
3. To prevent the Damascus edge knots from loosening, iron a strip of fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the bag along the knots on both ends of the weaving.
4. Match the top edges of the bag, wrong sides facing, and whipstitch the sides together by hand from the outside of the bag. The inkle band will cover these side seams.

5. Measure your bag and cut lining fabric to fit. We used one piece of fabric, folded in half at the bottom, with 1/2" seam allowances and a 1/2" finish for the top edge. Since our sewn bag measured 5-1/2" x 5-1/2", our lining fabric measured 6-1/2" x 12".

6. Place the right sides of the lining fabric together. Sew the side seams with 1/2" seam allowance, either with a sewing machine or backstitching by hand, and press the seam open. Press under 1/2" at the top edge of the bag or sew a 1/2" rolled hem by hand or machine.

7. Insert the lining into the bag so the wrong side of the lining faces the wrong side of the bag. Stitch the finished top edge of the lining to the bag at the bottom of the Damascus edge.

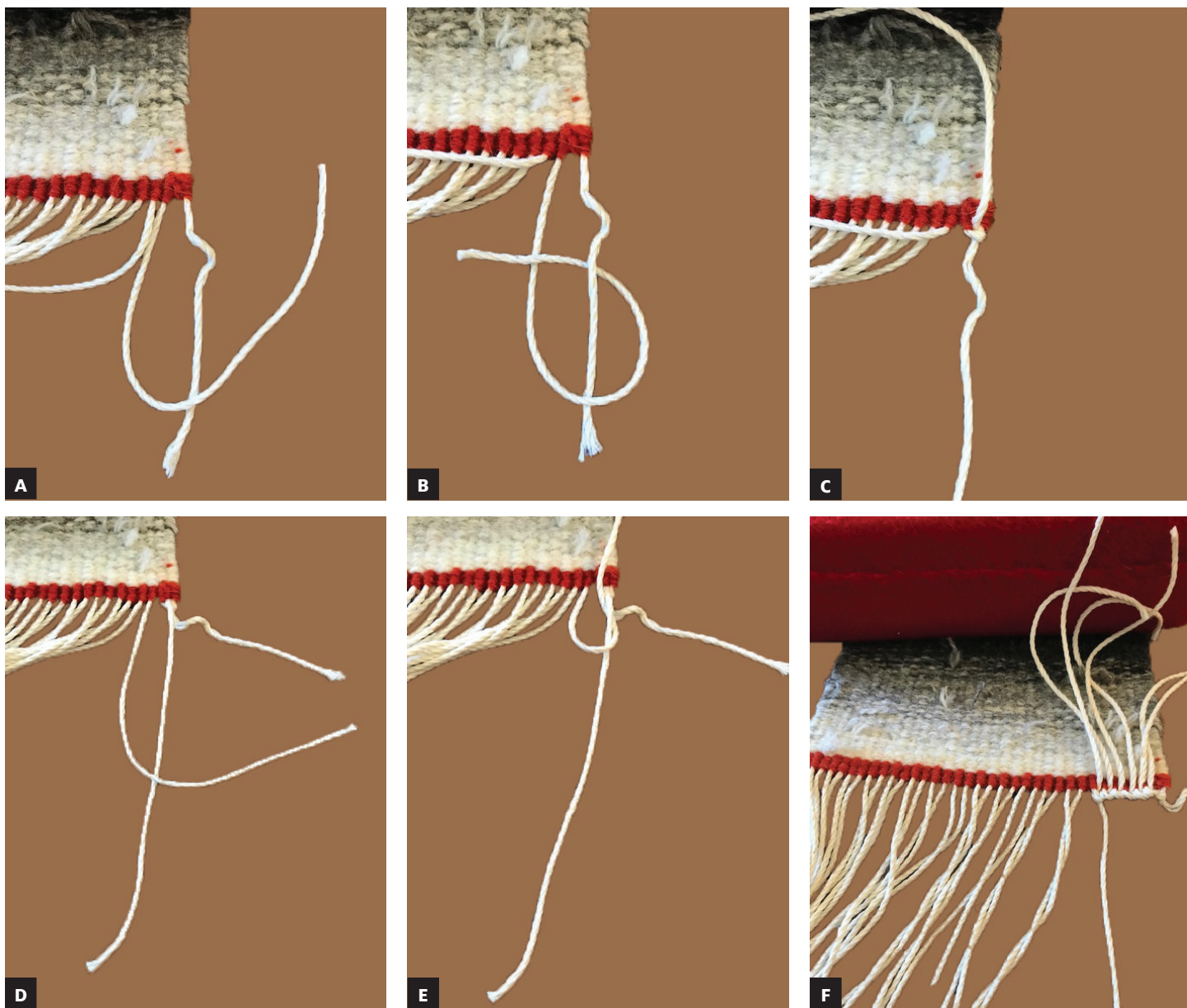


FIGURE 9: DAMASCUS EDGE

Equipment needed: Schacht inkle loom, Schacht belt shuttle, sewing needle.

Yarn and notions: see page 1.

Finished length: 60", excluding fringe. Fringe is 4" long at each end. Band weaving width: 1".

Warp length: 82".

Warp color order: see Figure 10.

Weaving notes: This band features a pick-up pattern down the middle. Because the woolen-spun yarn is a bit sticky, it was easier to weave with the warps a little more widely spaced for a warp-emphasis band. We wove the band flat and then hand-sewed it into a tube, inserting a cord as we sewed.

Visit youtube.com/user/schachtspindle for videos demonstrating warping, twining, and inkle pick-up.

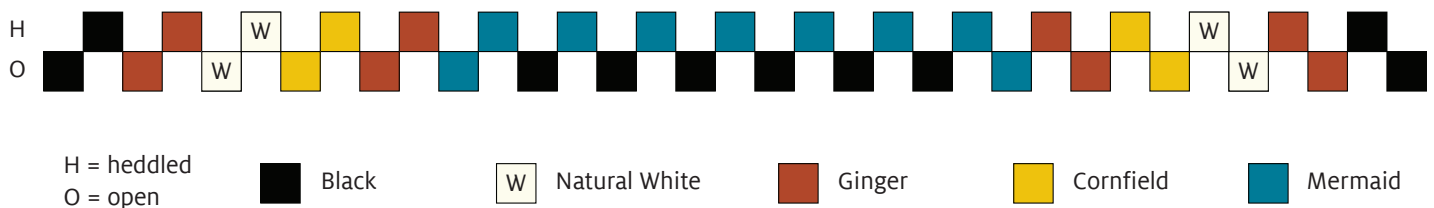


FIGURE 10: INKLE BAND WARP COLOR ORDER

Weave as follows, using one end of Black for weft:


- 1.** Weave 4 rows of plainweave, beginning from the left on an open shed.
- 2.** Weave 1 row from left to right; open (Black) threads are up.
- 3.** With the open (Black) threads still up, locate the 6 Black threads in the middle of the warp. Pick up the 2 in the center.
- 4.** Keep holding the Black threads up and then press down on the open threads (Mermaid threads will be up). Insert the shuttle (Figure 11). Now it is okay to let go of the picked-up threads. Beat.
- 5.** Change sheds (Black threads up) and weave across. Beat.
- 6.** Keeping the Black threads raised, locate the 6 Black threads in the center. Pick up the 2 threads on each edge of this group (4 total; see Figure 12). Keep holding them up while you lower the open threads (Mermaid threads now on top). Weave across. Let go of the picked-up threads and beat.
- 7.** Change sheds, with Black threads now up. Weave across and beat.
- 8.** Pick up the 2 center Black threads, change sheds, weave across and beat (Figure 11). You have now completed the pick-up pattern.
- 9.** Weave 5 rows of plainweave, forming a black bar between each pick-up motif, and then begin the pick-up pattern again. Work for at least 60".
- 10.** Cut off the band from the loom, leaving at least 4" of warp at each end for fringe.
- 11.** Place the selvedge edges together around a rope or cord; hand sew selvedges together (Figure 13).
- 12.** Attach the band to the bag. On the front, let the join form the inside edge and sew to bag.
- 13.** On the back, sew along the Cornfield stripe. The pick-up pattern will dominate.
- 14.** Trim fringe to 4". 



FIGURE 11: PICK UP 2 CENTER THREADS

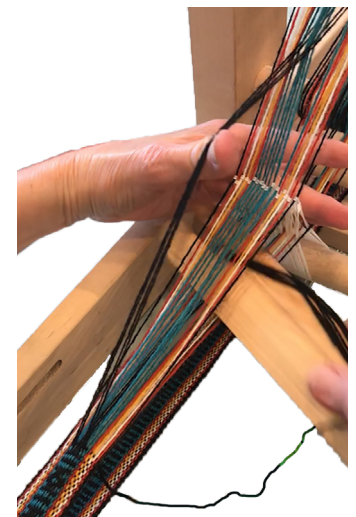


FIGURE 12: PICK UP 4 EDGE THREADS



FIGURE 13: SEW INKLE BAND SELVEDGES