

# Baltic Hearts Tea Towels

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## HANGING TABS FOR TEA TOWELS

### STRUCTURE

Warp-faced, half-basketweave with Baltic-style pick-up.

### EQUIPMENT

Inkle loom with 21 string heddles or Sunna double-slotted heddle with C-clamp or warping peg and band lock; needle or floss threader; Sàmi curved shuttle, netting shuttle, or small belt shuttle.

### YARNS

**Ground warp:** 16/2 unmercerized cotton (6,720 yd/lb), bleached white, 28 yd.

**Pattern warp:** 16/2 unmercerized cotton (6,720 yd/lb) or 20/2 pearl cotton (8,400 yd/lb; used doubled), red, 12 yd; dark red, 8 yd; light red, 6 yd.

**Weft:** 16/2 unmercerized cotton, bleached white, 6 yd.

### WARP LENGTH

41 ends 1 yd long (pattern threads are used doubled; allows 4" for take-up, 16" for loom waste).

### DIMENSIONS

**Width:** approximately ½".

**Woven length (measured under tension on the loom):** 16" allowed.

**Finished size:** 2 hanging tabs ½" × 4" or 5".

I love weaving narrow, patterned bands. For this project, I chose a lovely joined heart pattern from a woven band and adapted it. Instead of a warp pattern, I used my weaving software to “turn” the draft so that I could weave a border of hearts using a supplementary weft on tea towels. It can be woven on eight shafts and does not need a floating selvedge. Although I wove the patterns as borders, the beauty of this setup is that you can weave the rows of hearts anywhere you like, (Instructions for the towel are in *Handwoven* November/December 2014, pages 67–69).

As an added bonus, I used the Baltic pick-up technique to weave this band in the original warp-faced pattern and used it for hanging tabs on the towels.

## WEAVING THE HANGING TAB BANDS

**1** To weave the bands for the tabs on an inkle loom, wind the warp onto the loom following the draft, Figure 2. Note that the first warp is heddled and that the pattern warps consist of two strands

used as one. To weave using the double-slotted heddle in a backstrap setup, arrange a yard guide string around a warping board and wind the warp following the warp color order in Figure 1. Thread the warp ends into the double-slotted heddle as shown in Figure 3. Doubled pattern threads are threaded together through the shorter slots. In between each pattern thread are two background threads. (A needle threader or floss threader is useful for threading the holes in the heddle.) Attach one end of the warp to a warping peg or C-clamp. The other end is fastened to the band lock or otherwise clipped onto a belt around the waist so that the warp is weaver-tensioned. When tying the warp onto the band lock or belt, you will need to adjust the warp until the warp ends are all at the same tension and the heddle is level when resting on the warp. (If you neglect this adjustment, your band may turn out banana shaped!)

the instructions for the loom you are using, pick up the pattern threads according to the chart. Weave the pattern until you have enough woven band to make the hanging tabs for your towels, either 8" or 10". (The warp allows a woven length of 16") You do not need to secure the beginning and end of the woven band, as it will be cut into short lengths to make the hanging tabs. Remove the band from the loom. 

**2** Wind a single strand of white 16/2 cotton onto the belt shuttle, netting shuttle, or curved Sámi shuttle.

**3** To space the warp and create a base against which to beat, weave picks b, c, and d from the chart, Figure 4. Following

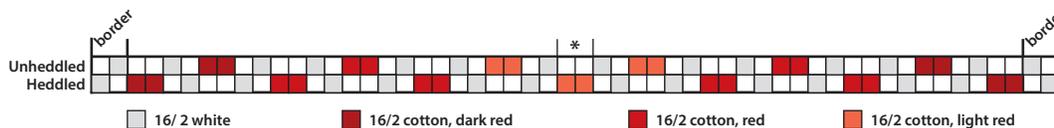


### 1. Warp color order

	2x	3x	3x	3x	2x	
3			1			
6		1		1		
4	1				1	
28	2	2	2	2	2	2
41 ends						

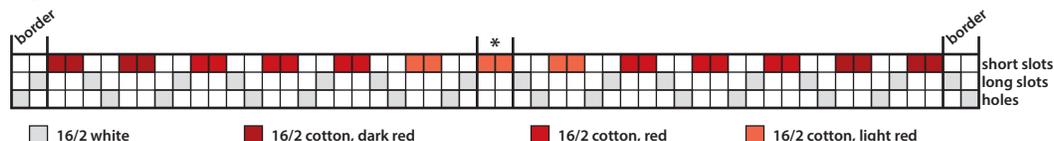
\* Red pattern threads are used doubled.

### 2. Inkle draft



Read inkle pattern, and warp the loom from left to right. Doubled threads are pattern threads and are treated as one in heddles and for pick-up. \* Center Pattern Thread

### 3. Sámi heddle draft



Pattern threads are used doubled and are placed together in the shorter slots. \* center pattern thread

**Key for pick-up**

- Pattern thread in upper layer that stays there for pattern
- Pattern thread in upper layer that is pushed down for pattern
- Pattern thread in lower layer that is picked up for pattern
- Pattern thread in lower layer that stays there for pattern

#### 4. Hanging tab pattern chart

**For both looms:**

Read the diagram from bottom to top as it is woven.

Only pattern threads are shown in the chart. Each square represents one 2-strand pattern thread.

Colored squares represent pattern threads that must be in the upper layer of the shed to make the pattern. Dots in squares represent pattern threads that are naturally in the upper layer of the shed on that pick.

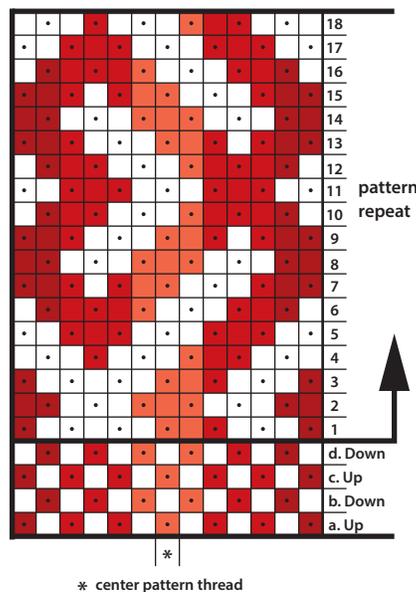
**To weave on an inkle loom:**

Odd-numbered picks are made by raising the heddled threads, and even-numbered picks by raising the unheddled threads.

To raise the heddled threads, push the unheddled threads down. To raise the unheddled threads, push the unheddled threads up.

Open the shed, and with your fingers, pick up any colored pattern threads from the lower layer, and drop any uncolored threads from the upper layer. Use the key above to identify which pattern threads need to be in each layer for each pick-up. Do not alter the position of any background threads.

Holding the shed open with your fingers, insert the shuttle and beat, then leaving the shuttle in, tug the weft from the previous pick into place.



**To weave with a double-slotted heddle:**

Odd-numbered picks are made by raising the heddle, and even-numbered picks by lowering the heddle.

Open the shed. There will be 3 layers, with the pattern threads forming the middle layer. Insert the shuttle to separate the pattern threads into upper and lower layers, using the tip to pick up pattern threads represented by colored squares on the chart, and skipping over pattern threads represented by uncolored squares.

Check the selection and beat with the shuttle. Leaving the shuttle in the shed, snug in the weft from the previous pick. Check the width of the band, and take the shuttle through the shed, leaving a loop of 1" which will be pulled in on the next pick.