



WEAVING TODAY™

Woven Baby Blankets: Free Projects for Huck, Plain Weave, and a Waffle Weave Blanket

LOVELAND, COLORADO

YARN SOURCES & COLORS: This is UKI Natural (unbleached).

FINISHING: Serge or zigzag the raw edges. Machine wash in hot water on gentle cycle and tumble dry. At the same time, wash a well-tied 100-yd skein of 8/2 cotton to be used for the crocheted edging.

Block by steam pressing lightly on a fluffy towel.

Diagram illustrating a plain weave structure. The diagram shows a grid of 10 columns and 10 rows. The top 9 rows are labeled "weave" on the right. The bottom row is labeled "2" on the left. The grid contains a pattern of diagonal lines and circles. The diagonal lines are in the first 9 columns, and the circles are in the first 9 rows. The pattern represents a plain weave structure.

plain weave

—23X



*A simple crocheted edging
borders Linda Ligon's
lightweight baby blanket
delicately patterned with
huck lace diamonds.*

Crayon Blanket and Pillows

A child's delight

BEVERLY SAVEL

Designing small figures on a rosepath or point-twill threading has always fascinated me. Crayons struck me as an ideal motif for the border of a child's blanket, but how to weave the border on all four sides? The solution is to use a supplementary weft for the top and bottom borders and a supplementary warp for the borders on the sides.

In the draft for the blanket, a point-twill threading on shafts 1–5 produces the rows of supplementary-weft crayons in the top and bottom borders. The rows of crayons in the side borders are created with a supplementary warp on shafts 6–8. The hardest part of the design process for me was to remember that all warp threads *except* those where pattern is to show must be raised when you are weaving with a supplementary *weft*, while supplementary *warp* threads must be raised to show as pattern.

Warping with a supplementary warp

If you have two warp beams, you can wind the supplementary warp on one beam and the ground warp on the other. Or, because there are only two sections of supplementary warp in the blanket and they are relatively narrow, you can beam the ground warp but suspend and weight the supplementary warp (see Barbara Walker, "Hearts Afire," *HANDWOVEN*, September/October 2001, page 54, for more information about warping and weaving with a supplementary warp).

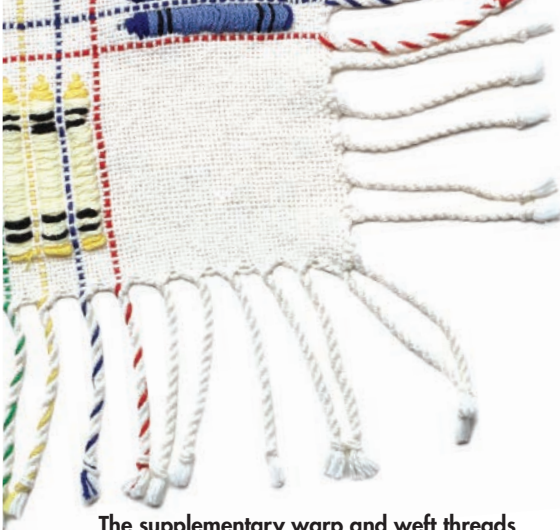


Beverly Savel, of Western Springs, Illinois, has been weaving for over twenty years. She is co-owner (with Beverly Atseff) of 2-B Weavers. Teaching the weaving classes is her favorite part of the business. She also loves designing playful images on simple threadings.



The crayon pillows are woven on four shafts, the blanket on eight. However, you can weave the blanket without the crayon borders on four shafts.





The supplementary warp and weft threads do not weave in the corners.

Preparing the loom

Wind the warp and thread the loom following Figures 1 and 2 and Project at-a-glance. Note that the Cotton Classic ground ends are single ends, but the Cotton Classic supplementary warp ends are doubled; the 4/2 cotton is used singly.

Sley each doubled Cotton Classic supplementary warp end in the same dent as its adjacent 4/2 cotton ground end.

Weaving the blanket

Allow 8" for fringe (include amount used for tying on) and weave the blanket following Figures 1 and 3. Cotton Classic is used singly for the ground weft, but for the supplementary weft (that weaves the

crayons) it is used doubled. When you are weaving with the supplementary weft, the shuttle does not go all the way to the edge of the cloth. This will happen automatically if you always place the supplementary weft shuttle closest to the reed and the tabby shuttle closest to you.

To keep plain weave a consistent 10 ppi throughout, pattern and tabby wefts must be beaten firmly so that they measure 20 ppi in supplementary weft areas.

Begin and end the blanket with some scrap yarn in plain weave to secure ends.

Finishing the blanket

Remove the blanket from the loom, allowing 8" for a twisted fringe. Darn in the supplementary warp ends at the corners with a needle so that they do not extend beyond the last crayon.

Prepare a twisted fringe with 8 warp threads in each group, centering a colored thread in each fringe and removing scrap yarn as you go. The fringe on the sides of the blanket must be added: With a crochet hook and 4 strands of yarn 16" long for each fringe (1 color, 3 natural), bring the threads through the selvage at a colored thread so that they are folded in half; twist as for the warp fringe.

Machine wash blanket in cold water with a mild laundry detergent, regular cycle. Machine dry.


The crayon pillows

The soft sculpture pillow/toy crayons are all woven on the same warp (black 10/2 pearl cotton). The crayon color is created by the weft. So that weft colors predominate, the weaving is slightly weft-faced and the weft is thicker than the warp (warp sett is 12 epi and the heavier Tahki Cotton Classic is woven at 15 ppi).

Weaving the crayon fabric

Wind a warp and prepare the loom following Figure 4 and Project at-a-glance. Weave the four crayon fabrics (red, blue, yellow, and green) following the treadling in Figure 4 and the weft color order in Figure 5. Remove the fabric from the loom; secure edges with machine stitching.

Finishing the crayons

Machine wash and dry fabric. Cut crayons apart at color changes. Cut a 5" piece from the 8" dark section of each fabric to use for the bottom of the crayon and set aside. For each crayon: Form a tube (right sides together) and sew side seam, tapering the 5½" top section for the crayon point. Turn right side out and stuff with polyester stuffing. Cut a circle from each 5" piece to fit bottom of crayon allowing for seams, and handsew in place. 

PROJECT at-a-glance for blanket

Weave structure for blanket

Plain weave with supplementary warp and weft.

Equipment

8-shaft loom, 47" weaving width; 10-dent reed; 2 shuttles, 10 bobbins; large-eyed needle; crochet hook.

Yarns

Ground warp: 4/2 unmercerized cotton (1,600 yd/lb), natural, 1,038 yd (10⅓ oz). Ground and supplementary pattern warp: Tahki Cotton Classic (980 yd/lb), dark red #3997, 30 yd (½

oz); dark blue #3872, 65 yd (1⅙ oz); dark yellow #3533, 28 yd (½ oz); dark green #3764, 63 yd (1 oz); light blue #3882, 120 yd (2 oz); light green #3719, 120 yd (2 oz); black #3602, 40 yd (⅔ oz).

Ground weft: 4/2 unmercerized cotton (1,600 yd/lb), natural, 582 yd (5⅝ oz).

Ground and supplementary pattern weft: Tahki Cotton Classic (980 yd/lb), dark red #3997, 37 yd (⅔ oz); dark blue #3872, 18 yd (½ oz); dark yellow #3533, 35 yd (⅔

oz); dark green #3764, 17 yd (⅔ oz); light red #3475, 68 yd (1⅝ oz); light yellow #3532, 68 yd (1⅝ oz); black #3602, 23 yd (⅓ oz).

Yarn sources

4/2 unmercerized cotton is available from Earth Guild, Tahki Cotton Classic from most knitting stores.

Warp order and length

461 ground ends, 70 doubled supplementary warp ends 2½ yd long following Figures 3a and 3b (allows 16" fringe, 24" loom waste).

Warp and weft spacing

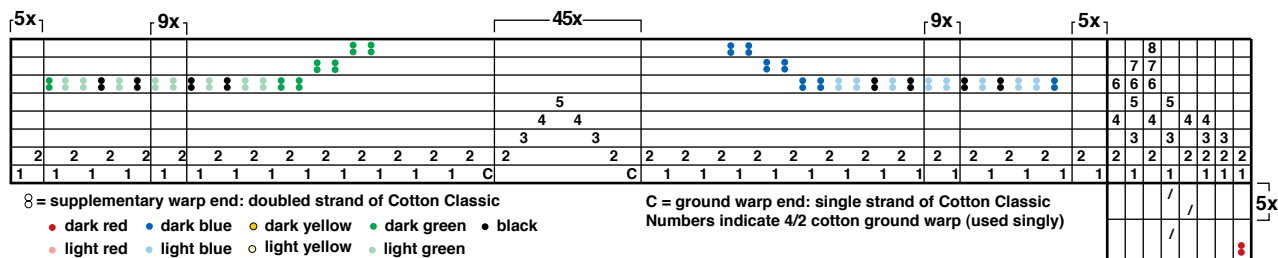
Warp: 10 epi ground warp, 10 epi supplementary warp (20 total epi in pattern areas), 1/dent and 2/dent in a 10-dent reed. Width in the reed 46⅙".

Weft: 10 ppi ground weft, 10 ppi supplementary weft (20 total ppi in pattern areas). Woven length (measured under tension on the loom) 46".

Finished dimensions

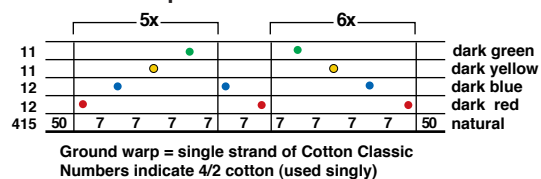
After washing, amounts produce one blanket 40" × 40" plus fringe.

1. Draft for crayon blanket

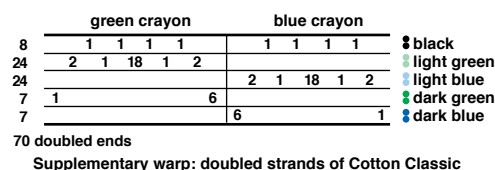


To weave the blanket on four shafts, use the color order in Figure 2a (ground warp only), thread the loom for plain weave, and weave plain weave using the ground weft only in Figure 3.

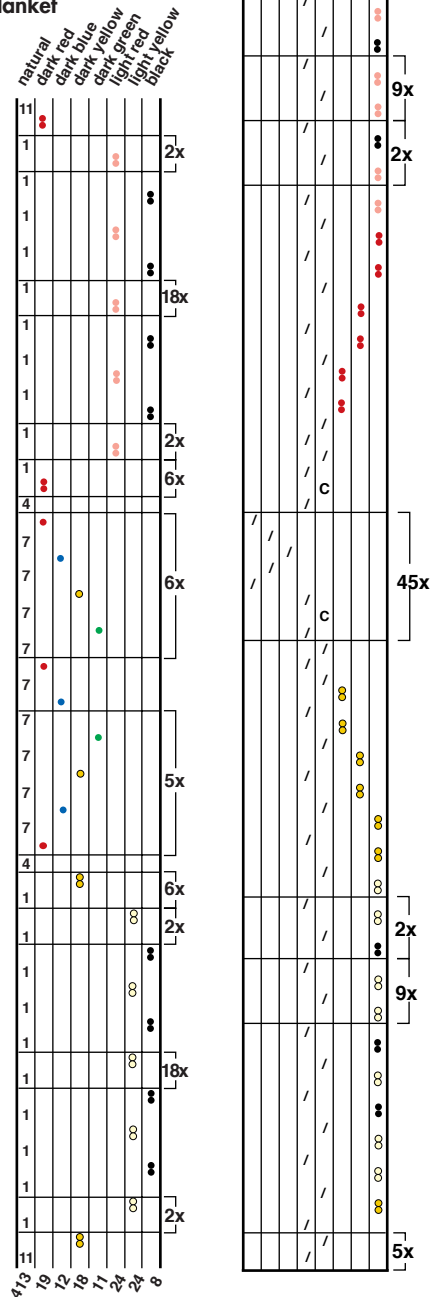
2a. Ground warp color order for blanket



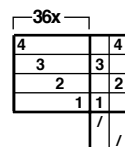
2b. Supplementary warp color order for blanket



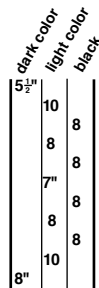
3. Weft color order for blanket



4. Draft for crayon pillows



5. Weft color order for crayon pillows



PROJECT at-a-glance for pillows

Weave structure for pillows

Plain weave.

Equipment

4-shaft loom, 12" weaving width; 12-dent reed; 2 shuttles, 9 bobbins.

Yarns

Warp: 10/2 pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb), black, 576 yd (2½ oz).

Weft: Tahki Cotton Classic (980 yd/lb), dark red #3997, dark blue #3872, dark yellow #3533, and dark green #3764, 75 yd

(1¼ oz) each; light red #3475, light yellow #3532, light blue #3882, and light green #3719, 55 yd (1) each; black #3602, 47 yd (½ oz).

Yarn sources

10/2 pearl cotton is available from most weaving retailers, Tahki Cotton Classic from most knitting stores.

Warp order and length

144 ends 4 yd long (allows 27" loom waste).

Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 12 epi (1/dent in a 12-dent reed). Width in the reed: 12".

Weft: 15 ppi. Woven length of each crayon (measured under tension on the loom): 25".

Notions and other materials

Two bags of polyester fiberfill stuffing, black sewing thread.

Finished dimensions

After washing, amounts produce four pillows 3" (diameter) × 16" each.

8 = supplementary weft thread: doubled strand of Cotton Classic
 ○ = ground weft thread: single strand of Cotton Classic
 Numbers indicate 4/2 cotton ground weft (used singly)

A new look at threading M's and O's

Instructions given here are for the turquoise baby blanket. Weave it first following the treadling and then choose your own colors for the second baby blanket.

border			balance			27x			border			1	2	3	4	5	6
4	4	4	4	4		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1


● floating selvedge ●

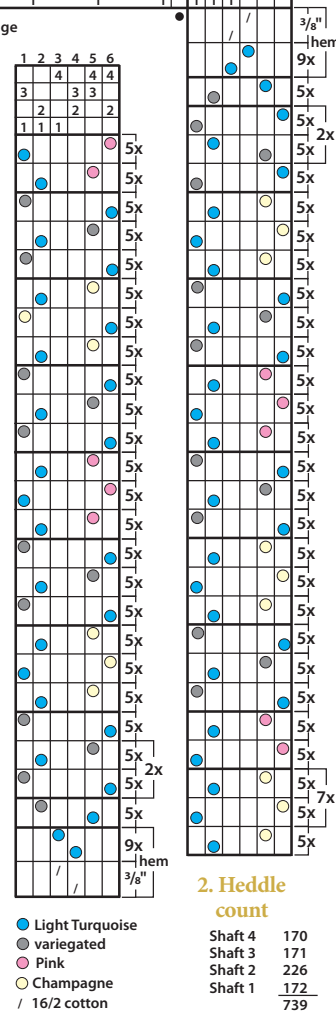
1 3/8"

Inspiration came from an earlier M's and O's project in which I placed an extra thread in a turning block to make the threading symmetrical (see Resources). In this blanket, all turning blocks have this extra thread to place colors symmetrically in groups of three columns.

You can select any pair of weft colors and change them at any time for weft stripes. Exchanging shuttles places the two colors in the opposite columns; either color can be a constant, or both can be changed for each treadling sequence of 10 picks. You'll need about 5½ yd of each weft color for each 10-pick sequence. (Note that true plain weave is not possible on this threading.)

Farling, Kathleen. "Learning from A Weaver's Exchange: Towels in M's and O's." *Handwoven*. January/February 2006, pp. 64-66.

3 Remove the fabric from the loom. Machine zigzag on each side of contrasting-marker thread and cut blankets apart. Turn raw edges under twice and baste to secure. Machine wash and dry. Finish by machine sewing hems. 



STRUCTURE

M's and O's.

EQUIPMENT

4-shaft loom, 38" weaving width; 10-dent reed; 2 shuttles; 5 bobbins.

YARNS

Warp: 8/2 unmercerized cotton (3,360 yd/lb, UKI), white, 2,409 yd.

Weft: (for turquoise blanket)
8/2 unmercerized cotton,
Light Turquoise #56, 422 yd;
Champagne #66, 153 yd;
Pink #22, 57 yd.

#10 crochet cotton
(3,050 yd/lb, 300 yd/ball,
Royale by J.P. Coats),
#0949 light pastels,
171 yd.

For a second blanket,
choose weft colors:
allow 422 yd for back-
ground weft and
400 yd total for
accent colors.

Hems for both blankets:
16/2 cotton
(6,720 yd/lb), 41 yd.

WARP LENGTH

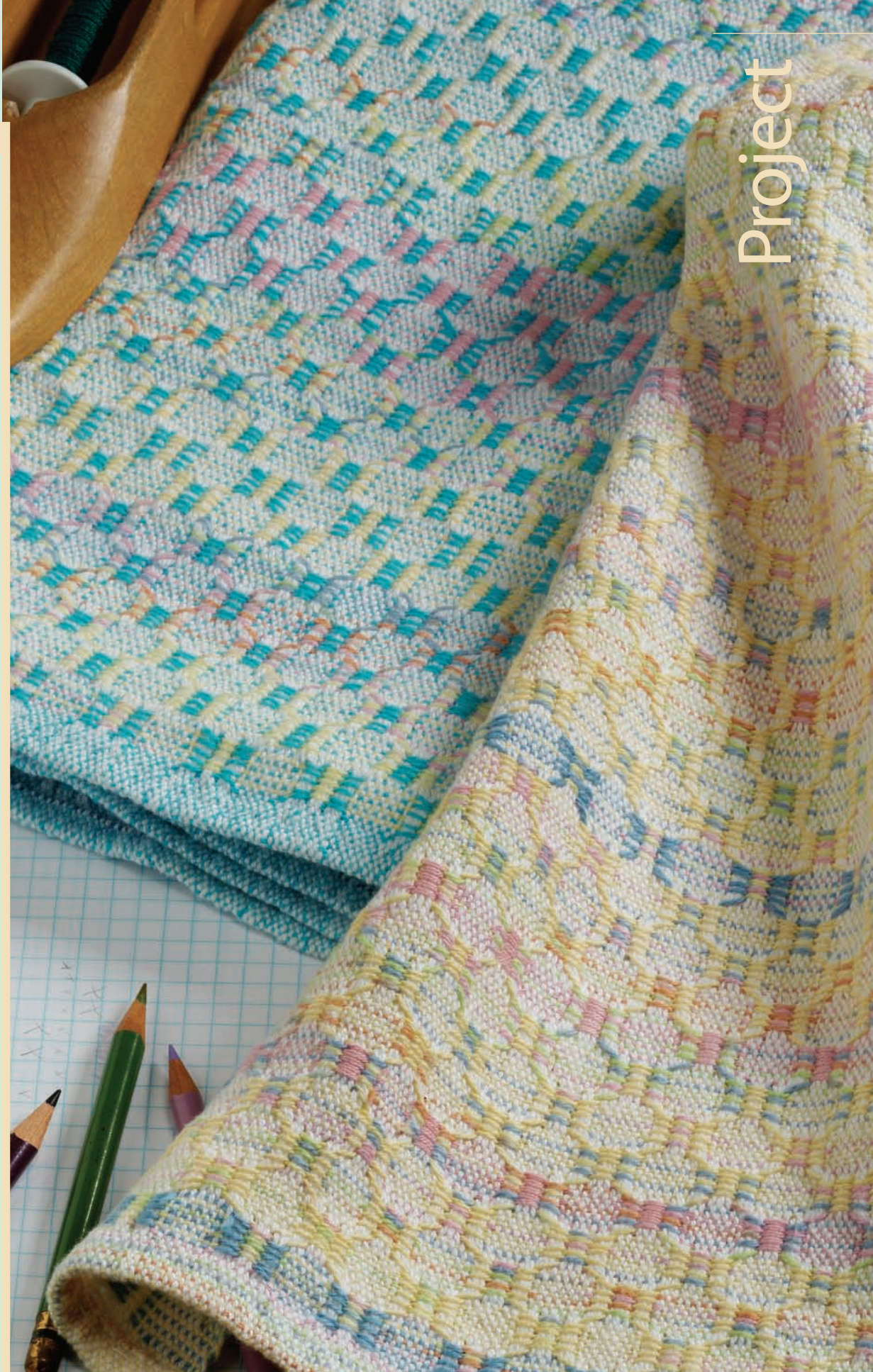
741 ends (includes
2 floating selvages)
3¼ yd long (allows
4" for take-up,
28" for loom waste).

SETTS

Warp: 20 epi (2/dent
in a 10-dent reed).
Weft: 17 ppi.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 37½".
Woven length (measured
under tension on the
loom): 85" total
(42½" for each blanket).
Finished sizes after wash-
ing: two hemmed baby
blankets 32" × 35" each.



TIP: Waffle weave tends to draw in even on a narrow warp. For a warp this wide, place the weft at an angle in the shed. A temple can help prevent draw-in, but it won't work with insufficient weft allowance. If the temple becomes hard to insert, make your weft angle steeper.

SUZIE LILES

Waffle-weave baby blanket

WASHABLE AND DURABLE, THIS YARN'S COMBINATION OF BAMBOO, SUPERWASH WOOL, AND SILK IS BABY SOFT.

STRUCTURE

Waffle weave.

EQUIPMENT

4-shaft loom,
45" weaving width;
15-dent reed; optional
temple (stretcher);
1 shuttle.

YARNS

Warp: 52% bamboo, 43% superwash merino wool, 5% combed silk (204 yd/50 g, 3,000 yd/lb, Panda Silk, Cotton Clouds), Baby Face #5111 (variegated lavender, blue-green, yellow) or Mint Cream #3008 (blue-green), 1,501 yd. Weft: Panda Silk, same color as warp, 983 yd.

WARP LENGTH

667 ends (includes
2 floating selvages)
2¼ yd long (allows
4" for take-up,
28" for loom waste).

SETTS

Warp: 15 epi (1/dent
in a 15-dent reed).
Weft: 15 ppi.

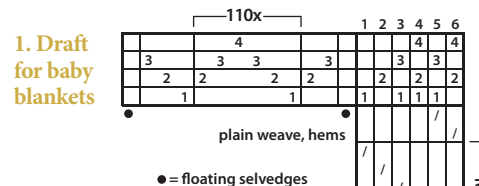
DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: 44 $\frac{7}{16}$ ".
Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 49" including hem sections.
Finished size: one hemmed blanket 40" x 40".



Weaving a baby blanket for an expected child is always a great joy for a weaver. Ultrasound has made the experience even more personal and rewarding! I wove these blankets for my granddaughter, Lillian, who is due January 12, 2011. As I wove, I kept her ultrasound photo and a photo of my son and his wife taped to the castle of my loom. Woven into Lillian's blanket are all my wishes and prayers for her and the life ahead of her. Seeing her in the womb is a special gift that makes me feel that she is already with us.

The Panda Silk used in these blankets is a luxury yarn. A combination of bamboo, superwash merino, and silk, it produces a fabric that is unbelievably soft, supple, warm, and durable—exactly what you'd love for wrapping around your baby.



- 1 Wind a warp of 667 ends of Baby Face or Mint Cream yarn 2¼ yd long for one blanket (add about 54" to warp length per blanket). Use your preferred method to warp the loom following Figure 1.
- 2 Begin and end the blanket with 2" plain weave for hems at about 12 picks per inch. (If you beat too firmly, the plain-weave section will spread wider than the waffle weave, and the hem will be too bulky.) Weave the body of the blanket following the waffle-weave repeat for 45".
- 3 Remove the fabric from the loom and machine zigzag raw edges. Machine wash, warm water, mild detergent; machine dry. It is important to wet-finish the blanket the way it will be cared for in use; baby blankets do have to be washed! Waffle weave does draw up with wet finishing, so after the blanket is removed from the dryer, block and press it back into shape; for this blanket, I eased it as I pressed to make it a 40" × 40" square. As you press, turn the ends under twice to make a rolled hem and press hem to match the width of the waffle-weave body. Sew hems by hand.

