

# MORE STAR TOWELS

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*F*or Starters in the September/October 2003 issue of *HANDWOVEN* (pages 28-31) gives complete project instructions for the towel with the all-over star pattern (shown at the far right). This article presents directions for the other two towels, which have a different arrangement of colors in both the warp and the weft.

## Winding the warp and preparing the loom.

The warp color orders for the striped towels are given in Figures 2a and 2b on page 4. Cottolin comes packaged on spools. Place a spool of white and a spool of blue in two containers (so the spools won't jump around on the floor; gallon jars work well). If you are relatively new to warping, the best way to wind the warp is to follow the color order exactly. For example, if you are following Figure 2a, take the strand from the white spool and wind 41 ends. Cut the strand of white and tie the blue yarn to it and wind 4 blue ends. Cut the blue and tie the white to it and wind 4 white ends. Continue, cutting and tying at each color change until you have 406 total ends.

## Warping the loom

These towels can be warped with equal success using either the back-to-front or front-to-back method. (For complete directions for both warping methods, go to our website, [Interweave.com](http://Interweave.com); click on Weaving; click on Projects and Articles; click on Warping Basics.)

If you are warping from front to back, mark a 10-dent reed at a width of 20", and sley the first floating selvedge in a dent by itself. Then sley the rest of the warp 2/dent and end with the last floating selvedge dented separately. Thread following Figure 1a or 1b, and beam the warp





Instructions given here are for the two striped towels.  
To weave the towel with all-over stars, see *HANDWOVEN*,  
September/October 2003, pages 28–31.



under firm and even tension, packing the layers carefully with paper or sticks.

If you are warping from back to front, spread the warp in a raddle centering for 20¼", beam the warp as described above, and thread following the draft in Figure 1a or 1b.

Tie the warp onto the front apron rod in small groups (about ½" each).

## Weaving the towels

If your loom has six treadles, you will need to use what is called a skeleton tie-up. In this case, for the sequences that produce 3/1 twill, you will depress two treadles at the same time (see the skeleton tie-ups in Figures 1a and 1b). If your loom has eight treadles, you can use the full tie-up. Notice that the treadles are used in sets of four: The first four produce 1/3 twill (one warp thread is up and one down for each pick), and the second four produce 3/1 twill (three warp threads are up and three are down for each pick). If your loom has only four treadles, tie each treadle to raise one shaft (this is called a direct tie-up) and step on the combination of treadles needed to raise the shafts indicated in the full tie-up for each pick.

Start and end each towel by weaving 12 picks with sewing thread (this section is turned completely under for the hem; the sewing thread reduces hem bulk). Then weave 8 picks with white (this is the repeat marked 2x). This section will be the part of the hem that shows on the wrong side of the towel.

Then weave the body of the towel (this part is shaded light blue in the treadling drafts in Figures 1a and 1b). It is important to maintain an even beat of 20 picks per inch so that the star motifs are symmetrical. Keep a measuring tape by your side and measure as you go. It's a good idea to practice for a few inches before starting the towels.

For smooth selvages, start the blue weft on one side and the white weft on the other. Within the stripe sections, carry the color that is not weaving up the selvedge (see Weaving Tips) but end the blue weft as you begin each large area of white. Enter the sheds over the floating selvedge and exit under it.

Complete each of four towels following the treadling draft in Figure 1a or 1b. Separate the towels with a weft in a contrasting color. For variety, you can exchange the order of treadling (3/1 twill for 1/3 twill or vice versa) or the color of the weft (blue for white or vice versa).

## Finishing

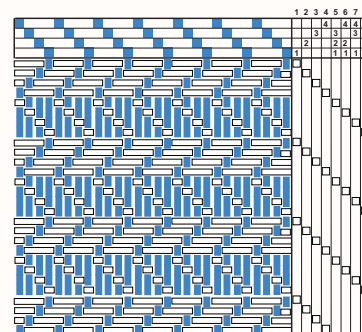
Remove the fabric from the loom; machine wash and dry, regular settings. Machine zigzag on both sides of the contrasting-color threads. Cut towels apart. Turn ends under twice. Press hems. Stitch by hand or machine.

## Resources

Ignell, Tina. "Four Shafts and Four Treadles." *Väv Magasinet*, number 4, 2002, p. 41.

## Color-and-weave

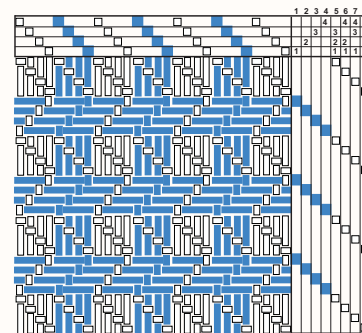
To understand color-and-weave, first look at a draft that is *not* a color-and-weave draft, i.e., the twill draft at the right. In this draft, the warp is all blue, and the weft is all white. The threading (top horizontal section) is a straight draw



(1-2-3-4 repeated). The tie-up (upper right corner) shows eight treadles. The first four treadles raise one shaft each (1-2-3-4) to produce what is called a 1/3 twill (one warp thread up and one down in each row of weaving). The second four treadles raise three shafts each to produce what is called a 3/1 twill (three shafts up and three down in each row). Using these eight treadles in succession, produces stripes of 1/3 twill (white) vs 3/1 twill (blue).

If four blue threads and four white threads alternate in both the warp and the weft, however, your eyes still see blue vs white, but these colors are in *both* the warp and the weft.

In color-and-weave drafts, the alternation of two colors in both the warp and the weft produces a design that is different from the actual interlacement of the threads. Instead of warp twill vs weft twill, you see stars!



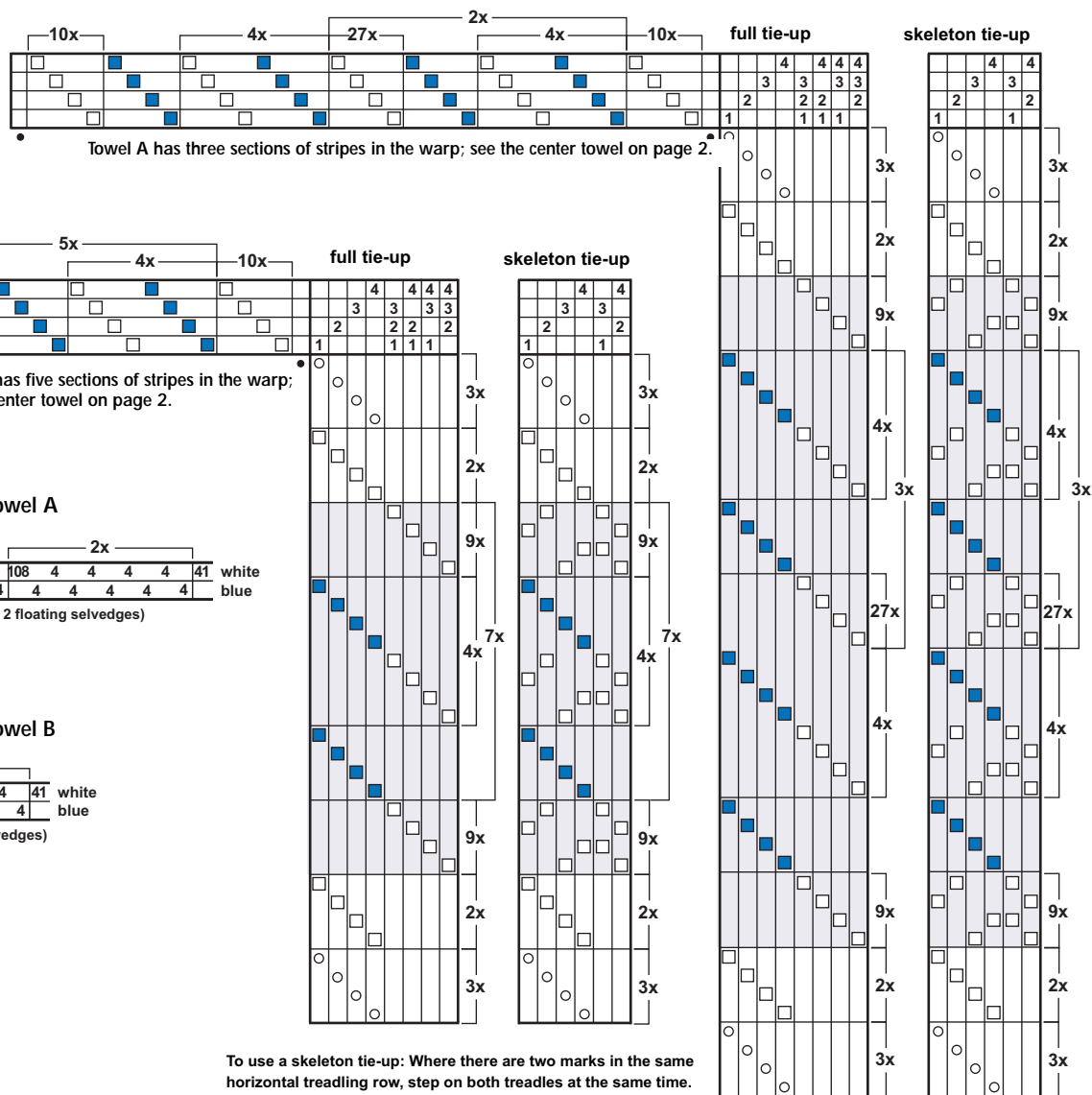
## Weaving Tips

When you are weaving narrow stripes, it is time-consuming to begin and end the wefts at each color change. To avoid selvedge loops, treat the weft that is not weaving just like it is a floating selvedge. To do this, loop the weft of the inactive shuttle around the upright bar that holds the beater at the side where that shuttle left the shed and rest the shuttle on a chair or bench. When the beater is moved back as the shed is opened, it will pull the weft alongside the floating selvedge so that you can encircle both as you weave with the active shuttle.

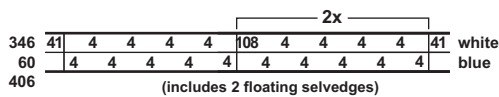


# For Starters

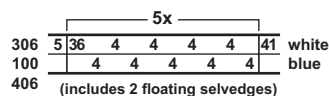
## 1a. Draft for Towel A



## 2a. Warp color order for Towel A



## 2b. Warp color order for Towel B



## PROJECT at-a-glance

**Weave structure for striped towels**  
Turned twill with color-and-weave effects.

**Equipment**  
4-shaft loom, 21" weaving width;  
10-dent reed; 2 shuttles.

**Yarns**  
Warp: 22/2 cottolin (50% cotton/50% linen, 3,170 yd/lb), bleached white #000 and blue #239. For Towel A: 1,501 yd (7½ oz) white; 260 yd (1½ oz) blue. For Towel B: 1,328 (6¼ oz) white; 434 yd (2½ oz) blue.

**Weft:** 22/2 cottolin (50% cotton/50% linen, 3,170 yd/lb), bleached white #000 and blue #239. For Towel A: 1,160 yd (5½ oz) white; 195 yd (1 oz) blue. For Towel B: 1,016 yd (5½ oz) white; 347 yd (1½ oz) blue. 59 yd cotton sewing thread for hems. See page 31 in *HANDWOVEN*, September/October 2003, for directions for the towel with all-over stars.

**Yarn sources**  
Cottolin is available from Blomqvist/Nordiska Textil-Garner AB.

**Warp order and length**  
406 ends (includes 2 floating selvages) 4½ yd long following Figure 2a or 2b (allows 28" loom waste).

**Warp and weft spacing**  
Warp: 20 epi (2/dent in a 10-dent reed). Width in the reed: 20⅞".  
Weft: 20 ppi. Woven length of each towel (measured under tension on the loom): 29".

**Finished dimensions**  
After washing, amounts given produce four towels, each 16½" × 25".