

Part 7 Working with more than one colour - Video 28

Working with more than one colour on a rigid heddle loom is easy and fun. You can use the colours on alternate rows, do two rows of each colour, three of one and one of the other and so on.

All will give different effects and it is amazing how many patterns can be produced with plain weave using two weft colours and two warp colours. Log cabin and houndstooth patterns and all their many variations are made this way.

It is harder to explain than to do though and from now on, you will most likely find the video is needed in conjunction with these instructions in order for them to make sense. So do not worry if it sounds like gobbledygook to start with, it's not you!

Once you have seen it on the video, follow the instructions a bit at a time. As you actually do it, all will become clear, one stage at a time. Remember it is actually still just plain weave which you already know how to do.

Two coloured weft for stripes

It takes two 'shots' of weaving to make a solid stripe, because the yarn is going under and over the warps. In order to see some of these patterns, it is important to have both the warp and weft showing, so do not beat down too hard.

To work with two colours in the weft, wind a small amount of each colour onto two different shuttles. Start one colour from the right in the usual way.

Start the second colour from the other side as if you were starting a new colour. Then weave with each yarn alternately. After a few rows of this, try doing two shots with each colour. It will look quite different.

Dealing with the edges

When working with two colours, the yarn will sometimes miss out the first warp at the side. To avoid this, pass the new yarn under the old one that you just wove with, before weaving. Do not twist one around the other and do not do anything unless it is needed.

Try and be consistent with what you do on a particular side, e.g. always pass the new under the old, then the sides will look neater. You may have to do something slightly different at one side than you do at the other, if you are using an odd number of shots of each colour, such as 3 red and 1 green.