

## SPACED OUT TABLET WARPS!

BY

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The word 'sett' isn't in the usual vocabulary of a tablet weaver. But the addition of a reed to a tablet warp can

change the firm warp-faced appearance of a tablet-woven band to a soft, drapable fabric. Experiment with yarns and setts and make your next project a tablet-woven scarf!

**R**eeds—in all sizes!—can be used with tablet warps: on a floor loom, on a table loom, or on a worktable using tensioning blocks with dowels for beams. Spreading the warp with a reed allows the use of much a greater variety of fibers (soft wools, novelties, etc., suitable for scarves or other softer fabrics) and allows the hue and value of the weft to affect the appearance of the fabric.

### Spaced-out sampler

Weave a sampler to discover some of the possibilities! The structures included here are described in Herbi Gray's *On Loom Cardweaving* (see bibliography), which includes many other ideas for exploration.

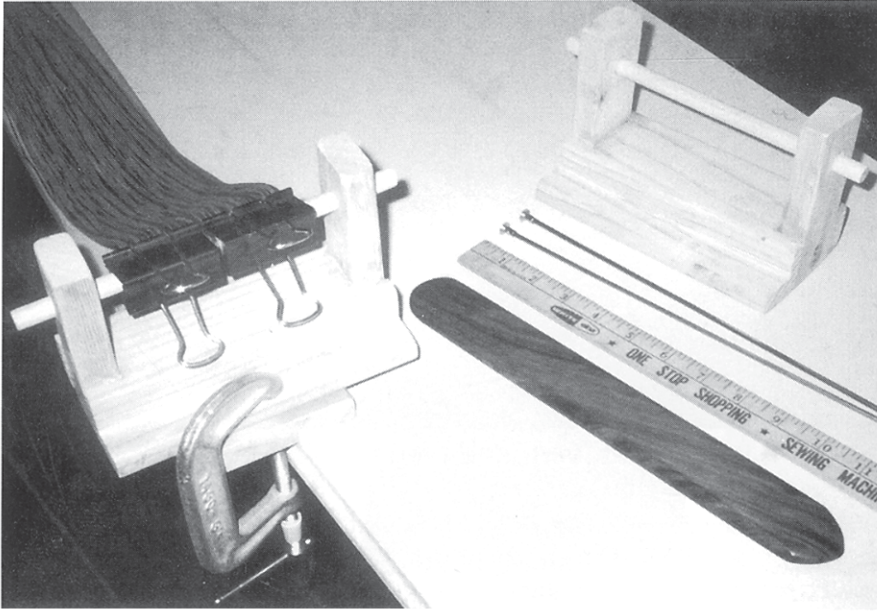
- **Equipment.** 32 tablets, a piece of 8-dent reed at least 5" long, 2 stick shuttles, 2 knitting needles (or two ¼" dowels), a 1½" wide shed stick, reed holder, 2 rubber bands, 1 tapestry needle, 2 large binder clips, 1 piece of matboard or lattice about 1" x 5", 2 strips of stiff cardboard about ½" x 5".
- **Materials.** Warp: 5/2 pearl cotton (2100 yds/lb) in 4 separate balls, 2 dark, 2 light, 50 yds ea. Weft: 5/2 pearl cotton, same colors as warp, 30 yds ea.
- **Materials for a portable tablet-weaving loom:** 1 piece of lumber, 1" x 4" x 48", 2 tensioning blocks (constructed as in *Figure 1*), and two 3" C-clamps (1 additional clamp attaches the loom to the table while weaving).
- **Make a continuous warp** 52" long, with dark in A and B and light in C and D. This warp is about 6" longer than you need, so you can cut the warp and tie the ends after slewing the reed. (Even though the ends will be cut, warping

with a continuous warp is the most efficient method (see directions in 'Weaving with a twist,' *Weaver's*, issue 31, pp. 47-48). Because this warp must be removed from the original warping posts, with the threads in order, it is important that the posts are smooth. If you are using C-clamps, tape lightweight cardboard over the grooves before warping.

- **Begin by dropping the first tablet** as directed in the article. After going around the post, drop the second tablet on the *same* side of the warp, in front of the first one. This maneuver makes the tablets lie horizontally. Continue winding the warp around the posts, putting each tablet on top of the previous one and keeping the threads in order on the posts.
- **Put rubber bands around the tablets.** Clamp one of the tensioning blocks to the end of the board and clamp the board to the table at a slight angle. The free end of the board should hang over the table about 1" so that the other tension block can be clamped onto it later. Transfer the end of the warp without the knot to the dowel in the tensioning block. Spread the warp out fairly evenly to 4" and secure to the dowel with the binder clips as in *Photo a*. (The clips are only used until the warp is under proper tension.)
- **Remove the dowel from the other tensioning block,** clamp the block about 8" from the free end of the board, and rest the tablets in the block. Remove the rubber bands and insert knitting needles into the two upper holes of the tablets; see *Photo b* and *Figure 2*. Fasten the needles together (not too tight) at both ends with rubber bands to prevent them from moving. This will keep the tablets under

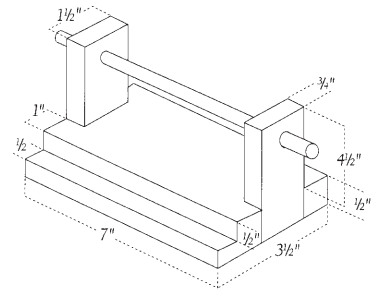
control, and you can slide them along the needles while threading. Place the reed in a reed holder to keep it upright during slewing as shown in *Photo b*.

- **Cut the end of the warp and sley each dent** with the four threads from one tablet. (No matter what the reed size or denting order, all four threads from one tablet must be sleyed in the same dent.)
- **Take the rubber bands off the knitting needles and put them around the pack.** Remove the needles. Clamp the tensioning block to the end of the board. Replace the dowel. Tie the warp ends to the dowel, remove the rubber bands from the tablets, and then adjust the tension to be sure it is even.
- **Wind one shuttle with each weft color.**
- **Weave with the sampler on your left.** Arrange and turn the tablets as indicated in the instructions for each section. Lean the reed against the fell when turning the tablets as shown in *Figure 3*. After turning, and before inserting weft, make sure the shed is clear. Hold the reed fairly close to the tablets to straighten them up, and insert the shed stick between the reed and the tablets. Turn the shed stick on its side, push it against the tablets, and leave it there while you insert weft (see *Figure 4*). The shed stick holds the shed wide open, allows the tablets to be pushed back easily as a group if necessary, provides something for the reed to lean against, and keeps the tablets from coming through the reed. (You can lay the shed stick flat in the shed while turning the tablets, or remove it.) Insert the weft at an angle. To keep the fabric from drawing in, use the matboard or lattice and

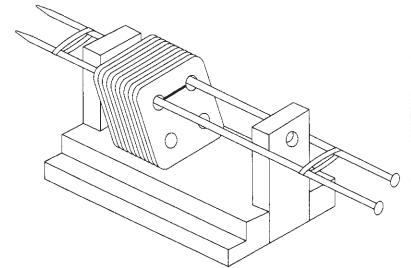


a. Preparing the warp for portable tablet loom

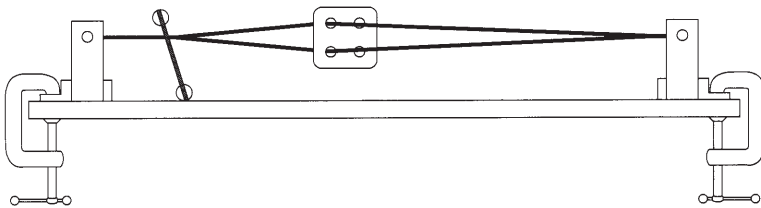
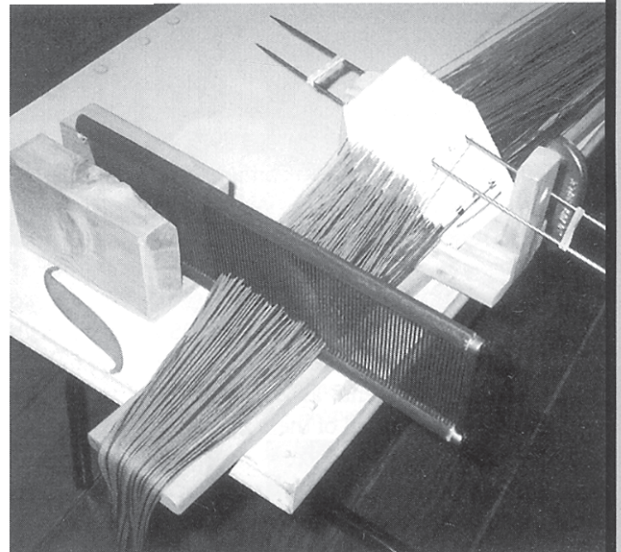
1.  
Tension  
block  
with  
dowel



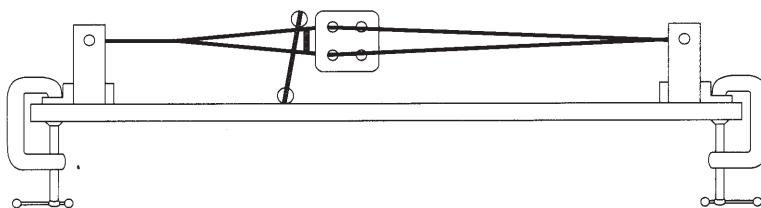
2.  
Tablets  
secured  
for  
sleying



b. Sleying the reed



3. Reed placed against the fell for turning tablets



4. Shed stick pushed against tablets for inserting weft

It's easy to add a reed to a tablet warp. Make two tensioning blocks (see *Photo a* and *Figure 1*) to act as beams for tensioning the warp. Secure tablets on a pair of knitting needles for sleying the reed. The reed acts as spreader and beater; a shed stick helps clear the shed (*Figures 3-4*).



binder clips as a temple (essential with gauze weave). Beat in each pick with the reed, perpendicular to the warp. (If you beat only with your shuttle, a decrease in fabric width will occur.)

- Begin sampler with AB lines on top (dark threads up). Insert a narrow strip of cardboard and turn tablets backward. Repeat 1x. Insert dark weft, leaving an 18" tail. Turn backward 2x and insert weft after the second turn. Hold the reed against the cardboard and distribute the warp threads evenly. With all A-B lines on top, you are ready to begin section 1. Instructions for each section include threading direction, starting position for A-B line, turning direction (F = forward, B = backward), value of the weft (dark or light), and when to insert the weft (indicated by 'weave'). Tablets may be turned as many as 4x before inserting the weft.
- After weaving 1"-2", thread weft tail on a tapestry needle and hemstitch the beginning. Weave 1"-2" for each section; hemstitch the end of the sampler.
- Finish by removing from loom, taking out the tablets, and trimming fringe. Handwash; hang over rod to dry; press.

## Bibliography

Peter Collingwood, *The Techniques of Tablet Weaving*, Robin & Russ, 1996.

Herbi Gray. *On Loom Cardweaving*, 1982, PO Box 2343, Olympia, WA 98507.

Herbi Gray. 'Cardwoven Gauze,' *Prairie Wool Companion*, Issue 6, pp. 57-60.

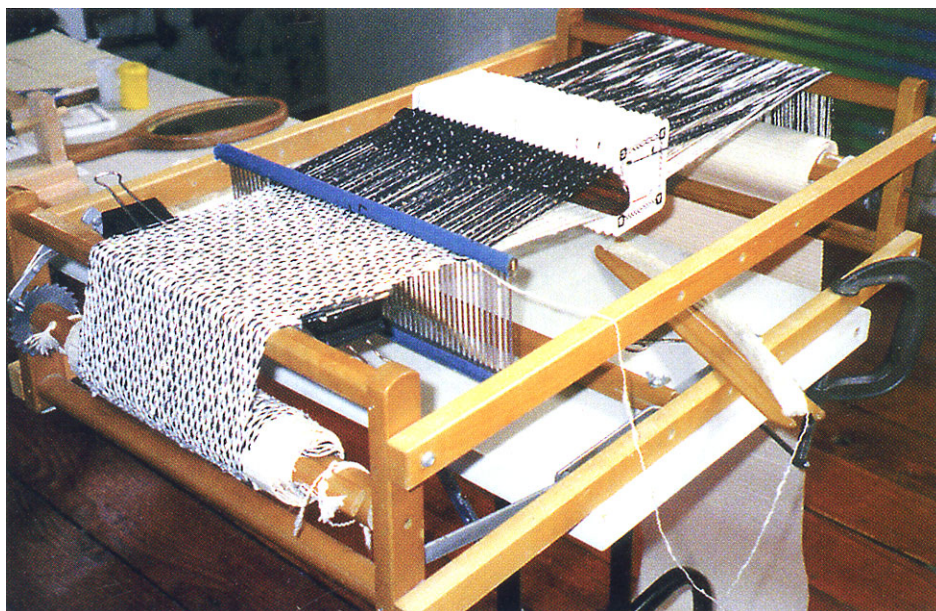
## Directions for sampler sections

In the sampler, some of the sections show the same interlacements as the backs of other sections so that all of these interlacements can be viewed at once.

1-2. Basket/plain weave: warp weaves in pairs; weft weaves singly. (2 holes threaded per tablet produces true plain weave) Threading direction all to the right; A-B line all on top; turning: 2F, weave, 2B, weave; dark weft (1), light weft (2).

3-5. Log cabin: wefts are doubled. Measure a 4-yd length of each color, unwind 4 yds from each shuttle, and rewind each shuttle with doubled weft.

For section 3 (weft-wise stripes), alternate wefts, inserting dark weft when dark warp is up, light weft when light



c. Table loom with tablet warp and reed

warp is up. Threading direction all tablets threaded to the right; A-B line all on top; turning: 2F, weave, 2B, weave; 1 shuttle with doubled dark weft, 1 shuttle with doubled light weft.

For section 4 (warp-wise stripes), alternate wefts, inserting dark weft when light warp is up, light weft when dark warp is up. Threading direction all to the right; A-B line all on top; turning: 2F, weave, 2B, weave; 1 shuttle with doubled dark weft, 1 shuttle with doubled light weft.

For section 5 (log-cabin blocks), the A-B line alternates from 'on the top' to 'on the bottom' in groups of tablets: 6 top, 5 bottom, 5 top, 5 bottom, 5 top, 6 bottom. Weave the first block beginning with light weft. Alternate light/dark for six picks ending with dark weft. Begin second block with dark weft; alternate for six picks; end with light weft. Repeat first block. Threading direction all to the right, A-B line as above; turning 2F, weave, 2B, weave; 1 shuttle with doubled dark weft, 1 shuttle with doubled light.

Before section 6, turn tablets that were turned backward in section 5 two more turns backward to put A-B lines all on top.

6. Double weave: threading direction all to the right; for the A B line, tablets are placed on their corners to create a double shed. Turning: for dark warp on top layer, alternate between B hole up and A hole up. For light warp on top layer, alternate

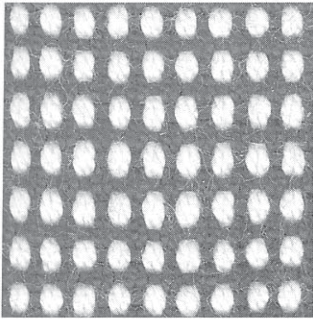
between C hole up and D hole up. For the weft, use 2 shuttles, 1 shuttle with dark and one with light. For solid color, use same value weft as warp in each shed. For combination light/dark, use opposite value. To close selvages, wrap wefts around each other at selvage.

7-10. Gauze weave: all tablets are threaded to the right. For section 7, A-B line all on top; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; dark weft. For section 8, A-B line all on bottom; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; dark weft. For section 9: A-B line all on bottom; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft. For section 10: A-B line all on top; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft.

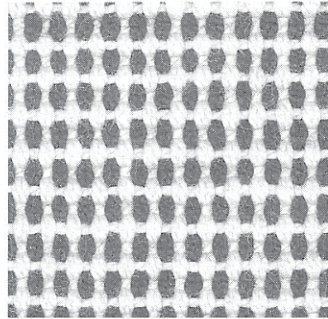
11-14. Gauze-weave diamonds: tablets are threaded alternately to the right and to the left. For section 11, A-B line all on top; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft. For section 12; A-B line all on bottom; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft. For section 13: A-B line all on top; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; dark weft. For section 14, A-B line all on bottom; turning: 4F, weave, 4B, weave; dark weft.

15-16. Plain-weave variation: four warp threads weave together as a single end in plain weave order with a single weft; tablets are threaded alternately to the right and to the left. For section 15, A-B line: all on top; turning: 2F, weave, 2B, weave; weft: dark. For section 16, A-B line all on top; turning: 2F, weave, 2B, weave; weft: light. ☞

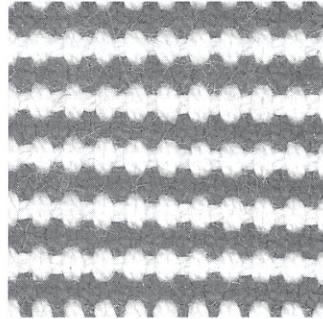




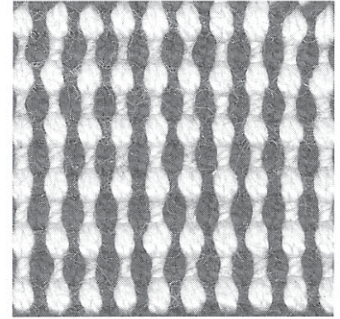
**1. BASKET/PLAIN WEAVE**  
 All to the right; A-B line all on top.  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave.  
 Dark weft.



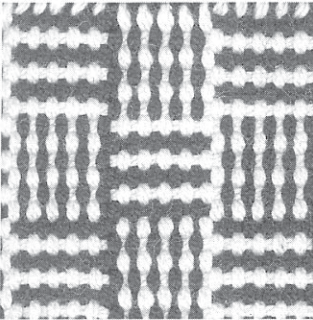
**2. BASKET/PLAIN WEAVE**  
 All to the right; A-B line all on top.  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave.  
 Light weft.



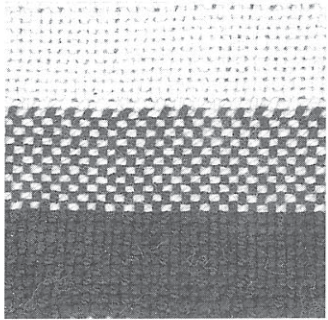
**3. LOG CABIN**  
 All to the right; A-B line all on top.  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave.  
 Doubled weft, dark/light alternating;  
 see directions p. 48.



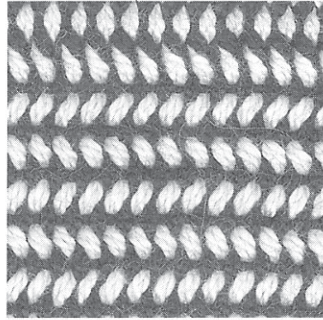
**4. LOG CABIN**  
 All to the right; A-B line all on top.  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave.  
 Doubled weft, dark/light alternating;  
 see directions p. 48.



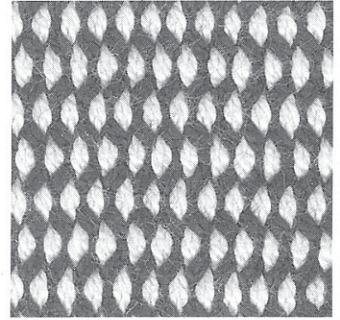
**5. LOG-CABIN BLOCKS**  
 All to the right; A-B line; see p. 48,  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave.  
 Doubled weft, dark/light alternating.



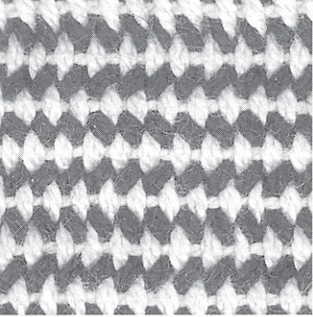
**6. DOUBLE WEAVE**  
 All to the right; A-B line; see p. 48.  
 Turning; see p. 48.  
 Dark/light alternating weft; see p. 48.



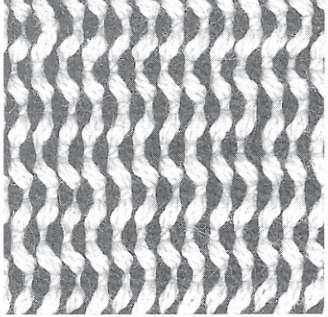
**7. GAUZE WEAVE**  
 All to the right; A-B line all on top.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave.  
 Dark weft.



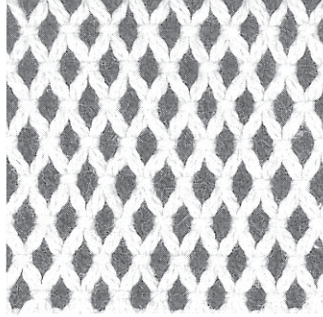
**8. GAUZE WEAVE**  
 All to the right; A-B line on bottom.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave.  
 Dark weft.



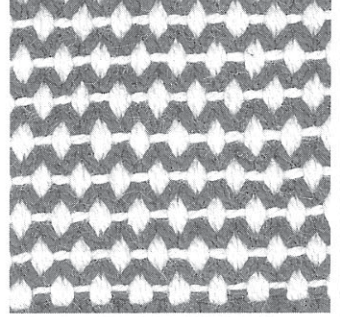
**9. GAUZE WEAVE**  
 All to the right  
 A-B line all on bottom.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft.



**10. GAUZE WEAVE**  
 All to the right; A-B line all on top.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave.  
 Light weft.



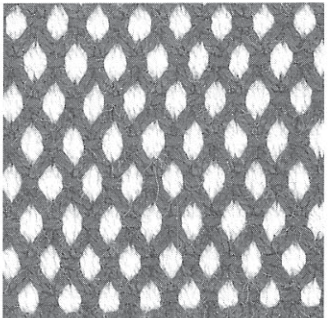
**11. GAUZE DIAMONDS**  
 Alternating right, left, repeat.  
 A-B line all on top.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft.



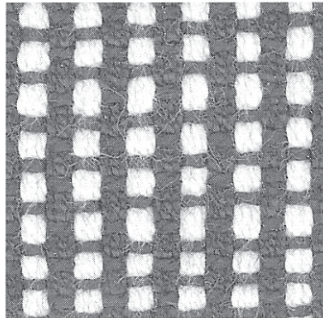
**12. GAUZE DIAMONDS**  
 Alternating right, left, repeat.  
 A-B line all on bottom.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave; light weft.



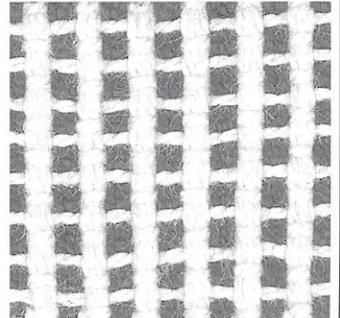
**13. GAUZE DIAMONDS**  
 Alternating right, left, repeat.  
 A-B line all on top.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave; dark weft.



**14. GAUZE DIAMONDS**  
 Alternating right, left, repeat.  
 A-B line all on bottom.  
 4F, weave, 4B, weave; dark weft.



**15. PLAIN-WEAVE VARIATION**  
 Alternating right, left, repeat.  
 A-B line all on top.  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave; dark weft.



**16. PLAIN-WEAVE VARIATION**  
 Alternating right, left, repeat.  
 A-B line all on bottom.  
 2F, weave, 2B, weave; light weft.