

3 Ways to Jazz up Plain Weave, Part 1

You will need a rigid heddle loom with a 7.5 or 8 dent heddle. A Sampleit or Cricket is fine for size, we only need an 8" weaving width.

To do the loops you will also need a knitting needle or similar. I used a US size 7, 4.5mm.

Sampler dimensions and calculations:

Total length of warp - 35"

Width on loom - 8"

Heddle size - 7.5 dpi

Number of ends - 64

Number of slots- 32

Yarns used:

Warp - Light worsted/dk/Australian 8ply merino wool in maroon.

Weft- Light worsted/dk/ Australian 8ply merino in a variety of colours.

Techniques:

1. Stripes

Example 1 -

*1 pick blue, 3 maroon

Repeat from * for as long as desired

Example 2-

*1 pick maroon, 1 blue

Repeat for as long as desired

Example 3-

*2 blue, 2 maroon

2. Loops

Insert the loop weft yarn into the down shed, making sure the tail is tucked into the previous shed. Pull up a loop for every space between warp threads and place on the knitting needle.

Leave the needle in place and beat. Weave your next shed (up or down) of your background weft. Then remove the knitting needle. Weave more plain weave rows in between if desired, then repeat the weft loops.

3. Butterflies

Example 1 Pick up-

4 up, 6 down

We use 2 different coloured wefts for the pattern weft (the pick up).

Weaving Sequence-

1. Heddle neutral, pick up stick on edge (coloured wefts)
2. Heddle up
3. Heddle down
4. Heddle up
5. Heddle down
6. Repeat from 1.

Example 2 pick up-

2 up, 6 down

The weaving sequence is the same as before.