

Summer and Winter

The name is said to derive from blue and white bedcovers woven in this pattern with one side darker than the other. The dark side showing was for the winter when washing could not be done so frequently; the light for summer.

On four shafts it is a two-block weave, with the reverse of each block being the same as the opposite block. The blocks can be of any number of repeats as there are tie-downs every fourth thread, which makes Summer and Winter a very stable cloth.

The threading blocks are, (1, 3, 2, 3) and (1, 4, 2, 4).

Note: tabby is woven (1, 2) and (3, 4).

It is possible to weave pattern, and conversely background, all over across the entire width. Separate blocks of pattern can be placed within the overall background (and vice versa).

There are three main types of patterning: brick, columns, and pairs, with variations of each.

Bricks: Pattern lifts alternate 1:1.

Columns: The same pattern lift is repeated.

Pairs: Pairs of pattern lifts are repeated 2:2.

When there is only a single block, then the pairs can create a circular motif (Roseate) or crossed motif (Hourglass). The repeated lifts at the center of these motifs can be extended to more than two. Use of different or more than two colors produces other interesting variations.

NOTES FOR WEAVING SUMMER AND WINTER

Threads: See page 95.

Selvages and sett: Thread the selvages 1, 3, 2, 4. Use a floating selvedge to catch the pattern wefts. Use a sett suitable for tabby.

Reading the weaving draft: The tie-up grid has the two tabby picks at the left—remember these are (1, 2) and (3, 4). This makes it easier to see how the different lifting units are composed. A number within the color block for the picks shows how many times that shed has to be used, with tabby in between.