

Advancing 2/2 Twill

In “Advancing Twill” or “Incremental Twill” the threading “skips” or “advances” out of the normal by a set number of ends or increments. It is most often seen as or within multishaft patterns, but can also be used with great effect on four shafts.

A short straight draft entry is threaded in the usual way, and then the threading “skips” or leaves out a number of shafts before recommencing. On a four-shaft loom the skip is usually over two, although it can be over one. If the skip is over three, the last end of the threading would be repeated. Obviously if no shafts are skipped the threading continues as normal. Here, all the samples show skips over two, as then tabby can be woven if required.

The length of the straight entry before the skips can be of any number from three upward. Repeated sequences of these can be referred to as “Base 3,” “Base 4,” “Base 5,” etc.

With a normal straight entry on four shafts, the repeat is spread over four ends. By skipping a set number of ends, the repeat can be extended considerably. Using a skip of two, with Base 3 (1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2) this extends to twelve ends. Base 5 (1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 2,

3, 4, 1, 2) could seem to be even more dramatic, extending as it does over twenty ends, but the twill lines are less defined than with Base 3. Base 4 actually only extends to eight ends because of the nature of the repeat (1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 1, 2). By using a skip of one, Base 4 extends to sixteen ends (1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2, 4, 1, 2, 3), and Base 5 extends to ten (1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3), Base 3 just repeats on three shafts.

Alternatively, it can be thought of as a straight run of threading recommencing a set number of shafts further on than the last run began. Thus a three-thread run of (1, 2, 3) advancing 1 recommences on 2 to become the next run of (2, 3, 4). A five-thread run of (1, 2, 3, 4, 1) advancing 3 is followed by a run of (4, 1, 2, 3, 4).

The base sequences, both threaded and shedded, can be constant or mixed, overall or small scale, repeating or random. When both threading and lifting are extended to a point sequence the possible patterns are stunning.

When reversing a sequence, the skip can continue to follow the same method as above, or the threading/lifting can mirror the previous section.

NOTES

Sett: As for usual 2/2 twill.

Threads: Any, but fine silks especially, with warp and weft either close in color or of the same tonal value, show an added shimmer.

Selvedges: Either straight four-shaft entry, or use the pattern threading, doubling where necessary to maintain format. Use a floating selvedge.

In the one-directional woven samples shown, the sequences all start from shaft 4 but adhere to the same rules as above.