Woven Baby Blankets:
Free Projects for Huck, Plain Weave, and a Waffle Weave Blanket
PROJECT NOTES: This lightweight baby blanket is delicately patterned with huck diamonds and accented with crocheted edging. The eight-shaft weave is pattern #661 from A Weaver’s Book of 8-Shaft Patterns, edited by Carol Strickler (Loveland, Colorado: Interweave Press, 1991). The tie-up is reversed for easier treadling with more weft floats on top.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION: Huck.

FINISHED DIMENSIONS: 33 1/4" wide by 43" long, plus about 1/2" crocheted edging on each side. Hems use an additional 1" at each end.

YARN: Size 8/2 unmercerized cotton at 3,360 yd/lb: 2,735 yd unbleached, plus an additional 100 yd for the crocheted edging.

YARN SOURCES & COLORS: This is UKI Natural (unbleached).

NOTIONS: Matching sewing thread, crochet hook size 8.

E.P.I.: 18.

WIDTH IN REED: 39".

TOTAL WARP ENDS: 705.

WARP LENGTH: 2 1/4 yd, including take-up, shrinkage, and 27" loom waste.

P.P.I.: 18.

TAKE-UP & SHRINKAGE: 15% in width and length.

WEAVING: Begin and end with 2" plain weave. Follow the pattern treadling for the balance of the warp length.

FINISHING: Serge or zigzag the raw edges. Machine wash in hot water on gentle cycle and tumble dry. At the same time, wash a well-tied 100-yd skein of 8/2 cotton to be used for the crocheted edging.

ASSEMBLY: Fold over each raw end 1/2" twice and stitch by hand. To work the edging, use the washed 8/2 cotton and a size 8 crochet hook. Round 1—Work a round of single crochet (sc) at 8 or 9 stitches (st) per inch, being careful not to draw in the edge. At each corner, make 3 or 4 extra st to keep the work flat. Round 2—Chain (ch) 5, *skip 2 st, 1 double crochet (dc) in the next st, ch 3, 1 dc in the same st, repeat from *. Round 3—Start in a ch 3 with 1 slip st (sl st), *3 dc in the next ch 3, ch 3, 3 dc in the same ch, 1 sl st in the next ch 3, repeat from *. Block by steam pressing lightly on a fluffy towel.

DRAFT:
A simple crocheted edging borders Linda Ligon’s lightweight baby blanket delicately patterned with huck lace diamonds.
Designing small figures on a rosepath or point-twill threading has always fascinated me. Crayons struck me as an ideal motif for the border of a child’s blanket, but how to weave the border on all four sides? The solution is to use a supplementary weft for the top and bottom borders and a supplementary warp for the borders on the sides.

In the draft for the blanket, a point-twill threading on shafts 1–5 produces the rows of supplementary-weft crayons in the top and bottom borders. The rows of crayons in the side borders are created with a supplementary warp on shafts 6–8. The hardest part of the design process for me was to remember that all warp threads except those where pattern is to show must be raised when you are weaving with a supplementary weft, while supplementary warp threads must be raised to show as pattern.

Warping with a supplementary warp
If you have two warp beams, you can wind the supplementary warp on one beam and the ground warp on the other. Or, because there are only two sections of supplementary warp in the blanket and they are relatively narrow, you can beam the ground warp but suspend and weight the supplementary warp (see Barbara Walker, “Hearts Afire,” HANDWOVEN, September/October 2001, page 54, for more information about warping and weaving with a supplementary warp).

Beverly Savel, of Western Springs, Illinois, has been weaving for over twenty years. She is co-owner (with Beverly Atseff) of 2-B Weavers. Teaching the weaving classes is her favorite part of the business. She also loves designing playful images on simple threadings.
The crayon pillows are woven on four shafts, the blanket on eight. However, you can weave the blanket without the crayon borders on four shafts.
Weaving the blanket

Allow 8" for fringe (include amount used for tying on) and weave the blanket following Figures 1 and 3. Cotton Classic is used singly for the ground ends, but for the supplementary weft (that weaves the crayons) it is used doubled. When you are weaving with the supplementary weft, the shuttle does not go all the way to the edge of the cloth. This will happen automatically if you always place the supplementary weft shuttle closest to the reed and the tabby shuttle closest to you.

To keep plain weave a consistent 10 ppi throughout, pattern and tabby wefts must be beaten firmly so that they measure 20 ppi in supplementary weft areas.

Begin and end the blanket with some scrap yarn in plain weave to secure ends.

Finishing the blanket

Remove the blanket from the loom, allowing 8" for a twisted fringe. Darn in the supplementary warp ends at the corners with a needle so that they do not extend beyond the last crayon.

Prepare a twisted fringe with 8 warp threads in each group, centering a colored thread in each fringe and removing scrap yarn as you go. The fringe on the sides of the blanket must be added: With a crochet hook and 4 strands of yarn 16" long for each fringe (1 color, 3 natural), bring the threads through the selvedge at a colored thread so that they are folded in half; twist as for the warp fringe.


The crayon pillows

The soft sculpture pillow/toy crayons are all woven on the same warp (black 10/2 pearl cotton). The crayon color is created by the weft. So that weft colors predominate, the weaving is slightly weft-faced and the weft is thicker than the warp (warp sett is 12 epi and the heavier Tahki Cotton Classic is woven at 15 ppi).

Weaving the crayon fabric

Wind a warp and prepare the loom following Figure 4 and Project at-a-glance. Weave the four crayon fabrics (red, blue, yellow, and green) following the treadling in Figure 4 and the weft color order in Figure 5. Remove the fabric from the loom; secure edges with machine stitching.

Finishing the crayons

Machine wash and dry fabric. Cut crayons apart at color changes. Cut a 5" piece from the 8" dark section of each fabric to use for the bottom of the crayon and set aside. For each crayon: Form a tube (right sides together) and sew side seam, tapering the 5½" top section for the crayon point. Turn right side out and stuff with polyester stuffing. Cut a circle from each 5" piece to fit bottom of crayon allowing for seams, and handsew in place.
To weave the blanket on four shafts, use the color order in Figure 2a (ground warp only), thread the loom for plain weave, and weave plain weave using the ground weft only in Figure 3.

2a. Ground warp color order for blanket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5x</th>
<th>6x</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ground warp = single strand of Cotton Classic
Numbers indicate 4/2 cotton ground warp (used singly)

2b. Supplementary warp color order for blanket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>green crayon</th>
<th>blue crayon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supplementary warp: doubled strands of Cotton Classic

3. Weft color order for blanket

4. Draft for crayon pillows

5. Weft color order for crayon pillows

PROJECT at-a-glance for pillows

Weave structure for pillows
Plain weave.

Equipment
4-shaft loom, 12" weaving width; 12-dent reed; 2 shuttles, 9 bobbins.

Yarns
Warp: 10/2 pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb), black, 576 yd (2½ oz).
Weft: Tahki Cotton Classic (980 yd/lb), dark red #3997, dark blue #3872, dark yellow #3533, and dark green #3764, 75 yd (1½ oz) each; light red #3475, light yellow #3532, light blue #3882, and light green #3719, 55 yd (½ oz).

Yarn sources
10/2 pearl cotton is available from most weaving retailers, Tahki Cotton Classic from most knitting stores.

Warp order and length
144 ends 4 yd long (allows 27" loom waste).

Warp and weft spacing
Warp: 12 epi (1/dent in a 12-dent reed). Width in the reed: 12".
Weft: 15 ppi. Woven length of each crayon (measured under tension on the loom): 25".

Notions and other materials
Two bags of polyester fiberfill stuffing, black sewing thread.

Finished dimensions
After washing, amounts produce four pillows 3" (diameter) × 16" each.
A new look at threading M’s and O’s

THE FLOATS IN M’S AND O’S PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY WITH COLOR AT THE LOOM. YOU CAN CHANGE THE PAIR OF WEFTS ANY TIME, CREATING STRIPES AND GRADATIONS OF COLOR AND A DIFFERENT LOOK FOR EVERY PIECE.

Instructions given here are for the turquoise baby blanket. Weave it first following the treadling and then choose your own colors for the second baby blanket.

1. Draft for blankets

In most M’s and O’s drafts, floats appear in an even number of columns. If two colors alternate in the weft, there will therefore be either dark/light (two columns of floats), dark/light/dark/light (four columns), or other multiples of two—notice the turquoise and white floats in the two- and four-column arrangements on page 55). I wanted to arrange floats symmetrically (dark/light/dark, for example, in three columns).

Inspiration came from an earlier M’s and O’s project in which I placed an extra thread in a turning block to make the threading symmetrical (see Resources). In this blanket, all turning blocks have this extra thread to place colors symmetrically in groups of three columns.

TIPS FOR USING COLOR

You can select any pair of weft colors and change them at any time for weft stripes. Exchanging shuttles places the two colors in the opposite columns; either color can be a constant, or both can be changed for each treadling sequence of 10 picks. You’ll need about 5½ yd of each weft color for each 10-pick sequence. (Note that true plain weave is not possible on this threading.)

RESOURCES


1. Wind a warp of 741 ends 3½ yd long. Check Figure 2 to make sure you have enough heddles on each shaft and warp the loom following Figure 1 using your preferred method (for complete warping instructions, see Resources at handwoven magazine.com).

2. Wind a bobbin for each weft yarn. Begin hems with 3/8” in 16/2 cotton, then change to 8/2 cotton (turquoise for the first blanket) for 1”. Weave the body of the blanket, alternating two weft colors as in Figure 1 (about 39”). Repeat hem, first with 8/2 cotton for 1”, then with 16/2 for 3/8”. Separate blankets with 2 picks of a contrasting color. Repeat for the second blanket in your choice of colors and/or block arrangements (or weave the second blanket as you did the first).

STRUCTURE
M’s and O’s.

EQUIPMENT
4-shaft loom, 38” weaving width; 10-dent reed; 2 shuttles; 5 bobbins.

YARNS
Warp: 8/2 unmercerized cotton (3,360 yd/lb, UKI), white, 2,409 yd.
Weft: (for turquoise blanket)
  8/2 unmercerized cotton, Light Turquoise #56, 422 yd;
  Champagne #66, 153 yd;
  Pink #22, 57 yd.
  #10 crochet cotton (3,050 yd/lb, 300 yd/ball, Royale by J.P. Coats),
   #0949 light pastels, 171 yd.
For a second blanket, choose weft colors:
  allow 422 yd for background weft and 400 yd total for accent colors.
Hems for both blankets:
  16/2 cotton (6,720 yd/lb), 41 yd.

WARP LENGTH
741 ends (includes 2 floating selvedges)
3 3/4 yd long (allows 4” for take-up, 28” for loom waste).

SETTS
Warp: 20 epi (2/dent in a 10-dent reed).
Weft: 17 ppi.

DIMENSIONS
Width in the reed: 37 3/4”.
Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 85” total (42 1/2” for each blanket).
Finished sizes after washing: two hemmed baby blankets 32” x 35” each.
Weaving a baby blanket for an expected child is always a great joy for a weaver. Ultrasound has made the experience even more personal and rewarding! I wove these blankets for my granddaughter, Lillian, who is due January 12, 2011. As I wove, I kept her ultrasound photo and a photo of my son and his wife taped to the castle of my loom. Woven into Lillian’s blanket are all my wishes and prayers for her and the life ahead of her. Seeing her in the womb is a special gift that makes me feel that she is already with us. The Panda Silk used in these blankets is a luxury yarn. A combination of bamboo, superwash merino, and silk, it produces a fabric that is unbelievably soft, supple, warm, and durable—exactly what you’d love for wrapping around your baby.

Waffle-weave produces an especially insulating fabric; it also shows off luxury yarns with dimensional cells framed by long floats.

Waffle-weave baby blanket

WASHABLE AND DURABLE, THIS YARN’S COMBINATION OF BAMBOO, SUPERWASH WOOL, AND SILK IS BABY SOFT.

Waffle weave does draw up with wet finishing, so after the blanket is removed from the dryer, block and press it back into shape; for this blanket, I eased it as I pressed to make it a 40” × 40” square. As you press, turn the ends under twice to make a rolled hem and press hem to match the width of the waffle-weave body. Sew hems by hand.