

# Patterned Bands from the Sámi Weaving Tradition

SUSAN J. FOULKES



PHOTOS BY JOE COCCA

## STRUCTURE

Baltic-style pick-up on a warp-faced half-basketweave ground.

## EQUIPMENT

Inkle loom, with 33 string heddles; 1 belt shuttle.

## YARNS

**Warp:** 5/2 mercerized pearl cotton (2,100 yd/lb), white, 112 yd; red, 120 yd; blue, 28 yd; green, 14 yd. (Note: Pattern warps are doubled ends; ground and border warps are used singly.)

**Weft:** 5/2 mercerized pearl cotton, white, 15 yd.

## WARP LENGTH

78 ends (52 single ends; 13 doubled ends) 1¾ yd long following the warp color order and threadings in Figures 1, 2, and 3 (allows 4" for take-up, 35" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

## DIMENSIONS

**Weaving width:** approximately 1½".

**Weft:** 12 ppi.

**Woven length:** 24" (3 pieces 8" each plus fringe).

**Finished size:** 3 bookmarks 1½" x 8" plus ½" fringe at each end.

The instructions for weaving these bands with a SUNNA rigid heddle are in the *Handwoven* March/April 2013 issue.

When these bands are woven on an inkle loom, both pattern threads and the finer background threads appear in each layer of an open shed, but only the pattern threads are picked up. Baltic-style pattern pick-ups usually involve both picking up pattern threads from the lower layer of a shed and depressing pattern threads from the upper layer. In the pick-up chart in Figure 4, dotted squares represent pattern threads originally in the upper shed layer for that pick-up. Colored squares (with or without dots) represent pattern threads that must be in the upper layer for the pattern, and white squares represent those pattern threads that must be in the lower layer.

**1** For an inkle loom, use a guide string to measure 1¾ yd around the pegs and the loom's tensioner, making sure the tensioner is well extended to allow for take-up. Following the draft and color order in Figure 1, warp the inkle loom and place the heddles. (For details on warping an inkle loom, see *t*, cited in Resources.)

**2** To space the warps and provide a base against which to beat, insert two ½" x 2" cardboard spacers as follows: Press down on the unheddled threads so that the hedded threads form the upper layer of the warp and insert the first spacer. Change sheds by pushing up the unheddled threads over the hedded threads so that the unheddled threads are the upper layer and insert the second spacer.

**3** Wind a belt shuttle with weft.

**4** Weave each bookmark, following the pick-up chart in Figure 2. Read the chart from the bottom up, as it is woven. Note that odd-numbered picks and picks a and c are made with hedded threads up, while even-numbered picks and border picks b and d are made with unheddled threads up. (Note that on row d, two pattern threads in the center of the upper layer need to be pushed down into the lower layer.)

**5** To prevent the weft from raveling, weave the starting border (picks a–d) as follows: Move the hedded threads up for row a, and insert the weft into the shed leaving a long tail. Place the unheddled threads up (row b), insert the weft and pass the tail through the shed in the opposite direction (2 wefts in the same shed). Repeat for picks c and d to secure the thread.

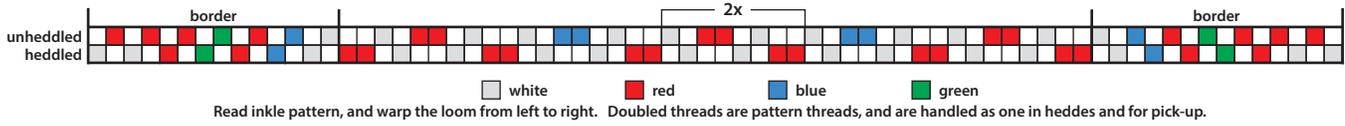
**6** Weave 3 repeats (6 motifs) of the pick-up pattern, following the chart in Figure 4. The chart shows only the pattern threads, because background threads remain in their natural positions. On an inkle loom, pattern threads will appear in both layers of a natural shed. On the chart, squares containing a dot represent pattern warps naturally in the upper

layer of the shed, while those without a dot are in the lower layer. Colored squares indicate pattern warps that must be in the upper layer for the pattern, while white squares represent pattern warps that must be in the lower layer.

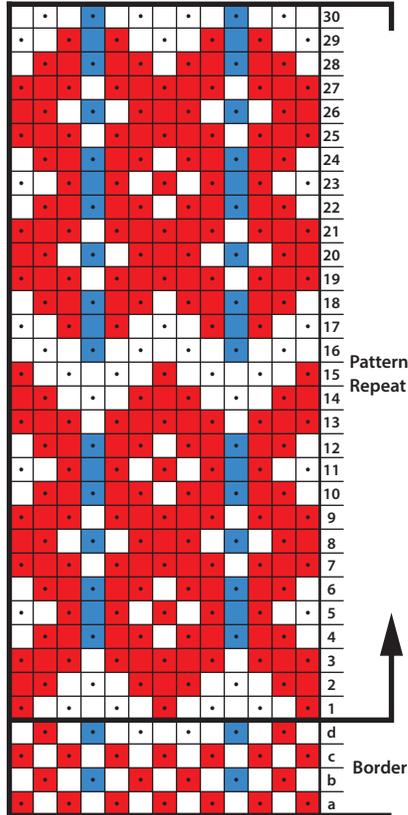
To make each pick-up, open the shed indicated (hedded threads up for odd-numbered picks; unheddled threads up for even-numbered picks) and with your fingers, arrange the pattern threads as shown for the row. It will usually be necessary both to lift pattern warps (colored squares without dots) from the lower layer and to push down pattern warps (white squares with dots) from the upper layer. Holding the shed open with your fingers, insert the shuttle and beat to set the previ-



## 1. Inkle Draft



## 2. Pick-up Chart



**Weave Plan:**  
For each bookmark, weave rows a–d, then rows 1–30 three times. End by weaving rows d–a.

**To weave on an inkle loom:**  
Odd-numbered picks (and a and c) are made by raising the heddled threads, and even-numbered picks (and b and d) by raising the unheddled threads.

To raise the heddled threads, push the unheddled threads down. To raise the unheddled threads push the unheddled threads up.

Open the shed, and with your fingers, pick up any colored pattern threads from the lower layer, and drop any uncolored threads from the upper layer. Use the key below to identify which pattern threads need to be in each layer for each pick-up. Do not alter the position of any background threads.

Holding the shed open with your fingers, insert the shuttle and beat, then leaving the shuttle in, tug the weft from the previous pick into place.

- Pattern thread in upper layer that stays there for pattern
- Pattern thread in upper layer that is pushed down for pattern
- Pattern thread in lower layer that is picked up for pattern
- Pattern thread in lower layer that stays there for pattern

Only pattern threads are shown in the chart. Each square represents one 2-strand pattern thread.

Read the diagram from bottom to top as it is woven.

Picks a–d weave the border; picks 1–30 the pattern repeat.

Colored squares represent pattern threads that need to be in the upper layer of the shed for that row.

ous pick. Leaving the shuttle in place tug the weft from the previous pick into place for a firm, even edge.

**7** After weaving the last repeat of the pattern, weave the border and secure the weft as follows: weave pick d. On pick c, raise the heddled threads, pass the shuttle through and place a doubled length of smooth yarn into the shed with the loop on the same side the shuttle emerged. Weave picks b and a. Cut the weft, leaving a tail, insert the weft through the loop of smooth yarn, and use the loop to draw the tail of weft through pick c, securing it.

**8** Allow 1" for fringe between each bookmark by inserting spacers or waste yarn. Weave each bookmark as for the first one.

**9** Cut the woven length from the loom and remove any spacers. Cut the bookmarks apart and trim the fringe, allowing ½" at each end. Steam-press and your bookmarks are ready to use.

