

Scarves with Sea Silk Warp

and eyelash, bouclé, and elastic silk wefts

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*A Sea Silk warp and a versatile twill draft allow the weaving of many different scarves on the same warp—by varying the treadling sequence or the weft yarns or both. In some scarves, the weft is prominent; in others the warp. The weave structure can appear distinct or indistinct. (For more information about Sea Silk yarns (70% silk, 30% Seacell), see *The Yarn of the Hour, Handwoven*, November/ December 2007, pages 62–63.)*

Sea Silk, the warp yarn for this project, is a blend of silk with one of the recently available “renewable” fibers—Seacell. Seacell is made with a lyocell base to which a small amount of seaweed has been added. This silk/Seacell blend has a beautiful sheen and an affinity for dyes both natural and synthetic. As a fan of pure silk yarns, I was surprised to find Sea Silk has more luster than pure silk and an attractive “slippery” hand.

Seaweed is used in cosmetics because it is believed to impart beneficial minerals to the skin. The manufacturer of Seacell suggests that the same benefits may be imparted through the yarn. So in addition to looking good, fabrics made from Seacell may help the wearer feel good, too!

Four colors are used in the Sea Silk warp for these scarves: teal, purple, taupe, and a multicolored strand that combines the other three. They are arranged in a gradation from teal to purple to taupe.

The draft for the scarves

The twill draft for these scarves is derived



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WHY WEAVE (OR COLLECT) SCARVES?

Weave scarves instead of samples you keep in a drawer. Scarves are big enough to allow experimenting with color, sett, drape, yarn combinations, scale, and texture—yet small enough that failures are not devastating. You can study the finished product to visualize a shawl, throw, dress, or coat while also having a beautiful, wearable product.

From a wearer’s point of view, scarves can update or add excitement to any outfit—even changing its look entirely. You can never have too many scarves! A scarf can also make accessible hand-crafted work that might be unaffordable as a larger garment.

Scarves can be displayed as works of art on their own. Place them over couches and chairs or grouped on a display rack. Each one can be removed, worn, and appreciated (yet another reason to have lots of scarves!).

from what has been called the “double two-tie” threading system (see Figure 1, page 3, and Resources). In this system, shafts 1 and 2 are repeated throughout the threading just as they are in summer and winter (a “two-tie” weave). In “dou-

ble two-tie,” two of the other shafts are threaded in each unit (1-3-2-4) rather than one (1-3-2-3) as in summer and winter; hence the label “double.”

Note, however, that the structure produced by the draft in Figure 1 is actually a twill, not a supplementary-weft weave with tie-down threads like summer and winter. The repeating ends on shafts 1 and 2 make possible a plaited-twill design on eight shafts instead of the twelve that would be required without them.

Possible scarf variations

It is possible to weave many different twill designs on this threading (and plain weave). The fanciest plaited-twill design (treadling c) requires twelve treadles. If you don’t have that many, however, a simpler plaited twill can be woven using fewer treadles (treadling a or b, Figure 1).

In addition to using different treadlings, changing weft colors or yarn types can produce a different look. Scarf A uses a teal silk bouclé weft. In selected spots, an elasticized silk is used to cause a rippled effect. Scarf B uses an unevenly spun black silk weft, and Scarf C combines black silk bouclé and black silk eyelash.

Resources

Barrett, Clotilde, and Eunice Smith. *Double Two-Tie Unit Weaves*. Boulder, Colorado: Weaver’s Journal Publications, 1983.

Scarf A (upper left) is woven with a teal silk bouclé weft (and in selected areas an elastic silk weft); Scarf B (center) is woven with a unevenly spun black silk weft; and Scarf C (lower right) is woven with alternating wefts of black silk bouclé and silk eyelash yarns.

