

“Shalom” Tallit Bag and Kepah

(SEWING INSTRUCTIONS)

LINDA SILVERN



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Web Supplement

4-SHAFT

STRUCTURE

Twill.

EQUIPMENT

4-shaft loom, 36" weaving width; 12-dent reed; 1 boat shuttle; 1 double-bobbin boat shuttle; 7 bobbins.

YARNS

Warp: 10/2 mercerized pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb; Halcyon), #1530 Bleached, 3,018 yd. **Weft:** 10/2 mercerized pearl cotton, #1570 Nassau, 438 yd; #1810 Winter Green, 314 yd; #1530 Bleached, 1,364 yd. 10/2 mercerized pearl cotton (4,200 yd/lb; WEBS), #0230 Petunia, 324 yd.

OTHER SUPPLIES

Tzitzit (available at a local Judaica store or online); tapestry needle; Fray Check.

WARP LENGTH

860 ends $3\frac{1}{2}$ yd long (includes 2 floating selvedges; allows 6" for take-up, 28" for loom waste). Additional warp (about 30") is required to weave a matching tallit bag and kippah.

SETTS

Warp: 24 epi (2/dent in a 12-dent reed). **Weft:** 18 ppi colored areas (weft used doubled); 24 ppi in the Bleached areas.

DIMENSIONS

Width in the reed: $35\frac{1}{2}$ ". Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): Tallit, 78" plus 5" fringe at each end; Attarah (neckband), $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Finished size after washing and attaching Attarah (neckpiece): 32" x 72" plus 4" fringe at each end.



Accompanying tallit.

LINDA SILVERN of Baltimore, Maryland, often asks, "What will happen if . . ." and is then off exploring a different twist on an old technique—most often name drafts for tallitot.

I like to make a bag by stitching the lining in separately so that the lining is stitched down and can't get caught in the zipper. I make the top by putting in the zipper, then sewing the sides and bottom. I sew the sides of the lining, fold the top down and give it a good press; then pin it in and carefully sew it close to the fold and the zipper stitching.

The kepah is made of a $7\frac{5}{8}$ " circle and a straight band as wide as you like plus a total of $\frac{3}{4}$ " for the top and bottom seams and an inch longer than the size of the head to be fitted. I use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " side seam on the band to allow wiggle room in case I need to make it larger or smaller, as people don't always measure their heads accurately. I make the top and the lining, then stitch them together at the bottom leaving 2" unsewn to turn right side out. I then stitch around the bottom to close the opening and topstitch the edge to keep it sharper. Because handwoven fabric can be stretchy, the circle accommodates most head sizes. I add about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the circle if the head is large or the fabric is very stiff. For the kepah pictured, I used interfacing on the top but not on the band.

