

# Triangular Shawls

## on a regular floor loom

KARIN WORLING

*I kept a flock of sheep in the 1980s and used their wool for weaving. Shawls were very popular then! I wove many—rectangular ones, that is—until I read an article by Barbara Taylor Farnum in the Summer 1985 issue of Handmade. She shows how to join two rectangular pieces on the loom by cutting the warp ends of one and using them as the weft of the other to form a triangle without a seam. I love the triangular shape, plus the shawl never slides off the shoulders. It can be worn over a coat, jacket, or pullover with pants or skirts. It can be dressed up with jewelry. It makes an excellent travel companion and “cover up,” especially whenever extra warmth is appreciated.*

Over the years, I have tried different weave structures and color combinations with this method of weaving triangular shawls, but plain weave and log cabin designs are my favorites, especially in combination with hand-dyed yarns. Often I spin the accent yarns from hand-dyed fleece.

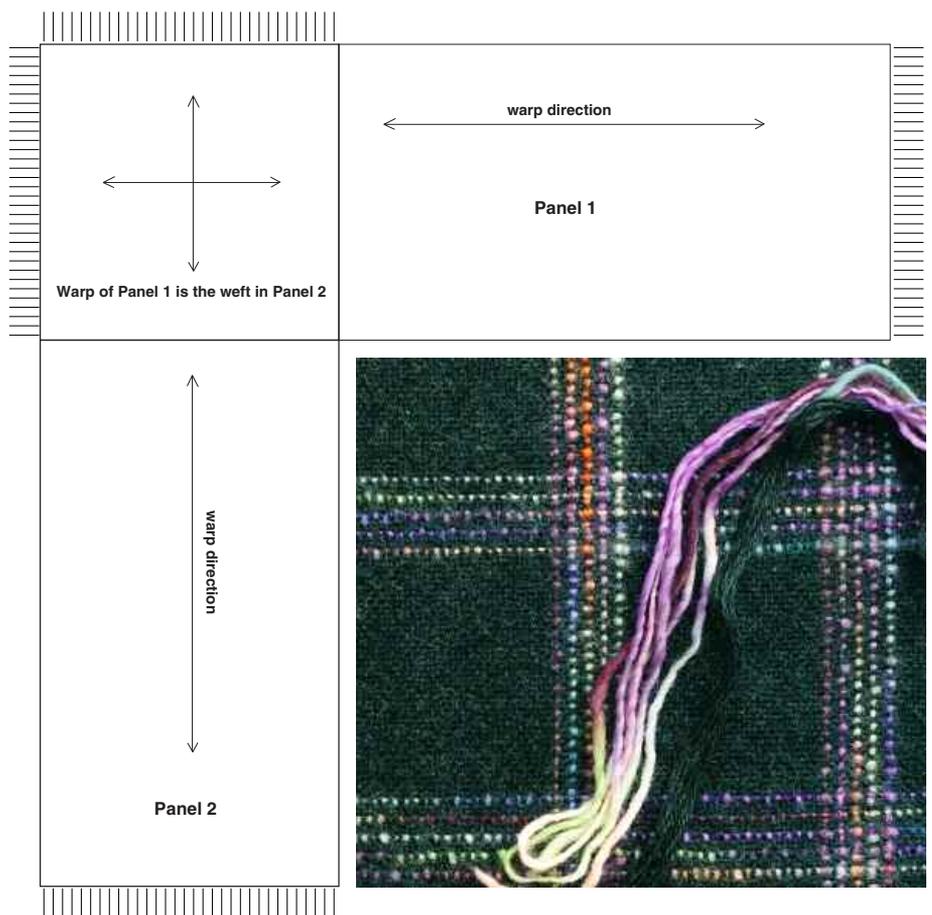
In the shawl shown here I have used thick yarns as accent threads only, but I also have woven many shawls in different color combinations using the thick yarns as both warp and weft throughout.

### Shawl construction

Of course, the shawls are not actually triangles in the same way as shawls woven on triangular looms. The “triangle” is worn at the back while a rectangular panel comes over each shoulder to drape at the front.

The panels can be planned to be different lengths and widths. To design the size of your shawl, baste two rectangles together of scrap fabric (see Figure 1). Trim

### 1. Construction of a triangular shawl



**Karin Worling** of Belleville, Ontario, Canada, kayaks and carves songbirds when she is not busy weaving triangular shawls.

the sides and ends to determine desired width and length.

Warp width will be panel width + 15–20% for draw-in and shrinkage. Warp length will be panel length (measure one

long side) times two + 15–20% take-up and shrinkage + desired fringe length before finishing times four + loom waste. Shrinkage percentages depend on materials and finishing method.



## STEPS FOR WEAVING THE TRIANGULAR SHAWL

**Step 1** Wind a warp of 239 ends of 8/3 JaggerSpun Heather 5¼ yd long and a separate warp of 30 ends of hand-painted Manos del Uruguay wool 5¼ yd long. For each warp, tie the cross and choke ties and remove from the warping board by chaining.

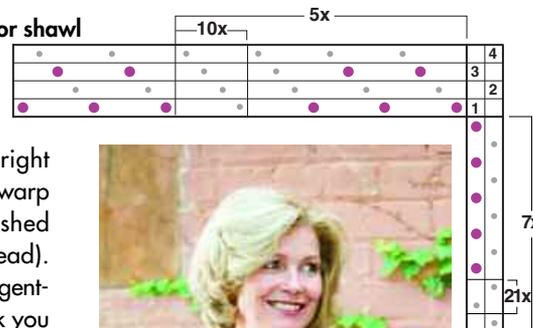
**Step 2** Leaving the dents marked "0" empty, sley the 8/3 warp in a 10-dent reed: \*0-1-0-1-0-1-0-1-0, then sley 1/dent for 43 dents; repeat from \* 4 more times; end with 0-1-0-1-0-1-0-1-0. Sley the 30 handpainted wool ends in the empty dents.

**Step 3** Thread the heddles for plain weave following Figure 2. Beam the warp under even tension and tie it onto the front apron rod.

**Step 4** Allowing 8" for fringe, weave plain weave in scrap yarn for a heading (check to see that all accent yarns rise and sink together). Weave 2 picks 8/3 Heather wool to begin panel 1. Then weave following Figure 2; measure each repeat carefully, aiming for a very consistent beat. When you are finished, insert 6 picks of cut 1-yd pieces of a slippery yarn like silk or pearl cotton, leaving tails at both selvages. (These threads are removed later.)

**Step 5** Release the tension and gently roll the warp forward for 36" and cut at this point in front of the reed (the 36" of unwoven threads are removed as part of Panel 1). Tie the warp back on for Panel 2. Allowing 8" for fringe, weave Panel 2 as you did Panel 1, measuring carefully for consistency (omit marker threads at the end).

### 2. Draft for shawl



**Step 6** Now take Panel 1 under your right arm and insert the first 36" cut warp end into the 1-3 plain-weave shed (this will be a handpainted thread). Place it at an angle and press it gently into place next to the last pick you made in Panel 2. Place the next (8/3) thread in the 2-4 plain-weave shed, and continue, weaving plain weave with the cut warp threads. The slippery threads in Panel 1 will line up along the right selvage and help you keep that selvage straight without drawing in. Once a few picks have been placed, drape each thread over the end of a stick or rug shuttle to push through the shed. To secure the fringe at the left selvage, tie small bundles in overhand knots. Advance the warp frequently and maintain consistent tension. When all the cut warp ends are woven, insert 2 slippery threads. Allow 8" for fringes, and cut the fabric from the loom.

**Step 7** Prepare a twisted fringe of all fringes (removing last 2 slippery threads as you go): Twist two groups of 3 ends in 8/3 wool sections, 1 handpainted with one 8/3 wool end in the stripe areas. Secure ends with overhand knots.

**Step 8** Remove the 6 slippery picks and soak the shawl in cold water for several hours. Machine wash in warm water with Ivory liquid, regular cycle, for about 6 minutes, checking often to achieve the desired degree of fulling.



**Step 9** Rinse in warm water, spin out excess for a few seconds only, and then lay the shawl flat to dry. Steam press before shawl is completely dry. Brush up lightly. Trim the fringes (removing first knots) to an even 3–3½" and secure with a final overhand knot. ←

## PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

### Weave structure for shawl

Plain weave.

### Equipment

2-shaft or 4-shaft loom, 27" weaving width; 10-dent reed; 2 boat shuttles; 1 stick or rug shuttle, fringe twister (optional).

### Yarns

Background warp: 8/3 wool (1,490 yd/lb, JaggerSpun Heather), Lava, 1,255 yd (13½ oz). Accent warp: handpainted singles wool (630 yd/lb), Wildflowers, 158 yd (4 oz).

Background weft: 8/3 wool (1,490 yd/lb), Lava, 510 yd (5½ oz). Accent weft: handpainted singles wool (630 yd/lb), Wildflowers, 55 yd (1½ oz).

### Yarn sources

JaggerSpun 8/3 Heather wool is available from most weaving retailers; Manos del Uruguay handpainted singles wool is available from many knitting shops.

### Warp order and length

269 ends 5¼ yd long following Figure 2 (allows 8" for take-up, 26" for loom waste;

loom waste includes 16" fringe at the beginning and end of the project).

### Warp and weft spacing

Warp: 10 epi (1/dent in a 10-dent reed).

Width in the reed: 26%".

Weft: 8¾ ppi. Woven length (measured under tension on the loom): 42" Panel 1, 69" Panel 2.

### Finished dimensions

After washing, amounts produce one shawl with panels 59" long each (overlapping for 23½") and a width of 23½" each panel.