

# Weaving Twills: Getting Started

The twill gamp pictured in Figure 1 shows a beginning of the variety of patterns possible with eight-shaft twill patterns. The space between each twill block is achieved by threading an extra block on two additional shafts. If extra shafts are not available, then the blocks may be separated by a contrasting color.

## THREADING AND SETT

For the warp threading, it's good to know that twills may be threaded straight, reversed, extended, advancing, or any combination of these (Figure 2). Feel free to arrange twills in different sequences. Any twill will work as long as it will also weave a tabby ground. Keep in mind that undulating twill threadings will not weave tabby.

The sett, as usual for woven shibori, is determined for a balanced plain-woven ground (same number of warp ends as weft picks). If the sett for the ground cloth is very tight, as for a warp-dominant cloth, the weft pattern floats will be shorter, and the shibori design less distinct.

## TIE-UP

Plain weave is the first thing that needs to be tied up on the loom. This forms the underlying structure of the cloth and will ultimately record the supplemental twill pattern in dye. With most twills, a tabby is woven by alter-

Threading 1      Threading 2      Threading 3      Threading 4



Figure 1. Eight-shaft twill gamp woven for shibori includes four different threadings and five treadling variations. Vertical blank stripes between twill patterns are threaded 9, 10 alternately. Horizontal blank stripes are woven in plain weave without any pattern threads. Woven in 4/4 twill. Vat dyed.

center			
1			
8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8			
7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7			
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6			
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5			
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4			
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3			
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2			
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
Threading 1			
8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8			
7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7			
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6			
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5			
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4			
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3			
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2			
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
Threading 2			
8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8			
7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7			
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6			
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5			
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4			
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3			
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2			
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
Threading 3			
8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8			
7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7			
6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6			
5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5			
4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4			
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3			
2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2			
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
Threading 4			

Figure 2. Threading draft for twill gamp. Each section repeated as needed.