

SWATCH PAGE

SHADOW WEAVE

Theory

Shadow Weave, a weave originated by Mary Atwater, is an extension of the log cabin system—a 2 color weave in which the dominant or dark thread is “shadowed” by a light thread. There are pattern blocks formed by opposing areas of vertical and horizontal stripes. The pattern blocks are outlined by 2 thread floats.

Materials and Uses

Warp: Cotton Carpet warp 8/4

Weft: Cotton Carpet Warp 8/4

Reed: 6 Dents/inch

Sley: Double

The same weight yarn should be used for both warp and weft to yield a firm fabric. Wool can also be used, or a synthetic. One could use the weave in upholstery or blankets. Helpful sleying charts are to be found in Tidball's The Weavers Book and Black's New Key to Weaving. Peter Collingwood suggests using Shadow Weave as a weft-face weave in rug weaving.

In our sample, we used 2 very contrasting colors for a good photograph. However, a beautiful subtle shadowing effect results from using analogous (closely related) colors. One can also use 4 colors—close in dark-light value—2 in the warp and 2 in the weft.

Threading

One threads the weave by Alternating a dark and a light thread. The Shadow Weave drafts can be expanded from plain weave, twill, point twill or extended twill drafts in the following ways on:

1. 4 harnesses, consider harness 1 and harness 2 as group I and harness 3 and 4 as group II. A dark thread on harness 1 is shadowed by a light thread on its corresponding harness on the other group—3; or vice versa, a dark thread on harness 2 is shadowed by a light thread on harness 4 or vice versa (I hope you aren't put off by the reference to the light thread as the shadowing thread—one generally thinks of a shadow as dark—but, the opposite is true here).
2. 6 harnesses, consider the 1, 2, and 3 harnesses as Group I and harnesses 4, 5, and 6 as Group II. A dark thread on harness 1 will be shadowed by a light thread on 4 or vice versa; a dark thread on 2 will be shadowed by a light on 5; and so on.
3. 8 harnesses, consider harnesses 1, 2, 3, and 4 as Group I and harnesses 5, 6, 7, and 8 as the other group. A dark thread on 1 is shadowed by a light thread on 5 or vice versa; and so on.

When threading a point twill—an odd number of threads must occur in the reversing unit. This occurs by dropping the shadowing thread for the thread upon which the reversal occurs. Then, the shadowing threads precede the dark threads until the next reversal occur. The following example shows a point twill reversing on harness 4. The dark thread is underlined and the point of reversal is circled.

1, 3; 2, 4; 3, 1; 4; 1, 3; 4, 2; 3, 1

Check this in our drafts which are both point twills.

Tie-Up

The tie-up for any number of harnesses is the tie-up for 50-50 twills.

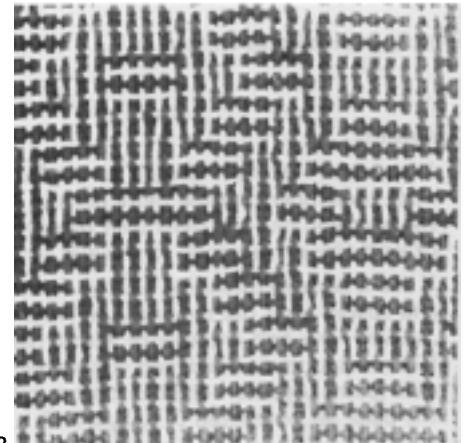
Treadling

In treadling, one alternates a dark and light thread, and one can:

- a. use the treadling draft as the treadling order, by treadling 1 when harness 1 is indicated on the draft (woven-as drawn in).
- b. by weaving in the twill manner.
- c. by weaving a reversed point twill, or
- d. by repeating a block a desired number of times.

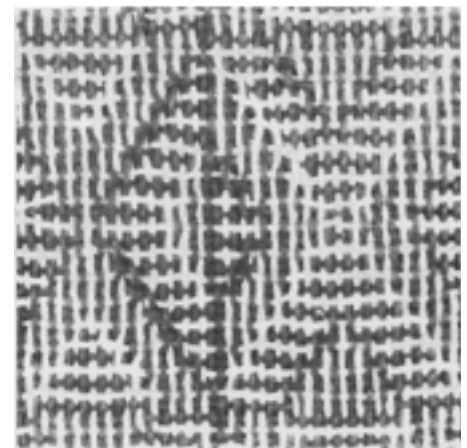


Sample 1



Sample 2

Photos by Jay Magoffin



Sample 3