Designing Four Block Patterns based on "Twills and Squares"

The photograph above was taken of an ancient old coverlet loaned to me by Mrs. Stella Stocking. I have chosen to call it "Twills and Squares" due to the manner in which the pattern was built up. It was woven with alternate blocks of green and henna colored handspun yarn, and the plain weave taffy was light yellow. The key draft at the top of the page shows how the basic pattern was written. One repeat of the threading draft is given below this.

Let us analyze the key draft. First it is composed of twills, then the squares are composed of blocks which alternate so that they form overlapping pattern blocks. Using two threads for each unit of this key draft, these overlapping alternate blocks have to be written as three thread blocks. This makes the pattern skips very short. They can be written as large as desired but will always be an odd number of threads. Now study and compare the key draft with the threading draft. Note the order in which these blocks occur and overlap. As we look up from the twill, there is a 2 unit block on the 3rd pattern block, then 4, 4, 2; 4, 4, 2; another 2 unit block on the 3rd pattern block, then the 2nd and 3rd pattern blocks alternate repeated enough times to make a fairly large square, then the 1st and 2nd pattern blocks alternate again as the first time. Then the twills occur twice before the plain ones. Then we have the 1st and 4th pattern blocks alternating to form another square, and then the 1st and 2nd blocks alternate for a larger square effect. Many variations of this order can be used to design ones own patterns. The ones shown on the next page are an example.

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This pattern shown on the "Twill and Squares" plan is quite a different arrangement from that of the original "Twill" draft, and is a good example of how other patterns may be designed. Study and compare both the two key drafts and the threading drafts so that you will see just what has been done. These are large threading drafts and can be used for throws, upholstery material and coverlets or bath towels. They are most effective when two shades of one color, or two colors, are used for the pattern weft with a thread of another color. The threading draft above is for a four thread shirt as its largest draft and would give the pattern illustrated here for a large throw. It would also work well for a bath towel draft. For such a project I would suggest using a medium weight cotton or a fine worsted. A natural cotton warp, or a cotton and wool blend for the pattern weft is not necessary. A dark linen or cotton, or a white fine wool or cotton makes a strong contrast. July 1942
This pattern design is of quite a different character both from the original plan on Page 1 and from the design of Vest-Acres on Page 2. Again study and compare this key draft and the threading draft with the original plan. Some of the variations you will find are that the twills, instead of being of four thread pattern blocks, are composed of just the simple 1, 2, 3, 4 twill blocks and this very small blocks. In a good contrast to these are the arrangements of the alternating over-lapping pattern blocks so that they are large slips which form a very bold pattern for the squares. Again this is different from the original pattern. But also note that this design does follow rather more closely than the pattern in Page 2, the order of the original plan on Page 1, but the sizes of the pattern blocks are very much different than the sizes of the pattern blocks in the key draft or the on Page 1. To those of you who are interested in planning and making your own block patterns of your own this offers a new field for experiment which should be interesting.

This is a novel pattern suitable for a coverlet in heavier material. For a coverlet the pattern should be woven in two strips and sewed together as a panel. For this plan to have the center of the coverlet one at 1 is marked in the weaving chart. The lines will show a few more, all else that is to be done will be used by reversing from 1 to 2, as is shown above.

These patterns are being sent to you in answer to a request for some new ideas for coverlets and large projects in general. Any other ideas of interest, are you finding anything worthwhile in the program, or is there anything you would like to me and tell me what you would like. Letters will be answered promptly, as yours just as well as those of someone else.

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