

Design Challenge: Patterns on Both Sides

by Gudrun Polak

When you thread 4-hole cards in shadow weave style, light - dark - light - dark and weave turning-defined patterns you may get bands that surprise you. What you see on the front side is your intended pattern and the back side is either something rather mysterious, the same pattern as on the front, or a very different pattern.

Case 1 is the typical situation. The back side has a collection of accidental lines that go nowhere. This is not good enough if you need a band that is presentable no matter which side is up. Therefore I tried to come up with turning sequences that generate pleasing patterns on the front and back side.

Same Pattern on Both Sides - The patterns of Fig. 1 - 4 are derived from plaited twill patterns. They come out upside down on the back side. You can choose to weave the outlines as dark or light lines, or mix them up as in Fig. 4. If you use highly twisted yarn the outline will form a ridge that makes the pattern look and feel 3-dimensional.

Different Patterns on Front and Back - This is the time to remind the reader of the magic in card weaving. How else can you explain the patterns of Fig 5? How can a pattern be composed of two different shapes on one side (Fig 5a) and have only one and the same shape on the other (Fig. 5b)?

The image of oblique interlacing of Fig. 7a is a scaled down version of my sample in the TWIST Sample Exchange (page11). The similarity is on the front side, the back side

is quite different however.

Background - All samples were woven with 24 pattern cards, except the sample of Fig. 5 which requires 36 pattern cards. All of these patterns scale easily. You can enlarge the diamonds of Fig. 1-4, or make them smaller. The patterns look best if the shapes are not too small.

The dark color is not always one color in my samples. You can achieve nice effects by using different colors of similar value for the dark color, for example a blue and green as in Fig. 1 and 2, or colors of slightly different hue as in Fig. 7. Another variation would be the use of thick and thin yarn.

The patterns described here and others are available for experimentation and downloading on my website, <www.theloomybin.com/cw/2color.html>.

Many of the patterns were inspired by weaving patterns for 8- and 10-shaft looms. Patterns of the type "Plaited Twill" [Strickler] and "Double Two-Tie Unit Weaves" [Barrett] are excellent candidates.

Book List

Barrett, Clotilde and Eunice Smith, *Double Two-Tie Unit Weaves*, 1983, page 39.

Strickler, Carol, *A Weavers' Book of 8-Shaft Patterns*, 1991, page 100-107

©2004Bands and photos by Gudrun Polak
©2004Gudrun Polak

Two Examples of patterns with different front and back.



Figure 3 Diamonds with dark outline



Figure 4 Diamonds with mixed outline



Figure 3 Diamonds with dark outline



Figure 4 Diamonds with mixed outline



Figure 6a Ghostly Eyes

Examples of patterns with different front and back.

Figure 5a, left, Long Islands - Short Islands

Figure 5b, right, Maze



Figure 6b Wandering Lines



Figure 7a Basket Weave



Figure 7b Waves

