

Triangle Weavers' 2014 Towel Exchange

Dianne Byrne

Towels 1 and 2 are cotolin lace towels, woven on an 8-shaft Baby Wolf loom, but only 4 shafts were needed for the lace pattern. I used an Atwater-Bronson 2-block lace weave described in Deborah Chandler's Learning to Weave, Lesson 12: Loom-Controlled Lace Weaves. The towels have sections of both plain weave (tabby) and 2-block lace weave. I threaded 3 consecutive units of lace weave (each threaded 1,3,1,3,1,2) for Block A and three consecutive units of lace weave (each threaded 1,4,1,4,1,2) for Block B (i.e., each block unit consists of 6 threads on three harnesses). The blocks look identical in the woven cloth, but they weave in a different place. By using two blocks, it's possible to get lace in some areas and plain weave in others.

My warp thread choice for these towels was Cotolin, 60% cotton and 40% linen, which I thought would provide a good, absorbent towel. An appropriate sett for Cotolin plain weave is given as 15-18, and I used 16 epi to provide a relatively loose, open weave. Warp threads are 8/2 Cotolin from Halcyon, color no. 1000, a flax color. Weft threads for Towel 1 are also 8/2 Cotolin, color no. 51100, a willow green. Weft threads for Towel 2 are 8/2 100% Homestead unmercerized cotton. Weft colors in Towel 2 are Nile Green (no. 560) and Dark Green (no. 190) from Halcyon.

With the sett of 16 epi, the on-loom weaving width was 20 inches, and each towel was woven at an on-loom length of 30 inches. After wet finishing and hemming, final towel dimensions are 17 x 27. Care: Machine wash; machine dry on low, and damp press.

Pattern: Atwater-Bronson 2-block lace weave and tabby

Warp: 8/2 Cotolin, color 1000 (Halcyon)

Weft, Towel 1 (solid): 8/2 Cotolin, color 5110 (Halcyon)

Weft, Towel 2 (striped): 8/2 Homestead 100% unmercerized cotton, colors 560 and 190 (Halcyon)

Sett: 16 ends per inch

Picks per inch: 16

Reed: 8 dent; sleyed 2 ends per dent

Number of warp threads: 320 plus single selvage thread on each side



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Towel 3 represents a twill sampler. The yarns are 5/2 pearl cotton from my stash, and the towel is for users who enjoy a sturdy towel in a heavier weight than often found in dish towels. The warp was threaded as a point twill (4,3,2,1,2,3,4...). Weft stripes were woven with different treading sequences to provide unique patterns. Treading sequences were taken from Weaver's Craft, the Summer 2003 issue, but they first appeared in the Sept./Oct. 1995 issue of Handwoven on pages 58-60. Each twill stripe is separated by basket weave. Towels were woven on an 8-shaft Baby Wolf, but only 4 shafts were used.

Pattern: Various twills, with warp threaded as point twill

Warp: 5/2 pearl cotton, desert sand color

Weft: 5/2 pearl cotton; basket weave separators in desert sand; stripes in peacock, purple, quarry, gold, and crab.

Sett: 20 ends per inch

Picks per inch: 12

Reed: 10-dent; sleyed 2 ends per dent

Number of warp threads: 406 plus single selvage thread on each side

On-loom dimensions: 28x20.5 inches; after wet finishing and drying: 25x17 inches

Direct tie-up treadlings used in the stripes:

1,2,3,4,1-3,2-4 (used in purple stripes)

1,1-4,3-4,2-3-4,3,1-2,1-4,3-4,4,2-3,1-2,1-2-4 (used in peacock and crab stripes)

1-2,2,3,1-4 (used in quarry stripes)

1-2,2-3,3-4,4-1 (basic 2/2 twill, used in gold stripe)

1-2,1-2,3-4,3-4 (2/2 basket weave, used in desert sand separators)

