

Designing patterns for plain weave inkle bands, by Serena Calandra/Callandra Drachewolf

Glossary:

Warp: the vertical threads

Weft: the horizontal threads/thread used to weave

Shuttle: an object that the weft is wrapped around to make weaving easier

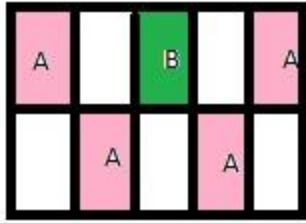
Shed: the space created by lowering or raising the warp threads, in which the shuttle is passed through

What is commonly referred to as inkle weaving plain weave are narrow warp faced bands. This means the warp threads form the pattern. In plain weave the weft will not show through the face of the band. It will be visible on the edges of the band. Using a weft color that is different than the edge colors can provide a nice design contrast.

There are some basic structural concepts that need to be understood before starting to draft patterns. Plain weave uses two sheds. When you open the shed, half of the warp threads will be in the upper position and half will be in the lower position. It takes two warp threads to make a solid line. For example, if you warp two strands of color A next to each other you will get a solid vertical stripe of color A. If you warp ABABA all the way across, you will end up with alternating horizontal stripes. AABAA will yield a dashed line of B in between two solid vertical stripes of A.

There are different ways to write out patterns. One way involves using letters. Another method involves using graph paper. If you want to color in your own pattern on graph paper, you need a paper that has the rows offset from each other. In the online resources there is a link to brick stitch graph paper that is printable. Using an online pattern generator is another option.

In the image below, the top row represents heddled threads. The bottom row are not heddled threads. The white boxes are just empty spaces to show the staggered graphing. So the pattern below has 5 threads. Three are heddled and two are not heddled.



Online Resources for making patterns

<https://carolingianrealm.blog/PatternGenerator.php> -an online program for making plain weave patterns

<http://www.raktres.net/blog/inkle-loom-pattern-editor/> -an online program for plain, pick up and double weave patterns

https://www.artbeads.com/content/artbeads_guide/artbeadsgraphpaper_brickcylinders.pdf -printable graph paper that will work for plain weave(also meant for brick stitch beading)