

## WEAVING A DOUBLE SIDED CLOTH by Janet Phillips



Kaija Bahr a German student attending my Oxford Community Education class wanted to weave a two faced fabric. Her sister in Germany was expecting a baby and it is traditional, apparently, in Germany for babies to have a snugly type sleeping suit. Kaija wished to make one for the new baby.

The simplest answer, and one that could be woven on a four shaft loom, was to weave weft stripes of different colour and proportion on either side, by combining a warp faced twill with a weft faced twill.

The two twills in question are illustrated below.

Warp faced twill

x		x	x
	x	x	x
x	x	x	
x	x		x

Weft faced twill

			x
		x	
	x		
x			

By alternating a weft float from each weave in turn a two faced fabric will occur.

The threading is a simple straight threading on four shafts and the wefting plan lifts one pick from each weave alternately. The colour sequences of the two cloths can vary according to pre-planned weft striped patterns.

The combined weave with threading and lifting/treadling plans looks this:-

Threading

			x	4
		x		3
	x			2
x				1

Pedal tie up

	x				x	x	x
			x	x	x		x
	x	x	x		x		
x	x		x				x

Weave

x		x	x
			x
	x	x	x
		x	
x	x	x	
	x		
x	x		x
x			

Treadle Plan

							o
						o	
					o		
			o				
		o					
	o						
o							

The secret to getting a cloth with a reasonably soft handle is in the sett of the cloth. Readers wishing to weave this cloth will have to experiment to get the handle they want. If the warp is sett too low then the weft yarn will pack down and the cloth will become quite board like - more like a rug. If the warp is sett too high then the warp yarn will show too prominently in the cloth and the back pick colour will show on the face of the cloth.

The warp yarn should be sett at about 2/3rds of the normal balanced sett of the yarn when used for a conventional 2/2 twill. In the cloth illustrated the warp yarn was 18c Shetland sett at 16 ends per inch.

The weft yarn was thicker than the warp and was in fact a silk from Texere Yarns - their Super Spun Silk. - 5/2nm. I do not have a record of the weft sett, but the beat up was fairly light.

Two different weave stripe patterns were worked out before weaving and the silk yarn dyed to the appropriate colours. The back cloth was a small repeating stripe in three colours - 4 picks pink, four picks yellow and 4 picks orange. This was kept simple because it is difficult to keep track of the back cloth as it cannot be seen whilst weaving. By changing the colour to coincide with the repeat made it easier to be accurate.

The face cloth had a bolder and larger stripe design in the same colours.

Kaija kindly sent me a photograph of the finished article and this is illustrated.