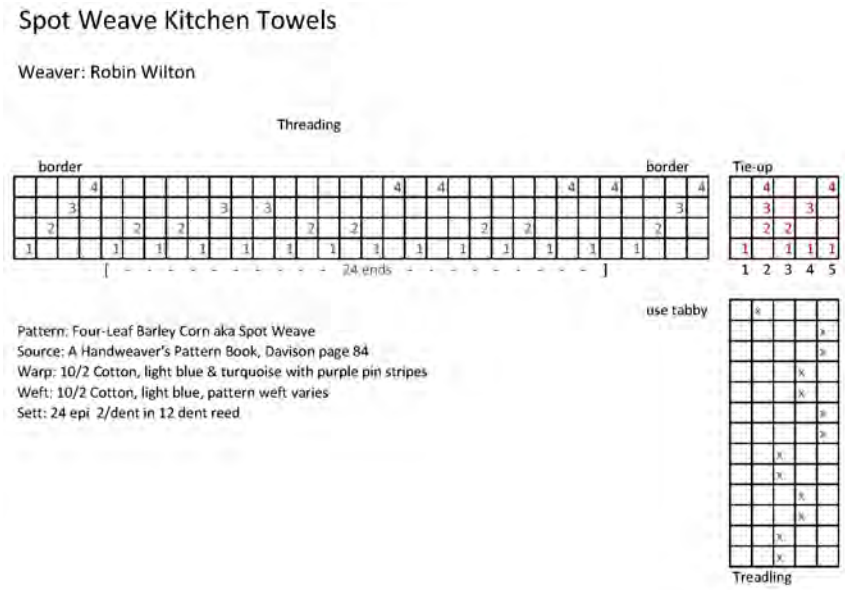
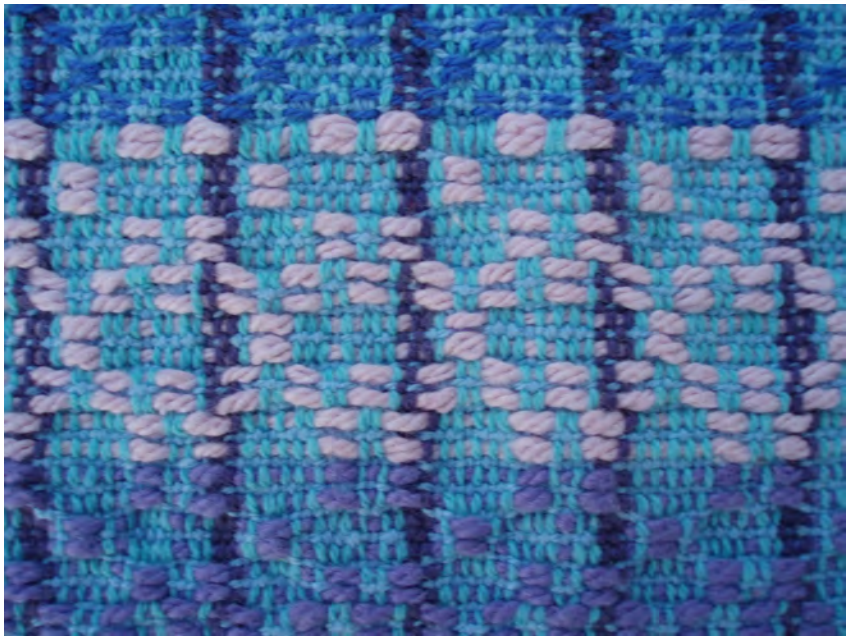
December Weaving Sample by Robin Wilton





Spot Weave Kitchen Towel

Last year I signed up for a kitchen towel exchange with some members of the Northern Colorado Weavers Guild. The facilitator of the group assigned each of the 14 of us a pattern and I did Spot Weave for my pattern. I learned from Mary Black's book that Spot Weave was called Barley Corn by Davison, so I chose the Four Leaf Barley Corn from Davison's book, *A Handweaver's Pattern Book*. I found two colors of blue 10/2 cotton, one light blue and one a light turquoise alternating to use as the warp with a pin stripe of purple every 20 ends. The weft background was the light blue. I used what I had around for the pattern area, some yarn was much heavier (a lavender). I also did some experimenting with some other pattern wefts in various sizes on the rest of the towel I did to see what I liked best. I thought that the pattern area was fun to do so I continued to weave the pattern in the rest of the towel, but with just the background yarn and one shuttle. I think it makes a nice texture.

What I thought was interesting was that I only had one treadle (#2) to use for the tabby instead of having to use two treadles alternately as in some weave structures. So when weaving you would use treadle 2 and then a pattern treadle (3, 4 or 5) and then use treadle 2 again.

If you want to just do plain weave, as I did on the hemmed borders, then use treadle 1 and 2 alternately.

If I would weave these again I would switch the tie up for rising shed. Usually it doesn't matter that much, but on these there is a definite difference to the 2 sides and the pattern was harder to see on the top side, hence some treadling errors. The good news is that after washing the pattern areas popped up and the errors are harder to see. Because of this the towels shrunk quite a bit. I started out with 20" in the reed and these towels shrunk down to a little over 16" in width. You can tell how it shrunk by how the selvedges expand in the plain weave areas on the hems and go in at the body of the towel.

I did a 10 yard warp and ended up with 9 towels.