

January Sample by Jane Rock Costanza

It's our birthday!

I'm a gal who loves intrigue and a good mystery. With the advent of PPWG's 50th anniversary upon us, I thought it would be fun to create a code draft using PIKESPEAKWEAVERS50YEARS as the basis for this sample. I sat down with pen and paper and began the process of deciding how I wanted to lay out the alphabet and numerals in order to minimize the number of letters that would pop up side by side and thus require the addition of a lot of incidentals. I also thought back to a program that Diane Fabeck had presented to PPWG on designing Overshot, and found that information very helpful.

After a couple cups of coffee, and a pile of rejected layouts, I finally settled on one that was pleasing, had a small motif, and one that would lend itself nicely to placemats, scarves, napkins, and other small projects.

Project notes:

Warp: 10/2 mercerized cotton, color natural

Ground: 10/2 unmercerized cotton, color natural

Pattern: 5/2 mercerized cotton, color lilac

Sett: 24 epi sleyed 2 per dent in 12 dent reed

Ends: 462 +2 floating selvages

Shafts: 4, Treadles: 6 (4 pattern, 2 ground)

Border: all 4 sides

Use tabby

Width on the loom: 19.25"

Width off the loom: 18" Length off loom: 15"

Finished Width: 16.75" Finished Length: 13"

Tip: The treadling for this design is a bit tricky, so I opened my Pixeloom software, put the treadling option as numeric, then opened a view of just the treadling. As I would complete a sequence, I would then change the weft color on the last shot thrown, save, and move on to the next sequence. Upon completing that sequence, I would change the weft color of that last shot, and restore the color of the previous' sequence last shot back to its original color

What was really exciting to me, was the way that the ground threads slipped into place upon wet finishing, allowing the motifs to tighten up. Working on this sample has inspired me to want to work more with this design to fine tune it.

Happy New Year everyone and Happy Birthday PPWG!!