

March Weaving Sample by Jane Rock Costanza

The pattern for these towels is based on one obtained from Tracy Kaestner's workshop, "The Perfect Towel." The original towels were woven in linen using contrasting colors for the warp and the weft, then doubling an accent color to form the windowpanes.

For these towels, I wanted a crisp, simple look and nothing quite says that to me as well as red and white. Rather than doubling the accent threads that form the panes, I chose to use a thread that was twice the size of the ground weave and then skipped the dent right before each of those threads to give those threads a little "wiggle" room. I wanted the thickness of the threads to add a bit more dimension to the towels and felt that by leaving an empty dent before each of those threads, that it would allow the finer threads to slip up next to, but not crowd the thicker thread.

This pattern weaves up very fast, as the pattern is one that commits to memory readily. The towels were finished on the loom with a ladder stitch, completed off the loom by rolling the hem allowance right to the edge of the ladder stitching, then hand finishing, giving an heirloom look and feel.

The pattern looks a bit sleazy on the loom and before finishing, as shown in the accompanying photo, but then slips together beautifully producing a crisp, lovely towel after machine washing, drying, and steam pressing.

Windowpane Huck Lace Cotton Towels

Warp and Weft: 10/2 unmercerized cotton/ white

Accent threads: 5/2 red unmercerized cotton/red

Sett: 24 epi, 2 threads per dent / 12 dent reed

Exception: 5/2 threads were sleyed 1 per dent, skipping the dent immediately prior

Measurement in reed: 18.3" Draw in: ~1"

Shrinkage: about 15%

Finished width: 15" Finished Length: 20"

