

To find the sett various things must be considered, among them weave structure and yarn characteristics. As this is a twill, the sett would be closer than in plain weave where there are more intersections of threads. Sett depends much on the yarn used, and not only the size of the yarn. If this is woven using linen I would use a wider sett than if I was using cotton of a similar size. Texture of the yarn also makes a difference. A mercerized cotton might need a closer sett than an unmercerized textured cotton of the same grist. Knowing the correct sett is an individual matter as well as the pattern and yarns being woven. Each person (and each loom) will beat in a cloth a bit differently. This is why you always need to sample what you are weaving, cut the sample off, finish it as the final cloth will be finished including hems and washing technique. Each cloth will act differently.

Some weaving books give some sett charts, like Mary Black's Key to Weaving, but they are only a place to start from. Once you have done your sample you can make final adjustments, like changing the sett or the size of your weft yarn or number of repeats in the weft pattern. Don't forget to cut off and finish that next sample to make sure it behaves as you want - not that we all do that every time, much to our chagrin.

Look again at that draw down. Those diagonal lines will stand out very much. If you have an inconsistent beat it will show. Now we could consider that a part of the handwoven look, however there are ways to help you achieve this consistency. Put on some music when you weave – and make the music consistent too! Headbanger next to New Age music could lead to inconsistent beat! Using yarn colors that are not too contrasty will smooth over small inconsistencies. Also using a firm yarn, like a bast fiber (linen, hemp, ramie) is not as likely to react drastically to small changes of beat. And last, handle your beater the same. For an under slung beater you can just let it “fall” onto your fell (get it?) For overhead and under slung beaters use a swing that doesn't have your hand on the beater when it hits the fell. This will be appreciated by your joints as well as giving you a better cloth.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- 9 Mar 2012** “Eight Tips for Improving YOUR Textile Photography” by Gregory Case
- 13 Apr 2012** “Handwoven Cloth Simple to Complex in Central India” by Judi Arndt
- 11 May 2012** “The Structure of Hopewell Textiles” by Yamuna Weiner and **Luncheon**
- 19 May 2012** Colorado Weaver’s Day—RMWG
- 15-21 Jul 2012** Handweaver’s Guild of America Convergence, Long Beach, CA
- 12-15 Sep 2012** Complex Weaver’s Seminars, Chevy Chase, MD
- Oct 2012** Kathe Todd Hooker Tapestry Workshop

Directory Additions & Changes

Julia Nace’s telephone number is: 719.632.6739

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