

SEPTEMBER WEAVING & DYEING SAMPLE BY SUSAN BOWMAN

This fabric was woven for the 2011 Surface Design Association (SDA) Members' Exhibit. The conference theme this year was *Confluence*. "When cultures and ideas flow together, our art and our world are transformed." The Members' Exhibit was titled *Merge and Flow* and the size was specified to be 12" x 28", displayable either vertically or horizontally. In keeping with the theme, I wanted to weave curved shapes into the cloth, have both dark and light areas and rippled texture reminiscent of water flowing. After choosing a permanent pleating process for the texture, I knew it would be tricky to achieve the size specification so I decided upon the following steps after doing some calculations to estimate how much width reduction would occur after the pleating:

1. An advancing twill was developed in Weavepoint software and the warp chosen: 20/2 cotton, color Duck, 40 epi, 20" wide in the reed (800 ends). I started with a light blue warp because it was already on my shelf and I knew that it would be over-dyed with darker colors. The wefts are black 8/2 polyester for permanent pleating and a sturdy temporary shibori pattern thread that will be pulled out at the end. The shibori thread will be used to both pleat and dye the fabric in two separate steps. The pattern thread (shown in the draft in red) was drafted to complement the curves in the weave structure. There are 160 ends and 258 picks in one repeat.
2. Off the loom, the woven cloth was scoured then painted with green, purple and aqua MX dyes. It was wrapped in plastic and batched for 24 hours then rinsed.

(continued on next page)

