Weaving narrow patterned bands with three background threads between each pattern thread.

Bands from the Dalarna in central Sweden use a variety of weave structure. One common threading uses three background threads between each pattern thread.

The book, Moraband by Barbro Wallin presents 100 patterns for these bands. It is published by the Zorn Museum in Mora, Sweden. http://www.zorn.se/ email: info@zorn.se

I decided to explore a different method of weaving this type of band.

I saw this homemade heddle in a museum. It has short slots for 7 pattern threads. If you look carefully, you will see that 3 background threads can be threaded between each pattern thread. They are threaded through a hole, a long slot and a hole. This is the only heddle of this type I have seen.

I realised that this type of weave structure could be woven on a rigid heddle. As the heddle on the right is not available to buy, I used a standard heddle.

Here is a YouTube video showing how these bands are woven using a rigid heddle and backstrap, or an inkle loom.

Weaving patterned bands from Mora, Sweden.
http://youtu.be/08huXOt_46U
When I started to explore the weave structure with three background threads in between each pattern thread, I tried a simple pattern with only 5 pattern threads which is on page 34 & 35 in *Moraband*. It is used with the permission of the author, Barbro Wallin.

The lovely heart heddle is from Borås, Sweden. The curved shuttle is a Sámi design and is ideal for making pick ups when weaving patterned bands. See page 8 for stockists.

**Using a standard heddle.**

Here is the threading for a standard heddle with long slots and hole. There are three background threads in between each pattern thread. The pattern thread should be at least twice as thick as the background and border threads. You can use as many border threads as you want but try to finish the threading in a hole.
This pattern is on page 34 & 35 in *Moraband*. It is used with permission from Barbro Wallin.

Raise the heddle on the odd numbered rows and all the pattern threads are on the bottom layer. Pick up the pattern threads that should appear on the surface of the band.

Lower the heddle on the even numbered rows and all the pattern threads are on the top layer. Drop down the pattern threads that are not required on the surface of the band.

The dots on the chart indicate when the pattern thread are on the surface or on the bottom layer.

Pick 1: Raise the heddle. Pick up pattern thread 3.

Pick 2: Lower the heddle. Drop down pattern threads 1 and 5.

Pick 3: Raise the heddle. Pick up pattern threads 2 and 4

Pick 4: Lower the heddle. Drop down pattern thread 3.

The unfamiliar weaving method was slow but it worked.

I wondered if I could weave this structure on an inkle loom. Here is the threading. Again, the unfamiliar weaving method proved slow, but it worked.

**Using an inkle loom.**

Here is the threading for an inkle loom. The pattern threads are unheddled. Try to finish the threading with a heddled thread on each side.
I decided to try patterns with 13 pattern threads.

Here is the threading diagram for 13 pattern threads using a standard heddle. Remember that the pattern threads should be at least twice as thick as the pattern threads. Ideally, wool should be used. It makes a clearer pattern on the surface.

The pattern threads are numbered and in red.

I used this pattern draft which comes from a Leksand band. To help with the weaving, I transferred the pattern to a chart.

At the borders of the band, the weave structure is warp faced plain weave. However, in the centre part of the band behind the pattern threads the weft goes over 2 and under one warp end.

With this structure, the pattern threads tend to be more than twice as thick as the background threads and are often in wool.

The weft is not pulled as tightly as in other weave structures. When pulled very tightly the weave is warp faced, If it is pulled less tightly, the weave may be warp dominant or balanced.

It is important that the pattern threads appear crisply on the surface of the band. If the weft is pulled too strongly, the pattern will not be as clear.
The pattern is transferred to a larger chart for weaving.

The coloured squares indicate the pattern threads that should appear on the surface of the band. The empty squares indicate that the pattern threads are on the lower warp.

The rows with dots indicate that the pattern threads are on the top of the warp.

The rows without dots indicate that the pattern threads are on the lower layer.

When the pattern threads are on the top layer, the *unwanted* pattern threads need to be selected and pushed down to the lower layer.

When the pattern threads are on the lower layer, the pattern threads that should appear on the surface need to be selected. The pattern will be clearer if you use thick pattern threads and beat firmly.

Look at the YouTube video:

http://youtu.be/08huXOt_46U

This YouTube video shows how to weave this band using a rigid heddle and backstrap and an
Here is a blank chart for you to use.

The rows with dots indicate that the pattern threads are on the top of the warp. The empty squares indicate that the pattern threads are on the lower warp.
Using an inkle loom.

Here is the threading for an inkle loom. The pattern threads are unheddled. Try to finish the threading with a hedded thread on each side.

![Inkle loom image]

The pattern threads are numbered and indicated in red. The background and border threads are labelled B. The pattern threads are at least twice as thick as the background and border threads. Using wool for the pattern threads.

Lower the unhedded threads. Separate the pattern threads. A ‘clip-it’ secures the pattern threads together.

A ‘clip-it’ does not interfere with the weaving. It enables the pattern threads to be separated from the bottom layer. This separation makes it easier to choose the correct pattern threads to appear on the surface of the band.

These YouTube videos may be useful if you want to explore other ways of band weaving.

- Using the Sunna heddle to weave patterned bands. [http://youtu.be/Ix-HzxW6t-s]
Moraband by Barbro Wallin is published by the Zornmuseet in Sweden. It can be purchased from the Zorn Museum.
http://www.zorn.se/

Equipment Stockists

www.stoorstalka.com  Based in Jokkmokk, Stoorstålka has a range of specialist heddles and the curved shuttle - ideal for band weaving. The shuttle is illustrated on page 2. They also sell the book, Moraband.

www.vavkompaniet.se  This lovely shop in Borås is owned by seven handweavers. There are more than 30 artisans and craft people who sell their crafts at Vavkompaniet. Their beautifully carved heddles are wonderful. The heart heddle on page 2 is available from their online shop. They also sell the useful band lock for weaving with a backstrap.

My book Woven Bands from Sweden has 70 patterns, all made with 13 pattern threads. They are ideal for using the Sunna heddle. It also available as an ebook for IPad.
It is available from: http://www.blurb.com/

My book Sámi Band Weaving is also available as an ebook for IPad.
It is available from: http://www.blurb.com/

My book The Art of Simple Band Weaving
It also available as an ebook for IPad.
It is available from: http://www.blurb.com/