

The Braid Society
Online Workshop May 2020 Week Two
Simple Ideas for Designing Stripes

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This workshop was prepared for the Braid Society. <https://thebraidsociety.wildapricot.org/>

The booklets are available for any interested weaver to enjoy.

Week Two

Simple Ideas for Designing Stripes

This week I will show you some simple ways of designing band patterns. The simplest way is to adapt existing stripe patterns.

Exercise 1

I bought this bag in Peru many years ago. It has a very unelaborate strap woven in wool. Look at the close up. The central red ladder pattern has 12 red warp ends. Look closely at the centre 4 ends. They are in a thicker yarn. This is an easy way to vary the simple pattern.



For the first exercise, can you analyse the band pattern? Black yarn is very difficult to see in photographs however, you should be familiar with designs by now to work out how many black warp ends there are. I have the bag so I can give you a hint. There are 4 black warp ends on each side before the pattern starts.

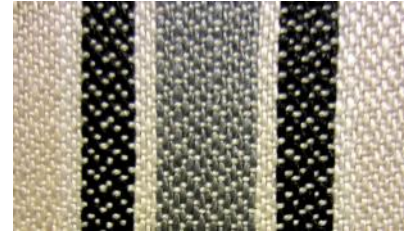
Week Two: Designing Stripes



Stripe 1



Stripe 2



Stripe 3: the central wide stripe

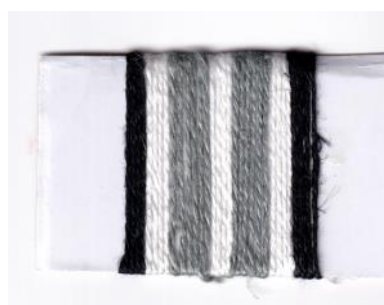


Here is a chair which I have in my weaving room. I recovered it some years ago with some hand-woven material . It has a cotton warp and linen weft.

There are three stripe on the cloth which I deliberately designed so that the stripes would line up with the chair back. This was not easy, as you can imagine.

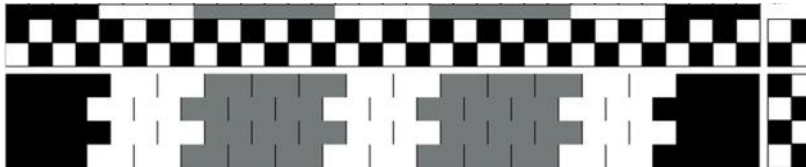
The material is sturdy but when it was off the loom and washed I thought that the extra length I had woven would be useful as a handtowel.

I had been draping the towel over a rail but I wanted a tag to hang it up. I looked at the central wide stripe and made a wrap which I thought might be suitable. Yarn wraps will be covered in more detail in week three.



Black	4						4
White		4		4		4	
Grey			6		6		

Design 1.
Weft black



White	4						4
Grey		4		4		4	
Black			6		6		

Design 2.
Weft white



Grey	4						4
Black		4		4		4	
White			6		6		

Design 3.
Weft grey



All three designs have 32 warp ends. Material is 16/2 linen. Width of band is 13 mm.

Copying stripes.

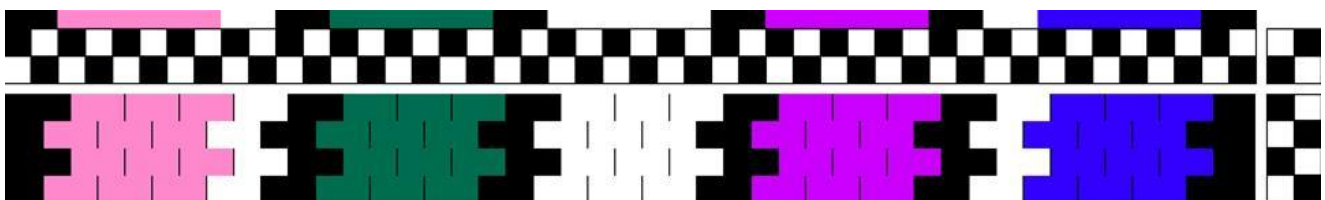
There are so many stripe patterns that you can use them to make your own pattern. I took a small section of this material and designed a very simple stripe pattern. I added some narrow white stripes to separate the coloured stripes.



Black	2			2		2		2		2		2
Pink		6										
White			2				6				2	
Green					6							
Dark pink								6				
Purple											6	

You can alter this design by reducing or increasing the number of threads per stripe. The top close up of this material has 6 ends per stripe. Warp: 46 ends

Drawdown



Recording Designs.

Here are two ways of recording your designs.

1. Blank recording charts

I have reproduced some blank sheets which can also be used to manually record a pattern by colouring in the squares.

Remember that there are only two picks or rows for a warp-faced plain weave band so these should be repeated down the sheet. Here is an example of one that I completed.



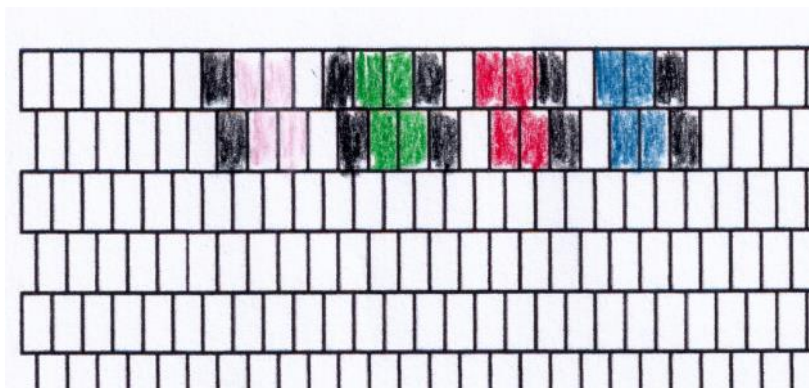
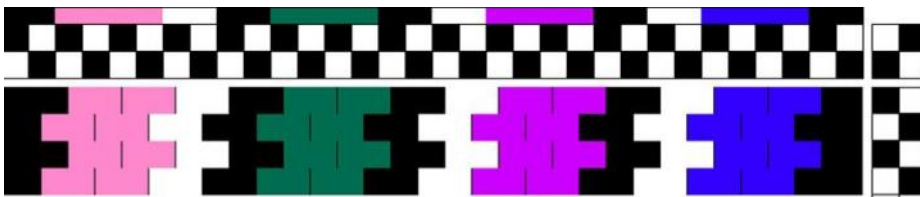
Width: 15 mm

Warp and weft : 2/6 American cotton pink

This band has 4 coloured ends per stripe. Warp: 32 ends 2/6 American cotton in 6 colours. I varied the order of the black and white dividing stripes—you may prefer a more regular pattern.

Weft; black 2/6 American cotton. Width of band: 15mm

Drawdown



Recording Designs.

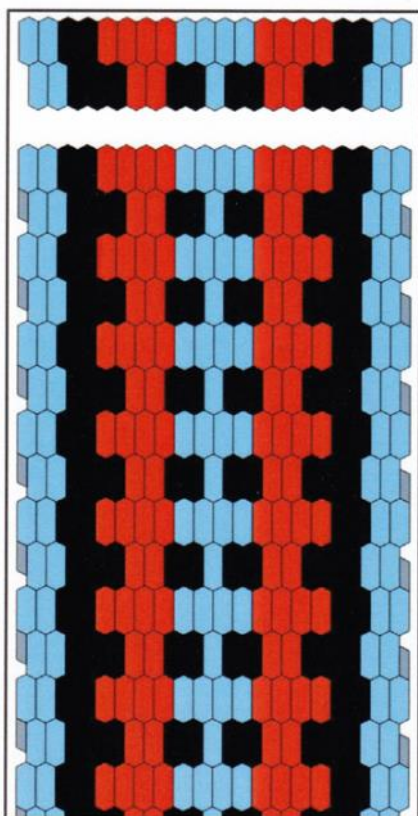
2. When I am recording patterns I use the PCW weave program which also runs my Megado electronic dobby loom.

However, here is a dedicated band weaving pattern editor which you might find useful. Why not have a go with this when designing your bands.

Band Weaving Pattern Editor

http://www.raktres.net/seizenn/loom_weaving_editor.html

The drawdown pattern on the left is from Annie MacHales lovely book: *In Celebration of Plain Weave*. She has kindly given me permission to copy it for this workshop.

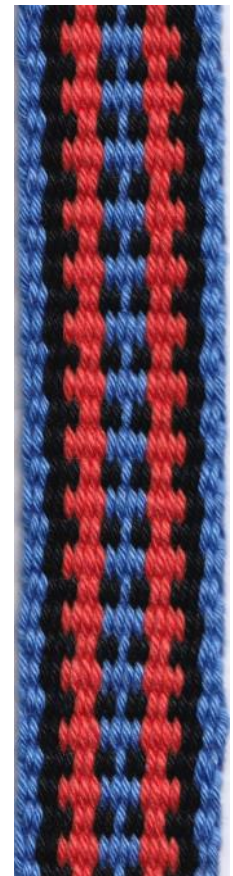


Pattern #11 Short link Kd

Warp: 39 ends in blue, black and orange

Weft: blue

Width: 23 mm



Pale blue	4					1		3		1					4
Black		4		1		1		1		1		1		4	
Orange			1		5							5		1	

Week Two activity

Designing a band with an alternative colour combination.

The three bands that I wove for the handtowel are variations on the same stripe pattern.

Only the colours have been changed.



Here is a Sami belt I wove in wool.

When I went to the Winter market in Jokkmokk in February 2020, I loved these two belts from Stoorstalka.

They had used the same pattern. One belt has a blue background and the other a red background. The stripe pattern is identical, only the colours have been changed.

The belts are elastic and are so comfortable.

Exercise 2

Take a band from the patterns in the booklets for week 1 or week 2. Alter the colours in the pattern to make another design.

Blank recording charts

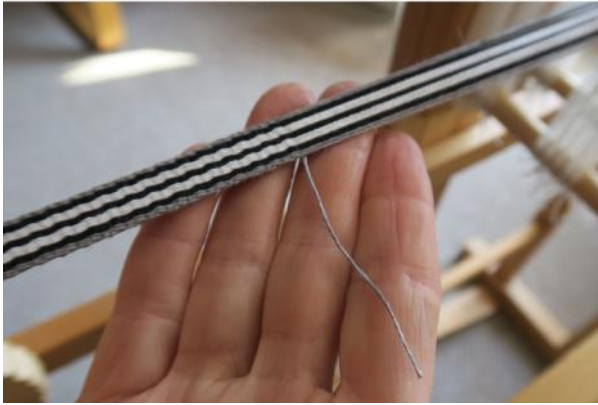
I have reproduced some blank sheets which can also be used to manually record a pattern by colouring in the squares.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Hints and Tips

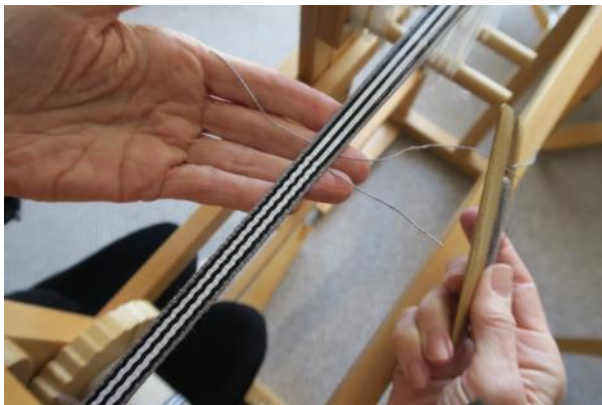
2. Changing a weft.

If you run out of weft, new weft can be inserted easily.



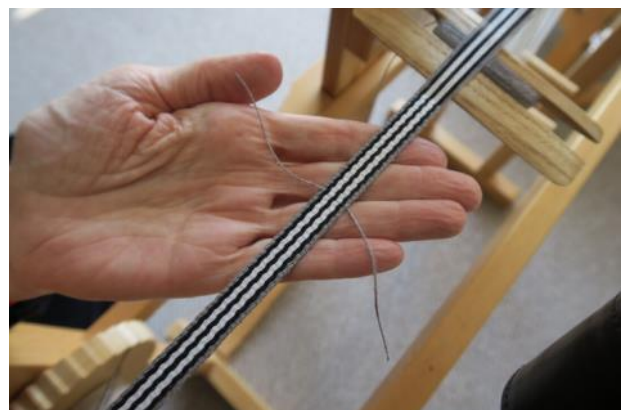
1. Here the weft has run out.

2. Put the shuttle into the same shed as the last pick. The two ends should be on opposite sides of the band edges.

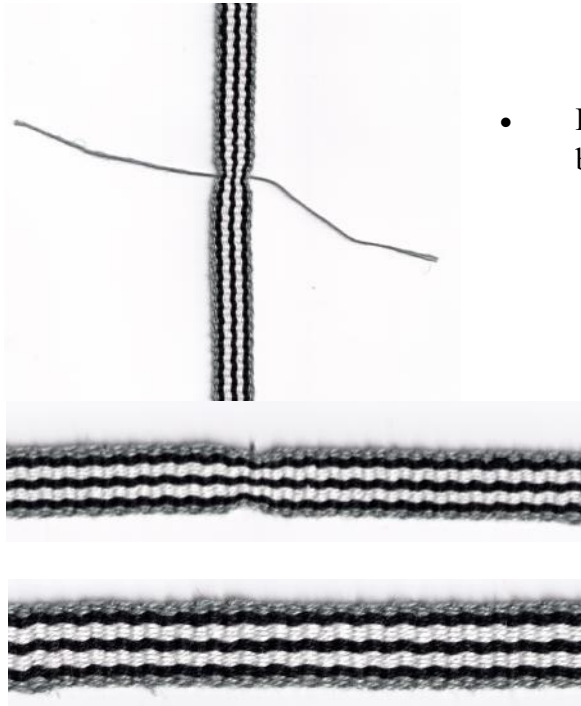
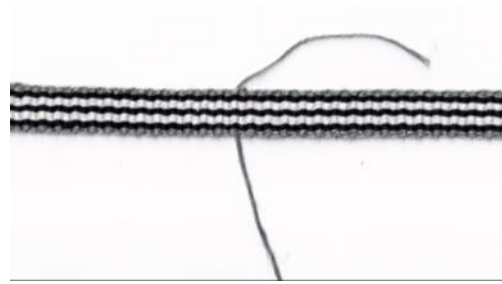


3. Beat and take the shuttle through.

4. Carry on weaving. When you have finished weaving the band, the two ends can be trimmed.



5. When the weaving is complete the loose ends can be trimmed.



- Pull both ends so that the band becomes narrow.

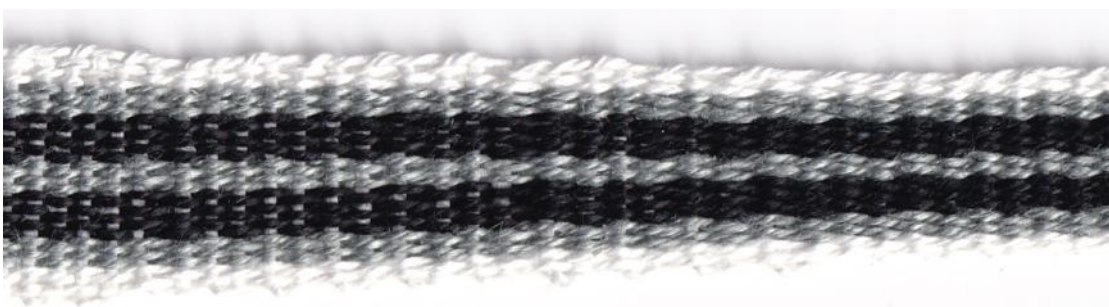
- Now trim the ends.

- The band can be pulled into shape and the ends of the weft remain fixed inside the warp threads.

2. Adjusting the width.

I like the weft to be the same colour as the border threads. For this weave structure, the weft is pulled tightly. It should not show on the band surface. If the weft colour shows through the weft is not being pulled tightly enough so the warp ends are not snugly pulled together.

On the left, the band has not been woven correctly. You can see the white weft showing through in between the warp threads. Then I pulled the ewft tightly when I was weaving and the band became narrower. On the right end of the band, the white weft is not visible.



More Useful Books and Resources



Handwoven Tape by Susan Weaver

This is a lovely informative book giving many traditional band patterns from the USA. There is a wealth of background information about these humble examples of the weavers craft.

Schiffer Press 2016 208 pages

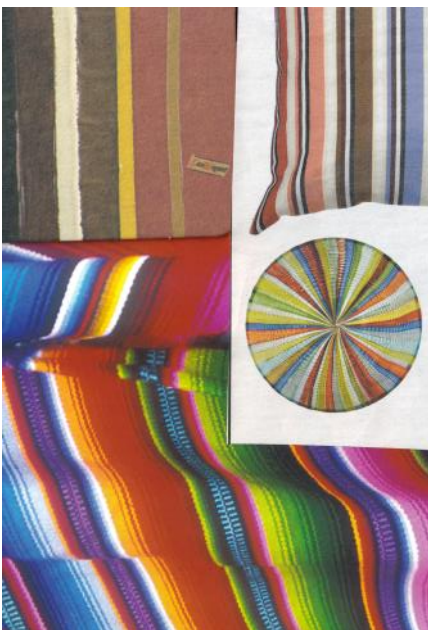
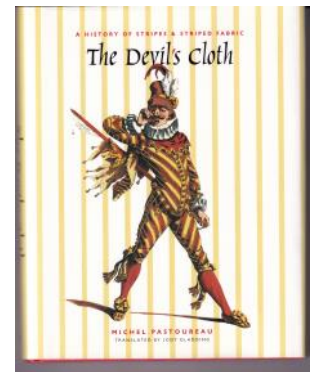
ISBN 978-0-7643-5196-9

Please note. In these difficult times, it is wonderful that Schiffer Press are still open for business. You can order this book direct from them.

Michel Pastoureau is a world expert on colour and its uses. This is a fascinating little book giving the history of stripes and striped cloth.

Colombia University press New York. 1991. 129pages

ISBN 0-231-12366-3



Inspirational pictures.

An excellent source for stripe patterns is **Pinterest**. Try using **stripes as a search term**.

On my Pinterest page, I have a section on stripes. Whenever I see a picture I like on the web, I save it to one of my boards. Do check out my Stripes board for inspiration.

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/DurhamWeaver/>