

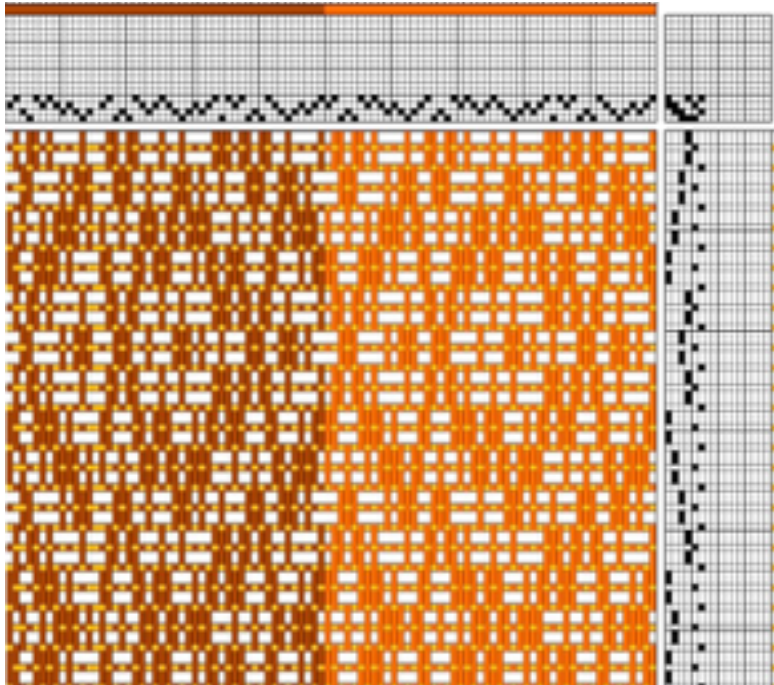
Crackle Weave Study
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It wasn't until I joined a weaving study group in the Victoria Weavers' Guild, and that they decided to weave a crackle project for the Saanichton Fall Fair, that I planned and executed a Crackle Weave on my loom. I have been weaving for about 6 years and crackle weave was really not on my radar. I thought it was the same as overshot and I had already woven overshot many times.

I went home after the meeting and started to browse through my 4 shaft books, into the usually small chapter about crackle. I also read Mary Blacks "The Key to Weaving" where she explains crackle very well. I discovered that crackle is a twill combination, 4 shafts equals 4 blocks, (4 blocks gives you lots of options) and there is an incidental threading when you move from one block to the next. It is based on a pattern thread and a plain weave ground and so it meant 2 shuttles. Well that would slow me down. I discovered later that you can turn Crackle and use one shuttle.

I chose the pattern in M.P. Davison's "A Handweaver's Pattern Book" called Rippled Diamond. I wanted to weave smaller squares so that I could play with the twill, using several twill gamp treadlings. So I made some napkins. I used 2/16 unmercerized cotton for the ground and 2/8 unmercerized natural cotton for the pattern. The treadling was always done in pairs.



I made 6 napkins, and used four different patterns.

Measured 23 inches at the reed.

Draw in to 21 inches on the loom.

I wove 22 inches pattern in length for each napkin measured on the tight warp.

1 inch plain weave hem, so a total of 24 inches per napkin.

EPI was 24

PPI was 28

Warp length was 190 inches.

I used 5 colours, 125 threads for the 2 outer colours and 100 threads for the 3 inner colours, for a total of 550. The pattern repeat is 50 threads. I used a float for the selvedge.

Colours are 1430 Orange, 1418 Gold, 1330 Pink, 1315 Light Orange and 4270 Brick.

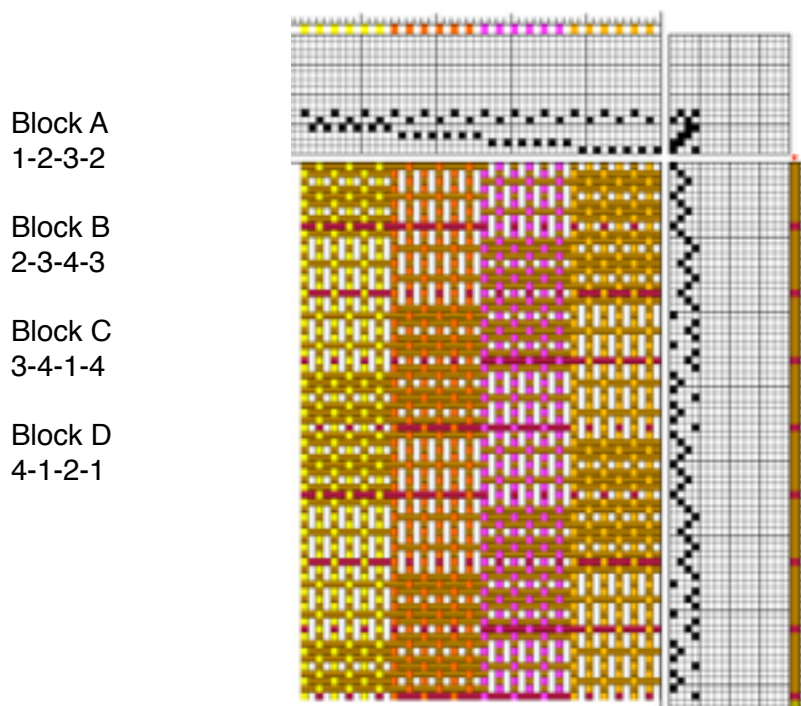
My weft was broken into 3 colours 7 1/4 inches each. Brick, Gold and Light Orange.

After washing and ironing the napkins measure 19.5 inches wide and 19 inches long. They have a drapey feel and look to them.

You can use any twill gamp you like. I used the above plus 1-2-3-4 then 1-2-1-4-3-4 and 4-3-2-1-4-1-2-3.

After I had woven the napkins, I went into a drafting program and drafted a basic turned crackle weave. I used the 4 blocks with 6 repeats, and I plan to weave this in the future. Turning a Crackle pattern requires a more headles, with a higher EPI and you can't weave plain weave for the hems. Perhaps I will hand stitch the edges instead. So this is the way my mind wanders. Imagine what you could draft with 8 shafts. With a conventional turned twill on an eight shaft loom, you only have 2 blocks. With a crackle weave (twill based) you have 8 blocks. So now turn the crackle weave draft and you have 8 blocks with one shuttle. I like that. I guess this means I will be weaving more crackle in the future.

This draft below shows the 4 blocks in a Turned Crackle with each block a different colour and a red thread for the incidental.



The incidental is always the same as the 1st thread. Block A incidental is 1 and Block B incidental is 2 and so on. When you skip Blocks say go from A to C you need to use both A and B's incidentals. Block A to Block C requires 1-2 and then thread block C.

Submitted June 23rd 2016.

Mary Black "Key to Weaving" 1945 pg. 307-310.
M.P. Davison "A Handweaver's Pattern Book" 1944. pg. 198.

