

HAND-PAINTED RAYON WARP - Instructions/Suggestions

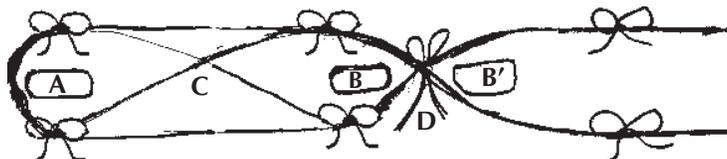
This hand-painted rayon warp has 144 threads, is 8 yards long, and should be set at 15 or 16 ends per inch. The warp is made with Dragon Tale 5/2 Rayon and Rayon Slub, and is hand-dyed with fiber-reactive dyes. The warp is long enough to weave three 78" scarves with 5 inches of fringe on each end (measured on-loom, before shrinkage). Or you can make seven yards of fabric to use any way you choose. There is enough weft yarn provided to weave all seven yards of fabric in a plain-weave, you might need an extra cone (and a tighter sett) for a twill.

Another possibility is to use the chains as wide stripes, and add additional 5/2 rayon warp ends to make a shawl-width warp. Of course, you will need extra warp and weft yarn to do this.

The warp has been wound in three warp chains, an odd number, so there's a center section.

To speed the winding process the warp has been wound with more than one thread at a time. This method creates a secondary cross close to the end loop of the warp. This is not a true cross and should be ignored. Use the primary cross that has been carefully tied and marked for you.

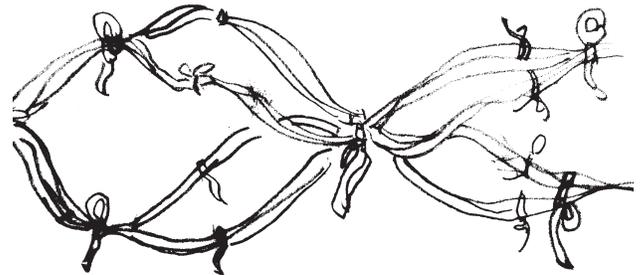
Start by hanging the back loop of each chain from your back beam stick. The ties at the back end of the warp hold all the warp thread loops open and ready to slide onto the back beam stick. Ignore the secondary cross, and insert lease sticks as shown. See the diagram below.



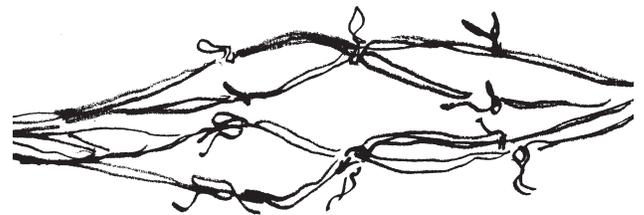
A: back beam stick B, B': lease sticks
C: secondary cross D: primary cross

To prevent the warp chains from unchaining during dyeing, the end loop has been tied to the warp near the cross end. This marked tie must be removed before you can unchain the warp sections to wind them onto your loom's beam.

The center warp chain is divided in half, with additional ties at the cross. The thinner ties are around each half separately, and the heavier ones capture both halves. If you are weaving on a loom with center cords, like some counter-marche looms, and are warping back-to-front, you can pass the halves of the center chain to either side of the center cords. Simply remove the heavier ties and the lighter-weight ones will mark the halves. Be very careful not to twist the sections.



*Cross-end of center warp chain,
the heavier ties are still on.*



*The heavier ties have been removed (not the
thinner ones), and the two halves of the
center chain can now be separated.*

Twenty weavers asked to explain their warping techniques would respond with twenty different methods. Each of us likes her own way best, and we have our particular rituals to get us tensioned and threaded and tied on. Feel free to proceed in any way that's comfortable for you; but we can't help sharing some suggestions.

We warp back-to-front. This way you can attach the loop at the cross end to the back beam stick without cutting and retying, leaving the threads as undisturbed as possible.

If you warp front-to-back, pay special attention to how you tie on to the back beamstick, and try to keep the threads the same length so that the color areas stay where they were dyed.

Don't comb through the warp with your fingers as you wind on; combing moves the threads away from their dyed position. One snagged out-of-alignment thread can change the whole look of the piece. Grab each warp chain in turn, and pull it tight all together. A good shake and pull will straighten everything out.

You might want to consider double-threading the selvages. We suggest placing two warp ends in the outside two heddles on each side of the warp.

Repair threads are a challenge. There's always a chance you'll find a knot or break a thread. The black yarn is no problem, you have plenty of weft you can use; but the dyed threads are trickier. We suggest you wind all the threads onto the loom, then drop out one dyed thread from the middle of each section. Drop out two in the center section, if you want an even number of threads; one, if your pattern needs an odd number. There will be unused threads dangling from the beam, ready to serve as an instant matching repair threads for each section. If you're warping back-to-front, simply drop out those ends when threading. If you are warping front-to-back, double the threads you intend to drop out — through the reed and heddle — then pull them free before starting to weave. The dropped threads should be 5/2 and not the slub: you can repair the slub with the 5/2, but the textured yarn is too heavy to repair the smooth one. You will have to secure these threads to your apron rod when it is no longer touching the back beam. Just tie them to the rod.

If you drop out four threads to use as repair threads and double four threads (two on each side) for selvages you end up with eight warp ends fewer than the original 144, which means you'll use 136 heddles. At 15 epi your warp would be 9" wide, at 16 epi it would be 8.5" wide in the reed. Either sett will give a good plain-woven or twill fabric.

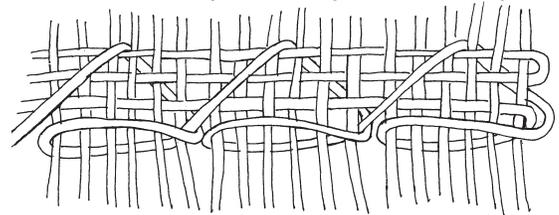
To finish the fabric, machine-wash on delicate, and tumble-dry on low. Your scarves should end up about 7" wide and 64" long. We suggest hand-washing after the first machine-washing.

HEM-STITCHING THE FRINGE ON-LOOM

If your scarves have fringe, the edges of the weaving must be secured, so that they don't unravel. You can do this by hand or with a sewing machine when the warp is off the loom, or hem-stitch the ends on-loom, as explained below.

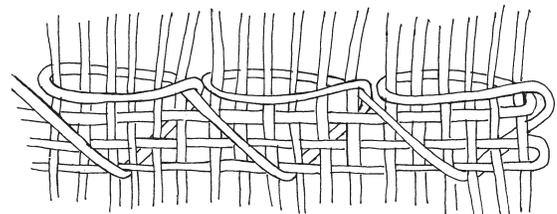
At the beginning of a piece, weave a short web, leave the fringe length un-woven. leave a tail about three warp widths long, weave as many picks as you want to work over (three in the diagram, but more like eights for this warp), and stitch across. The fringe will be *below* the web (closer to you, the weaver). Gather up the same number of warp ends in each bundle (eight is about right for this warp), adjusting at the edges if they do not come out even. Tuck the end into the web, and weave.

At the beginning of a scarf: fringe has been left unweaved and first the picks are in place.



At the other end, the fringe will be *above* (towards the reed) the weaving. You will need to stitch back into your woven fabric, and weave the end back in.

At the end of a scarf: finish weaving, hem-stitch back into web, fringe follows.



Weave a couple of inches of web at the very end, which can be machine-stitched to secure the fringe during finishing.