

Maximizing Color Effects with Two Wefts, for Lye Shrinking

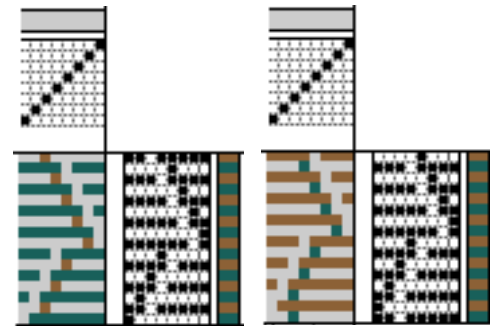
While investigating various two-shuttle weaves recently, I realized I might be able to obtain more color effects in a textural surface developed through lye shrinking than I had previously achieved. Constructing textural effects in this way requires the use of at least two wefts, one that is non-shrinking (for the top layer of areas having double layer weaves) and one that shrinks in lye. In the past, I've used double layer weaves and single layer weaves, with both wefts weaving on the face of the fabric in the single layer areas. For this experiment, I added another two-shuttle weave to the mix, called "weft back" in jacquard books, to see what it might contribute.

Weft back weaves for two shuttles use one weft on the top surface while tacking the other weft on the back of the fabric, so the resulting fabric weaves as a single layer. In the two weft back weaves shown here, 1a. brings weft 1 to the face of the fabric in a broken twill and tacks weft 2 on the back of the fabric, while 1b. brings weft 2 to the face in a broken twill and tacks weft 1 on the back. Because weft-dominant weaves are used for the fabric face, differences between the two wefts are emphasized when the weaves are adjacent. Using a carefully placed warp-dominant weave effectively obscures the back weft while tacking it on the back of the fabric.

For the two-layer areas, I drafted two weaves, one to bring each of the two wefts to the face of the fabric, with the other weft weaving an unstitched back layer. As shown here, 2a. brings weft 1 to the face of the fabric in a 4/4 twill while weft 2 weaves in a 1/7 twill on the back layer; 2b brings weft 2 to the face of the fabric in a 4/4 twill while weft 1 weaves in a 1/7 twill on the back. Using the 1/7 twill for the bottom layer results in relatively long floats on the back of the fabric, thereby allowing for maximum shrinkage in lye.

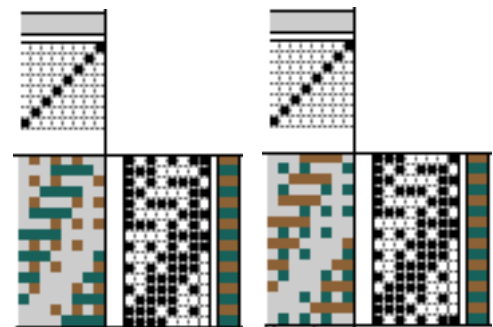
For the one layer areas, to be woven with simple weaves using both wefts on the face, I drafted several 8-shaft satins and twills. I chose the weaves shown here, 3a., 3b. and 3c., because of how they worked with the two different wefts when juxtaposed with the other weaves.

After opening a 24-shaft draft in WeaveMaker, I copied and pasted these weaves into the pegplan and experimented with various approaches to a threading draft. I wanted a somewhat organic final design that seemed likely to result in interesting textures after lye shrinking. The drawdown on page two is one of a number of results that seem workable. Though the drawdown doesn't show the actual appearance of the cloth in the 2-layer and weft back areas, it is nevertheless possible to visualize the likely woven (and lye shrinking) results through ample use of the imagination. Using WIF, I'll probably export both these weaves and the WeaveMaker drawdowns, bring them into JacqCAD and then experiment with them further.



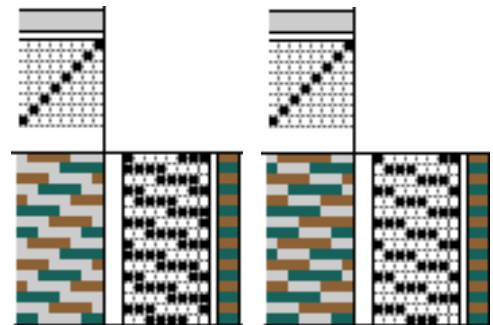
1a.

1b.



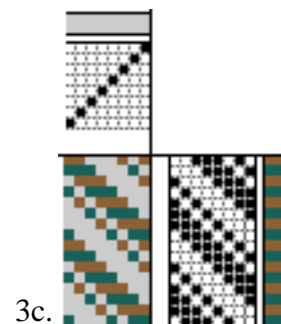
2a.

2b.

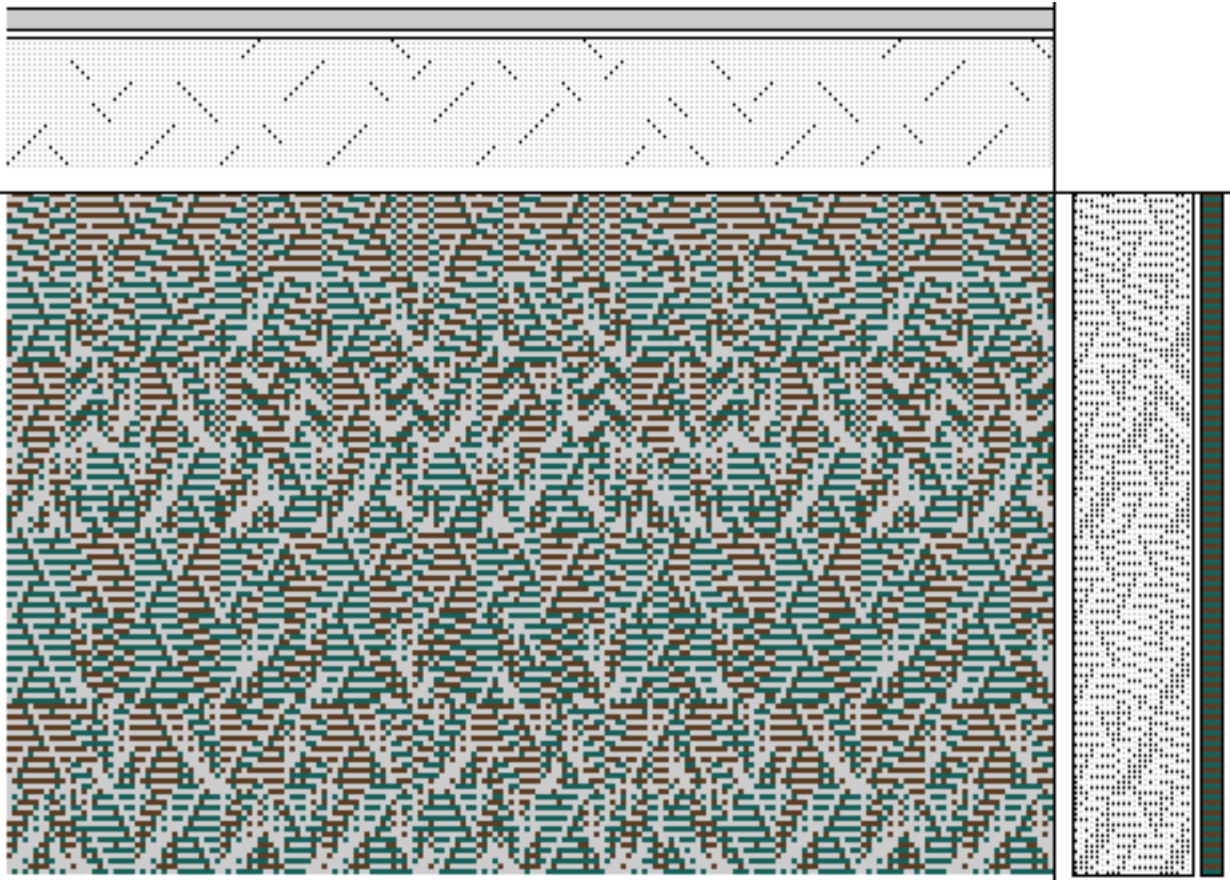


3a.

3b.



3c.



4.

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WeaveMaker, SnapzPro, Adobe PageMaker
G4 Macintosh, Epson C80