

REP WEAVE

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DEFINITION

“Rep” is short for the Swedish ripsmatta, which is a combination of two Swedish words meaning “rep” and “mat”. It is a ridged warp faced fabric with alternating thin and thick ribs.

It is a block weave where two colors are used in each block and the two colors alternate in the warp. One color is shown on the thin ridge and the other on the thick ridge. This can be reversed so the thin color is used for the thick. The back of the fabric has the opposite colors.

TRADITIONAL REP WEAVE

Traditional rep weave uses fine warp threads that completely cover the weft and often uses only two colors. The warp is very dense. In order to deal with a very dense warp, twice as many shafts as needed for a block are used so the warp is distributed on more shafts. Jack looms can have difficulties unless the shafts are very heavy.

MODERN REP WEAVE

Setting the warp less densely makes it easier for all types of looms to create a good shed. It allows the weft to slightly show through so the color of the weft is also part of the design. Using multiple colors in different blocks and using color mixing within the blocks is used.

REP WEAVE WARP

- 8/4 cotton – rugs
- 3/2 or 5/2 doubled: rugs
- Clothing, towels, table mats, scarves, lighter weight fabric: 5/2, 8/2, 10/2, 12/2, 16/2, 10/2, 30/2 cotton, 8/2 or 10/2 tencil.
- Towel weight fabric, use 8/2 for the warp, 8/2 as the thick weft and sewing thread for the thin weft.

Yarn	Tight epi	Loose epi
8/4 carpet warp	30-32	16-30
16/2 cotton doubled	48	
10/2 cotton	60	48
5/2 cotton	40-48	32
3/2 cotton	32	24
8/2 cotton	48	40
8/2 tencil	48	40
22/2 cottolin	48	40

REP WEAVE THICK WEFT CHOICES

- 1 Inch wide fabric strips
- Thicker yarn or multiple strands of yarn
- Cotton cord or mop cotton

- Make your own by combining multiple strands of yarn.

REP WEAVE THIN WEFT CHOICES

The same material as the warp or finer. It must be strong. The greater the difference between the thick and thin wefts, the more pronounced the ribs will be. The thin weft goes from 8/4 cotton warp to sewing thread.

WARP CALCULATIONS

Rep weave using a thick fabric uses 34% in take up and shrinkage.

WEAVING

The hem is woven using the same yarn as used in the warp.

The thick and thin picks need to interlock at the selvedge. Do not use a floating selvedge..

Tallarovic: To change blocks, you either omit the thin pick of the old block causing two thick picks to lie side by side, or throw a second pick of thin weft, counting as the first pick of the new block, which automatically reverses the blocks. Tallarovic's book has detailed descriptions of how to ensure that the picks interlock at the selvedges under different conditions

Coifman: Pass the shuttles in the same direction and sequence: heavy weft first followed by the fine weft. It is OK if the fine weft of last old block is in the same shed as the heavy weft of the new block. Pay attention to the point where the fine weft exits. If the fine weft is under the last warp thread, place the shuttle on top of your weaving. If the fine weft thread is over the last warp thread, pass the shuttle under the heavy weft and then place it on top of your weaving.

You can use 1 shaft per block or 2 shafts per block. Two shafts per block allows each design block to be threaded on a separate pair of shafts. The pattern or background can then be used singly or combined in different arrangements. Also, spreading the dense warp over more shafts creates a better shed.

KITCHEN TOWELS

MA 2002 Handwoven, pages 48-51.

Warp: 8/2 cotton at 20 epi. This does not cover the weft but weaves a looser fabric. Therefore, the color choice of the weft is important. 2 per dent in a 10 dent reed, 4 per dent on the last 4 threads of each side.

Thick weft: 8/2 cotton

Thin weft: sewing thread

Thick and thin weft should be the same color

RESOURCES

www.greatnorthernweaving.com

A great place to purchase products for any type of rug weaving. They have a great selection of rug warps. They also have rug wefts. They have rag coils, selvages and loopers made from tube socks. They also have natural or colored cord, which is my favorite for rep weaving of rugs.

Mop cotton sources:

<https://woolery.com/maurice-brassard-cotton-yarn-16-8.html>

<https://halcyonyarn.com/yarn/061/medium-cotton-168-mop-yarn>

<https://www.lonestarloomroom.com/products/mop-cotton>

Books:

“Rep Weave and Beyond”, Joanna Tallarovic

“Rep, Rips, Reps Weave”, Lucienne Coifman

“Rug Weavers Source Book”, Interweave Press