

Peruvian Diamonds

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For rigid heddle weavers who like a challenge, create this striking surface design using a diverted or deflected supplementary warp.

You will need:

Loom: 25cm (10ins) or wider rigid heddle
Reed: 60/10cm (15dpi)
Background warp and weft yarn: Ashford weaving cotton yarn 5/2 (100% mercerised cotton, Ne 5/2, 848m/927yds, 200gms) 1 cone #30 True Blue
Supplementary warp yarn: hand-dyed silk boucle 28gms (1oz)
Other: three pickup sticks, warp weights

Here's how:

Total background warp ends: 120
Total supplementary warp ends: 14 (two in 7 slots)
Total background warp length: 2.1m/7ft
Total supplementary warp length: 3m/10ft (longer length required to weigh warp at back)
Finished width: 17½cm (7ins)
Finished length: 136cm (53½ins)

Warping

1. Warp 120 ends in the 5/2 cotton, wind and tie on.
2. Place the first pair of supplementary warp threads through the centre slot. Repeat either side in every 5th slot for a total of seven pairs.



Thread seven pairs of supplementary warp threads

3. Tie the supplementary warp threads to the front beam. Hang the supplementary warp thread over the back beam and tie to a weight.

My table runner with deflected supplementary warp diamonds



Tie a weight to the supplementary warp threads and hang over the back beam

Preparing the Loom for This Project

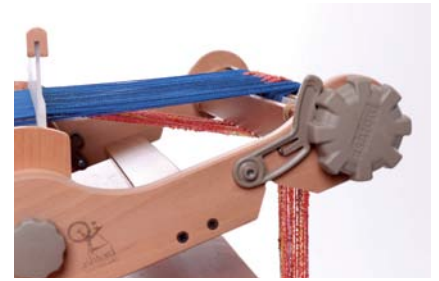
Plain Weave Areas

Take pickup stick A behind the heddle and insert it to lower the supplementary threads below the background warp threads. Slide to the back when weaving the diamond pattern areas.

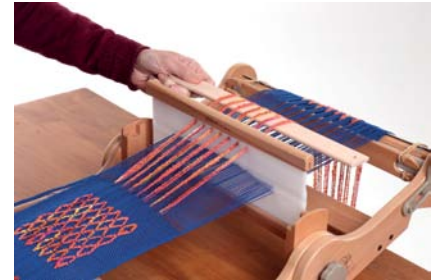
To weave plain areas at the beginning, the end, and in between the pattern areas, use only pickup stick A. Slide it forward and push down to lower the supplementary threads. With the reed in the down position and the shuttle on the right, weave the required amount.

Pattern Area

Push pickup stick A to the back. With the reed in neutral pick up the supplementary threads behind the reed and put on pickup stick B.



Pickup stick A lowers the supplementary warp threads



Pickup stick B raises the supplementary warp threads

Pattern Sequence (Beat with the shuttle edge)

Row	Shuttle Direction	Heddle Position
1	→	Up to start. Up to close* diamond
2	←	Down
3	→	Up pickup stick B on edge
4	←	Down
5	→	Up pickup stick B on edge
6	←	Down. Deflect** open diamond
7	→	Up pickup stick B on edge
8	←	Down
9	→	Up pickup stick B on edge
10	←	Down

Repeat from the beginning.

*Close the Diamond

To close the diamond, remove pickup stick B and with pickup stick A lower the supplementary threads below the background warp threads. Weave one row. Then, if you are weaving the pattern section, slide pickup stick A to the back and reinstate pickup stick B.

If you are weaving the border, keep the supplementary threads below the background threads with pickup stick A.

****Deflect** one thread of the first supplementary warp pair, two slot threads to the right and the other thread of the pair, two slot threads to the left.

Insert pickup stick C in to the plain weave shed in front of the reed and bring it up two slot threads to the right of the supplementary warp. Place one supplementary thread under the pickup stick, [re-enter the stick and bring it up two slot threads to the left. Deflect one supplementary warp from the right-hand pair and one from the left-hand pair and place under the stick.] Repeat [].

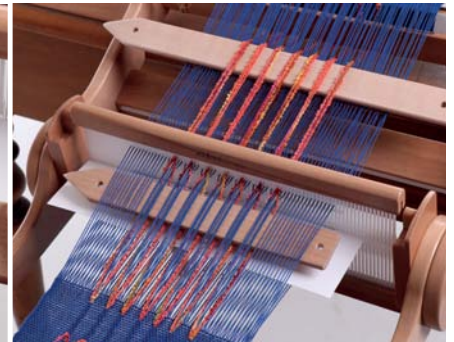
The diamonds can be made larger or smaller by changing the spacing of the supplementary warp threads.



Bring pickup stick C to the surface two slot threads of the background warp before the supplementary warp threads and deflect one of the supplementary warp threads under the pickup stick C



Deflect one supplementary warp from the right-hand pair and one from the left-hand pair and place under the stick

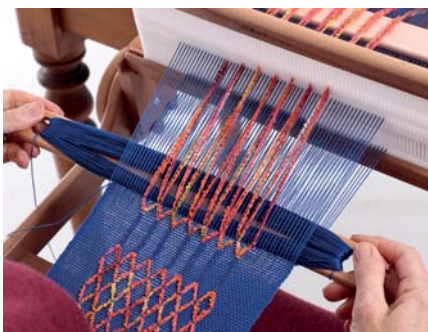


Continue across the warp

To Begin This Project

Weaving

1. Weave a plain weave heading.
2. Weave two rows of a contrasting cotton (to be pulled out later and used as the cutting line).
3. Weave 5cm (2ins) plain weave in the 5/2 cotton (for the hem).
4. Weave one row of 1/1 Leno.
5. Weave 3cm (1¼ins) plain weave.
6. Commence pattern sequence and repeat opening and closing the diamonds for four rows.
7. Repeat instruction 5 and 6 for required length.
8. Weave 3cm (1¼ins) plain weave.
9. Weave one row of 1/1 Leno.
10. Weave 5cm (2ins) plain weave in the 5/2 cotton (for the hem).
11. Weave in 2 rows in a contrasting cotton (to be pulled out later and used as the cutting line).
12. Weave 5cm (2ins) plain weave in the 5/2 cotton (for the end heading).
13. Cut and tie off.



Opening the diamond



Closing the diamond



Create a pattern with four rows of diamonds

Finishing

1. Remove weaving from the loom.
2. Remove the two rows of contrasting cotton threads and cut.
3. Secure ends.
4. Make hem to the Leno row – this becomes a decorative edge.
5. Sew in the supplementary warp ends on the reverse side.
6. Press with a damp cloth and lie flat to dry.



I enjoyed the challenge of creating Peruvian Diamonds

Betty's Tips and Tricks

1. When weaving a heading use the same grist of yarn as your weft. This will help ensure you have straight edges.
2. The two rows of contrasting cotton after the heading can be easily removed and the space becomes the cutting line.
3. A row of 1/1 Leno makes a very attractive deckle edge to your weaving.

Editor's NOTE

Weaver and author Harriet Tidball in her book *Peru: Textiles Unlimited* documents this ancient Peruvian technique. I enjoyed incorporating it in this runner with master weaver Betty Booth who kindly shared some of her "tips and tricks".

I made a short video showing how to create the diamonds.

www.ashford.co.nz/tutorials/weaving-tutorials/PeruvianDiamonds