Log Cabin Runner

on the Rigid Heddle Loom

BY DELAND LIAO, TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Alternating light and dark yarns in both the warp and weft create a smart two block pattern.

I like the Rigid Heddle loom because it is so easy to warp and you can see the width and the length you need. (Not forgetting, of course, an allowance for loom waste and take up.)

Log-cabin is a colour and weave technique; the pattern looks complicated but it is not! It is just a two shaft plain weave that produces areas of smart vertical and horizontal pinstripes.

This table runner is a project in my Rigid Heddle weaving class. Students choose their own colour cotton and they all look beautiful.
You will need:
Loom: Rigid Heddle loom 40cm (16ins)
Reed: 50/10cm (12.5dpi)
Warp and weft yarn: 3/2 Mercerised Cotton
2,442m/kg (1,260 yds/lbs) 65gm (2½ozs) Green; 49gm (1¾ozs) Natural

Here’s how:
Total warp ends: 144
Total warp length: 115cm (45½ins)
Finished length: 76cm (30ins)
Finished width: 27cm (10½ins)

Warping
1a. Tie the green colour on the back warp stick and pull it through the slot to the warp peg (2 green ends).
b. Tie the natural colour on the back beam and pull through the slot (2 natural ends).

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Repeat a) and b) until you have double ends of 5 green and 4 natural (18 ends as a group).

2. Tie the group in a choke with a contrasting colour.

3. Repeat until you will have 8 groups of yarns (double ends of 5 green + 4 natural), a total of 144 ends.

4. Wind on and start threading the first group of 18 yarns.
a. Remove from the slots (where necessary) and thread the first 5 eyes with green and the first 4 slots with natural.
b. Thread the next 4 eyes with natural and 5 slots with green.
c. Repeat for rest of the warp.

1. Weave one pick of the green colour. The second pick is in the natural colour. Alternate until you have woven a block of 5 green and 4 natural.
1. Start the second bock with green again, then natural until you have woven a block of 5 green and 4 natural.
3. Repeat until the end.

Finishing
Remove the fabric from the loom. Hem-stitch the ends. Wash in warm soapy water and rinse. Lie flat until almost dry, and then press with a steam iron.

Now you have a table runner or use the fabric to make a purse, pillow or handbag. Have fun!

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