

Supplementary Weft Weaves

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A Weaving Year of Wonder Study Group

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Supplementary Weft Weaves

- **Compound Weaves (more than one set of warp or weft or both)**
 - **Compounding is formed by adding sets of elements**
 - **The elements are supplementary**
 - **The supplementary element is a weft**

What Does Supplementary Mean?

- **The extra set of threads are not needed for the integrity of the cloth**
- **For supplementary weft weaves, if we cut the supplementary weft, a tabby cloth will be left**
- **Example: if we cut the overshot yarn, the plain weave fabric will be left intact, tabby (balanced plain weave)**

Not a Supplementary Weft

- **Supplementary means “additional” (as in not needed)**
- **If there is more than one weft and removing one results in the cloth having holes, it is not a supplementary weft!**
- **Examples of NOT supplementary weft weaves:**
 - **Treading methods (“on opposite” on overshot, crackle classic)**
 - **Color-and-weave effects (shadow weave)**

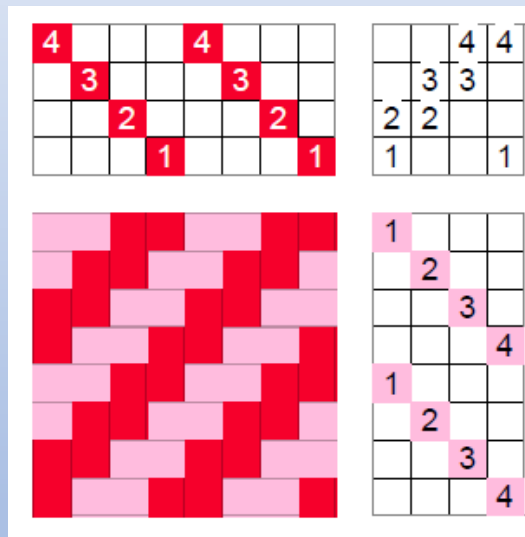
Weaving Supplementary Weft Weaves

- **1 warp, 2 wefts**
 - **Warp and ground weft traditionally the same size (and color)**
 - **Supplementary weft larger (2-3X) and loftier**
- **Warp and ground weft form tabby, balanced plain weave**
- **Sett is slightly more open than tabby, room for supplementary weft**

Weaving the Supplementary Weft

- **In weaving, we alternate 1 shot of ground weft, which weaves tabby**
- **The alternate shot is the supplementary weft which forms blocks of floats the width of the block threading**
- **The float stops where the next block starts**

Overshot is Derived from a Straight Twill



- **Block A: 1, 2 (1, 2)**
- **Block B: 2, 3 (2, 3)**
- **Block C: 3, 4 (3, 4)**
- **Block D: 4, 1 (4, 1)**

Overshot vs. Monk's Belt

Overshot

- Block A: 1, 2 (1, 2)
- Block B: 2, 3 (2, 3)
- Block C: 3, 4 (3, 4)
- Block D: 4, 1 (4, 1)

Monk's Belt

- Block A: 1, 2 (1, 2)
- Block B: 3, 4 (3, 4)

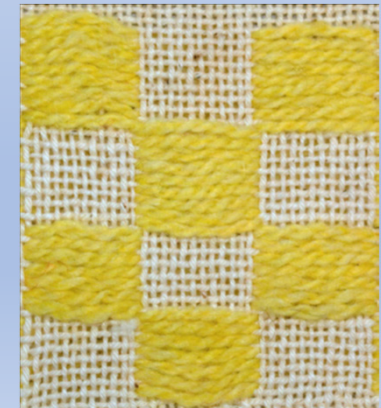
Overshot vs. Monk's Belt (2)

- In overshot, shafts are shared, this results in 4 blocks



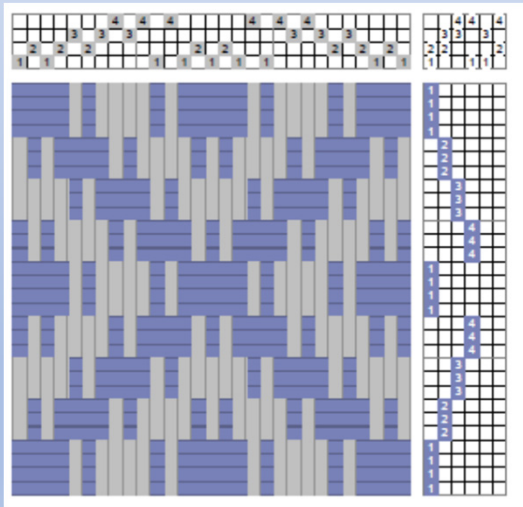
- Half-tones are formed where the shafts are shared

- In Monk's Belt shafts are not shared, so there are two independent blocks
- No sharing means no half tones



Drawdowns

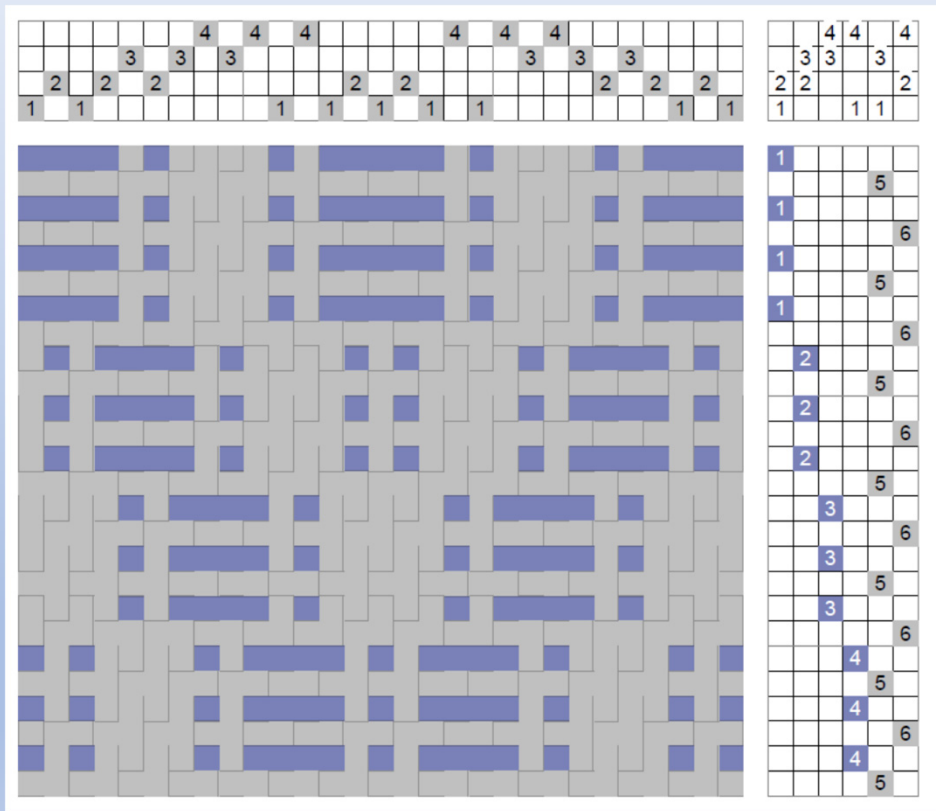
Drawdowns show just the supplementary weft because that's how the pattern is formed.



The grey areas in the drawdown are actually tabby

1&3 and 2&4 appear in the tie-up to weave tabby

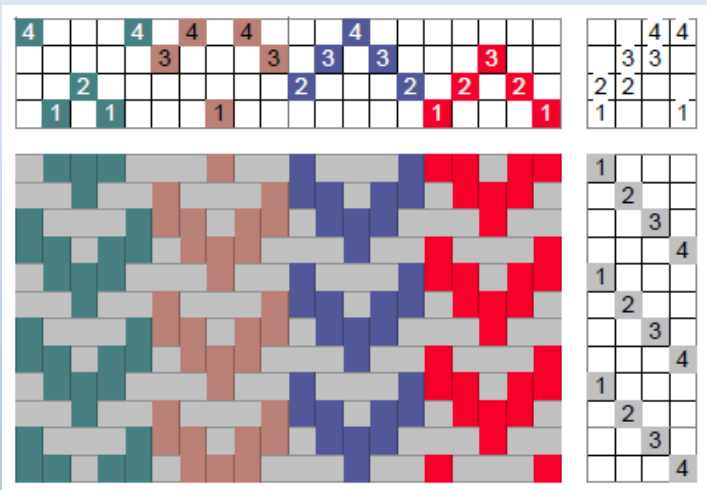
Weaving Supplementary Weft Weaves



This is the top half of the previous drawdown

This is how we actually weave it: tabby wefts alternate with the supplementary wefts

Crackle (Traditional)



Crackle is derived from a
3-shaft pointed twill

I think of it as an advancing
3-shaft pointed twill

- Block A: 1, 2, 3, 2
- Block B: 2, 3, 4, 3
- Block C: 3, 4, 1, 3
- Block D: 4, 1, 2, 1

Why Crackle Can be Confusing

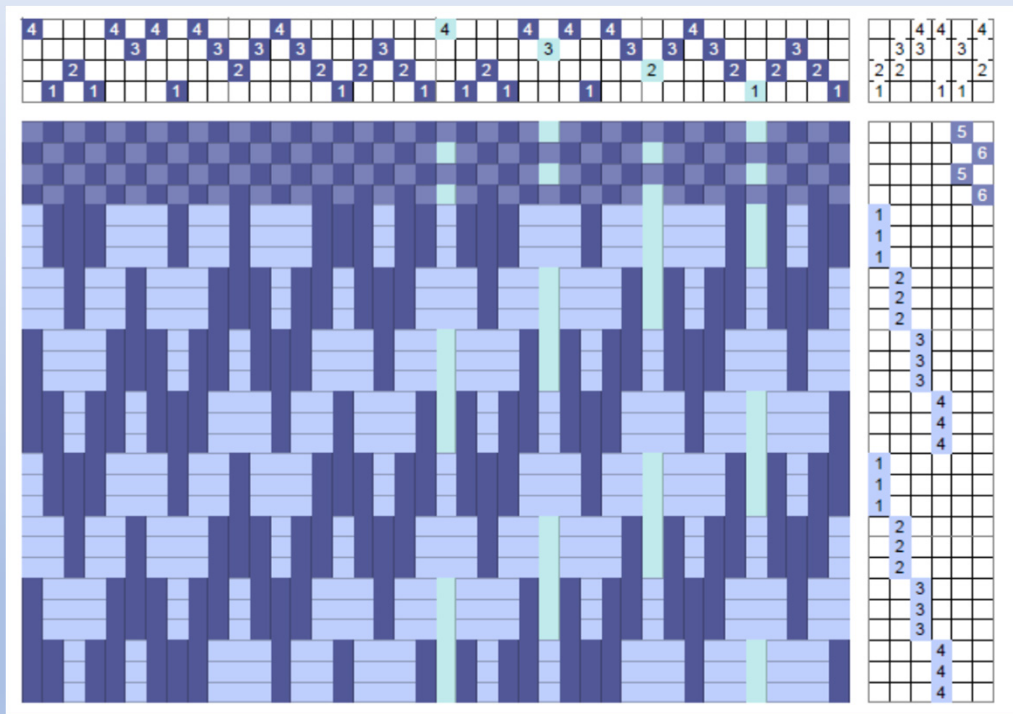
- Each block has 4, not 5 threads as the advancing 3-shaft twill:

Twill: 1, 2, 3, 2, 1; Block A of crackle: 1, 2, 3, 2

- When threading adjacent blocks, an incidental thread must be added to maintain the odd vs. even sequence:

A: 1, 2, 3, 2 + B: 2, 3, 4, 2 – add shaft 1 between A and B

Why Crackle Can be Confusing (2)



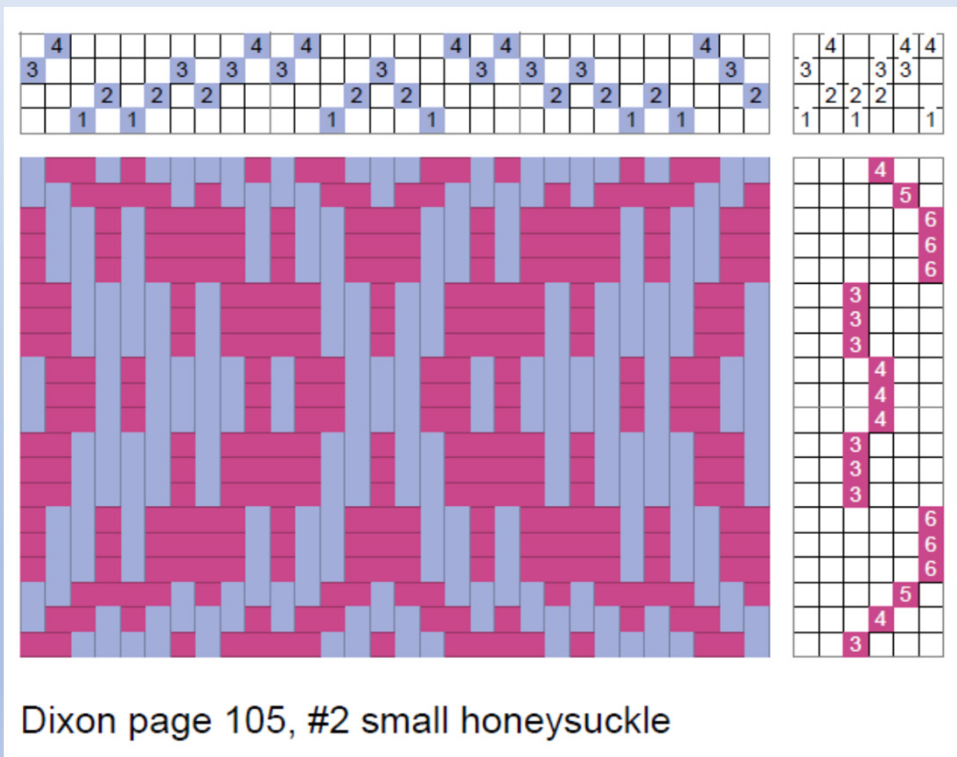
When adding the incidental thread (shown in aqua), we are back to an advancing 3-shaft twill!

Crackle Characteristics



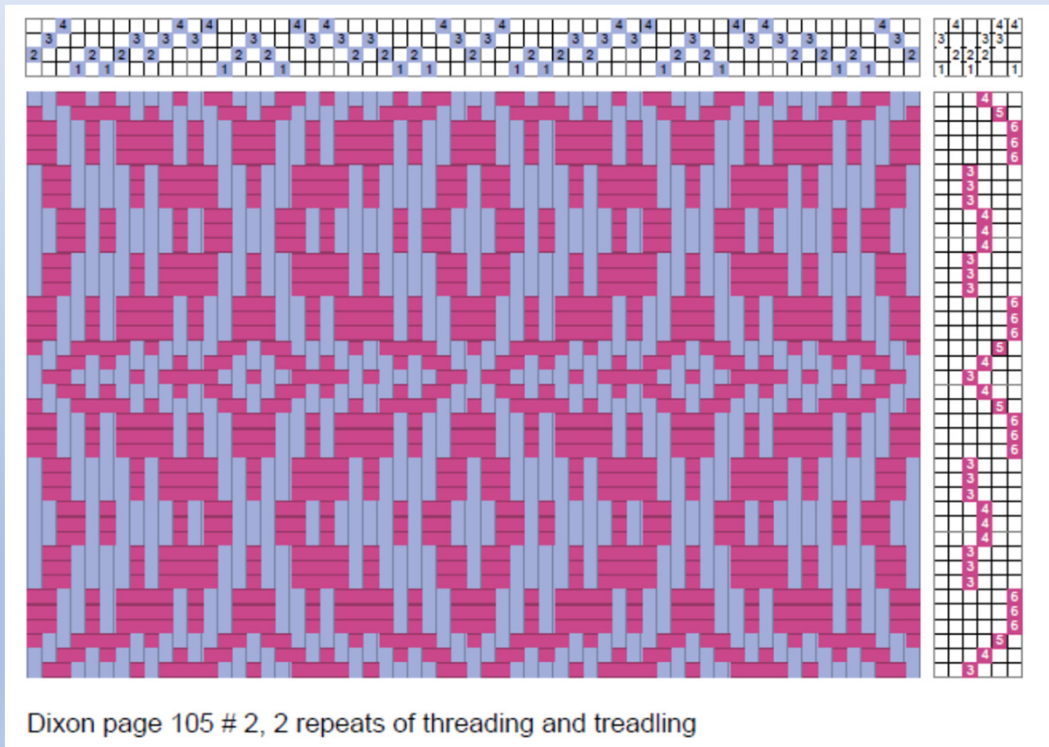
- Each block shares 2 shafts with each of 3 other blocks
- This results in floats, no more than 3-thread wide and half-tones, no tabby block
- Tabby is the ground fabric

Using Published Motif



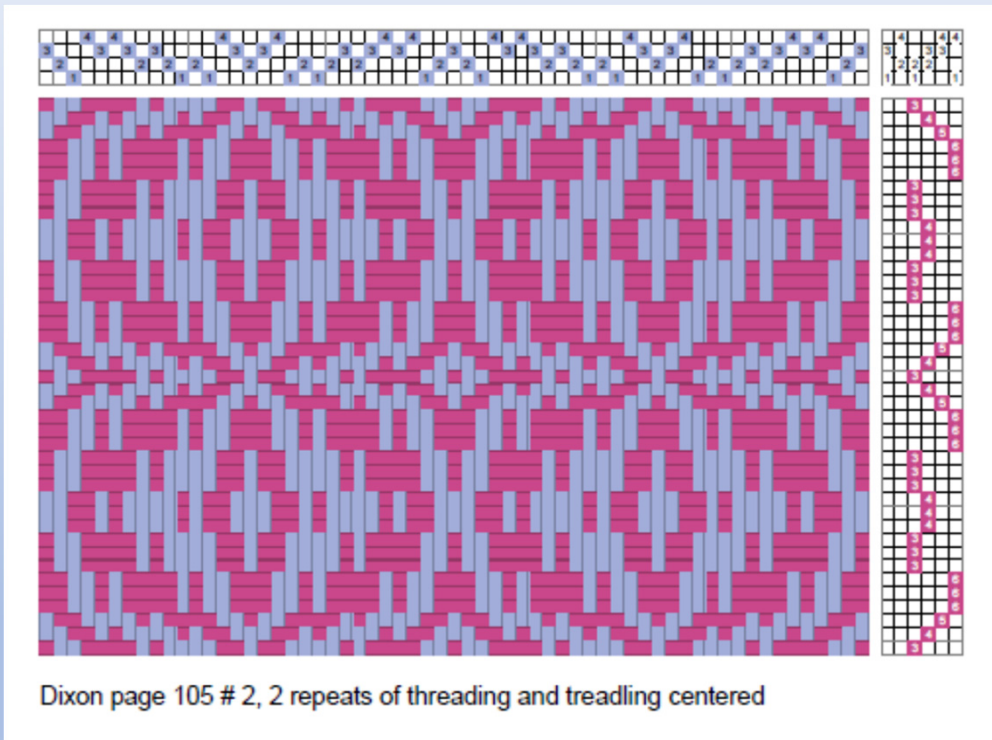
- This drawdown shows the motif exactly as it's published
- If you look at the fabric motif printed in the book, it doesn't look at all as the drawdown

Expanding the Drawdown



- With two repeats, we can see the motif
- We also notice that the threading results in the motif starting in the middle

Centering the Motif



- Start with 3 repeats of the threading
- Remove as many threads as needed to start the motif
- Remove the incomplete motif at the end
- Two motifs should remain
- Repeat with treading if needed

This Month's Challenge

- **If you choose a structure that you have never woven before, start with a 4-shaft version**
- **If you choose to weave an 8-shaft version, make sure that you thoroughly understand the structure**

This Month's Challenge (continued)

- **Expanding overshoot to 8-shafts, blocks must be combined. Strickler discusses overshoot with repeat twills. Tied Overshot is NOT a supplementary weft weave**
- **The overshoot threading is used for many treading methods, most of which are not a supplementary weft weaves**

This Month's Challenge (continued 2)

- **Monk's Belt on 8 shafts has 4 independent blocks, sometimes that's considered overshot, but it has no half-tones**
- **Crackle is often woven on 4 shafts; there are few 8-shaft options in Strickler for this reason; parallel threadings do not produce crackle as a supplementary weft weave**

This Month's Challenge (continued 3)

- **Having an extra weft means heavier fabric, since traditionally the supplementary weft is 2-3 times heavier than the ground**
- **Coverlets were traditionally woven with these structures; pillows and other household textiles work well**
- **Borders on a variety of textiles are also a good way to showcase supplementary weft weaves.**

Questions?