Month 7: Profile Drafts

Profile drafts are a shorthand to list the threading order of blocks. Given the specific threading of each block, the profile draft can then be expanded to the threading draft for the particular sequence.

For example, we have this profile draft for the single, two-ties, unpaired structure with a 1:1 ratio, also called summer and winter:

В	В	
		A

This can also be expressed as:



We know that the design has one block of A and two blocks of B. That profile draft would expand to the drawdown on the right. I did choose to treadle it as single, but that is not specified by the profile draft. However, we generally treadle the number of repeats of the blocks, one repeat for block A, two for block B (note the drawdown is sinking shed).

In general, blocks can be treadled as each tiedown shaft *vs*. pattern shafts; here, 1 & 3 *vs*. 2 & 3 (with tabbies in between) for block A.



In weaving, of course, we repeat that sequence throughout the fabric, and we would obtain the following cloth:



Given that unit weaves have fixed blocks which can be repeated, and organized in a variety of ways, profile drafts are ideal for designing with this group of weaves. Blocks can be combined in the treadling, adding more to our design possibilities.

I have seen profile drafts used for other weaves, but they can be unclear, as easily illustrated using overshot.

Some people define block A of overshot as:

1, 2

Traditionally, as defined by Mary Black, the block A is:

1, 2, 1, 2

But the threading could be continued, being aware that the supplementary weft float will span the width of the block.

When we come to the A, B, B profile draft, how would we translate it to overshot?

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1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4
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Or:

There is ambiguity.

But we can use the same profile draft, A, B, B for other unit weaves easily.

For example, we can use the double, two-ties, unpaired unit weave, with a 1:1 ratio.

At this point, if we understand unit weaves, we know what the threading looks like. As a starter, we know that the rendition of the structure will require 6 shafts: 2 ties, plus 2 ("double") pattern shafts per block and we have two blocks, A and B.

Here is the expanded drawdown, treadling the two blocks in the classical way.



Your Month 7 Challenge: A Thought Exercise

It's not about weaving, it's about understanding the structure! ("Middle Age Monks wrote beautifully but they couldn't read.....")

Assume you have **8 shafts** available on your loom. If you don't, you can still do the challenge because, if you understand a structure, you can design it with any number of shafts.

Use unit weaves only. The number and arrangement of pattern shafts can be changed, and the number and arrangement of tie-down shafts can be changed, giving lots of options.

Use this profile draft:

			D	D				
		С			С			
В	В					В	В	
								A

This is what I would like you to do:

- 1. Send me a list of however many unit weaves you can determine
- 2. For each structure, I would like:
 - a. The classification
 - b. The threading of block A and block B

For the example above, as the #1 answer, you would send me:

1 single, two-ties, unpaired structure with a 1:1 ratio (summer and winter)

Marcy Petrini July 2021

A: 1, 3, 2, 3 B: 1, 4, 2, 4

 Choose one structure that you particularly like and do a complete drawdown, if you have the software. If not, list the treadling for the background and for blocks A and B. For the example above, you would send me:

Background tabby: 1 & 2 vs. 3 & 4

Block A treadling: 1 & 3 vs. 2 & 3

Block B treadling: 1 & 4 vs. 2 & 4

- 4. Deadline: Sunday, August 8th 10 pm central time. If you send them earlier, that's fine, but I won't look at them until all are in on the 9th. I will make a composite as I am expecting people to come up with the same structure at least some of the times. If you send them to me after the deadline, I cannot guarantee that I can use them in the composite.
- 5. If you have time, weave the structure you have chosen. If not, this is a chance to catch up on the weavings of months you have missed.

If you understand tie-weaves, this will be a lot of fun. If you are having trouble, go back and study the tie-weaves. Sullivan has a solid background. Strickler has lots of options, but don't just copy, learn the structures.

Have fun!