

Huck and Huck Lace

Emery Classification

Simple Weave: two elements (one warp, one weft). **Rectangular Float Weave Derived from Plain Weave:** structures that have an alternation in the alignment of floats with a rectangular arrangement, rather than diagonal.

Weaving Category

Grouped thread weave with blocks that cannot be combined in the treadling if they are of the same type – weft or warp floats. With more shafts, some combinations are possible (see eight shaft section below). Warp and weft float blocks can be combined in huck lace; thus, huck lace is a treadling variation of huck.

Huck

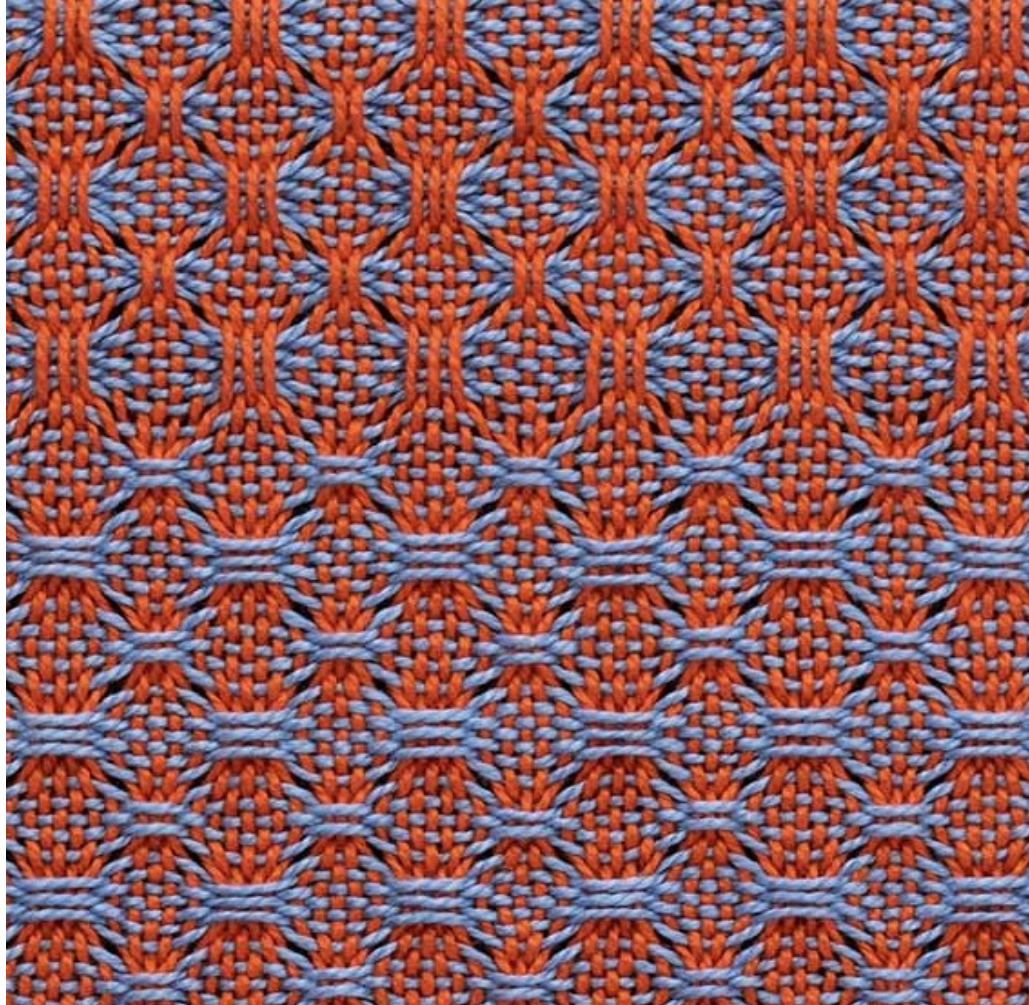
Fabric Characteristics

The huck fabric in the next figure shows warp and weft floats woven on the same side of the fabric.

Blocks not weaving floats, form plain weave. Weft floats on one side of the fabric are warp floats on the other and *vice versa*.

A distinguish characteristic of huck is that adjacent blocks are abut as can be seen from the fabric.

There are two blocks on four shafts. Blocks can be of different sizes, as can be seen in the fabric sample.



Drawdown

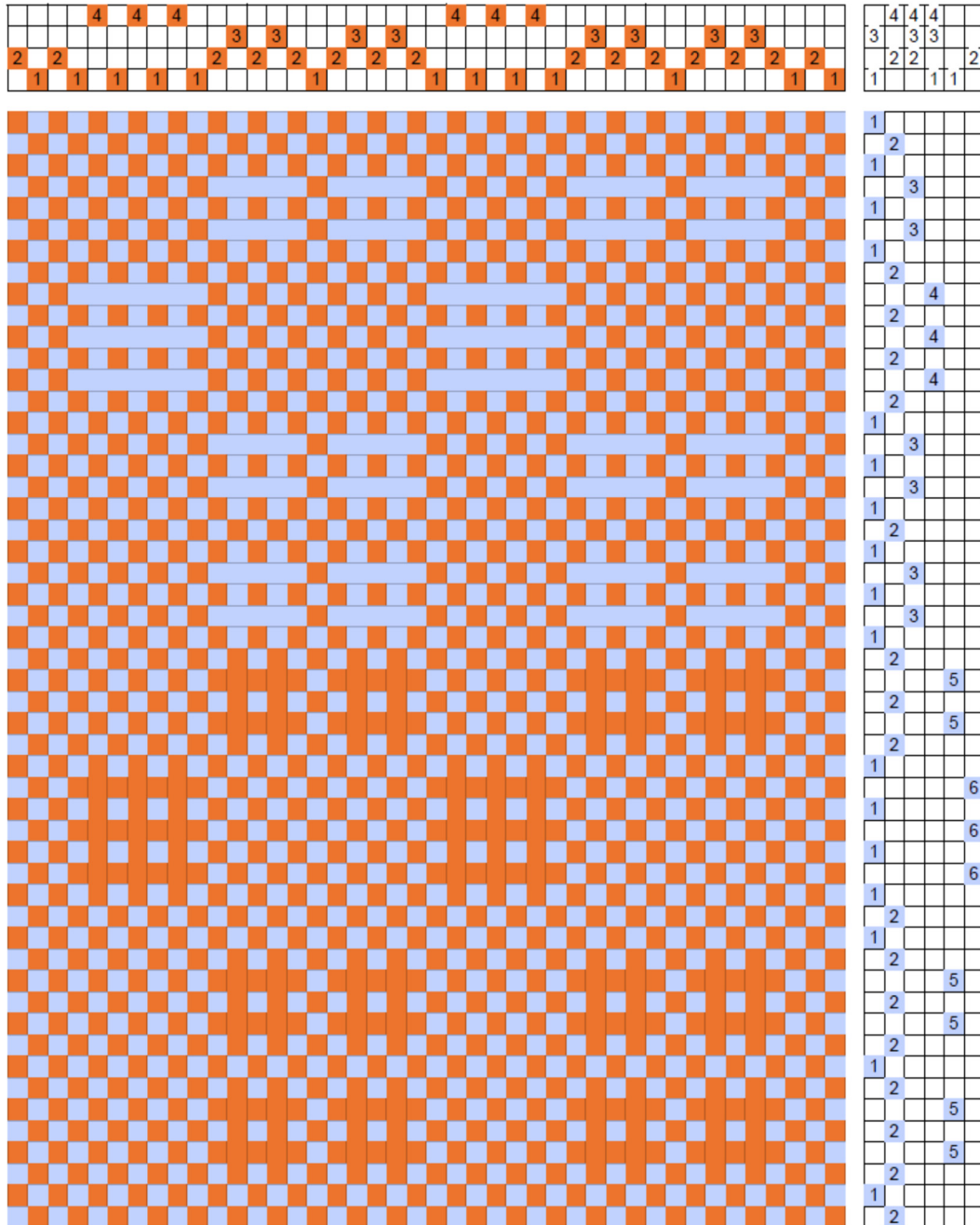
The *sinking shed* drawdown that follows shows that there are two blocks on four shafts that can be woven with weft floats or warp floats on the same side of the fabric. When one block weaves floats, the other weaves plain weave.

There are two tabbies in the threading, shaft 1 and shaft 2. Blocks alternate with one of the two tabbies and a pattern shaft: block A on shaft 3 and block B on shaft 4. Adjacent blocks are abut as can be seen between blocks A and B and then B and A.

Plain weave can be woven across and the fabric since the threading 1 & 3 vs. 2 & 4, since the threading alternated odd and even. Plain weave can be woven down the length of the fabric by threading 1, 2. Thus, no floating selvages are needed.

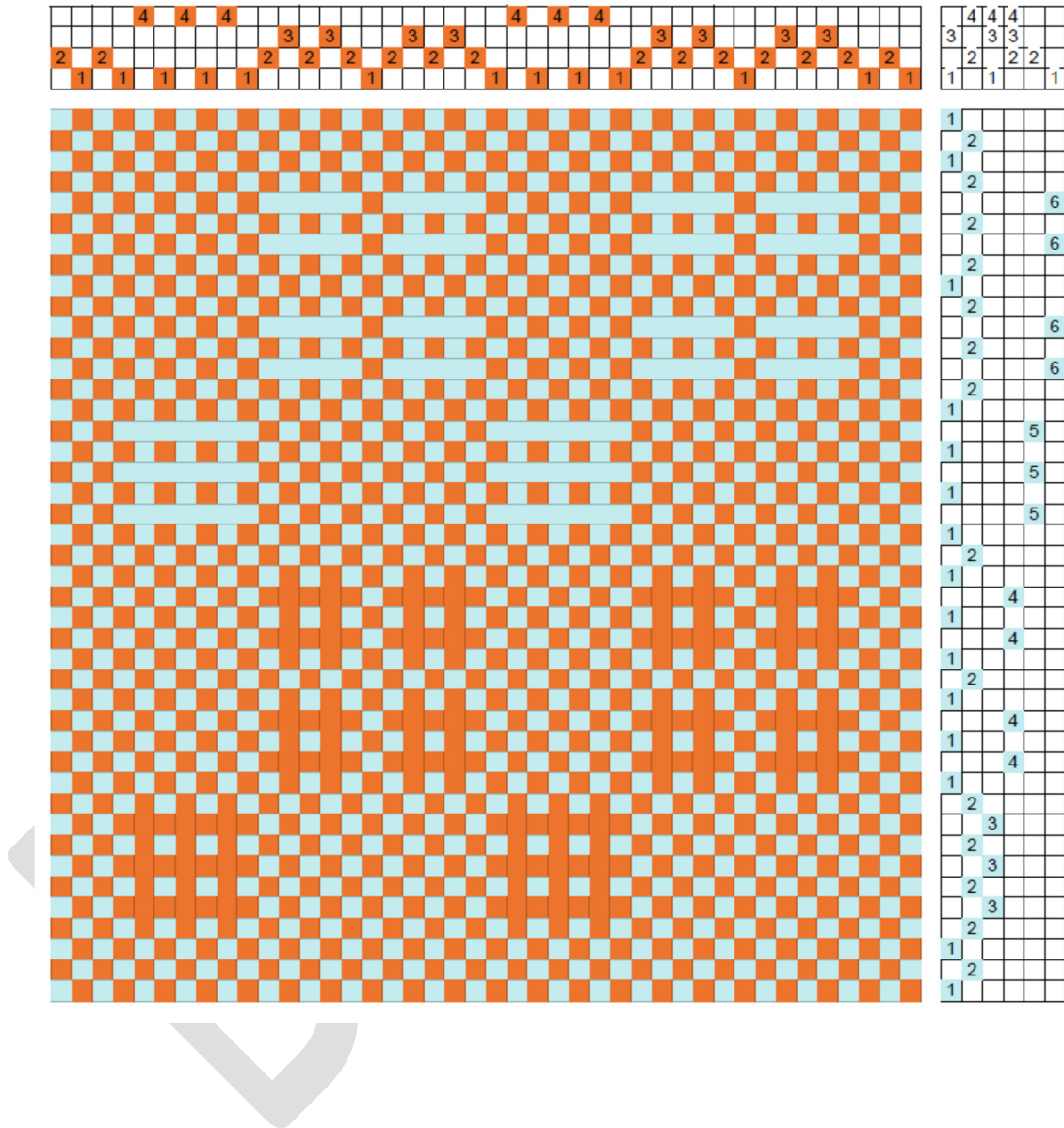
Block size is not fixed; blocks A and B are of different sizes in this example. To avoid a long float, blocks can be repeated by placing the alternate tabby in between, in this example using tabby 1 between blocks A.

Blocks are generally woven to square. If a block is repeated, as is the case for block A here, the treading is also repeated to square the motif, separating the treading with a pick of the opposite tabby.



3 Huck and Huck Lace

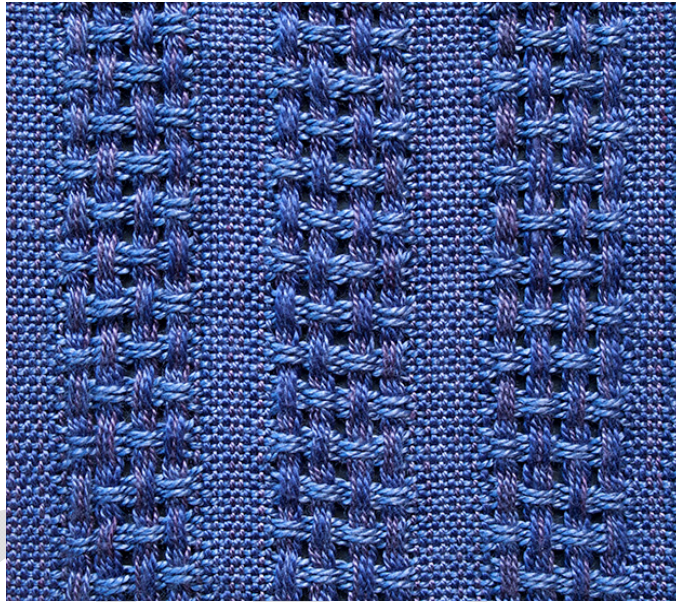
Below is the *rising shed* drawdown for the same motifs.



Huck Lace

Fabric Characteristics

The fabric below is a four-shaft huck lace; it shows that when one block weaves weft floats, the other block weaves warp floats. This is the characteristic of huck lace.



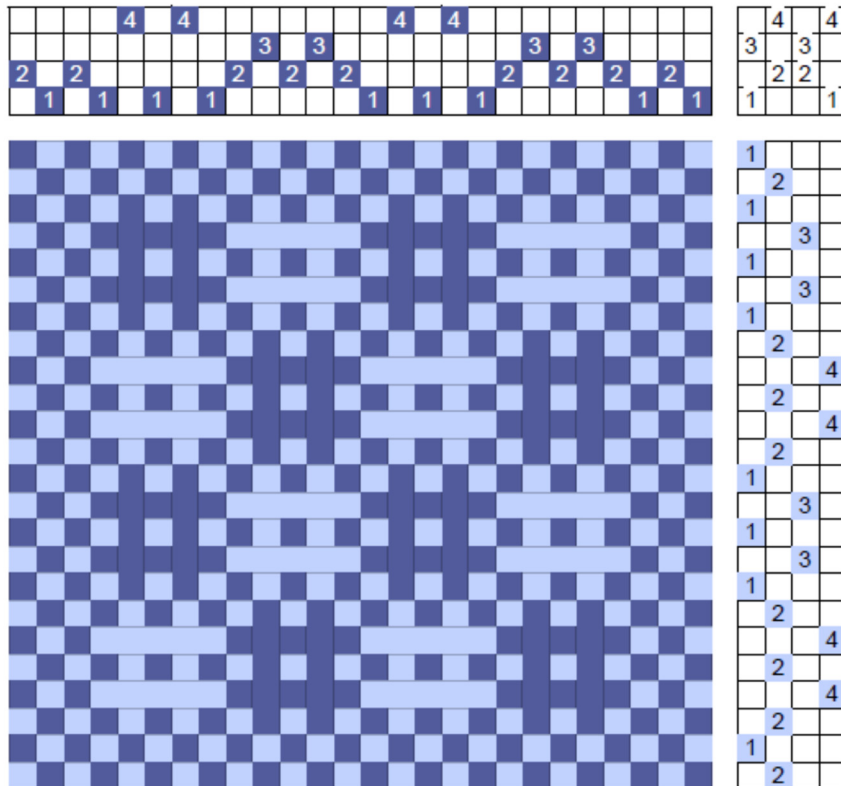
As in huck, plain weave can be woven length wise and thus floating selvages are not needed. In this sample plain weave is also used as a design element to separate the lace motifs. Adding stripes of plain weave can also be done in huck.

As in huck, a block that is weft floats on one side of the fabric is warp floats on the other, and *vice versa*.

Drawdown

The *sinking shed* drawdown that follows shows that the threading for individual blocks of huck lace is the same. However, traditionally blocks are all the same size and not repeated; this weaves a more visually pleasing lacey cloth.

All the other characteristics of huck lace are the same as huck.



Function

As with most rectangular float weaves, the traditional use for huck and huck lace is household textiles. Huck is sturdier than huck lace, because half of the fabric can be plain weave; thus, it is ideal for items that require less drape. For example, table mats can be woven with huck, while the napkins with huck lace.

Sett

A sett for plain weave for any given yarn can be adjusted to weave huck depending on the use and amount of plain weave. Because of the floats in huck lace, a slightly closer sett may make the fabric more stable, or slightly more open, a lacier cloth.

All other things being equal, huck is less drapeable than spot Bronson and huck lace but more drapeable than Bronson Lace.

Width of Block

It is variable as the drawdown above showed. A block can be any odd number of threads. Blocks alternate a tabby with a pattern shaft, ending with a tabby.

Weft float width is across the same number of threads in the block threading. Warp blocks length is the same number of picks in the treadling.

Number of Blocks Available

The number of blocks available is two fewer than the number of shafts used, since shafts 1 and 2 are used for tabbies.

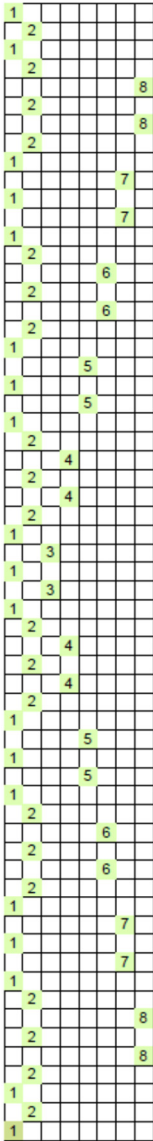
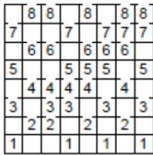
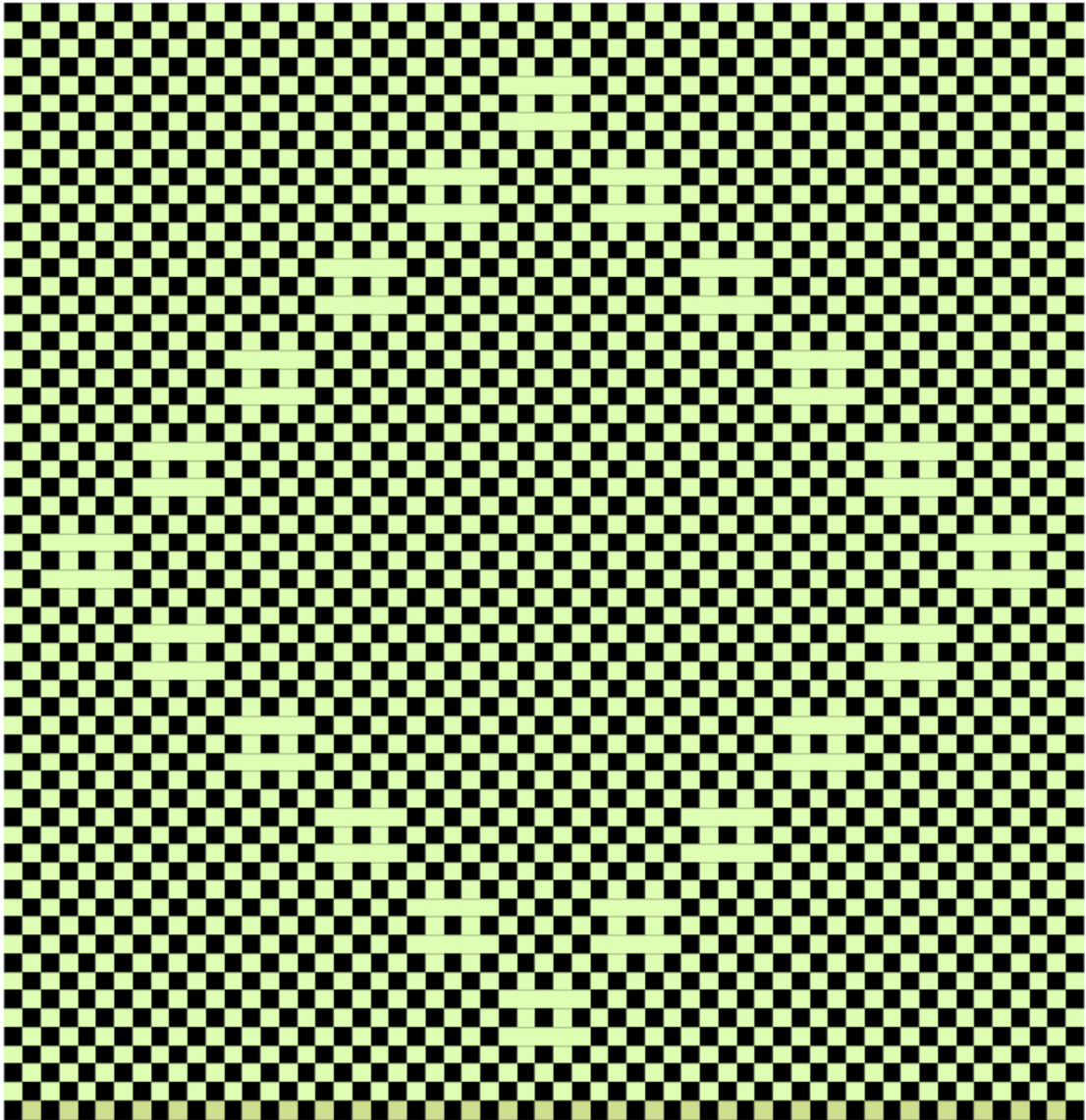
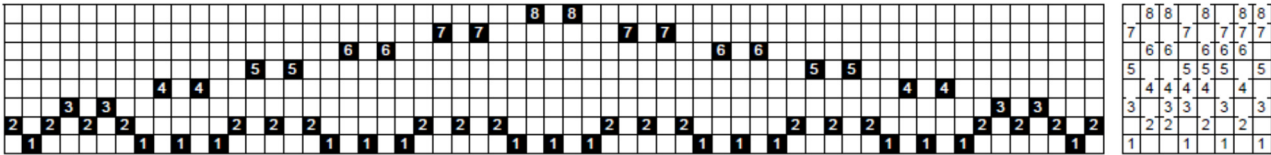
The *tabby rule* is: if the pattern *shaft is odd, the tabby is even*, that is, shaft 2. If *the pattern shaft is even, the tabby is odd*, that is shaft 1. That holds for all shafts as we expand to more than four.

Huck and Huck Lace on More Shafts

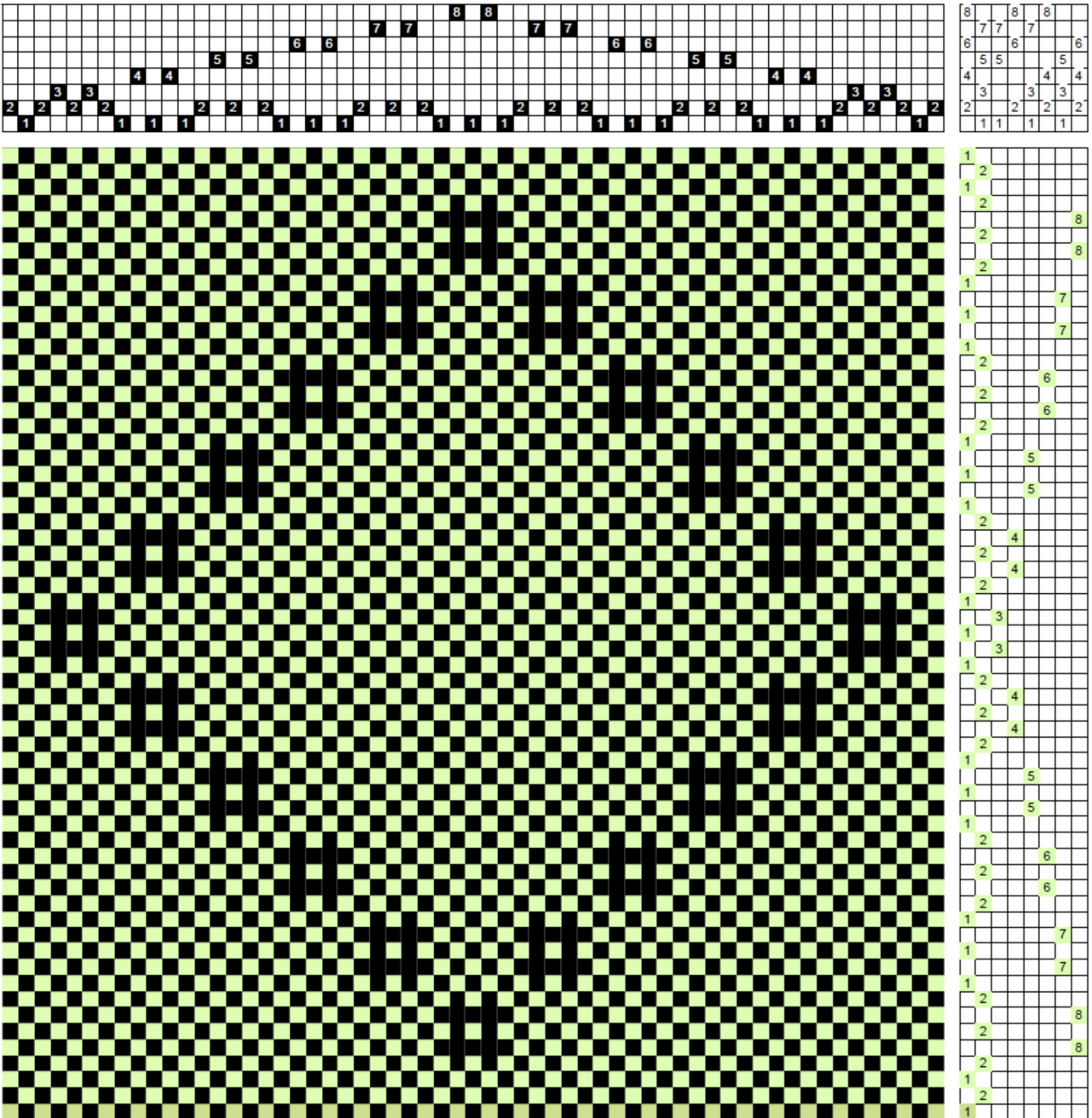
There are two interesting possibilities when adding shafts. One is that blocks with the same tabby can be combined; the other is that the difference between huck and huck lace blurs.

The other “rules” are the same. Below are the *sinking shed* drawdowns for weaving single blocks with weft floats and single blocks with warp floats on the same side of the fabric.

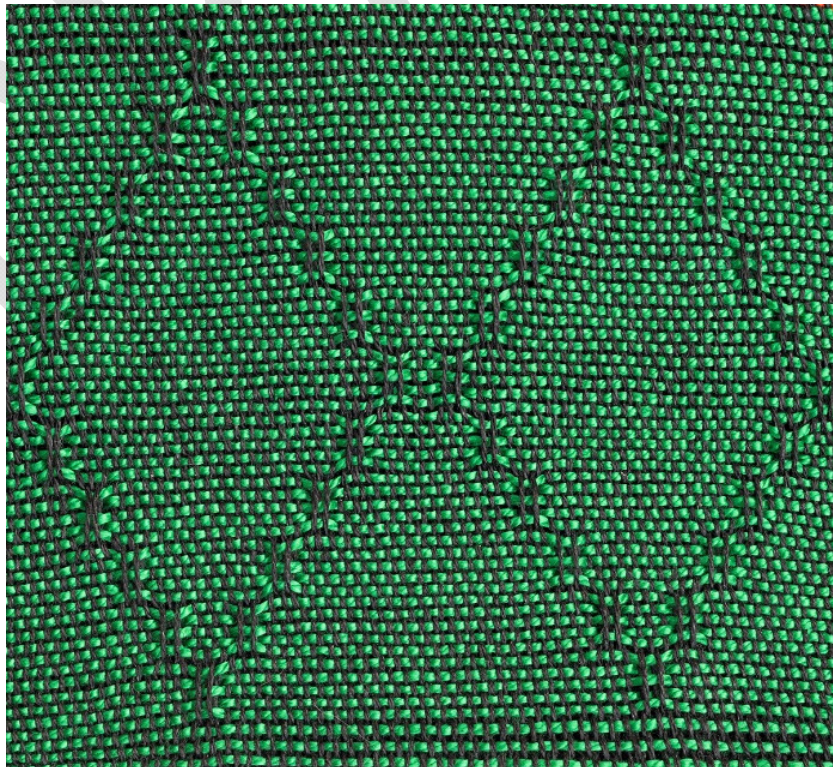
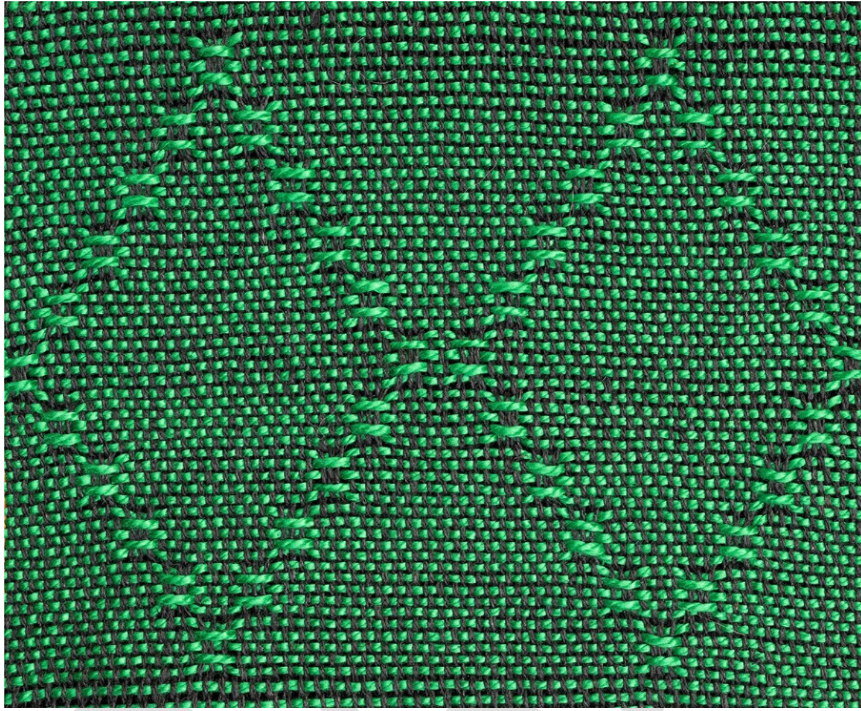
However, when a block on one side of the fabric has weft floats, the other side has warp floats, just as in huck. Blocks not weaving floats weave plain weave.



8 Huck and Huck Lace

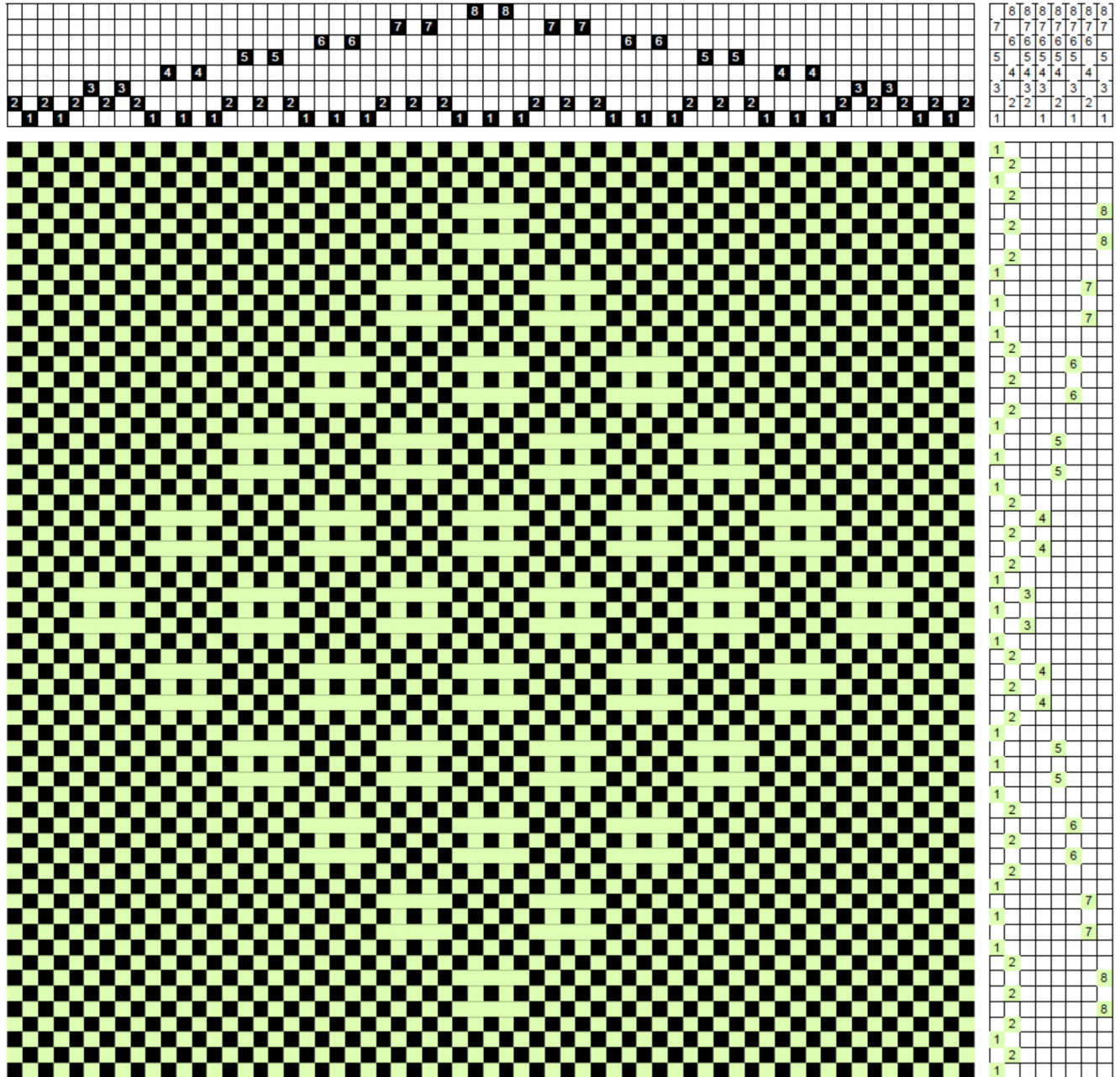


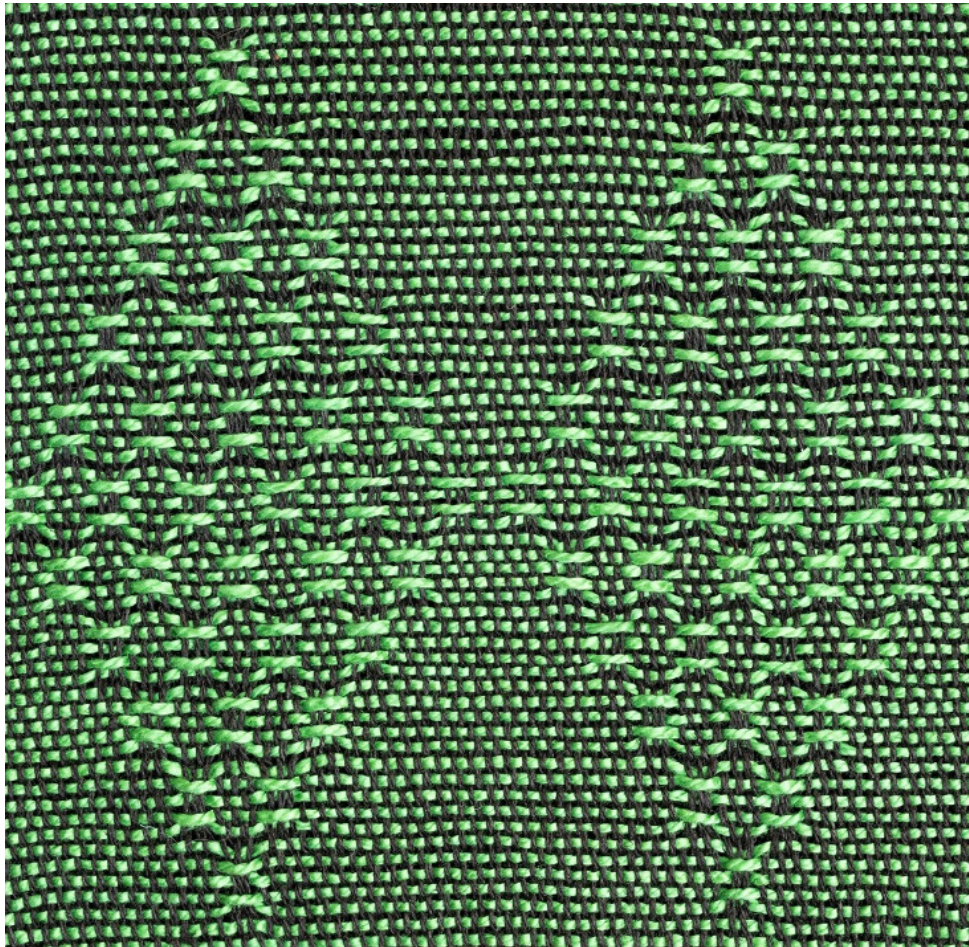
Here the two sides of the fabric sample:



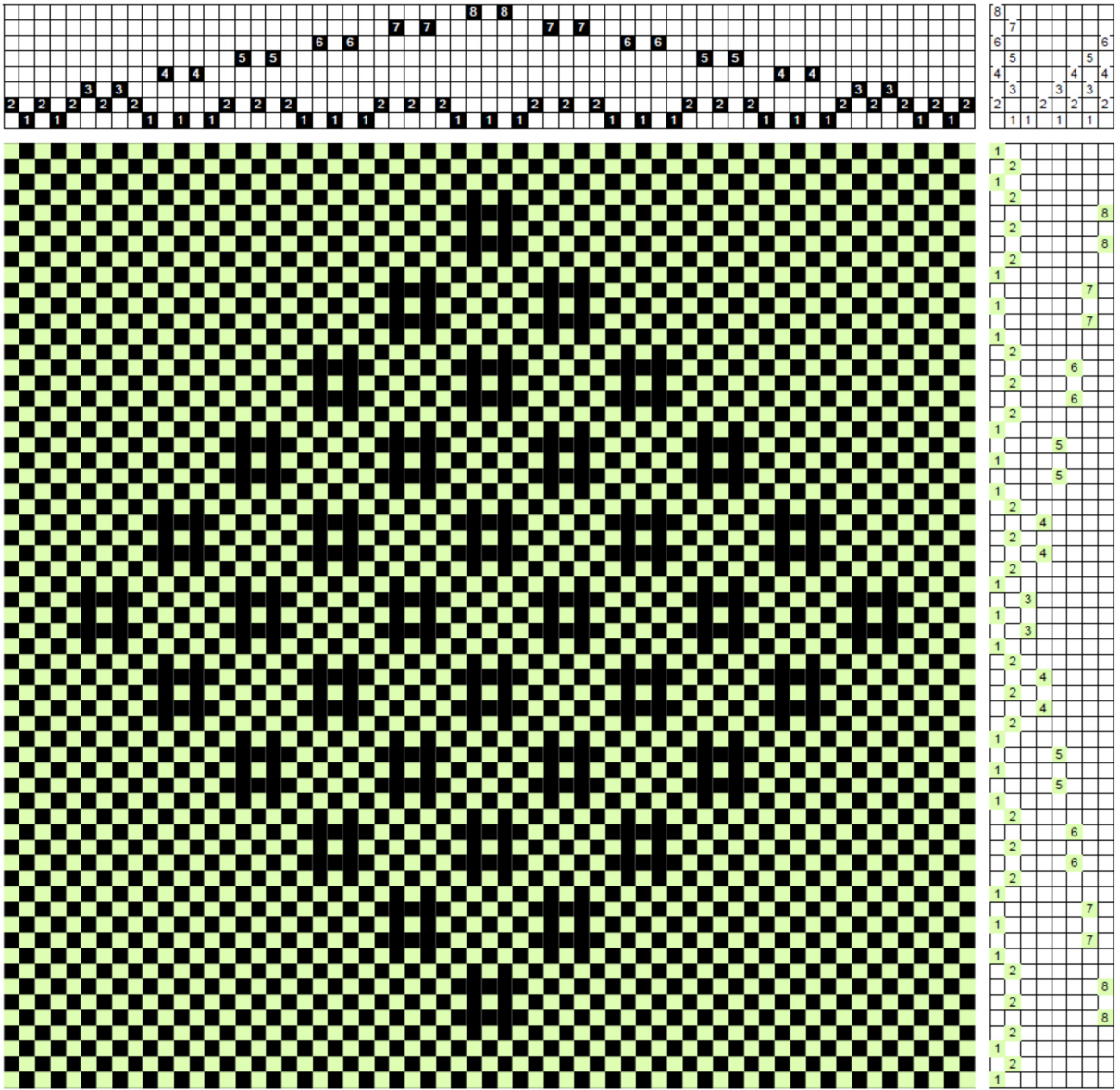
10 Huck and Huck Lace

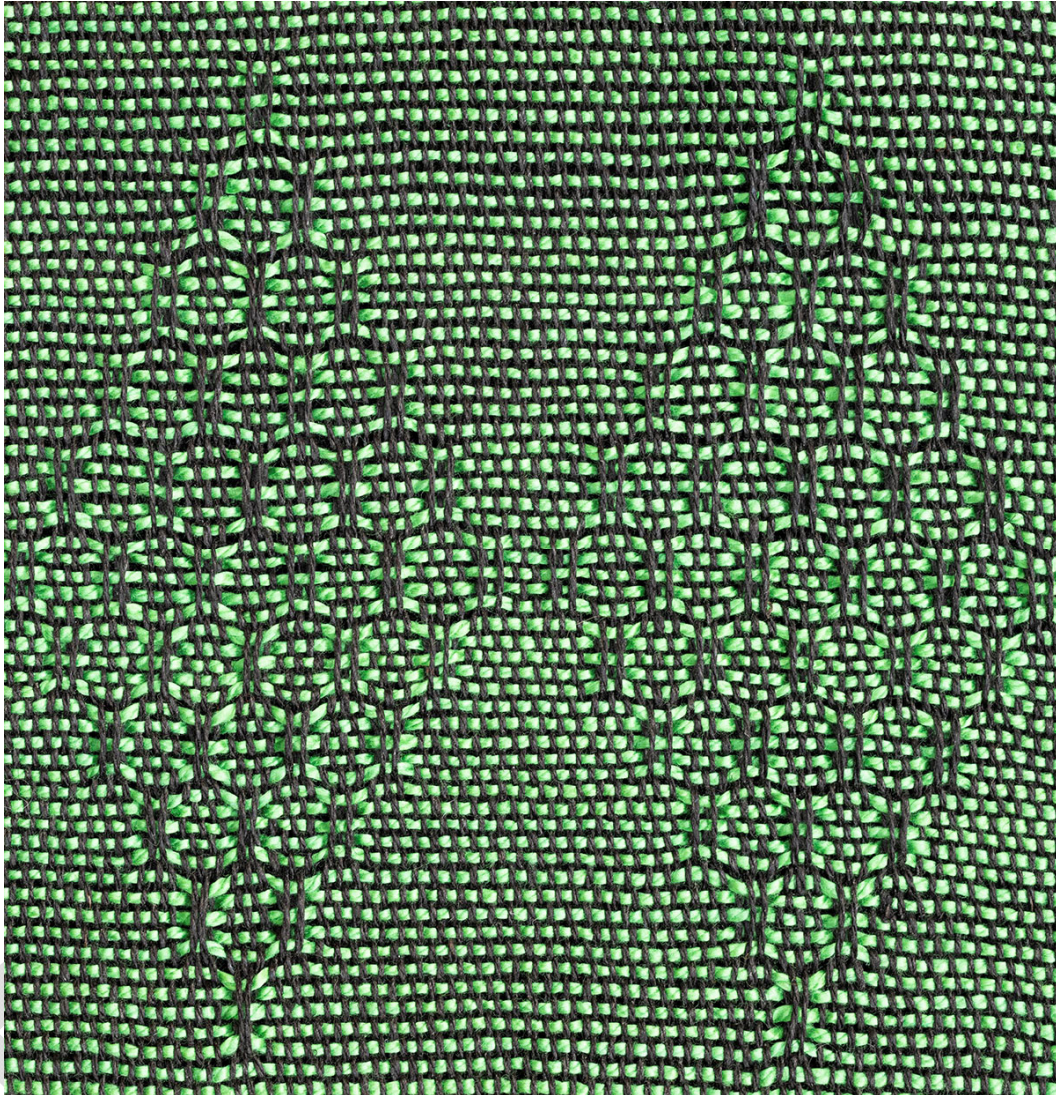
A unique characteristic of huck is that blocks with the same tabby can be combined. Next is the drawdowns and fabric sample of blocks treaded together with weft floats; they share the tabby on shaft 1, but an equivalent fabric can be obtained for blocks that share the tabby on shaft 2.



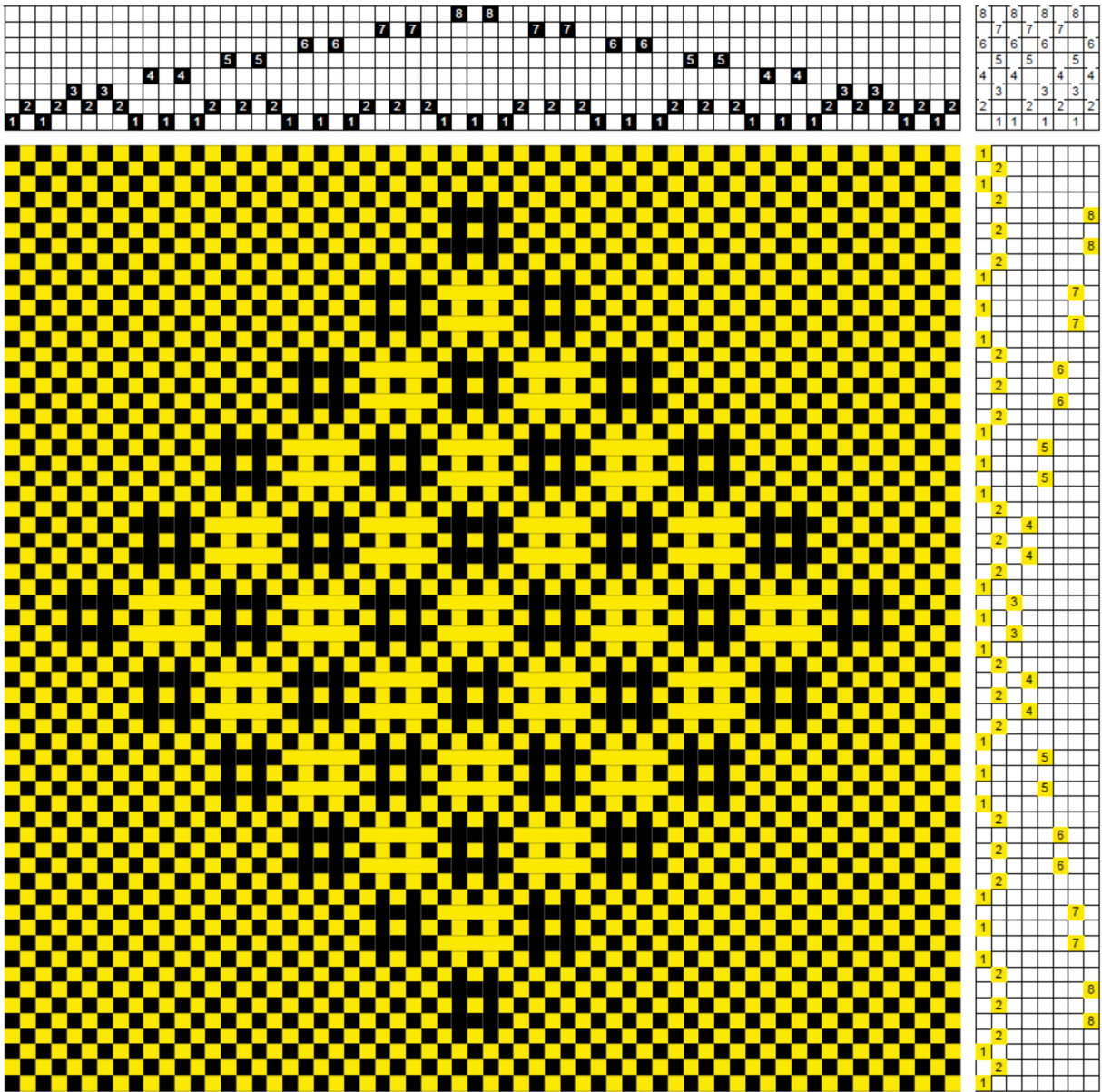


The warp floats can be woven on the same side of the fabric, although they will be on the other side of the fabric when weaving weft floats. The *sinking shed* drawdown follows, with the fabric sample after it.



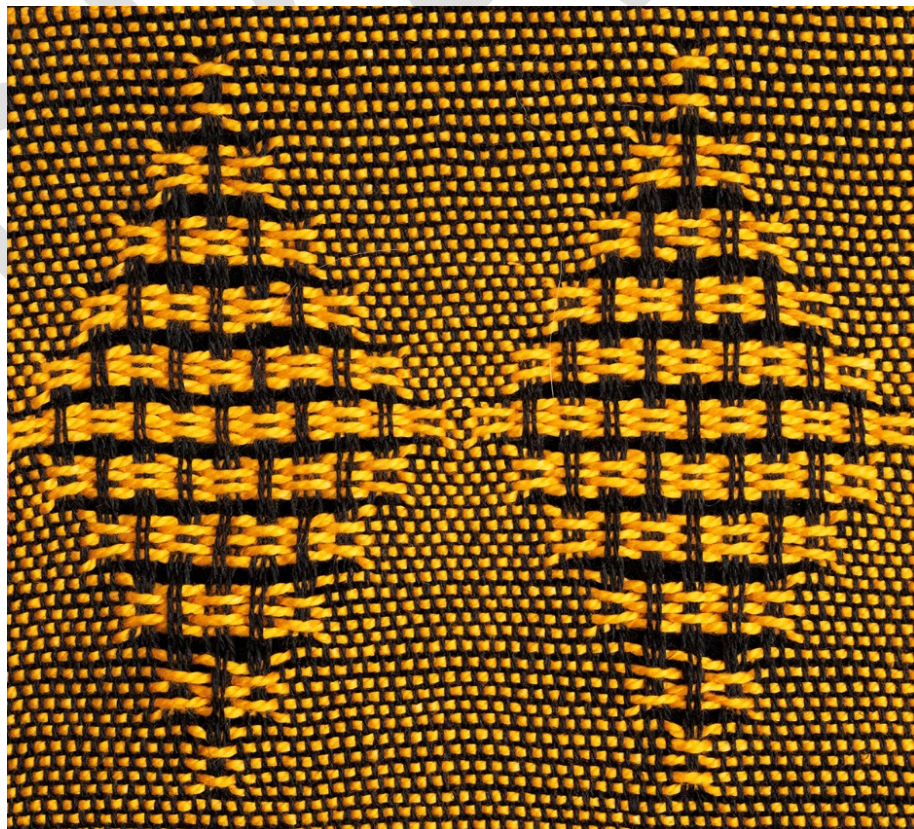
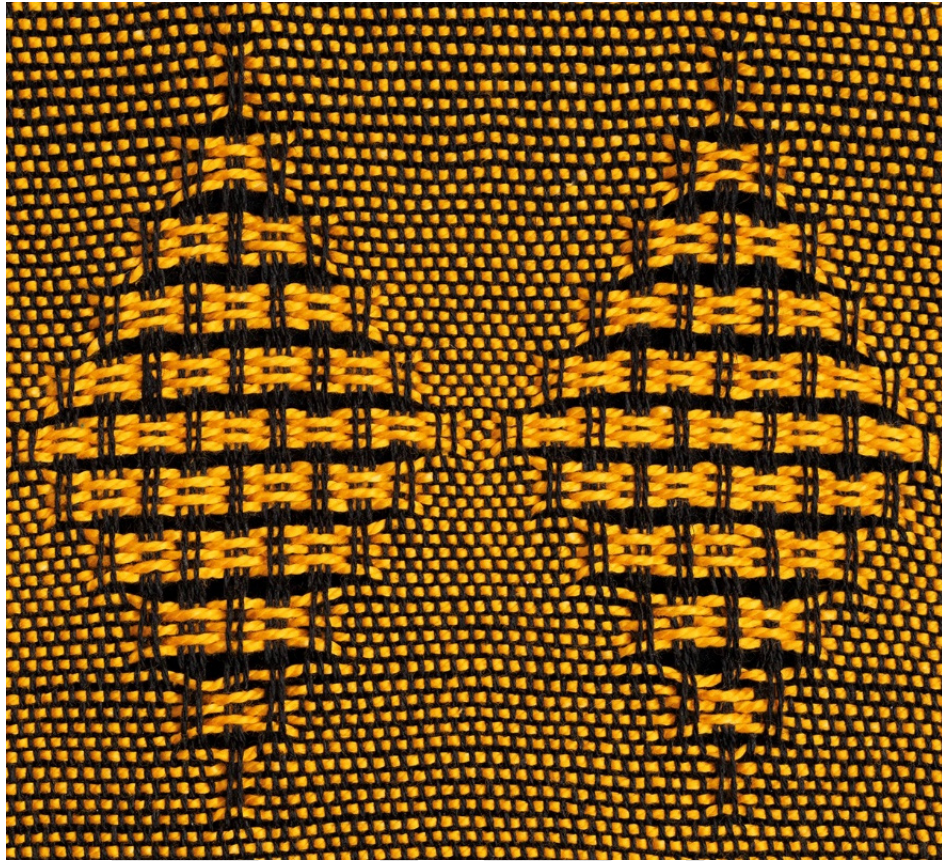


Since warp and weft floats with different tabbies can be combined, huck lace can be woven on any number of shafts. The drawdown below and the fabric that follows shows the blurring of huck and huck lace: there is a combination of blocks weaving warp and weft floats as we expect with huck lace, but also blocks weaving floats adjacent to those weaving plain weave as we expect with huck. Thus, the distinction between the two blurs.



Next are the two sides of the fabric with two repeats of the motif.

Being able to combine warp and weft floats on the same side of the fabric gives us the possibility of interesting designs.



16 Huck and Huck Lace

References

Black, Mary E. *New Key to Weaving*. New York, NY: MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1945, 1975 printing.

Emery, Irene. *The Primary Structure of Fabrics*. Washington, D.C.: The Textile Museum, 1980.

Strickler, Carol (ed.) *A Weaver's Book of 8-Shaft Patterns from the Friends of Handwoven*. Loveland, CO: Interweave Press, 1991.

DRAFT