

Spot Bronson

Emery Classification

Simple Weave: two elements (one warp, one weft). **Rectangular Float Weaves 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 of the same type – weft or warp floats – that cannot be combined in the treadling. With more shafts non-adjacent blocks can be treadled together. This structure **is not related** to Bronson lace (see entry) which is a unit weave, despite both structures having every other thread on shaft 1.

Fabric Characteristics

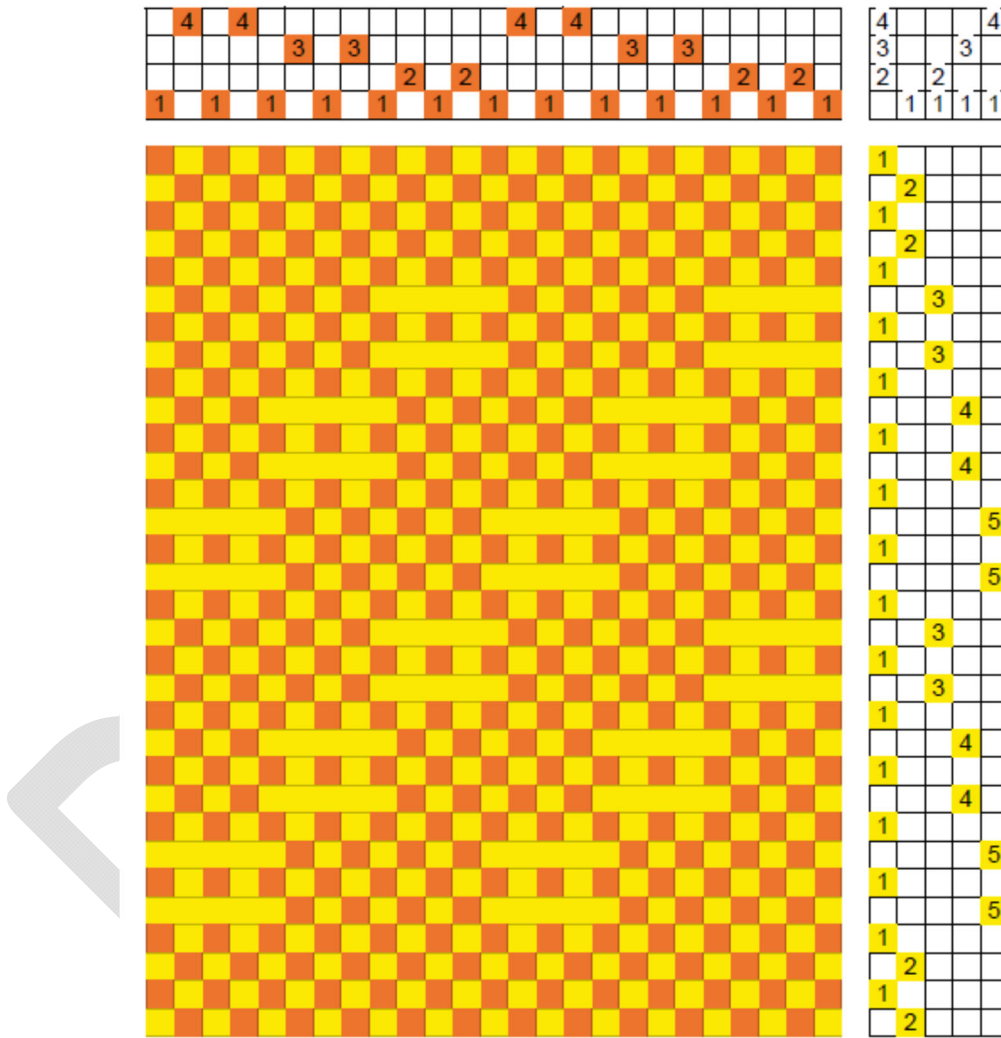
A distinguishing characteristic of spot Bronson fabric is that adjacent blocks overlap because they share a thread. Below is a fabric sample, showing the two sides. A warp block on one side is a weft block on the other side of the cloth. When one block weaves floats, the others weave plain weave.



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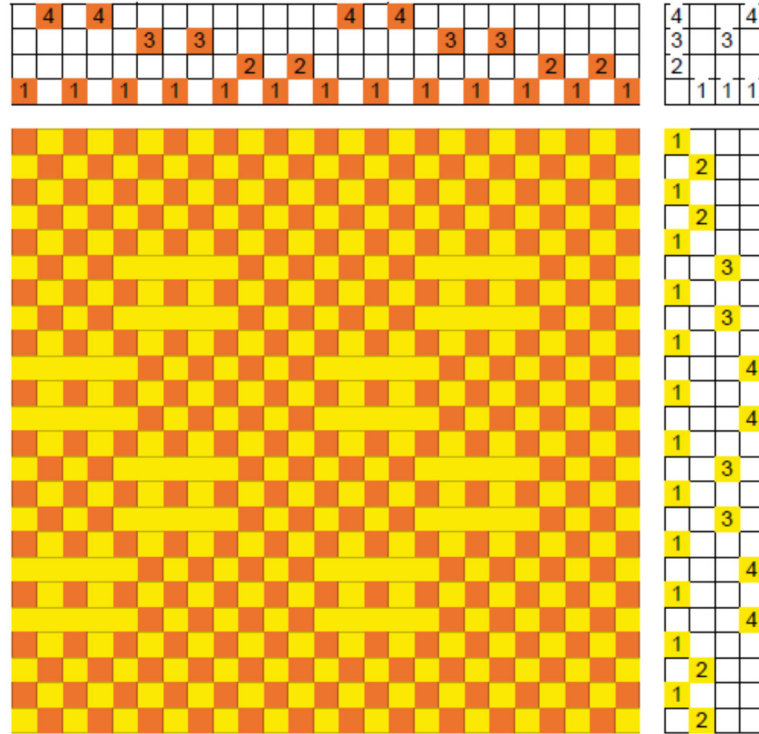
Drawdown

The *sinking shed* drawdown below shows the three blocks possible on spot Bronson.

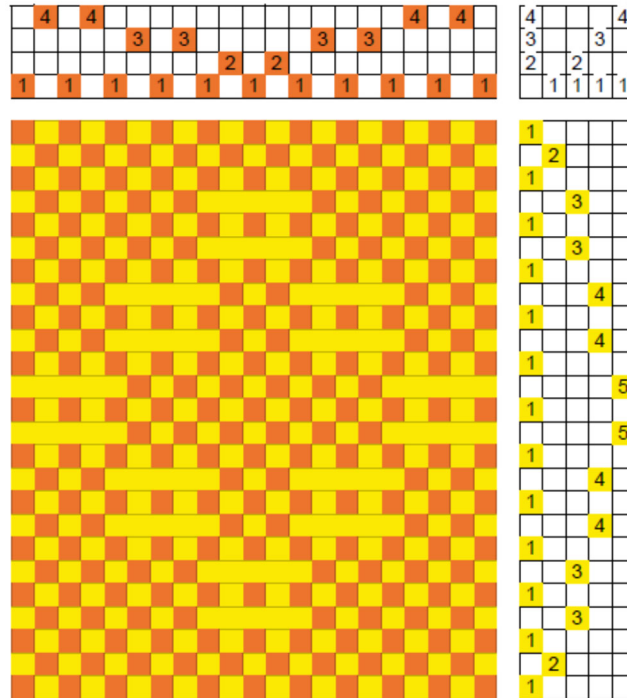


Plain weave can be woven across the fabric, by treading 1 vs. all pattern shafts. However, plain weave cannot be woven along the side. To obtain plain weave vertically, one block has to be sacrificed, as shown in the *sinking shed* drawdown that follows.

When threading spot Bronson, make sure there are enough heddles on shaft 1!

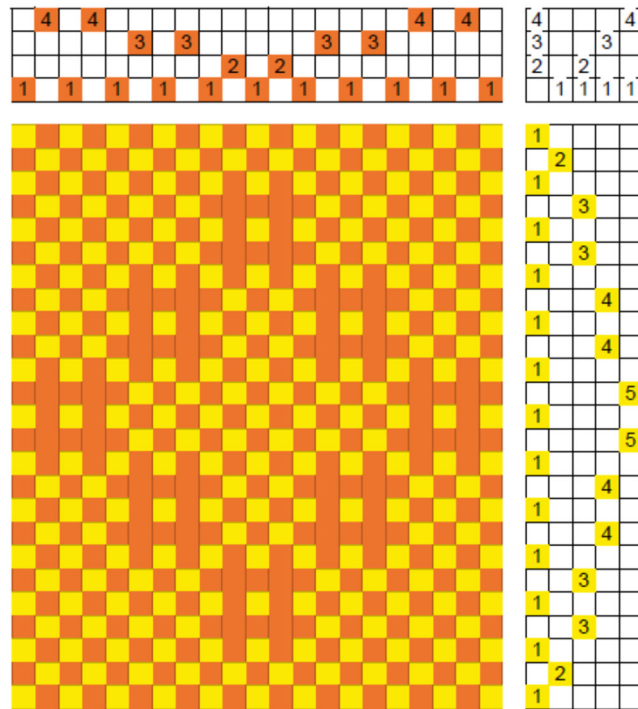


Three blocks, however, offer the possibility of more design options. Below is a drawdown (*sinking shed*) with the blocks in pointed order. It was used to weave the fabric shown on the first page.

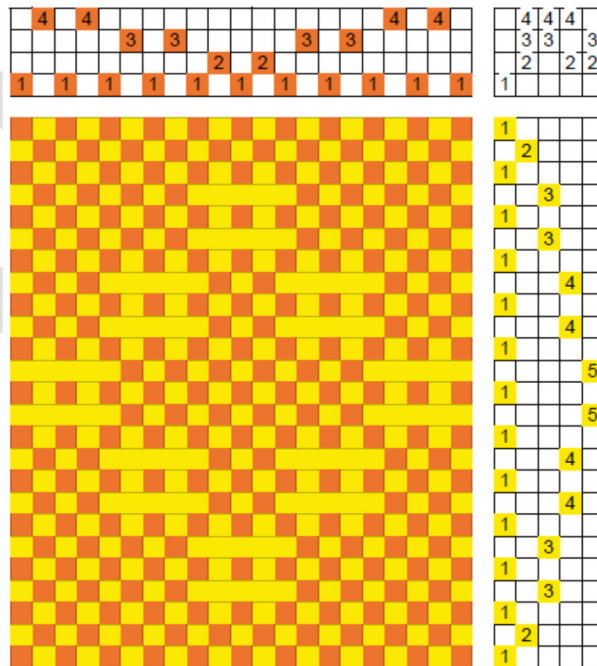


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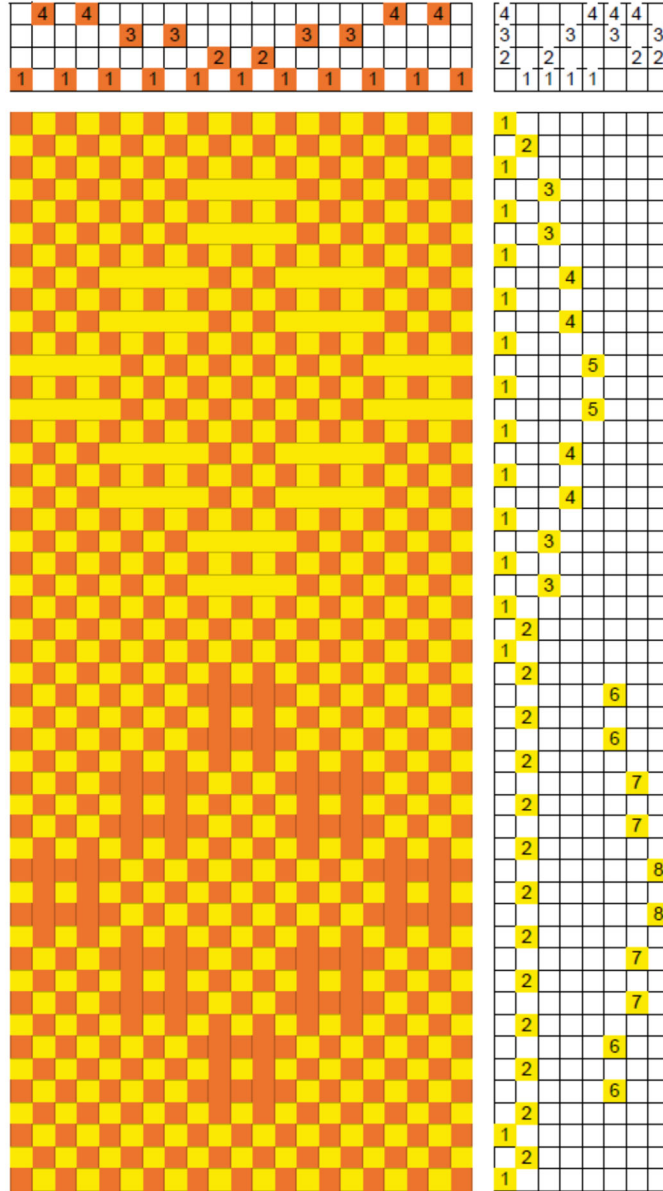
The other side of the fabric is shown in the drawdown below. It has the same treading steps for a *rising shed* loom, as expected.



The drawdown for a *rising shed* loom to weave the weft floats on top of the fabric (as viewed by the weaver at the loom) is shown below.



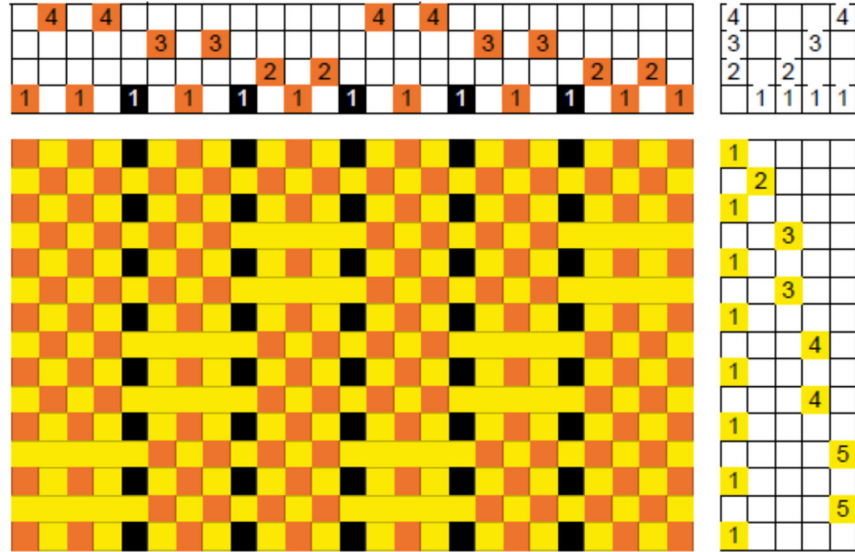
Both weft-float and warp-float can be woven on the same side of the fabric as shown below in the *sinking shed* drawdown. It is a combination of the two previous drawdowns. However, eight treadles are needed.



It can be woven on six treadles, by tying the tabbies as shown above, treadle 1 vs. all other shafts. Then, a direct tie up for shafts 2, 3, 4 and multiple treadling (using two feet) allows for all the combinations.

Function

Spot Bronson is a good structure for household textiles that need drape, curtains for example. It has more drape than Bronson lace or huck or huck lace because of the overlapping thread between blocks resulting from the one shared on shaft 1. This is shown as the black thread on the *sinking shed* drawdown below.



Sett

The sett for plain weave for the yarn to be used is a good place to start. The fabric is drapery, so to avoid too flimsy of a cloth, a slightly closer sett may be used for some applications.

Width of the Blocks

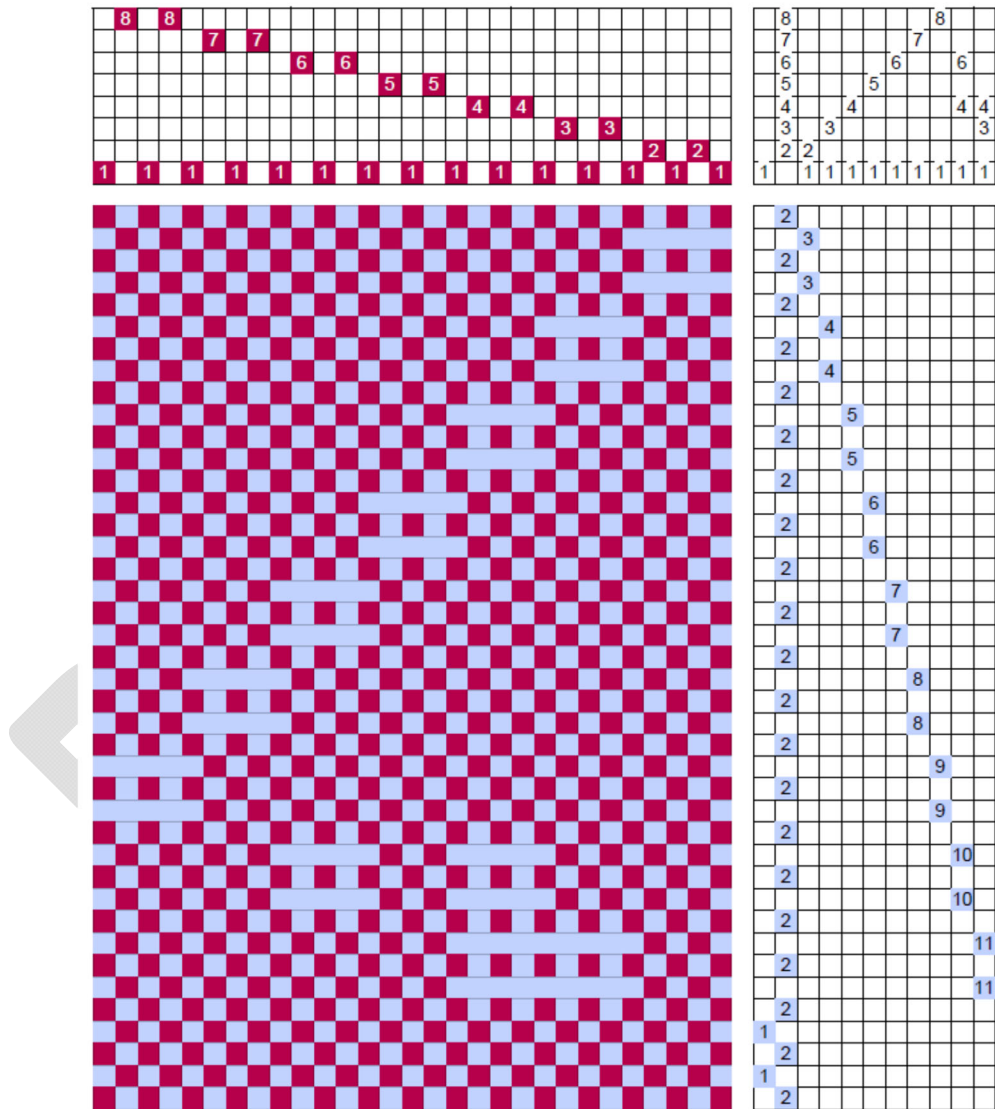
Even though I have used four-thread blocks (with a fifth shared with the adjacent block), the block can be any width; the length of the float determines how wide the block can be.

Number of Blocks Available

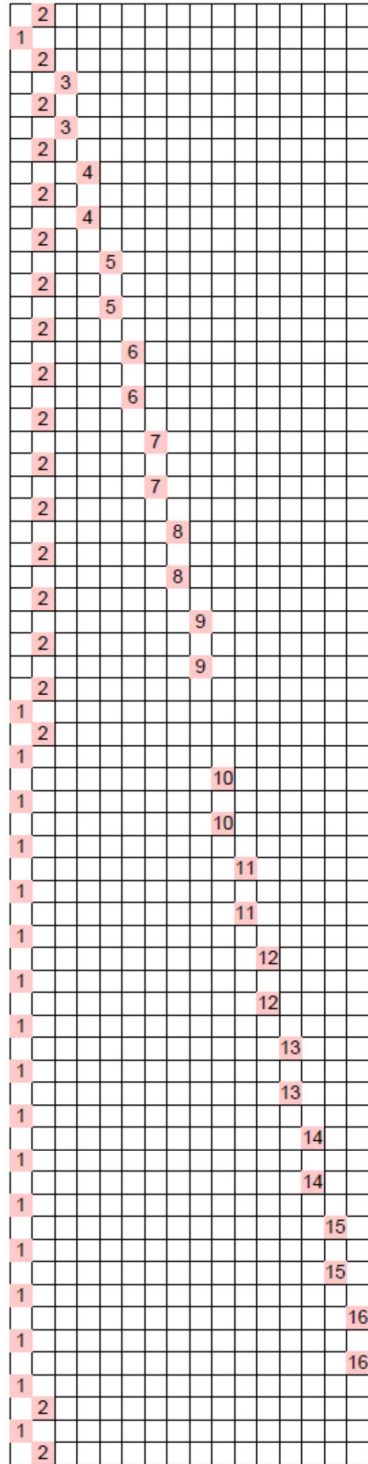
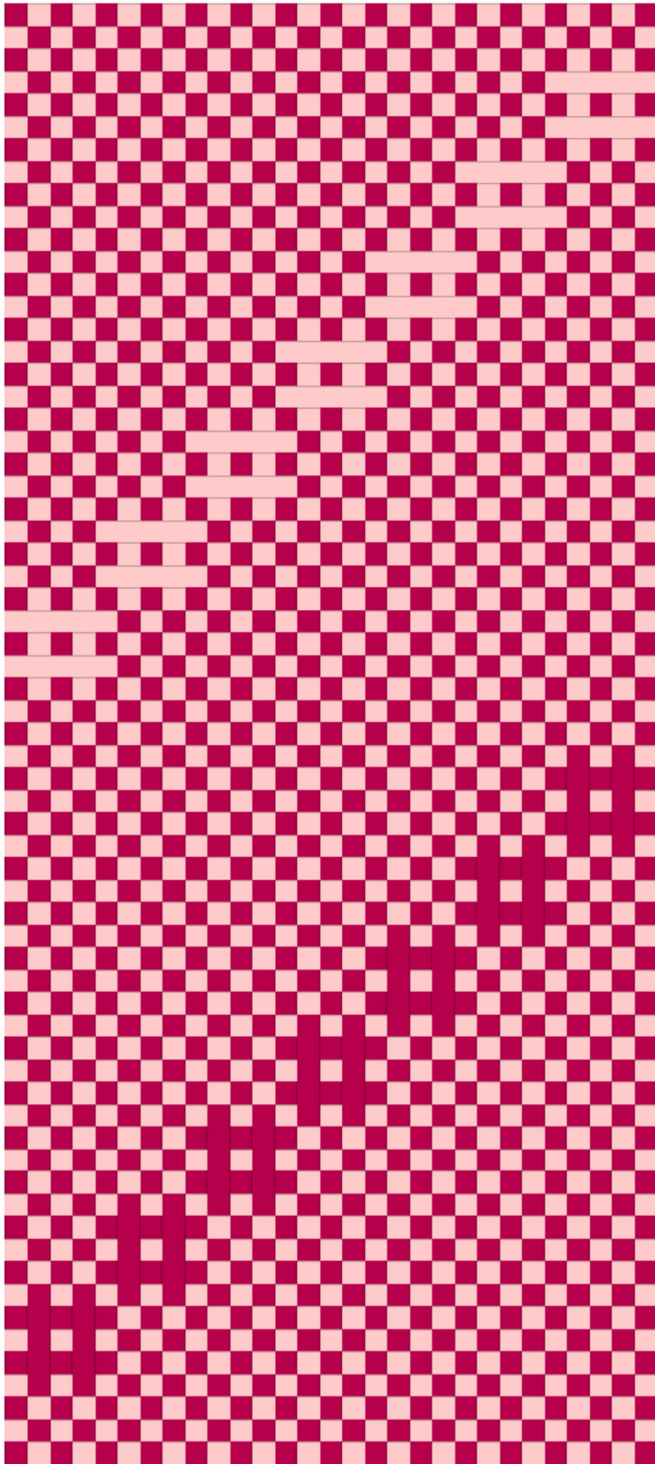
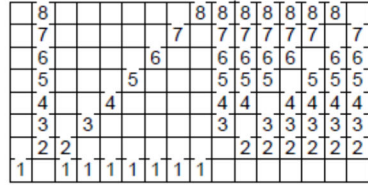
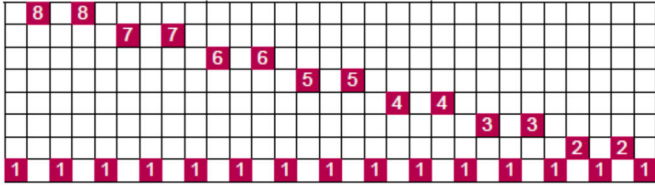
Shaft 1 is used in common with all blocks. Each additional shaft provides an additional block, three on four shafts, seven on eight shafts. However, one block can be eliminated to provide plain weave down the length of the fabric as we have already discussed.

Spot Bronson on More Shafts

The *sinking shed* drawdown below shows the seven blocks available on four shafts; it also shows that non-adjacent blocks can be combined in the treadling; in the example blocks C and E are treadled together. We also see why adjacent blocks cannot be combined, since they would form one continuous float across the two blocks.



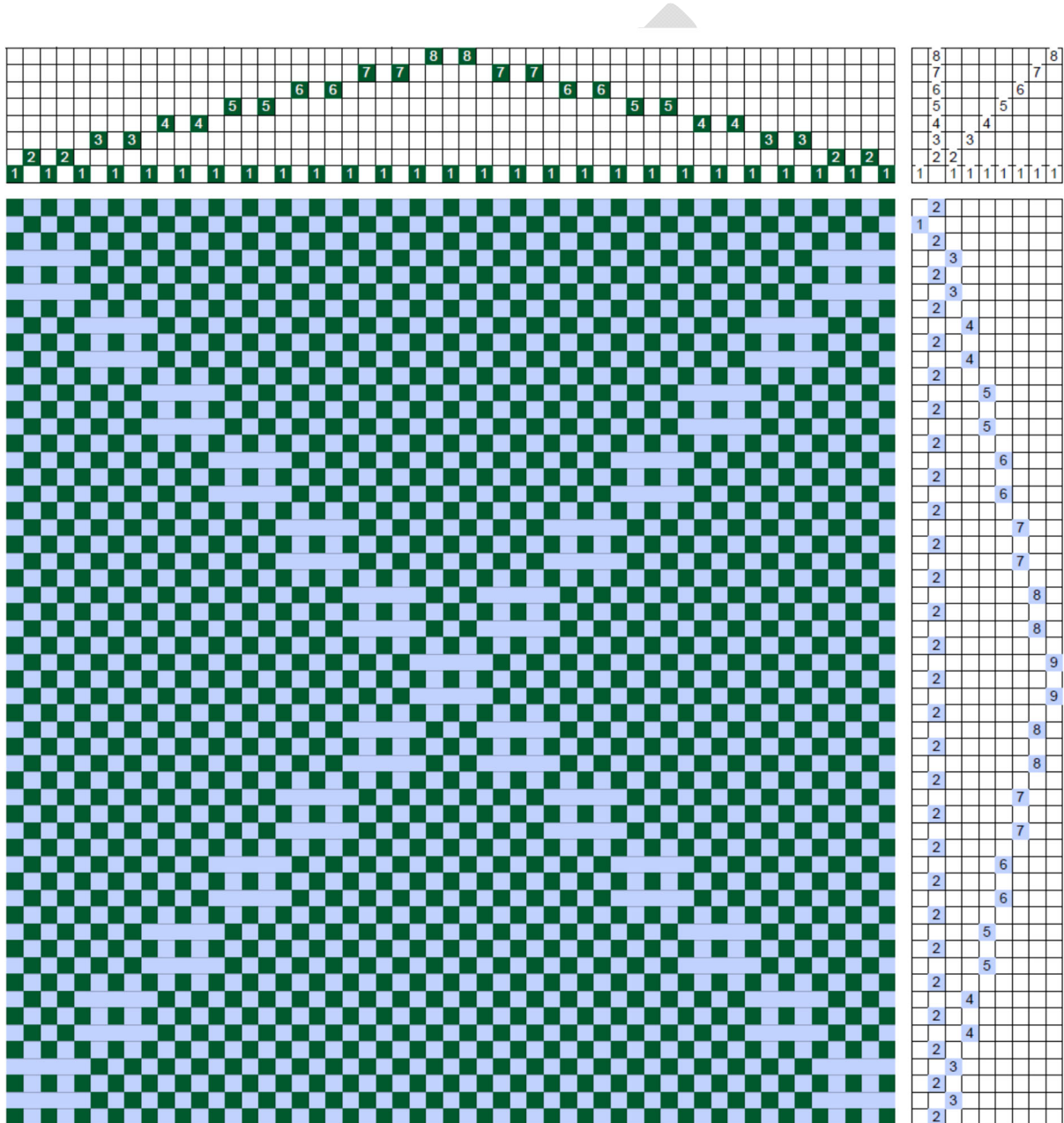
As in four shafts, blocks with warp and weft floats can be woven on the same side of the fabric, though warp floats also appear on the other side of the fabric woven with weft floats. The *sinking shed* drawdown showing weft and warp float blocks on the same side is below.

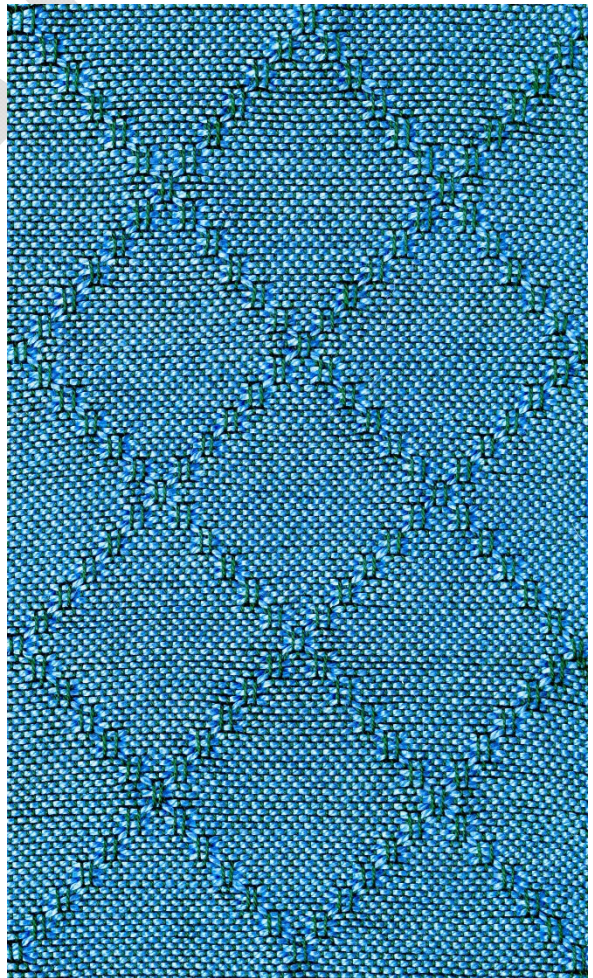
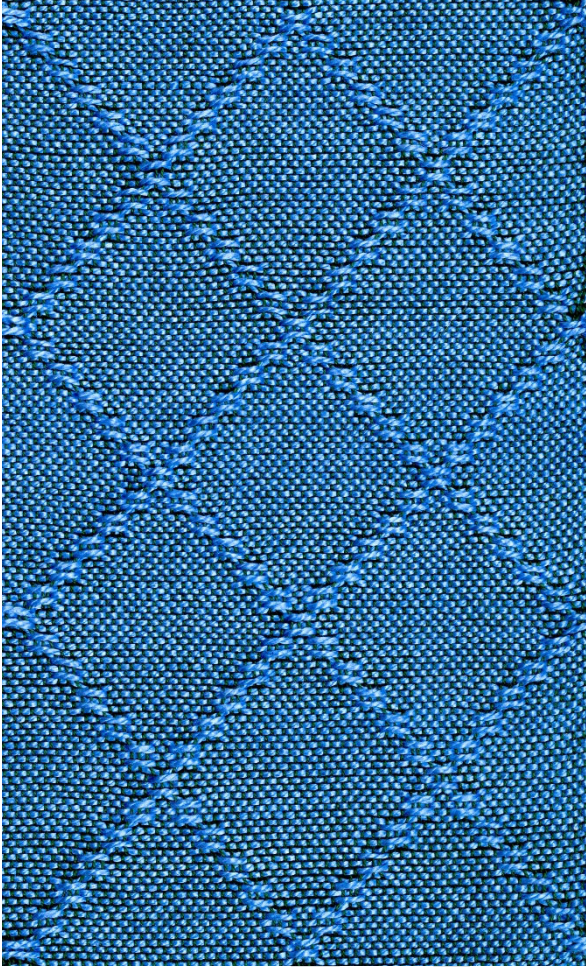


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Since sixteen treadles are needed, multiple treadling with two feet may not be enough to weave all the blocks. However, blocks can be combined as describe above.

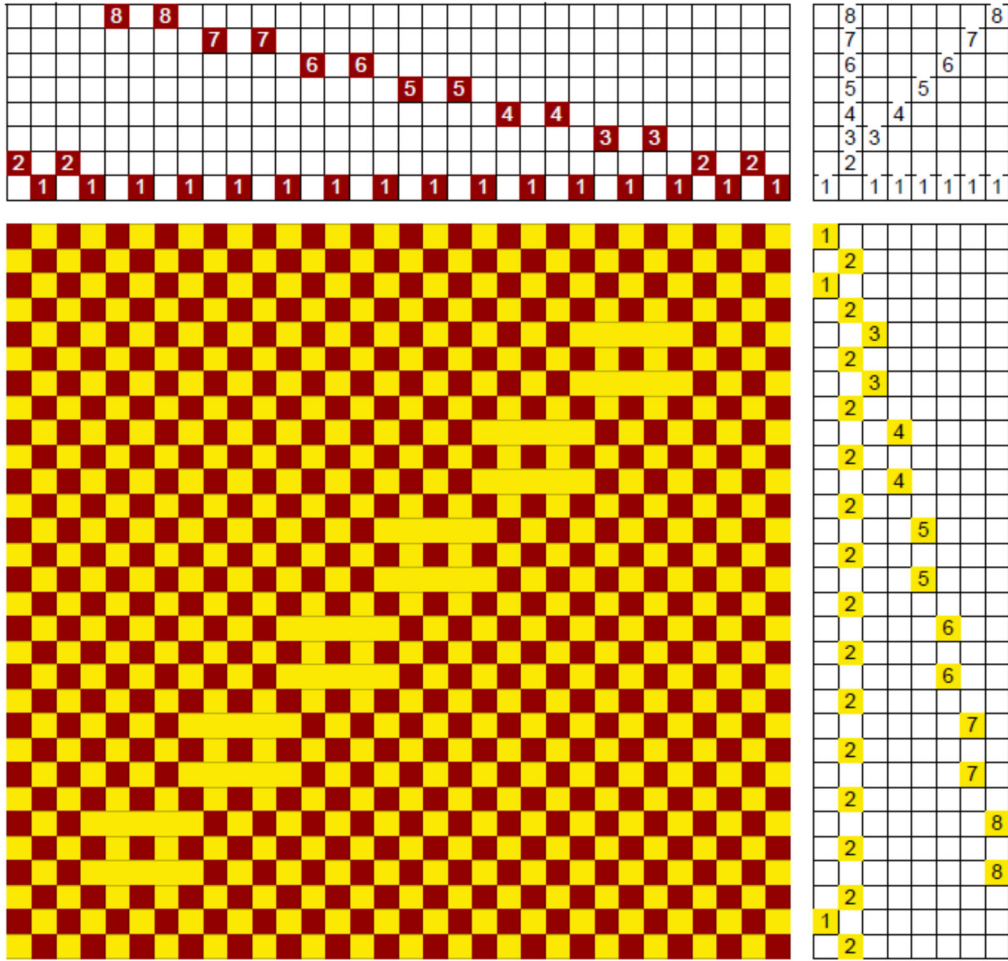
Below is the *sinking shed* drawdown used to weave the sample that follows, blocks with weft floats in the front, warp floats in the back.





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As in four shafts, one block can be sacrificed to obtain plain weave down the length of the fabric as shown in the sinking shed drawdown below.



While some of the other lacey weaves may be more versatile, spot Bronson has the best drapeyness for household textiles.

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.