

## Swedish Lace

### Emery Classification

**Simple Weave:** two elements (one warp, one weft). **Rectangular Float Weave Derived from Plain Weave.**

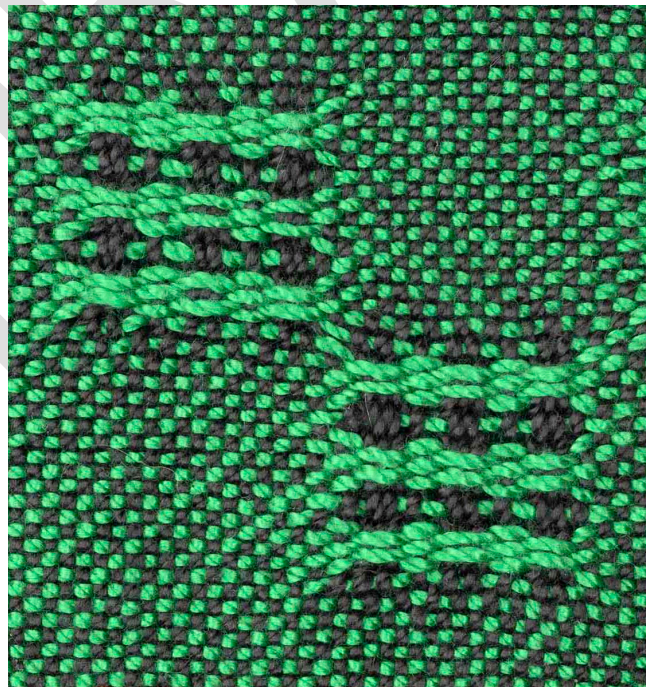
### Weaving Category

**Grouped warp and weft threads;** the structure is essentially huck organized in at least two block motifs, often three. Swedish Lace is generally woven on four shafts, but it could potentially be expanded to four as huck is.

### Fabric Characteristics

Below is the weft float side of a sample of Swedish lace.

Blocks of **huck** have an odd number of threads and, if repeated, are separated by the opposite tabby. In **Swedish Lace**, the blocks are considered to have six-thread to include the separating tabby.

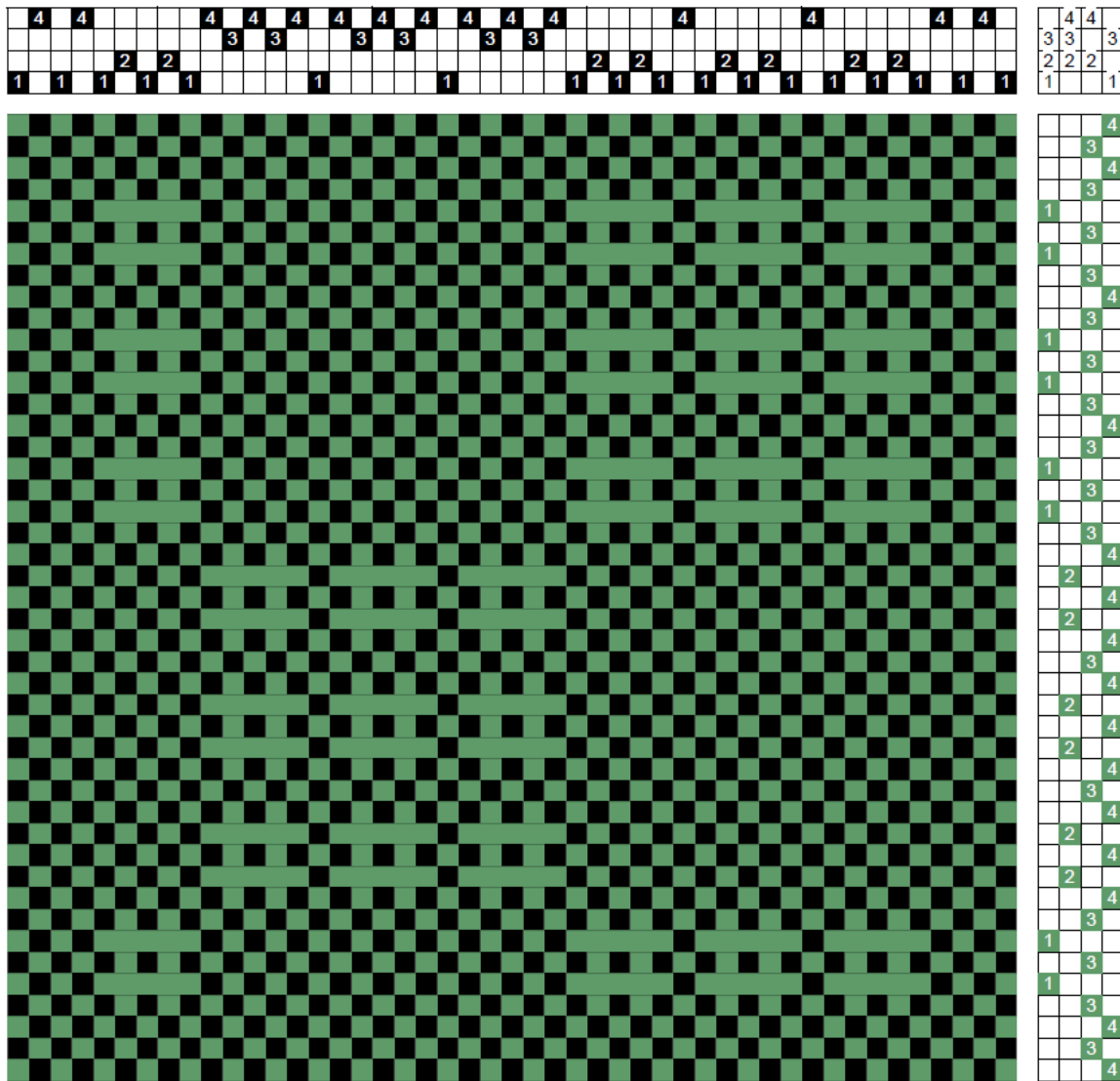


Mary Black in the *New Key to Weaving* (1975 printing from original 1945 copyright) says: “It is this sixth thread which, when crossed by a weft thread forms the little window between the units of the blocks which is a distinguishing feature of the weave.”

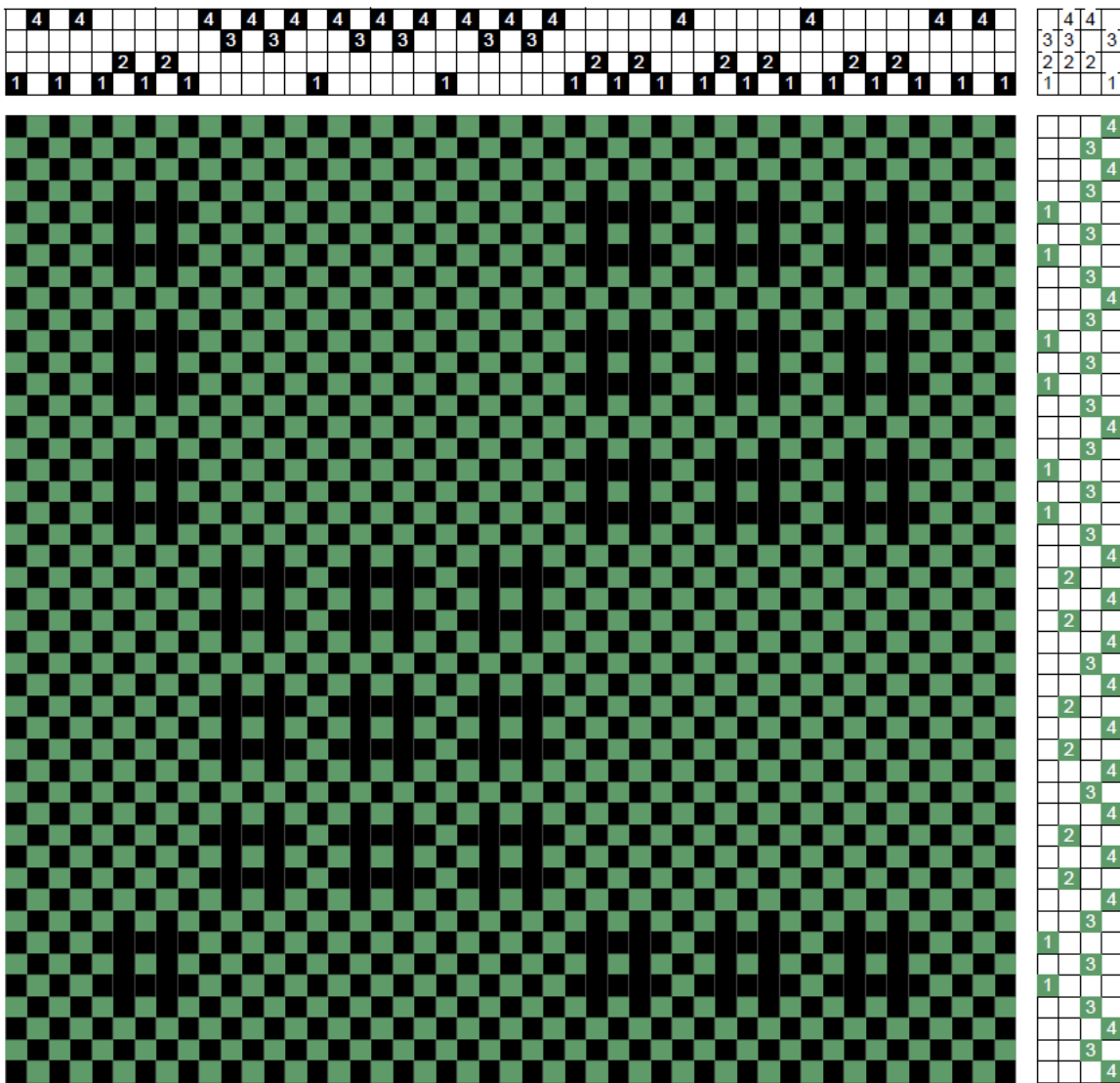
Whether we think of the structure as huck with repeated blocks or Swedish Lace, the outcome is the same.

### Traditional Swedish Lace Drawdown

Below is the (*sinking shed*) drawdown for the traditional three units per block, with only one partial repeat to show the transition but to avoid a drawdown too small to read.

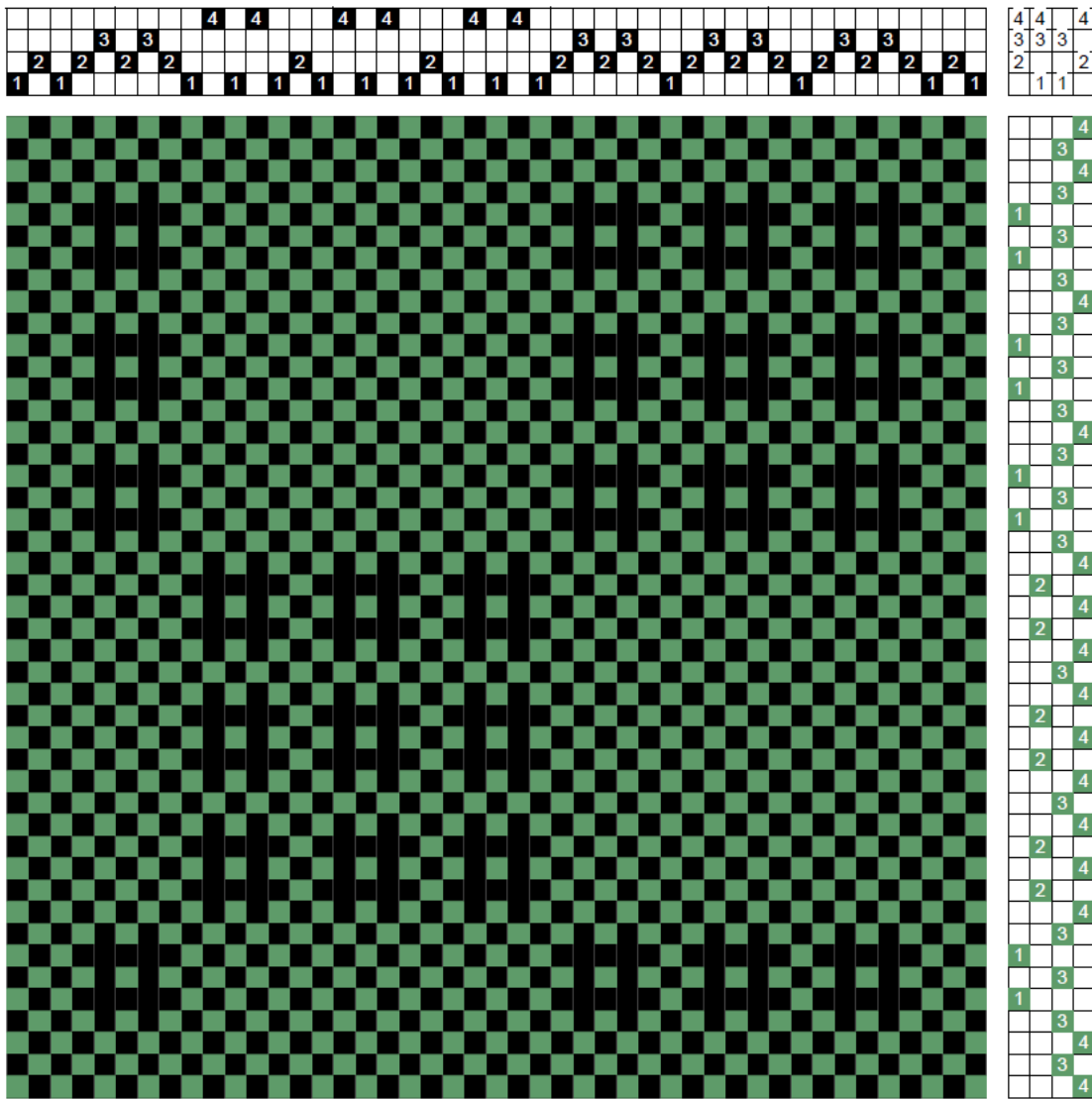


Here shafts 1 and 4 serve as the tabbies, shafts 2 and 3 as the pattern shafts. The drawdown shows the four areas of the fabric possible: 1) plain weave across the fabric, treadling odd vs. even; 2) plain weave down the length of the fabric or wherever 1, 4 are threaded; 3) three repeats of block A: 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 4, repeated two more times; 4) three repeats of block B: 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 4, 1, repeated two more times. When one block weaves floats, the other block weaves plain weave. The float blocks shown in the previous drawdown are weft floats; the other side of the fabric, with warp floats is shown by the *rising shed* drawdown below.





The *rising shed* drawdown below shows the warp float side of the fabric.



To weave the weft floats on the top of the fabric on the loom using a rising shed loom, the *following rising shed* drawdown can be used.





## **Sett**

As for huck, the basic sett is that for plain weave. Adjustments are made with a more open sett for more drape or a closer sett for a sturdier fabric.

## **Width of Block**

A Swedish lace block is defined to be six threads wide, to include the alternate tabby separating a unit for its adjacent one. However, when blocks are switched, the sixth thread is not needed, as the alternate tabby is used by the adjacent block. The drawdown makes this clear.

## **Number of Blocks Available**

Two blocks are available in Swedish lace which is traditionally woven on four shafts: two shafts for the tabbies, and the other two for the pattern shafts, one per block.

It doesn't matter whether you like to think of Swedish lace as its own structure, or a specific motif based on huck. The resulting fabric is lacey, can be drapable and forms interesting motifs.

## 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.

Petrini, Marcy. <https://www.marcypetrini.com/marcy-s-blogs/340-blog-102-Swedish-Lace-or>