

County Plaid Kitchen Towel

(Instructions for 15" and 20" Weaving Widths)

by
Darrin Hardman



Specifications for 2 Towels

Specifications are for **Standard Size (15" weaving width)**, and changes for **Generous Size (20" weaving width)** are in parentheses.

Equipment Rigid-heddle loom with at least 15" (20") weaving width; 7.5- or 8-dent heddle; 2 stick shuttles; tapestry needle.

Yarn Worsted weight, 100% unmercerized cotton yarn, such as Lily Sugar 'n Cream in Red 87 yds (124 yds) and Ecru 283 yds (404 yds).

Warp: Red 74 yds (109 yds).
Ecru 206 yds (289 yds).

Weft: Red 13 yds (15 yds).
Ecru 77 yds (115 yds).

Warp Length 116 (144) ends 88" (98") (includes 22" loom waste and 20% shrinkage and take up).

Structure Plain weave.

Setts Warp: 7.5 or 8 epi.
Weft: 6-7 ppi.

Dimensions Width in Heddle: 15¼" (19½") in a 7.5-dent heddle, or 14½" (18") in an 8-dent heddle.

Woven Length: 28" (32") measured under tension on the loom.

Finished Size: 13½" x 24" (16" x 26") after wet finishing.

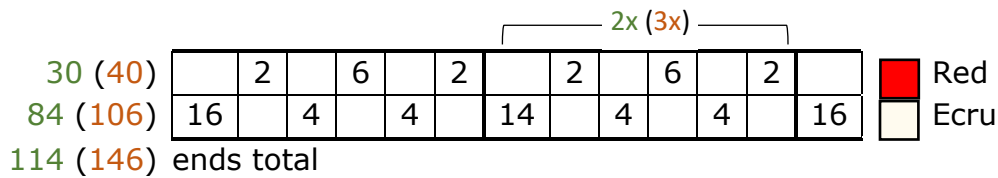


Direct Warping Instructions

Instructions are for **Standard Size (15" weaving width)**, and changes for **Generous Size (20" weaving width)** are in parentheses.

- Step 1: Set up the loom for direct warping by placing the warping peg 88" (98") away from the rear apron rod.
- Step 2: Center for a width of 15¼" (19¼") in a 7.5-dent heddle or 14½" (18") in an 8-dent heddle and warp according to the warp color order in Figure 1.
- Step 3: Wind the warp on the back beam, adding packing paper between the layers.
- Step 4: Move one thread from each slot to the hole to its left.
- Step 5: Tie the warp on the front apron rod and adjust for even tension.

Figure 1: Warp Color Order



Watch the basic warp color changes video at <https://www.rigidheddleweaver.com/wovenwordsblog/basic-warp-color-changes>



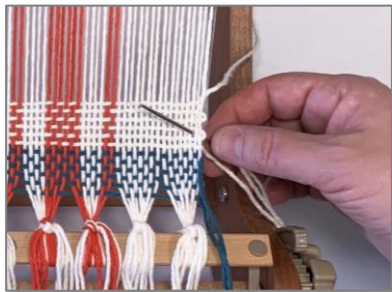
Weaving Instructions

- Step 6: Wind a shuttle with scrap yarn and plain weave a 1½" header to spread the warp evenly.
- Step 7: Wind one shuttle with Red and another shuttle with Ecrú.
- Follow the weft color order in Figure 2, weaving in plain weave at 6ppi. Leave a tail at least five times the width of the warp at the beginning and end to hemstitch over 2 warp threads and 2 weft threads (see Figures 3-4).
- Alternate sides when starting a new color.
- Work a ply-split join at the selvedge for each color change (see Figure 5).
- Weave 3" of scrap yarn or insert spacers between each towel for fringe.

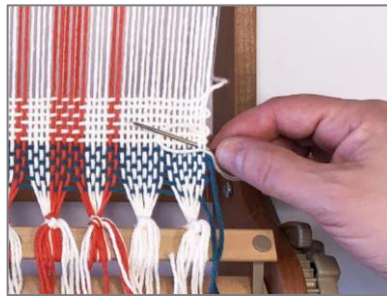
Figure 2: Weft Color Order

Red 	Ecrú
	14 picks
2 picks	
	4 picks
6 picks	
	4 picks
2 picks	
	16 (20) inches
2 picks	
	4 picks
6 picks	
	4 picks
2 picks	
	13 picks

Figure 3: Hemstitching at the Beginning of the Towel



Thread a tapestry needle with the long tail. Insert the needle under the fabric diagonally, catching 2 warp threads and 2 weft threads. Pull until snug.



Insert the needle under the same 2 warp threads. Bring the needle up through the warp threads and over the tail. Pull until snug.



Continue stitching until the end of the warp. Needle weave the tail into the fabric.

Figure 4: Hemstitching at the End of the Towel



Thread a tapestry needle with the long tail. Insert the needle under the fabric diagonally, catching 2 warp threads and 2 weft threads. Pull until snug.



Insert the needle under the same 2 warp threads. Bring the needle up through the warp threads and over the tail. Pull until snug.



Continue stitching until the end of the warp. Needle weave the tail into the fabric.

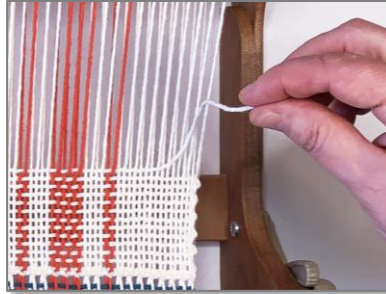


Watch the basic hemstitching video at <https://www.rigidheddleweaver.com/wovenwordsblog/basic-hemstitching>

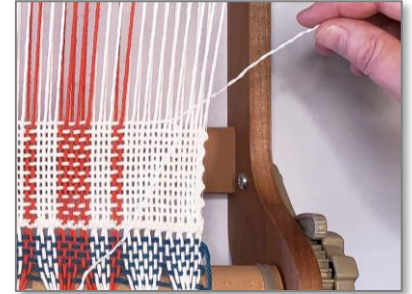
Figure 5: Ply-Split Joins



Lay in the last pick as usual. Cut the yarn from the shuttle, leaving a 6" tail.



Open the same shed as the last pick. Pull the weft tail from the shed about 1/2" from the selvedge.



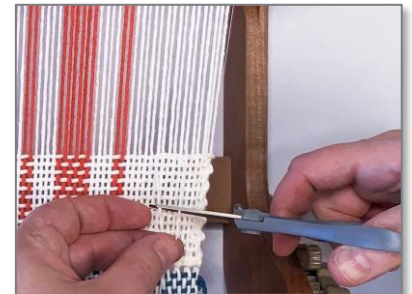
Twist the tail end yarn and pull out half of the plies (this yarn has 4 plies total).



Lay one half of the ply back in the shed. Wrap the ply around the selvedge and place it back in the same shed so that it exits the warp 1/2" beyond the other ply.



Beat (gently press) the weft into place.



Trim the tails to 1" and leave in place.



Watch the ply-split join video at

<https://www.rigidheddleweaver.com/wovenwordsblog/ply-split-join>

Finishing Instructions

- Step 8: Remove the towels from the loom and cut apart, trimming fringe to $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- Step 9: Machine wash and tumble dry on medium with a full load of household laundry (similar colors).
- Step 10: Trim tails flush with the cloth.
- Step 10: If needed, steam press fringe flat and trim linty edges.

