

Spaced-Out Felted Scarf

Designed by Jane Patrick

Here's the basic idea: spaced warps and wefts are woven in an open weave to create a grid. The scarf is then felted in the washing machine. The felting makes a fabric that is interesting and never the same from one end of the scarf to the other and from crafter to crafter. This is a great project for beginners because it is so forgiving. It doesn't matter if the edges are even or if the spacing between woven and unwoven areas is consistent. It is all rather organic with such fun results.

Description Spaced warps and wefts, plain weave, felted.

Finished Size 5-1/2" x 60"

Equipment Cricket Loom, 8-dent heddle, warping peg, threading hook, 2 shuttles. Two 1" x 9" strips of thin tagboard or heavy paper, optional.

Warp and Weft Brown Sheep's Nature Spun Sportweight Wool (184 yards per ball). 1 ball each. We used Boysenberry, color 157S (color A) and Limestone, color 144S (color B). Any similar size wool yarn (not super wash) that felts will work.

Warp Length: 2-3/4 yards, which allows 18" loom waste and take-up.

Width in Reed: 9"

Total warp ends: 40 (24 color A and 16 color B).

EPI: 8 in threaded areas.

Threading Guide

	Repeat 2 times				End	
Color A	8*				8	24
Color B			8			16
Skip Slots		4		4		
	Total ends					40

*Note: When peg warping, you will thread 4 slots for a total of 8 threads.

Weaving Weave a balanced weave. That is, weave as many weft rows (or picks) per inch as warp threads per inch. In this project, 8 weft rows should give a balanced weave. The spaces between the warp and weft threads should be square. If there is any unevenness in the weaving, it will be completely masked when the fabric is felted. This is one of the reasons this project is so great for beginners. Once you have it woven and felted no one will ever know if your selvages were uneven or your beat somewhat irregular.

Weave in this way for the length of the scarf: weave an inch, leave an inch unwoven, weave an inch, leave an inch unwoven, and so on. Alternate stripes of color A and color B throughout. To leave an inch unwoven, insert a 1" strip of cardboard the width of the weaving and then weave the next inch. Insert a second strip of cardboard. After weaving the



next inch, take out the first cardboard strip and insert it in the shed, leapfrogging the two pieces of cardboard between each section of weaving.

Weave until you can't weave any longer. Your weaving will seem overly long, but once it is washed, it will shrink about 20% in length and about 50% in width.

Finishing Remove the fabric from the loom and carefully lay it out on a table or floor. Trim all weft tails to about 1" (if you leave them too long, they will mat and felt into the scarf). A twisted, fairly short fringe will contain the fringe during the felting process.

Felting the Scarf If you've ever accidentally thrown your beloved wool sweater in the washing machine and found that what went in a size 12 came out a size 6, then you're an experienced, if accidental, felter. This is what you are going to do to the scarf—on purpose. To prepare the scarf for washing, roll it up in cotton dishtowels, being careful not to let it bunch up on itself. Make sure that there is a layer of towel between each layer of scarf, otherwise the parts will felt together. When you reach the end, make sure you have the entire end of the scarf contained within the towel. Tie the bundle in several places with string and place in a laundry bag. Wash the scarf bundle on the hot water setting in your washing machine. I used a front-load washing machine and didn't check it during the wash. For top-load machines, I suggest you use a gentle cycle and check your scarf mid-way through the cycle as top-load machines are a bit less gentle and the felting process can happen quite quickly. Once you feel that it is sufficiently felted, remove the scarf from the machine, rinse in lukewarm water, and lay flat to dry. Steam press using a lot of pressure. Trim ends and fringe as necessary.