

# Inkle and Tablet Weaving

## Surface Decoration – Pickup Work and Brocading

### Pickup work vs. Brocade

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Pickup</b></li><li>• Manipulates <b>Warp</b> threads</li><li>• Parallel to Warp</li><li>• Reversible design (front &amp; back)</li><li>• Floating threads front/back</li><li>• Inkle weaving only</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Brocade</b></li><li>• Manipulates <b>Weft</b> threads</li><li>• Parallel to Weft (or other)</li><li>• One sided design (front only)</li><li>• Floating threads for pattern only</li><li>• Tablet or Inkle weaving</li></ul>
--	--

### Pickup work

#### Basics

Warp threads are brought up – thus not locked down – float on top

- Warp threads are often exchanged with each other, giving a reversible pattern
- If not exchanged (both stay on top), it gives a 3D pattern
  - This looks really good with all warp threads the same color

Pattern threads often are:

- Non heddle threads
- Heaver than the background threads
- Warped 2 to 1 (see Basketweave / Diamond Pattern)

#### Bar pattern

Bar pattern warp – Alternate colors 1 and 1 (X=color #1, 0=color #2)

Unheddled	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Heddled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- Lends itself to zigzag, and chain patterns
- Background is bars

#### Diamond / Basketweave Pattern

Diamond pattern warp – Alternate colors 2 then 1 (X=color #1, 0=color #2)

Unheddled	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	0
Heddled	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0

- Lends itself to angles
- Determine which color to pick up each time
  - Suppress color as desired
- No long floats !!!

# Inkle and Tablet Weaving

## Surface Decoration – Pickup Work and Brocading

### Brocade

#### Basics

Brocading is done with one or more supplemental weft thread(s). The brocade thread sits on top of the warp threads, forming patterns on top of the weave. The brocade threads sit inside the weaving between the warp sheds when not in use.

Multiple brocade shuttles can be used, either supplying multicolor patterns, or multiple (side by side) individual patterns on the weave.

#### All My Wefts

The normal or “binding” weft thread is worked as usual. Crossing completely between the sheds of the weaving on each pass. It should be the same thread as the warped border.

The brocade or “supplemental” weft thread(s) alternate from between the sheds with the binder weft, and above the warp threads. They do not necessarily go all the way back and forth between the selvedges on each pass.

#### Yarn

The brocade yarn is usually a softer, fluffier yarn than the warp. This allows the brocade threads to compress when in hiding, and fluff out to cover the warp when on top of the weaving.

A hard brocade yarn can also be used, to provide a more disjointed pattern.

#### Turning the Weft

Brocade wefts can be brought out to the selavage each pass, showing the brocade yarn on the sides of the work.

Or the brocade yarn turns can be hidden by plunging the shuttle completely through the threads at the point of turning. This leaves stranded threads at the back of the work, but brocading generally is worked with a right side and wrong side, so this is an ideal way to prevent the color from showing at the selvages.

Brocading is traditionally worked horizontally to the warp (the same orientation as the weft thread). But once brought to the top of the weaving, the brocade thread(s) can float until they are returned to hiding some rows later. This allows for diagonal or vertical brocading.

# Inkle and Tablet Weaving

## Surface Decoration – Pickup Work and Brocading

### Bibliography / Webography

Atwater, Mary Meigs. How to Weave on the Inkle Loom, Shuttle Craft, 1941, 12 pages.

Available at: [http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/monographs/amm\\_inkl.pdf](http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/monographs/amm_inkl.pdf)

Most of these work in on pickup work for the Inkle loom. Knowledge of general weaving terms might help.

Bradley, Lavinia. Inkle Weaving. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982.

This book includes all the techniques covered in this class and more. Includes several different pickup work schemes, including one for picking out letters. It's great for flipping through looking for ideas.

Bress, Helene. Inkle Weaving. Rockville, MD: Flower Valley Press 1975, revised and updated 1990.

ISBN 0962054313

**This is a really great book**, it's got everything you need from start to finish. It includes all the techniques covered in this class and more. Lots of black & white and color pictures of inkles **INCLUDING** the warping pattern for each.

Cook, Michael. Tablet-Woven Brocade, WeaveZine, May 14, 2008

[http://www.weavezine.com/summer2008/wz\\_su08\\_MichaelCook.php](http://www.weavezine.com/summer2008/wz_su08_MichaelCook.php)

Smith, Frances B. Inkle Loom Weaving. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. 1976.

ISBN 0-8069-5348-9

Step by step detail of several different projects.

Tucker, Calvin (THL Shan D'Er of Al Iskandaryan). Patterning on Woven Bands.

Shan's Celtic Knotwork class provides great detail on diamond pattern pickup work!

Tidball, Harriet. Weaving Inkle Bands. Washington: Shuttle Craft Books, Incorporated. 1969

ISBN: 0916658279

Good general coverage of Inkle topics, esp. pickup work, brocade, and fringe.

Eve the Just, Pick-Up Inkle Weaving Techniques [www.norsegirl.com/pickuplearn.html](http://www.norsegirl.com/pickuplearn.html)

Good info and graphics on pickup work on the inkle loom.

Apinis-Herman, Anita. Latvian Band Weaving Using Lettering [www.weavershand.com/aahlatvianinkle.pdf](http://www.weavershand.com/aahlatvianinkle.pdf)

Yes, you can weave letters on the inkle loom too! Good info on pickup work.

The Braid Society at [www.braidsociety.com](http://www.braidsociety.com)

The Braid Society covers "narrow wares" - looping, braiding, kumihimo, tablet, inkle, lucet, ply splitting, finger weaving, and even sprang. The Society is sponsoring a mailing list that is open to members and non-members alike. The topics of discussion are expected to be anything and everything to do with narrow wares.

On-Line Digital Archive of Documents on Weaving and Related Topics at

[www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/index.html](http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/index.html)

A great resource with PDFs of out of copyright books, pamphlets, and weaving periodicals.

My weaving webpages: [lynnette.housezacharia.com/Weaving](http://lynnette.housezacharia.com/Weaving)