



SPACED-OUT FELTED SCARF

for harness loom or rigid heddle loom

Designed by Jane Patrick

I designed this scarf for the Weave-a-Scarf-in-a-Day workshop I taught at the TNNA conference in Long Beach in January. It is easy for beginners, but has appeal to more seasoned weavers as well. 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. I love the way 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. Believe it or not, I designed, warped, and wove this scarf in an evening—and threw it into the wash as I went to bed.



Fabric Description: Spaced warps and wefts, plain weave, felted.

Finished Size: 5.5" x 72".

Equipment: Table loom, floor loom, or rigid heddle loom with at least a 9" weaving width. Two 1" x 9" strips of cardboard.

Warp and Weft: Brown Sheep's Nature Spun Sportweight Wool (184 yards per ball). 1 ball each of purple, Boysenberry (color 157S) and green, Limestone (color 144S). Any similar size wool yarn that felts will work.

Warp Length: 120", which allows 18" loom waste and take up on a rigid heddle loom. If you are weaving on a floor loom, you should allow another 12 inches, or whatever you generally allow (you may need another ball of yarn of each color, depending on the additional length).

Width in Reed: 9".

Total warp ends: 50 (30 purple and 20 green).

Ends per inch: Use a 10-dent reed or 10-dent rigid heddle reed.

Threading Guide:

Purple	1 inch 10 ends				1 inch 10 ends				1 inch 10 ends
Green			1 inch 10 ends				1 inch 10 ends		
Open		Skip 10 dents		Skip 10 dents		Skip 10 dents		Skip 10 dents	

Note: in a rigid heddle reed, you will either thread *or* skip both slots and holes, for a width of 1".

Weaving: Weave a balanced weave. That is, weave as many weft rows (or picks) per inch as warp threads per inch. In this project, ten picks per inch should give a balanced weave. The spaces between the warp and weft threads should be square.

TALK: THE EDITOR SPOUTS OFF

Dear Weavers and Spinners,

I always start the New Year with a list of plans, projects I want to weave, books I hope to read, people I want to see. It's not too long before reality sets in, and I struggle with all the things I want to do, need to do, should do. I've discovered after much trial and error—and don't think I have arrived because I haven't—that first I must decide what's important. Everything falls into place if you know what matters most to you. Below are ten actions that will help you to seize the day and start making your goals a reality.

Happy New Year and
Happy Weaving,

P.S. To check my progress, visit my blog at schachtspindle.com/blog/violetrose.html

1. Determine what's important.
2. Move your loom (craft) to where you live, or, make a specific space such as a studio for your craft.
3. Get up a half hour earlier every day.
4. Spend time planning.
5. Make to-do lists.
6. Impose deadlines.
7. Check on progress.
8. Use resources.
9. Keep a journal.
10. Learn the 2 letter word, "no".

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SPACED-OUT FELTED SCARF, CONTINUED

You can also use a ruler as you weave to see if you are weaving the correct number of picks per inch. 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. I alternated stripes of purple and green throughout. To leave an inch unwoven, I inserted a 1" strip of cardboard the width of the weaving and then wove the next inch and inserted a second strip of cardboard. After weaving the next inch, I took out the first cardboard strip and inserted it in the shed, in essence leapfrogging the two pieces of cardboard between each inch 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). I recommend a twisted, fairly short fringe. I left my fringe too long and it matted up more than I had hoped.



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 your 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.

DEAR TABBY

Dear Tabby,

I'm having trouble with my edges pulling in and the selvedge threads breaking. Can you help?

--Frustrated in Vegas

Dear Frustrated,

Almost always broken warp threads at the edges are caused by too much draw-in. When you beat, the draw-in puts more strain on the edges, and with excessive draw-in, the selvages will break. To solve this problem, leave more weft in the shed. Usually a 45% angle is sufficient. A good way to check for draw-in is to bring your beater forward to the fell of your weaving and see if the edge warps are in line with the beater. If the edges are angled in, it means your warp is drawing in and you need to leave more weft in the shed. Sometimes the selvages become loose and curve up. This is usually caused by the same problem: excessive draw-in. If you find your edge threads are not beating in as well, you can add weight to them to keep the tension even with the rest of the weaving. You can use fishing weights or film cans with coins inside as weights and hang them over the offending warps with S hooks. Just know that these selvedge situations are the plague of beginning weavers (and at times even the more experienced). Much of what you are experiencing now will right itself with practice and experience.

-- Tabby