How to Read a Weaving Draft and How to Read a Tartan Pattern

Reading a Weaving Draft

A draft is made up of 4 parts and is illustrated in a table divided into quadrants. The upper left quadrant shows how the sheds are to be threaded. This is a pattern for 4 sheds. The upper right quadrant shows what combination of shafts to raise at the same time. In this case, you will only raise one shaft at a time. The lower right quadrant shows in what order to open the shafts. The lower left quadrant shows the draw down or what the pattern will look like. The draw down is not always shown, sometimes this quadrant is omitted from the pattern.

How to read a Tartan Sett

Black Watch (Mirrored Sett)

B22
K2
B2
K2
B2
This is the pattern for the Black Watch Tartan. The letters refer to colors (B = blue, K = black, G = green) The numbers refer to how many threads of that color are used at a time. This tartan like many others has a mirrored pattern, which means that you start with B22 and work down through the last B2, then instead of starting over from the top, you reverse the pattern and begin working up from the bottom back to the top and then start down again. The pattern pivots on the B2 at the bottom and the B22 at the top, you do not repeat the first and last colors when you change directions.

This pattern is followed for both the warp and the weft.

For a larger plaid pattern, double the number of threads from what is shown in the pattern. For a smaller plaid pattern, half the number of threads from what is shown in the pattern.

Tartans are woven in 2/2 Twill. They should be as closely woven as possible to make the pattern as square as possible. Use heavy tension on the loom. If possible, use a temple to keep the cloth spread the full width of the reed. Wetting the cloth after it is woven may help nudge the threads into even position with each other.

Standard List of Colors

A = Light Blue (Azure)
B = Blue
C = Rose
D = Dark (+ color)
G = Green
K = Black
L = Light (+ color)
Lil = Lilac
Lv = Lavender
Ma = Magenta
Mn = Maroon
N = Grey (Neutral)
P = Purple
R = Scarlet (red)
T = Brown (tan)
W = White
Y = Yellow
Bibliography


Clan Heritage - www.tartangenerator.com


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