

McCrimmon Tartan

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As someone who's been an amateur tartan weaver for awhile now, I occasionally am asked by cosplayers or just Doctor Who fans what tartan Jamie is wearing. There is no specific registered tartan for the McCrimmon clan. So, I did some research and found some old information supposedly from someone at the BBC. The story goes that the tartan fabric that Jamie is wearing was donated by one of the producers. The fabric was specially woven for them and is a blending of the Logan and California tartans to reflect said person's heritage. If this story is true, the original fabric was a special, one-of-a-kind fabric that you can't just go to the fabric store and buy or order anywhere. That said, there is nothing stopping you from going out and finding something similar. There are many places on the net/web where you can buy a kilt already made. You can also attend a Celtic/Scots/Irish festival in your area, they have them all over the country and most have dealers who are selling kilts and can size and outfit you right at the event with kilts and all the accessories. I recommend looking at:

1191 Ettrick

1591 MacLeod Black and Red (or any of the red and black MacLeod patterns there are several)

1204 Munro (black and red with white stripe, this is almost the one from the Five Doctors except the white stripe is in the wrong place.)

1208 Wallace (replace the yellow line with either black or white and it's in the ballpark)

1526 MacGregor (if you want to replace the black with green)

If you are one of those folks who want to be screen accurate, keep reading. No, I do not take orders and you can't pay/barter with me to weave it for you. I'd be doing nothing else and I don't want to do that. But you can find all the information on this website to do it yourself if you are so inclined and ambitious enough to want to learn to weave yourself. You can probably pay some other weaver to do it for you.

Basic Information for those not familiar with tartan setts:

To create a true tartan from a tartan sett patten it must be woven in 2/2 twill. Which means you are weaving over 2 threads, then under 2 threads and each row shift the pattern 1 thread. See the hand out in the "how to" section called "Tartan Weaving 101" for more information This type of weaving is most easily done on at least a 4-harness loom. In the near future, there should be a handout called "Building a 4-Harness Loom from PVC". Until then, there are other pvc loom plans to be had on the web (and at your public library), just do a search. Used looms can always be found on ebay and other online auction sites and locations where used items are for sale.

Another handout you will need to look at from the "how to" section is "How to Read a Weaving Draft and How to Read a Tartan Sett." This handout will explain that the letters in the pattern refer to the color of the stripes and the number is how many threads of that color. A tartan is really just stripes in the same pattern both horizontally and vertically forming squares of color.

I found photos of Jamie wearing several different kilts in the course of the series and in various publicity and behind the scenes photos. I have drafted patterns of 2 tartans. The Series tartan is the most commonly occurring in the series and the other is from both "The Five Doctors" and the "Two Doctors". There is a photo out there of a red and green kilt. I have been told it is a publicity photo and I find no evidence of such a kilt being worn in the series. All the color, behind the scenes photos I found were of a red and black kilt so that's what I went with here.

The Series McCrimmon Tartan was taken from this color publicity photo from “Mind Robber.”



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McCrimmon Tartan (Series)

K4

K is black, R is red. K4 means 4 black threads

R4

K4

The pattern may be enlarged or shrunk by dividing or multiplying all the numbers of threads by the same number.

R48

K12

R8

For example, you make it smaller by dividing all the numbers by 2, or enlarge by multiplying all by 2.

K24

R8

K4

The pattern is read from top down, then bottom up, pivoting on the first and last stripe, in this case K4 for both.

Looks like this:



The Five/Two Doctors McCrimmon Tartan came from this photo from “The Two Doctors”:



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McCrimmon Tartan (Five/Two Doctors)

K2 K is black, R is red, W is white.
R28
K12
R14
K2
W2

