# Overshot Patterns

# in Color-and-Weave-Effect Double Weave

by Manuela Kaulitz

VERSHOT FABRICS with long floats often must lead a sheltered life, yet the same patterns woven as double weave have two plainweave surfaces which can function practically anywhere. Garments, upholstery, even coverlets without floats are less vulnerable to snagging and pulling. Without floats, the scale of overshot designs woven as double weave can be enlarged to dramatic dimensions. Wouldn't it be striking to weave a set of pillows, each in a single bold motif?

In color-and-weave-effect double weave, the original overshot draft is threaded on dark ends. Each dark end is followed by a light end threaded on the opposite shaft. This four-shaft version of double weave produces overshot's three distinct values: dark, medium, and light. The dark in the weft-float pattern areas of overshot becomes a solid dark area of plain weave, the medium of overshot's halftone areas is three-quarters dark (dark weft over light and dark warp), and the light of overshot's plain-weave background is half dark, half light (dark Figure 1.

weft over light warp). These value differences are strong enough for design details to be distinct; however, small designs, such as the overshot novelties in Marguerite Davison's *A Handweaver's Pattern Book*, will weave as solid dark pattern on a shaded ground because they contain many adjacent two-end blocks in succession. Blocks must contain at least four ends for the three values to appear.

### Threading

It is easy to convert an overshot draft to a color-and-weave-effect double-weave draft. You will need two pens, one a lighter color than the other. With the darker color, copy the original overshot threading onto graph paper, skipping a space after each end as shown in figure 1. After each end, write its opposite in the blank space with the lighter color as shown in figure 2:

After 1, write 3.
After 2, write 4.
After 3, write 1.
After 4, write 2.

Writing out the draft gives you an

exact map to follow, but you may feel confident enough to thread directly from the original draft, placing the light threads on the corresponding opposite shaft as you go.

The complete threading will be set twice as close and have twice as many ends as the original draft, and the ends will be divided equally among the four shafts. Although this even distribution makes it easy to calculate the number of heddles on each shaft, it's difficult to identify the threaded blocks at a glance. To keep your place while you thread the heddles, divide the draft into sections and tie each group of ends in a slipknot as you thread them. If you get lost, lift shaft 1 and match the groups of threads to the draft.

### Treadling

The simplest treadling is as drawn in. Using the original overshot draft, weave a dark pick and a light pick for each end shown. For the dark pick, lift the shaft shown

—continued on page 65

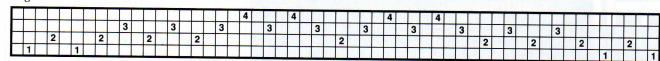
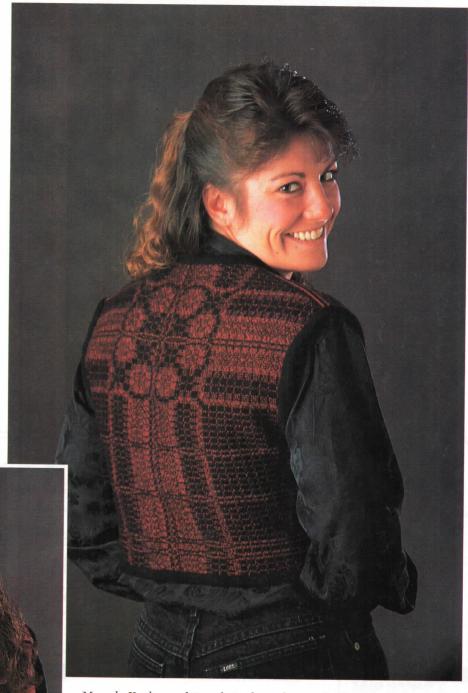


Figure 2.

4 4
3   3   3
1

With an interplay
of light and dark
patterning,
overshot designs can be
woven as double weave
on only four shafts.



Manuela Kaulitz used four-shaft color-and-weave double weave to achieve a delicate interpretation of traditional overshot in her Kentucky-Kyoto Vest. The vest reverses from dramatic black on one side to cheerful red on the other. The seams are covered with matching handwoven tape, and all edges are wrapped with bias tape woven from the same yarn in tubular double weave and cut in a spiral. Details are provided in the Instruction Supplement. Yarn courtesy of Halcyon Yarn.

#### **Overshot Patterns**

(continued from page 62)

on the draft. For the light pick, lift three shafts: the one you just used plus the opposite tabby pair. Thus, if the first end is on shaft 1, lift shaft 1 and weave a dark pick. Then, lift shafts 1, 2, and 4 and weave a light pick. The dark pick will show on the side facing you, and the light pick will show on the reverse side.

Г	0				0	0	0
			0	0	0		0
	0	0	0		0		
0	0		0				0

Eight treadles.

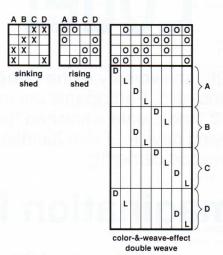
			0	0	
		0			0
	0			0	
0					0

Six treadles.

If your loom has eight treadles, you can tie up a treadle for each of the eight combinations. If not, it's easy to use both feet to combine the individual shaft with its opposite tabby.

The treadling described above weaves a reversible fabric with a dark face and a shadowy light version beneath. A nonreversible

fabric can be woven with one shuttle, either dark or light. To design treadling variations, start with the pairing of shafts which form blocks in the original tie-up. Shafts 1 and 2 form block A, shafts 2 and 3 form block B, shafts 3 and 4 form block C, and shafts 4 and 1 form block D. In color-and-weave-effect double weave, a four-pick sequence is used for each original pattern pick. One-



half of each sequence begins with an odd shaft, the other half with an even shaft. To keep the odd-even sequence for a plain-weave surface, blocks are treadled 1-2, 3-2, 3-4, and 1-4. Rather than rewrite the treadling pick by pick for each treadling variation, I label the blocks in the original tie-up as shown at left and substitute the four-pick sequence for each block as I follow the original treadling sequence.

By preserving its charm in a sturdier structure, color-and-weave-effect double weave gives overshot both a new look and a vast range of new uses. Even on four shafts, weavers can make patterned double weave.

Manuela Kaulitz enjoys pushing weave structures to their limits at her studio in Louisville, Kentucky.

#### For Further Reading

Barrett, Clotilde. "Four Block Double Weave on Four Shafts." The Weaver's Journal, Summer 1983.

# GUARANTEED BEST PRICES!!!

- Harrisville Designs 2 Ply—\$9.30/cone
- Henry's Attic—Call for Lowest Price
- Pearl Cotton 5/2 & 3/2—38 Colors—\$10.25/lb.
- 3 Ply Rug Wool—70 Colors—\$7.50/lb.
- Looms, Books, and Equipment
   —Best Deals
- Reeds—Carbon Steel—\$.80 Per Inch

Catalog \$2.00

1-800-488-9276 (YARN)

GRAB BAG SPECIAL! 3# Quality Wool—\$8

The Weaver's Shop & Yarn Company 39 Courtland Street, Rockford, MI 49341 (616) 866-9529

Fax: (616) 866-9966

