

# Overshot Variations

Based on

Vicki Tardy Workshop

# What is Overshot?

- Donna Sullivan described overshot as a “plain weave with an extra weft to make it pretty”.
- Overshot is a 4 shaft block weave based on 2/2 twill with a plain weave background
  - It is a two shuttle weave
  - The pattern is supplemental to the cloth; take out the pattern threads and there will still be a stable fabric
  - There are 4 blocks possible on a 4 shaft loom

# Components

There are 3 components to overshot

- 1. Warp – usually a thin light colored yarn
- 2. Weft - same as the warp
- 3. Pattern weft – traditionally twice the thickness of the warp

There are four blocks possible on a four shaft loom

- Block A is threaded on shafts 1 & 2 and is treadled 3 & 4
- Block B is threaded on shafts 2 & 3 and is treadled 1 & 4
- Block C is threaded on shafts 3 & 4 and is treadled 1 & 2
- Block D is threaded on shafts 4 & 1 and is treadled 2 & 3

Each block has one shaft in common with the next block.

This follows the 2/2 twill order: 12, 23, 34, 14

Warp threads must maintain an odd-even sequence

In order to weave a block on a rising shed loom, the warp threaded on that block must remain down in order for the pattern weft to “shoot over” the threads on that block, thus the term overshot.

If you weave a pattern block by lifting the threads in that block, your pattern will show on the bottom.

Weaving on a sinking shed loom, such as a counter balance, weave the pattern blocks.

# Tie Up for Rising Shed Floor Looms

| A | B | C | D | Tabby |   |
|---|---|---|---|-------|---|
| 4 | 4 |   |   |       | 4 |
| 3 |   |   | 3 | 3     |   |
|   |   | 2 | 2 |       | 2 |
|   | 1 | 1 |   | 1     |   |

# There are three distinct areas of overshot cloth

1. Pattern areas – the pattern weft covers the warp
2. Background areas – the pattern weft floats under the warp so only the plain weave ground shows
3. Half tones – half pattern, half background. The pattern weft is weaving plain weave.
  - This occurs between two areas of pattern
  - Between two areas of background
  - Between pattern and background

Half tones are unique to overshot and ties the pattern weft to the ground cloth

|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
|   |   |   |   |  |   | 4 |   | 4 |   | 4 |   |  | 4 |   | 4 |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |  | 3 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |  |   | 3 |   | 3 |  | 3 |  |   |  |   |
|   | 2 |   | 2 |  | 2 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |  |   |   |   | 2 |  | 2 |  | 2 |  |   |
| 1 |   | 1 |   |  |   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 1 |  | 1 |   |   |   |  |   |  | 1 |  | 1 |

Each block shares an end with the next block – the last thread of the first group is the first thread of the next group. Each block is treadled one time less than the number of threads in the block. To weave as drawn in (tromp as writ or star fashion) means to weave the pattern blocks in the same order as they are threaded forming diagonals.

The ground cloth is plain weave, woven 1 & 3 vs 2 & 4. To determine the best tabby order find the center turning block and note which shafts the first and last thread of the turning block are on. Those threads must be left down for the tabby shot between the two pattern picks of the turning block. Count backwards to the beginning of the pattern to determine what tabby to start with.