

Signature Blocks  
on an  
Overshot Coverlet

This is taken from The Coverlet Book by Helene Bress

Older coverlets that are dated usually have the pattern weft doubled and use two tabbies between pattern picks. It can be woven with a finer pattern thread and only use one tabby pick between pattern picks.

Names and dates are generally woven into a plain weave background to set them off.

There are multiple ways this could be done but there are two ways that are most common

1. Changing the sheds as needed to insert the letters and numbers
2. Using a pick-up stick

The coverlet is woven as usual up to the dated area.

### Method # 1

Row 1: Working from left to right

- Open the regular pattern shed and weave with the pattern shuttle up to the point where the plain weave frame is to begin.
- Bring the shuttle up to the surface.
- Change to the 1 & 3 tabby shed.
- Return the shuttle to the same spot in the shed and pass it along to the other edge of the plain weave frame.
- Bring the shuttle to the surface.
- Change to the pattern shed.
- Return the shuttle to the pattern shed and weave to the selvedge.

### Rows 2 and 3

- Weave 2 tabbies with the tabby shuttle – 1 & 3 followed by 2 & 4.

### Rows 4, 5, 6

- Repeat the previous three rows.

### Row 7 (left to right)

- Open the pattern shed.
- Put the pattern shuttle in the shed up to the Plain weave frame.
- Bring the shuttle to the surface.
- Change the shed to the 1 & 3 tabby shed.
- Return the shuttle to the shed until the point where the first letter starts.
- Bring the shuttle to the surface and let the shuttle float over the number of threads for the first letter.

- Return the shuttle to the Plain weave shed.
- Pass the shuttle to the place where the next letter will begin.
- Continue in this manner until all of the letters and/or numbers have been started.
- Put the shuttle back in the Plain weave shed and pass it along to the edge of the plain weave frame.
- Bring the shuttle to the surface.
- Treadle the pattern shed.
- Return the shuttle to the pattern shed and pass it along to the selvedge.
- Treadle the tabbies, 1 & 3 and 2 & 4.

The letters always take place in the same tabby shed. That way the edges of the letters are lined up rather than staggered.

## Method 2 – Pick Up

The pick-up stick should be wider than the Plain weave frame.

The coverlet is woven as usual to the start of the Plain weave frame.

- Weave the first six rows the same as in Method 1.
- Row 7 - Open the pattern shed. Work the first row from left to right.
- Put the pattern shuttle through the shed up to where the Plain weave frame begins.
- Bring the shuttle up to the surface.
- Open the Plain weave shed 1 & 3.
- Slide the point of the pick-up stick into the Plain weave shed to the beginning of the first letter.
- Pick up threads for the first letter with the point of the stick.
- Let the stick ride over the threads to the next letter.
- Pick up the threads for the second letter.

- Continue in this manner until all of the letters and numbers have been started.
- At the edge of the Plain weave frame, bring the point of the pick-up stick to the surface.
- Check your work.
- Turn the pick-up stick on end.
- Return the pattern shuttle to the shed and slide it through the shed formed by the pick-up stick.
- Withdraw the shuttle and pick up stick.
- Change the shed to the regular pattern shed.
- Return the shuttle to the shed and weave to the selvedge.
- Weave the two tabby shots – 1 & 3, 2 & 4 with the tabby thread from selvedge to selvedge.
- Continue in this manner for the rest of the signature block.