

All about cotton

Cotton Spinning on Indian Charkha





Cotton carding and puni preparation

Load the carder (finer than wool with 200 tpi)



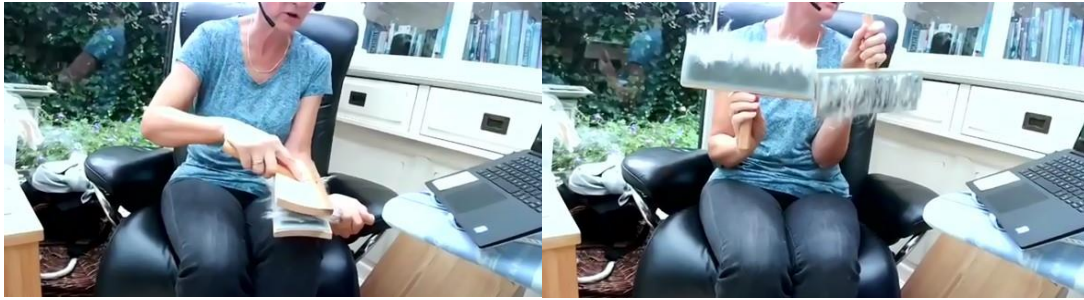
Card from $\frac{1}{4}$ across



$\frac{1}{2}$ across



Full carder



Transfer



Repeat above steps three times



Transfer all onto one carder

Roll the cotton around the doweling



Roll along the carder wrapping the cotton around the dowel



Against the edge of the bottom teeth on the comb, roll the puni around to tighten/smooth it.



Puni is then ready to slide off the dowel and ready for spinning.



Spinning cotton on supported spindle

You need a lot of twist in cotton, so the supported spindles are very thin rods.



Some are beautifully decorated



This one has a coin as the whorl with decoration above and below.



You can use a variety of bowls to spin in, ceramic, metal, wood, glass



Hold the spindle with 2 fingers and thumb.



Spin the spindle and create a circle with your fingers





Dyeing

Mary has a PDF available with instructions and more information.

Procion Dyes

Pre-soaked carded cotton in soda ash mordant



Cover with cling film and leave for a few days.



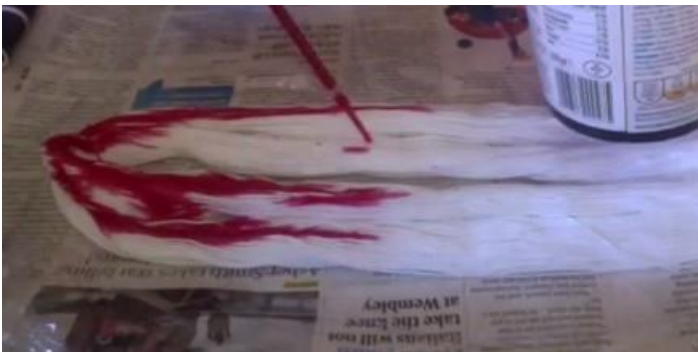
Some Mary prepared earlier



Pre-treated hank with soda ash



Ready made dye (excluding the mordant)



Wrap and leave for a couple of days



Here's one Mary did earlier



Partly dyed using blue and white then woven.



Ice dyeing with Procion dyes



Natural dyeing

Aluminium Acetate is used when doing natural dye, it does need heating.



Avocado skins used to take the paler yarn to a warmer cream

Book recommendations



Weaving Cotton Samples on a Rigid Heddle Loom

Notes

- Shrinkage % calculated on length and width in cm measured first off loom –v- multiple washes and tumble drying, including some 60°C washes.
- The warp and weft per inch pre and after many washes.

Towel 1

- 8/2 cotton (from Handweavers Studio), single warp and weft, 10 dpi reed
- Shrinkage 10% width and 7.5% length
- 10 epi/16 ppi > 14 epi/17 ppi
- Looked like cheese cloth 1st off loom, but now has a nice drape.



First off loom



Now against window



Now drape

Towel 2

- Cherish 2 ply (from Airedale Yarns), doubled warp, single weft, 10 dpi reed.
- Shrinkage 2.6% width and 7.6% length
- 10 epi/16 ppi > 12.5 epi/17 ppi
- Slightly softer feeling cotton, but really creases and hard to iron!



First off loom



Now against window



Now drape

Towel 3

- 8/2 cotton (from Handweavers Studio), doubled warp, single weft, 12.5 dpi reed
- Shrinkage 9.5% width and 12.5% length
- 12.5 epi/13 ppi > 15 epi/15 ppi
- Face towel - still in really good condition after many uses/washes



First off loom



Now against window



Now drape

Towel 4

- Lily's Sugar'n Cream Worsted 8ply cotton, single warp and weft, 7.5 dpi reed
- Shrinkage 4% width and 8% length (lots of scraps used on weft)
- 7.5 epi/5.5 ppi > 9 epi/6 ppi
- Hand towel – still in really good condition after many uses/washes



First off loom



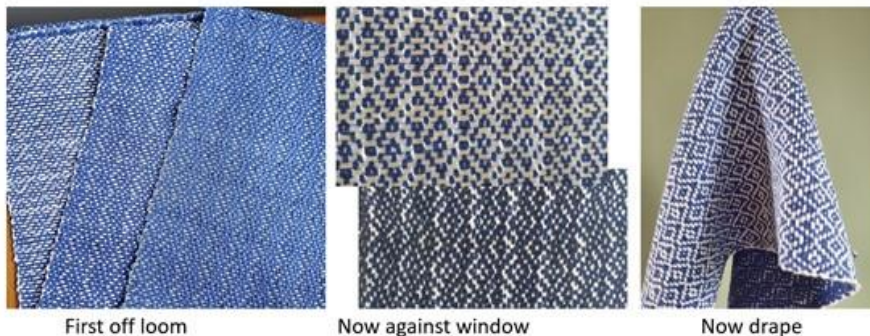
Now against window



Now drape

Towel 5

- 8/2 cotton (from Handweavers Studio), doubled warp, doubled weft, 12.5 dpi reed. Diamond Stripe Twill pattern.
- Shrinkage on width 11% (length not calculated as I hemmed it again after washing). The pattern massively improved on washing and tumble drying.
- Also forgot to note down epi/ppi!
- Face towel – still in really good condition after many uses/washes.



This pattern is designed by Kelly Casanova and is available in her Etsy shop for £6.66 including VAT for a digital version of the pattern. It has lots of photos for threading and instructions covering 30 pages. It requires 2 x 12.5 dpi heddles.

https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/867790048/diamond-stripe-towels-pdf-pattern-for?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=kelly+casanova&ref=sr_gallery-1-1&organic_search_click=1&bes=1

Recommendations

- With 8/2 and 2 ply I recommend using a boat shuttle, not a stick shuttle. If you catch a warp it is totally unforgiving and will need weighting.
- The unmercerised 8/2ne cotton from Handweavers Studio is extremely well wearing, it puffs up nicely on the twill pattern but still looks like new.
- The Cherish 2 ply from Airedale Yarns look very worn and have had less use. The Cherish also doesn't dry as quickly.
- If using Sugar'n Cream yarn I recommend a colour catcher in the initial soak as the reds run a lot and I have a lot of pink dish cloths I knit with the same yarn!
- My next project...

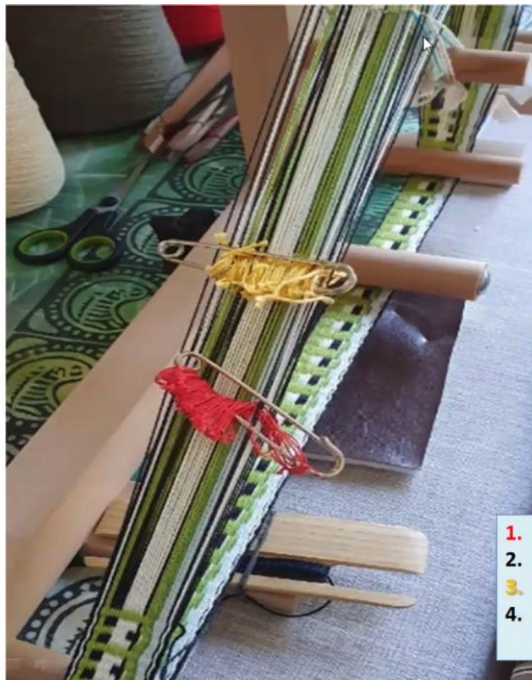
Work In Progress

- 8/4 cotton single warp (from Hobbii), 8/2 cotton single weft (from Handweavers Studio), 12.5 dpi reed. Fibonacci pattern.



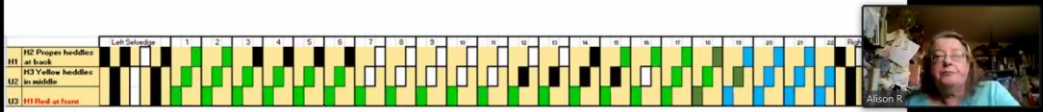
Weaving cotton using an Inkle Loom

Krokbragd sheep design

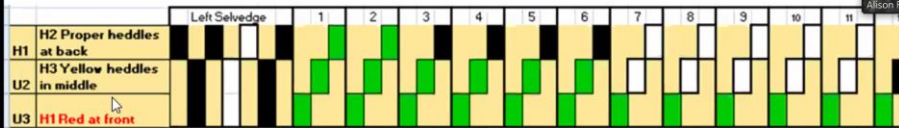


1. H1 RED up
2. H2 Proper (WHITE) down
3. H3 YELLOW up
4. H2 Proper (WHITE) down





		Left Selvedge	1
H1	H2 Proper heddles at back	Black	Yellow
U2	H3 Yellow heddles in middle	Black	Green
U3	H1 Red at front	Black	Green



- Order for weaving
1. H1 RED up
 2. H2 Proper (WHITE) down
 3. H3 YELLOW up
 4. H2 Proper (WHITE) down

