

Cotton Clouds, Inc

# Adapting Patterns to Fit Different Weaving Widths

Techniques, Tips & Inspiration





# Adapting Patterns to Fit Your Loom

## Cotton Clouds, Inc.

One of the most helpful skills you can develop as a weaver is learning how to adapt a pattern to fit your loom. Not every project is written for your exact weaving width—but with a few simple adjustments, you can make almost any pattern work.

Whether you're weaving on a 10", 16", or 25" rigid heddle loom, or a multi-shaft loom, the goal is the same: keep the design balanced while fitting your available space.

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### **There are several ways to adjust your weaving width.**

Start by looking at how the warp is structured

- Is the warp one single color or does it have stripes of several colors?
  - Does it include pattern repeats?
  - Are there wider border stripes that can be increased or reduced?
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### **Next, we will need to know how many ends per inch.**

Start by finding the total number of ends in your pattern, then divide that number by the dents per inch of your reed. For example, if you are using a 10-dent reed and your pattern has 230 ends, you will have 23 ends per inch.

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### **What If My Warp Is All One Color?**

This is the simplest approach to adjusting the width.

- Reduce or increase the total number of warp ends to achieve your desired width

Examples:

230 ends = 23"

200 ends = 20"

150 ends = 15"

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## What If My Pattern Has a Repeating Design?

If your pattern includes a repeating design, you can easily adjust the weaving width by changing the number of repeats.

Here's an example using a warping chart with repeats. The chart shows the total number of ends in the pattern. You'll also need information from your pattern, such as the ends per inch (epi) and total number of ends. Most patterns will provide this information. You can find the complete pattern for this example at the end of this presentation.

Let's calculate a new weaving width of 15" from a 21.4" weaving width.

- **Ends per inch:** First, we need to know how many ends per inch the pattern has. This pattern has 10 epi.
- **Find total ends:** Ten ends per inch at 15" weaving width will be 150 total ends.  $15 \times 10 = 150$  ends
- **Reduce number of ends:** The original pattern has 214 ends, and we need to reduce this number to 150. (Subtract  $214 - 150 = 64$ .) This means we need to take out 64 ends to get our 15" weaving width.
- **Reducing repeats:** There are 4 ends per repeat. We need to figure out how many repeats to take out. (64 ends divided by 4 = 16.) Take out 16 repeats. (53 repeats in original chart – 16 repeats = 37)

### Chart for 21.4" weaving width

	53 repeats			
8/4 Cotton Ivory	2		2	Total Ends 108
Bamboo Pop Earth Science		2		Total Ends 106

New chart for 15" weaving width will look like this.

	37 repeats			
8/4 Cotton Ivory	2		2	Total Ends 76
Bamboo Pop Earth Science		2		Total Ends 74

### Option 3: Adjust Borders

If your pattern has borders you can easily adjust your pattern by reducing or adding more ends.

You can:

- Make borders narrower or wider
- Remove borders entirely
- Add borders to fill extra space

This is often the easiest way to “fine-tune” a pattern to fit your loom exactly.

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These are just a few ideas for adapting a pattern to fit your preferred weaving width. The main thing to know is how many ends are needed for your weaving width. Then either reduce or add to that number to get the weaving width to fit your loom.

Once you understand how ends per inch and total ends work together, it becomes much easier to confidently adjust patterns for any loom size. Don't be afraid to experiment a little—many weavers make small adjustments to patterns all the time to better fit their equipment and the projects they want to create.

I hope this gives you more confidence to adapt patterns and make them work for your own loom and weaving style.

Remember, patterns are a starting point. As you gain experience, you'll become more comfortable making adjustments and creating projects that work best for you and your loom.

Happy weaving!

Jodi Ybarra

Cotton Clouds



# Earth Science Towels

~ Rigid Heddle Weaving ~  
Designed by Jodi Ybarra



Our home planet, Earth is the only place we know of so far that's inhabited by living things. We should honor and embrace the colors that represent our land, oceans, and clouds. These towels are designed with lots of texture in the colors of our cherished planet. No matter the season, we can always enjoy the colors that our Earth rewards us with each day.

**Weave Structure:** texture weave

**Equipment needed:** Rigid Heddle Loom (2-shaft); 21 .8" weaving width; 10 dent reed; 2 shuttles

**Yarn Amounts for Two Towels:**

8/4 Cotton Ivory, 800 yds

Bamboo Pop Earth Science, 292 yds

Aurora Earth 8/2 Cotton Natural, 80 yds (for hems)

**Yarn Amounts for Four Towels:**

8/4 Cotton Ivory, 1200 yds

Bamboo Pop Earth Science 550 yds

Aurora Earth 8/2 Cotton Natural 150 yds (for hems)

**Note:** Extra yardage has been calculated in the above yardage amounts.

**Total warp ends:** 214

**Setts:** 10 epi; 13 ppi

**Warp Length:** 2.75 yds (99") for two towels; 5 yds (180") for four towels

**Other supplies:** matching sewing thread for hems

**Finished Dimensions:** approximately 16" x 25½" hemmed.

### Step 1: Warping the Loom

Set up your loom to direct warp a length of 99" for two towels or 180" for four towels. Measure out from the center of your reed half of your weaving width which will be 11" to start warping. Warp two threads in each slot following the warp order chart.

### Warp Order

Chart numbers represent thread counts.

There are a total of 214 ends. Warp two threads in each slot.

Alternate one slot (two threads) Ivory then one slot (two threads) Earth Science 53 times

Finish with two threads Ivory in last slot.

214 total warp threads and 21.4" weaving width.

	53 repeats			
8/4 Cotton Ivory	2		2	Total Ends 108
Bamboo Pop Earth Science		2		Total Ends 106

### Step 2: Sleying the Reed

Wind the warp onto the back beam and then transfer one thread from each slot into the holes. You will now have one thread in each slot and one in each hole. Tie the yarns in small sections onto the front beam and tighten your warp to get a tight, even tension.

### Step 3: Preparing the Shuttles

Wind one shuttle with 8/4 Cotton Ivory and second shuttle with thinner 8/2 cotton for hems. (approximately 15 yards per hem)

### Step 4: Charging the Pick-Up Stick

With heddle in the down position and working behind the heddle, insert the pick-up stick 2 up. Then continue across 1 down, 1 up until you reach the last two threads. Place the last two threads up. The first and last two threads will be up (on top of stick) and all others will be 1 down, 1 up.

### Step 5: Weaving

Weave with scrap yarn to spread the warp evenly.

With thinner 8/2 Cotton weave 1 ½" for hem.

Weave 10 picks in plain weave.

Continue weaving in the 4-step pick-up sequence for 28" →

Weave another 10 picks in plain weave.

With thinner 8/2 Cotton weave 1 ½" for hem.

4 Step Pick-Up Sequence  
Repeat steps 1-4 for entire body of towel.

1. Up
2. Heddle in neutral with pick-up stick on edge
3. Up
4. Down

Weave a few rows of a scrap yarn between each towel and continue the next towel the same as the first. When you have finished weaving your towels, weave a few rows with waste yarn before cutting yarns off loom.

### Step 6: Finishing & Hemming

Remove the fabric from the loom and sew a straight stitch across each end with sewing thread before cutting apart. Using a hot iron, fold each hem over twice to get a nice flat edge. Sew a straight stitch across securing each hem. Machine wash in hot or cold water depending on your preference and dry on normal in machine dryer. Press with a warm iron if needed. Towels will relax with more washes.

I hope you enjoy your cotton and bamboo towels! Thank you for weaving with me!

Jodi Ybarra

*All yarns for this design are available from Cotton Clouds Inc. If you have any questions while weaving this pattern, don't hesitate to send an email to [jodi@cottonclouds.com](mailto:jodi@cottonclouds.com) and I will guide you along the way! You may sell products using my patterns but I would love credit for the design.  
Happy weaving! Jodi Ybarra*

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