

# Weaving Drafts

## How weaving drafts are written

A weaving draft is your recipe for weaving. The *threading draft*, which tells you the order for threading your heddles, is written horizontally. In this draft there are four shafts, each represented by a horizontal row. The bottom row represents the front shaft, usually labeled #1 and the top row represents the back shaft.

## The treadle tie-up draft

The *treadle tie-up draft* tells you how to make sheds (by moving levers or tying up your treadles). Each vertical row represents a shed, made with table loom levers or a treadle. A blackened square or an "X" in the draft, indicates that the shaft will be down when that shed is made. The empty spaces represent shafts which rise. These are sometimes represented by an O or a number. The standard tie-up shown in the draft, for four shaft weaves using six treadles, gives every combination of two shafts up and two shafts down.

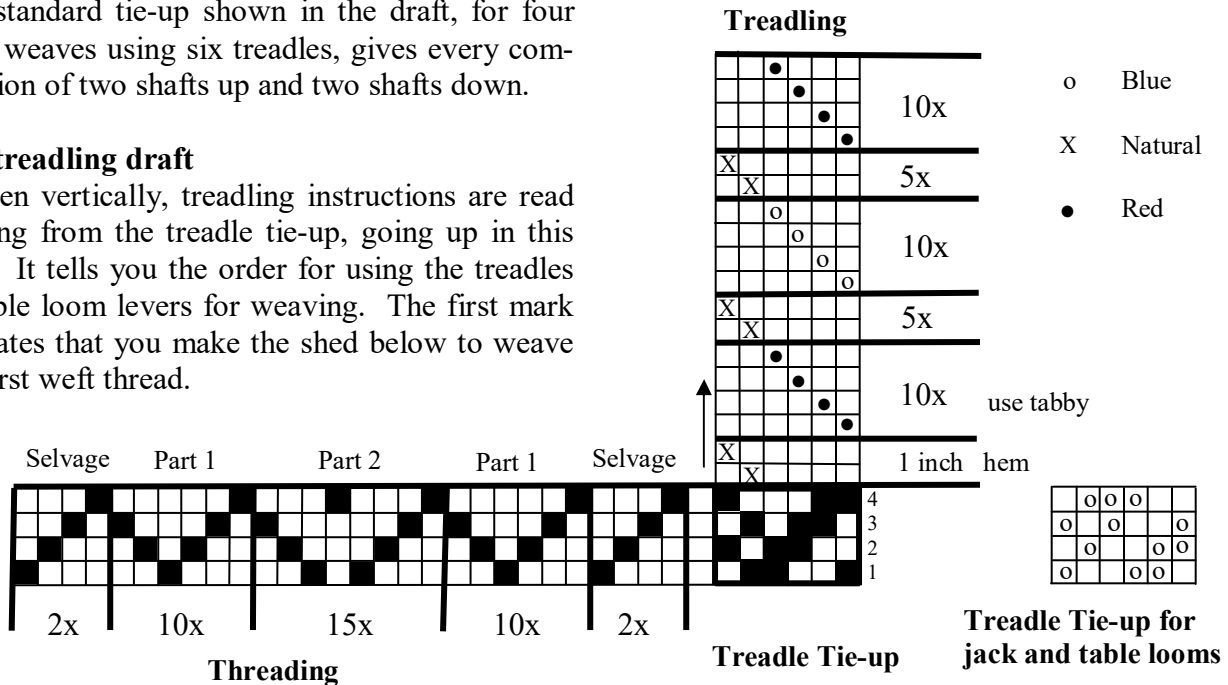
## The treadling draft

Written vertically, treadling instructions are read starting from the treadle tie-up, going up in this case. It tells you the order for using the treadles or table loom levers for weaving. The first mark indicates that you make the shed below to weave the first weft thread.

## The threading draft

The threading is indicated by an X, a vertical line or a blackened square as in this draft. Sometimes numbers are used instead of black squares, especially with drafts for more than eight shafts. The threading draft is read from the right and the vertical rows represent the warp threads. Note that the threading is divided into parts. This is indicated with Part 1 and Part 2 written above or below the draft. Repeating a section is indicated by a number and "x" for times. The first thread is the selvage and is threaded on the back shaft, #4 (top row). The second thread is on shaft #3, etc.

**Note!** Read the instructions which come with your pattern as they may vary from these traditional methods.



## Treadling drafts for pattern weaves

Weaving with two shuttles may require that one shuttle weaves plain weave. The draft will indicate that you should "use tabby", which means weave plain weave, alternated with the pattern wefts which are indicated in the draft.

## Symbols and abbreviations

Symbols can be used to indicate colors or different types of threads. These can also be printed in color.

## Make your threading draft fit your warp

A threading draft needs to be planned to fit your warp width and to center the pattern. For instance, if a pattern repeat is 8 threads long, the total number of warp threads must be a multiple of 8, such as 120 or 128. Borders and selvage threadings can be added. To add up the total number of threads in this draft, count the selvage, 8 (4 threads x 2), plus part 1, 60 (6 threads x 10), part 2, 120, (8 threads x 15), then part 1, 60, then the selvage, 8, total 256 warp ends.

*With each warp, you get better at reading, understanding and changing drafts.*