# Piglet's Portfolio of Priceless Potholder Patterns

Instructional Weaving Charts for Potholder Loop Looms

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Matthew Simon Cavalletto

■ 69 Pages ■ 18 Apr 2022 Edition ■

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# Introduction

#### Welcome!

This collection is the work of Piglet Evans and Matthew Simon Cavalletto. As children, we each made simple traditional woven-loop potholders, and as adults we were delighted to rediscover that this seemingly-simple art had so much more to offer than we had known at the time.

#### A Work In Progress

This is not a completed static book, such as you might find on a bookstore shelf, but rather a snapshot of an ongoing exploration. We add new patterns and publish updated copies of this collection on a regular basis.

For the lastest version of these charts, point your web browser to http://arts.piglet.org/potholders/.

On that site, the charts are available in two forms: a combined PDF, and as individual charts in PNG format which you can save and print.

The site also includes a set of blank templates which can be used when charting your own patterns.

#### The Charts

The charts in this collection explore a range of techniques in tabby, twill and modified weaves.

The patterns are generally organized from simpler to more complex, with additional techniques being introduced and explored along the way.

The "tabby" section is all plain "over-1/under-1" weave, with patterns produced only by choosing different loop colors. The "twill" section is all "over-2/under-2" weave. The "modified" sections build on those basics by occasionally adding a longer float to produce more complicated patterns. The "freeform" section has more complex shadow-weave designs.

# Licensing

#### These Charts Are Free

All of the material in this collection is available to everyone for free under an "open culture" license.

This means that you can use these charts to weave as many potholders as you'd like to use, gift or sell, at no cost and without limitation.

It also means that you can print out these charts, make copies of them, give them to your friends, use them as classroom materials, share them online, combine elements of these charts with techniques from other sources, modify them to create your own versions, and so forth.

The Creative Commons CC-By-SA license imposes only two limitations on your use of this material:

- If you share these charts, we ask you to provide attribution, either by mentioning our names or including a link to our website; this is taken care of automatically if you print or share complete pages without trimming off the footer that appears at the bottom with the link to arts.piglet.org.
- If you bundle these charts into a new collection, by publishing them in a book, web site, or other medium, we ask that you make that collection available to others under the same "sharing-friendly" license terms as we've used here.

#### Open Culture and the Fiber Arts

While we understand the factors that drive some people to try to guard or monopolize their creations via claims of copyright, trademark, and various types of moral right, we have chosen a different approach, as outlined above, and we encourage others to consider doing this as well.

As a matter of United States law, basic techniques for "the design of a useful article" such as potholders are not protected by copyright, and many weaving patterns (including some in this collection) are so old and widespread that they are part of the public domain; on the other hand, some decorative designs as well as the specific words or photographs used to illustrate a pattern in a book or website are implicitly covered by such protection. The boundary between these categories can be difficult to discern, and endless hours have been spent arguing about whether various items should be considered copies of others, or which kinds of sharing each item should allow.

Thankfully, creators may simplify such questions by releasing their original works under an open culture license.

As a matter of principle, it seems to us that the whole universe of fiber arts is built on millenia of people learning techniques from each other, and then combining and reusing and adapting them. Making things out of string is one of the most fundamental developments of human history — our shared patrimony as a species, stretching back a thousand generations to the Paleolithic era — and after all of that time, to suddenly declare that a certain pattern of strings, or a certain pairing of colors, is uniquely your creation seems profoundly misguided; at heart, these crafts belong to us all.

# **Reading These Charts**

#### How to Read These Charts

The circles number the row/column pegs and indicate the loop colorway on that peg.

The numbered circles across the top and bottom show the colors to use for the vertical loops when warping the loom to start, while the numbered circles along the sides show which colors to use for the horizontal loops when you weave in the weft.

A thin double line is superimposed on the weaving area to highlight the center point of the pattern. On some charts, the center peg on each side is also marked with a star.

Each square in the row/column grid shows the color that you will see on this face of the fabric and also whether the row loop "-" or column loop "|" lies on top, i.e., whether your row passes over [-] or under [|] the column at this spot.

One simple way to use the pattern is to put all your column loops on your loom as indicated by the peg colors across the top, then follow the chart row by row to weave in your row loops.

When weaving in the loops, the direction of the line corresponds to the direction of the loop that is visible in that spot.

In traditional potholder weaving terms:

- The symbol means <u>over</u>: bring the horizontal weft loop in front of the vertical warp one.
- The | symbol means <u>under</u>: pass the horizontal weft loop behind the vertical warp one.

#### Front and Back Previews

At the top of each chart are small versions showing the front and back of the finished design, as if it was hung from the top-left corner of the chart — but there's no need to follow that choice; instead, when you've finished weaving each item, examine the front and back from each angle and decide which you prefer.

# More About These Charts

#### Basic Weaving Patterns: Tabby and Twill

Some patterns are worked in "tabby" plain weave, passing over one loop and under the next. Others use "twill" weaves, bringing each loop over two loops and then under two, and so on. Advanced patterns require a mix, passing over or under one or two loops in a compex order.

Tabby weave is the simple over/under that springs to mind when most of us think of weaving potholders. Each loop passes over and then under each loop that it crosses, strictly alternating. The resulting fabric is flat and relatively stiff.

Twill weave produces a fabric that is thicker, more flexible, and smaller. The two types of twill weaves that work best on the potholder loom are over 2 / under 1 (written 2/1) and over 2 / under 2 (2/2). On each row, you weave as named (either over 2 / under 1, or over 2 / under 2), shifting the sequence one column over on each subsequent row.

2/1 Twill acrosss 9 columns:

row 1: oouoouoou row 2: uoouoouoo row 3: ouoouoouo

[repeat]

#### **Color Choices**

The charts in this collection almost all designed for two colorways. All the patterns are shown in black and white, to heighten contrast between the two colorways and make the pattern easier to read, and to make it easy to print these pages inexpensively or at home. (A few charts at the very end of the collection use three colors by including a medium gray tone.)

Use your design sense for which colors to combine in any given pattern. You might opt for two colors with high contrast, two related colors, a spectrum, such as a rainbow or a gradient, against a black or white or other solid color background, etc.

Team colors, pride flags, your own personal taste, the color scheme of a friend's kitchen — all of these are good ways of selecting colors that work well together.

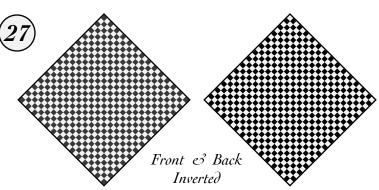
#### Combinging Colors with Weaving Patterns

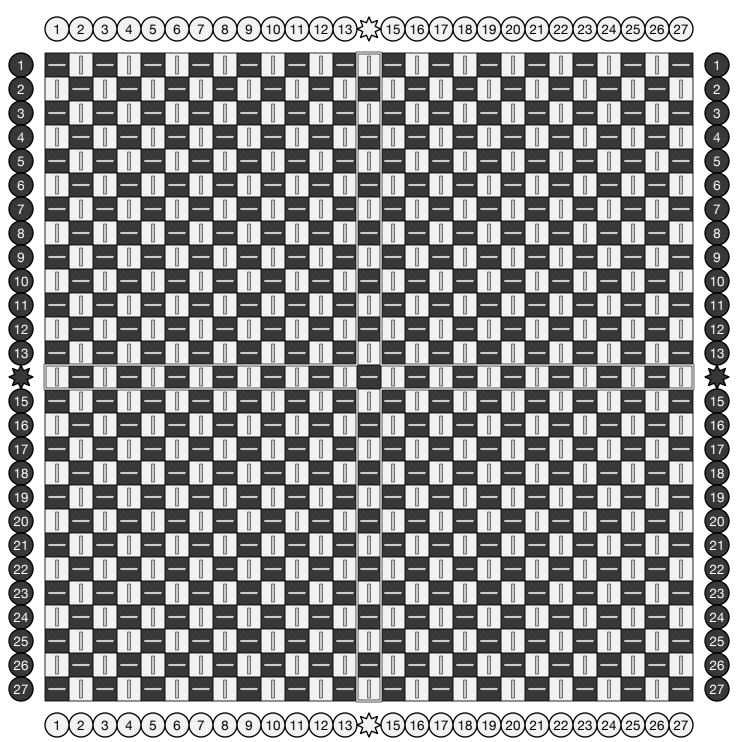
These different weaving patterns described above interact with the colors that are chosen for the rows and columns, so alternating between two colors in your warp and weft will have very different effects for a tabby or twill weave.

The first few patterns illustrate the chart conventions as we showcase the effects of alternating color combinations.

# **Basic Tabby**

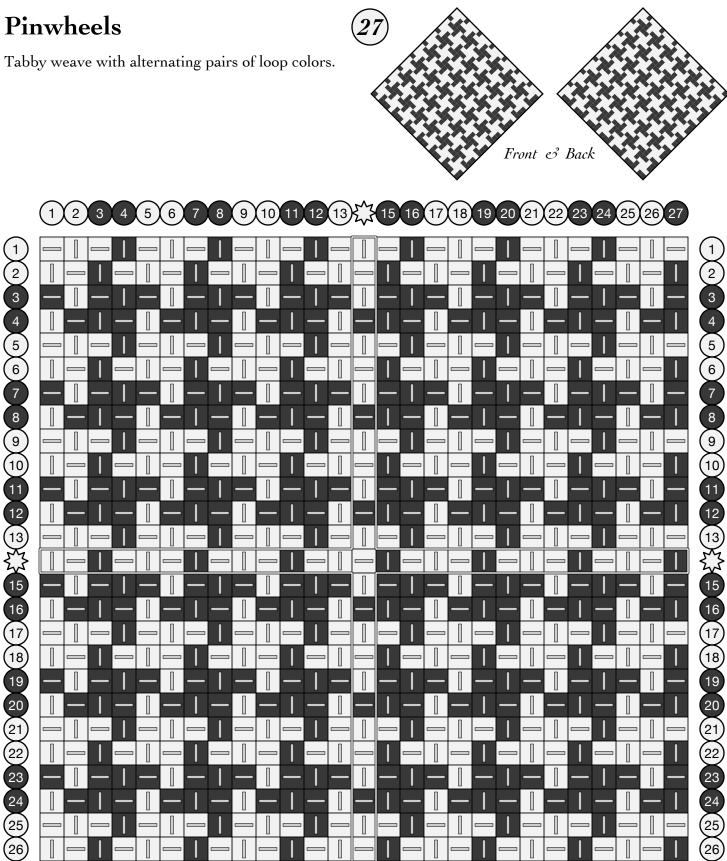
The simplest of all possible weaves, "tabby" refers to the basic over-one/under-one style. If all of your vertical "warp" loops are one color and all of your horizontal "weft" loops are another, the result is a dense checkerboard of alternating colors. The other side shows the same design with colors reversed.





## **Pinwheels**

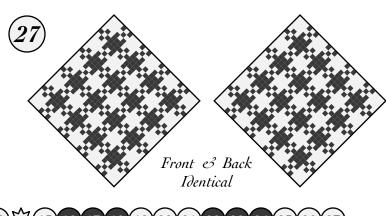
Tabby weave with alternating pairs of loop colors.

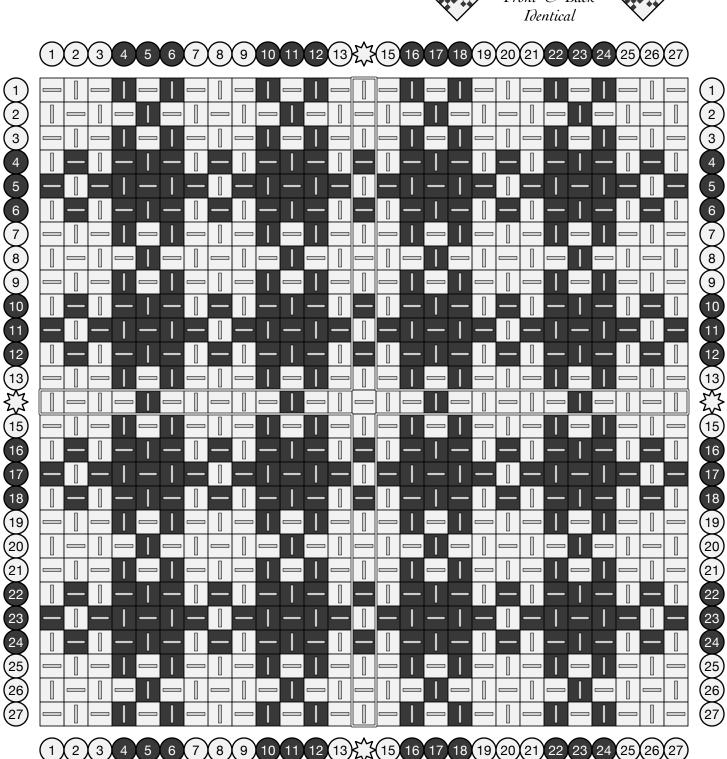


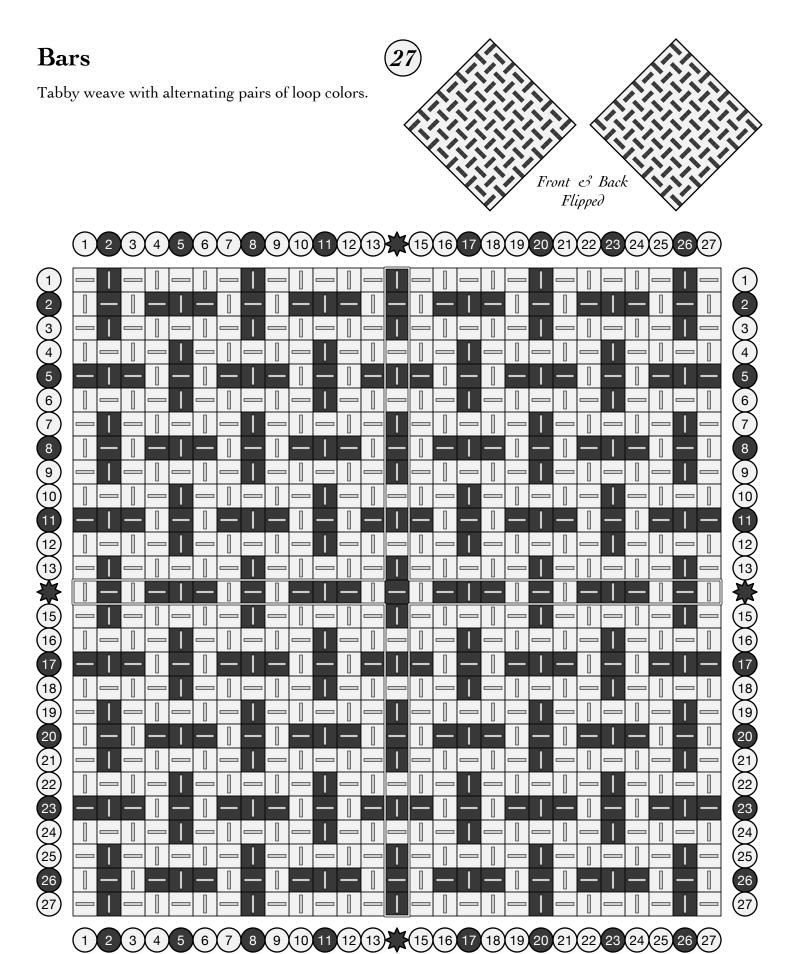
10) 11) 12 (13) { } 15) 16 (17) (18) 19) 20 (21) (22) 23) 24 (25)(26)(27) 9

## Plaid

Tabby weave with alternating trios of loop colors.





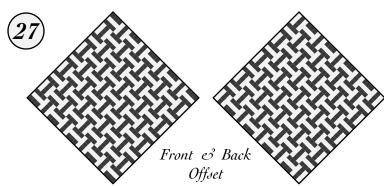


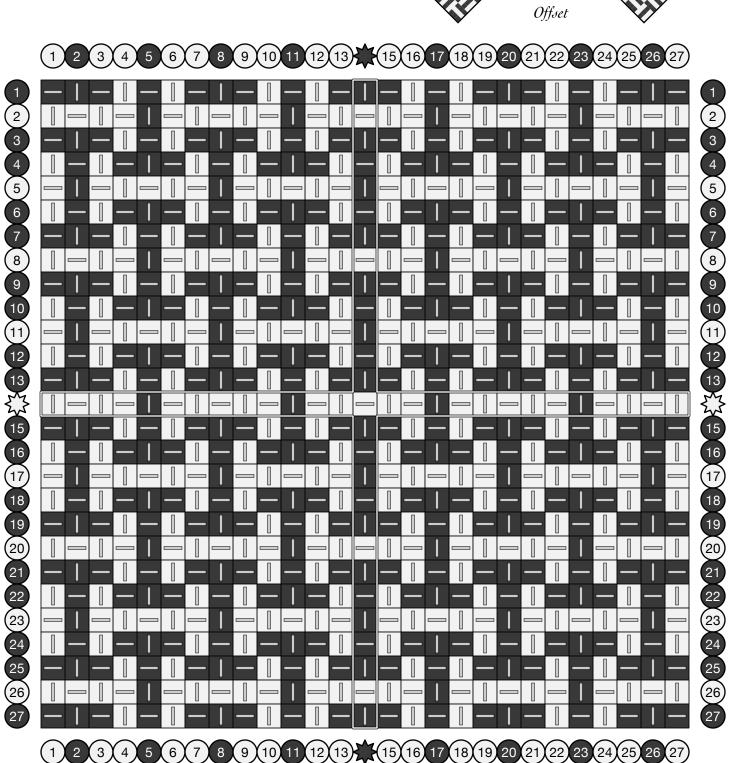
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# **Barbells**

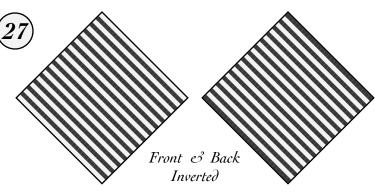
Tabby weave with alternating pairs of loop colors.

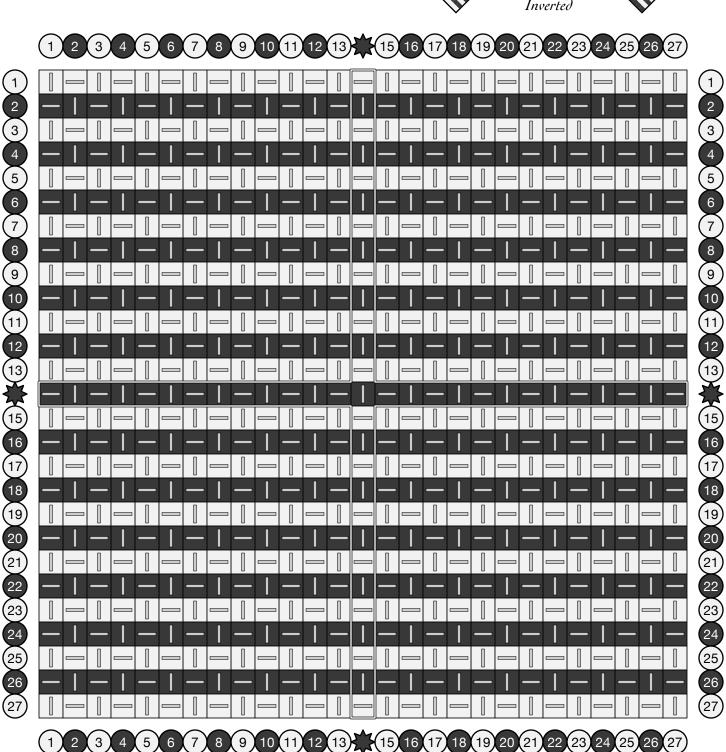




# **Stripes**

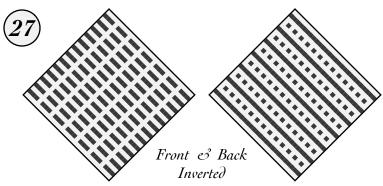
Tabby weave with alternating colors. The other side shows the same design with colors reversed.

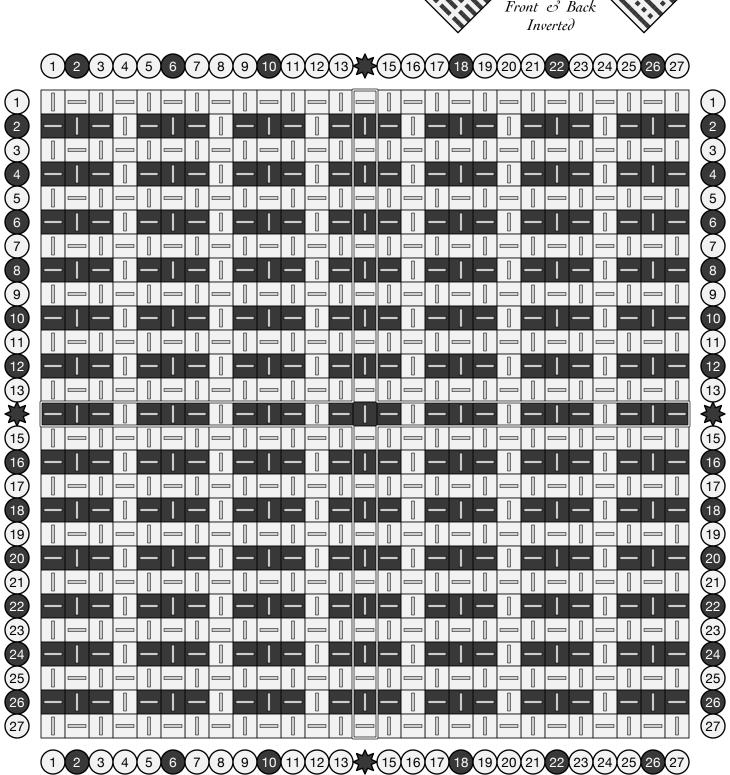




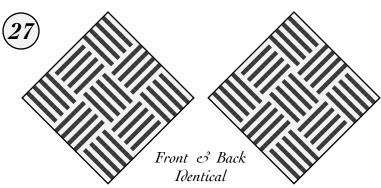
# **Broken Stripes**

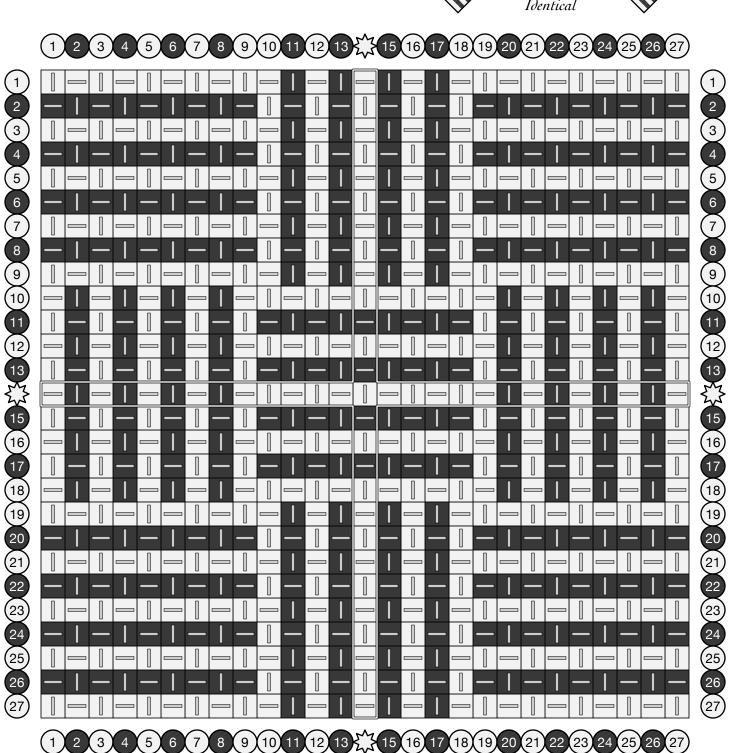
Tabby weave with alternating pairs of loop colors.



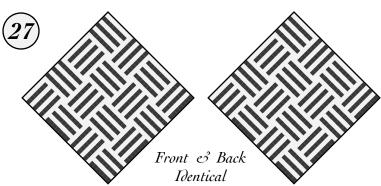


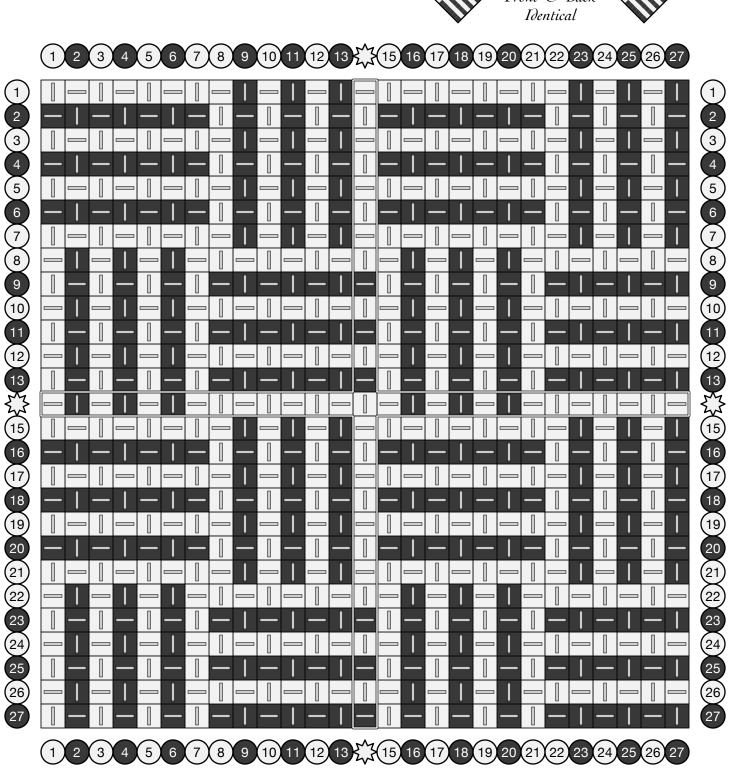
# Log Cabin



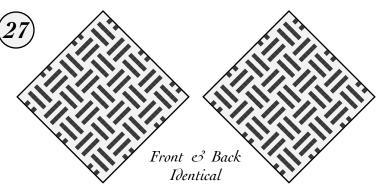


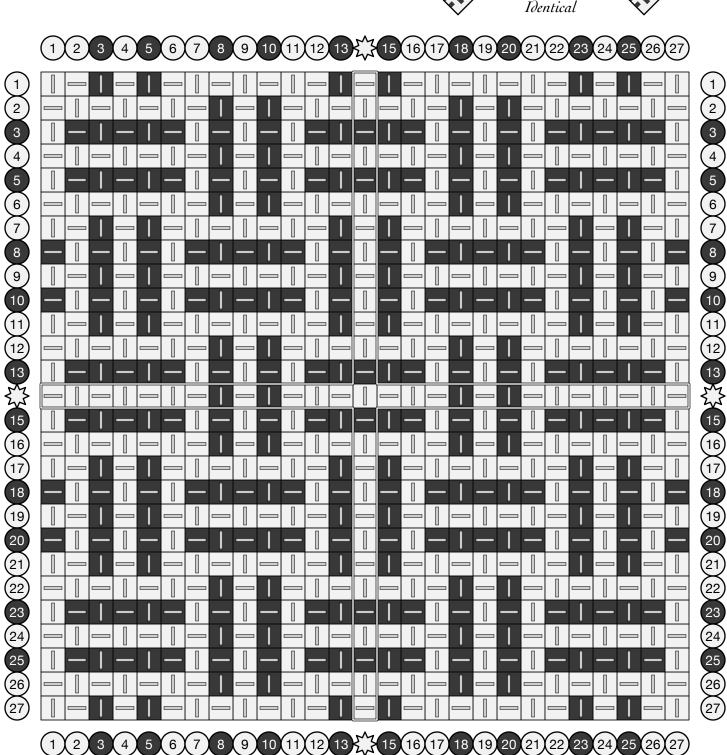
# Log Cabin (Blocks of 7)



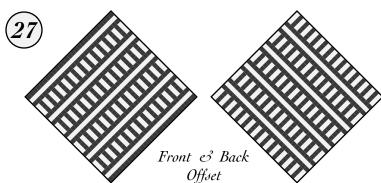


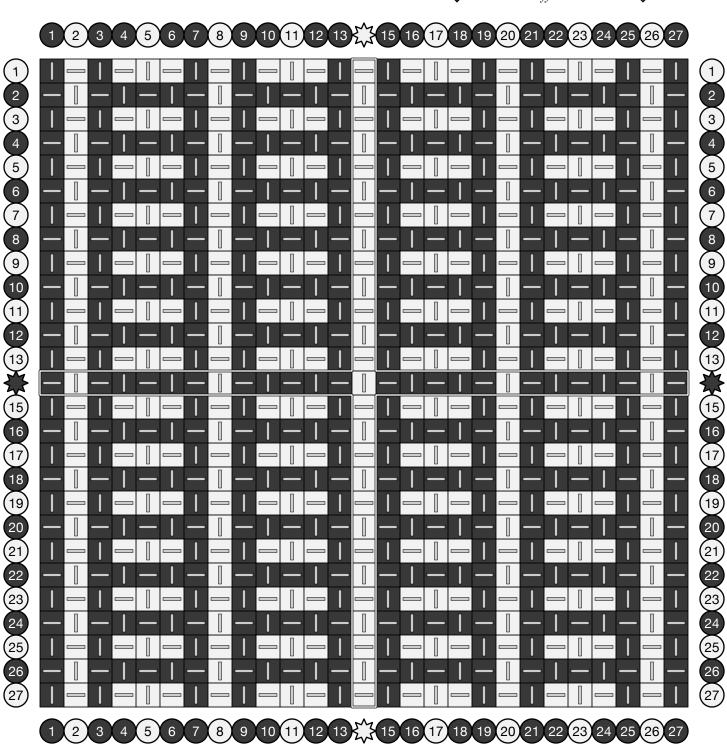
# Log Cabin (Blocks of 5)





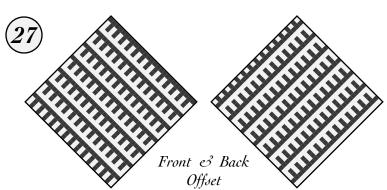
## Ladders

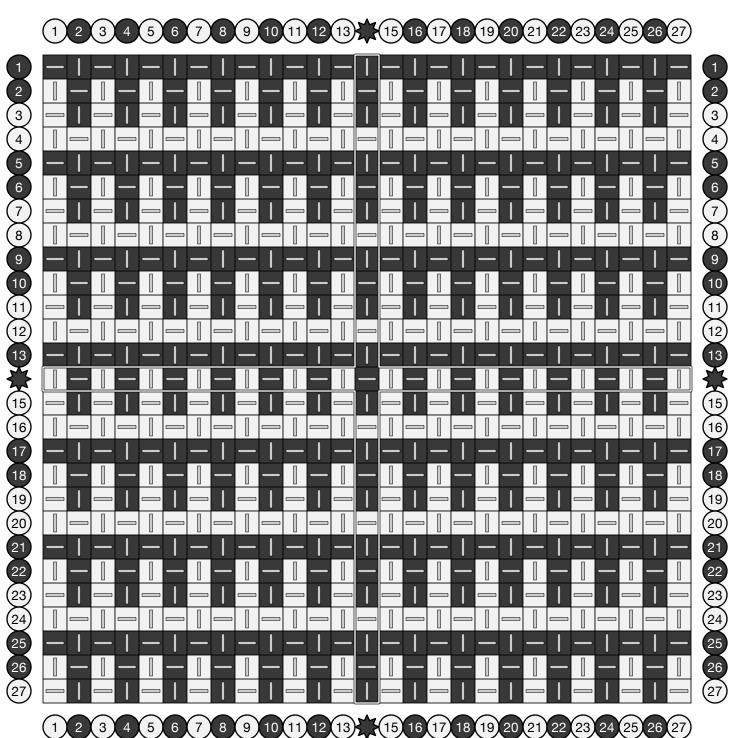




## **Combs**

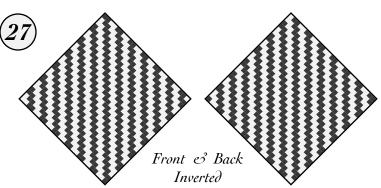
Tabby weave with alternating colors, ABAB in one direction and AABB in the other, produces a pattern reminiscent of interlaced combs or piano keys.

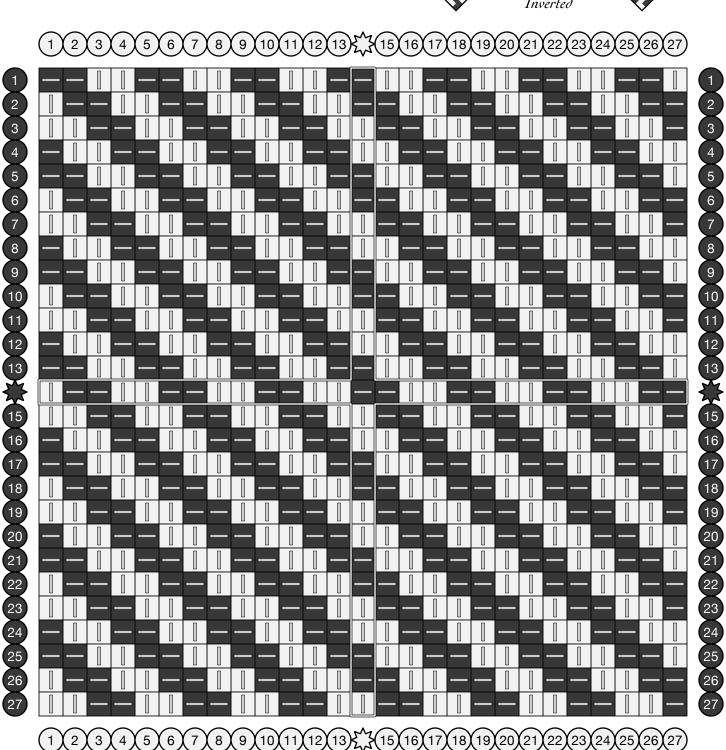




## Basic Two-Two Twill

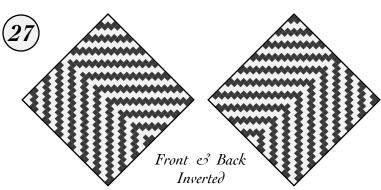
Weaving over two loops and then under two loops, shifting over by one loop on each row, produces a smooth, slightly puffy fabric.

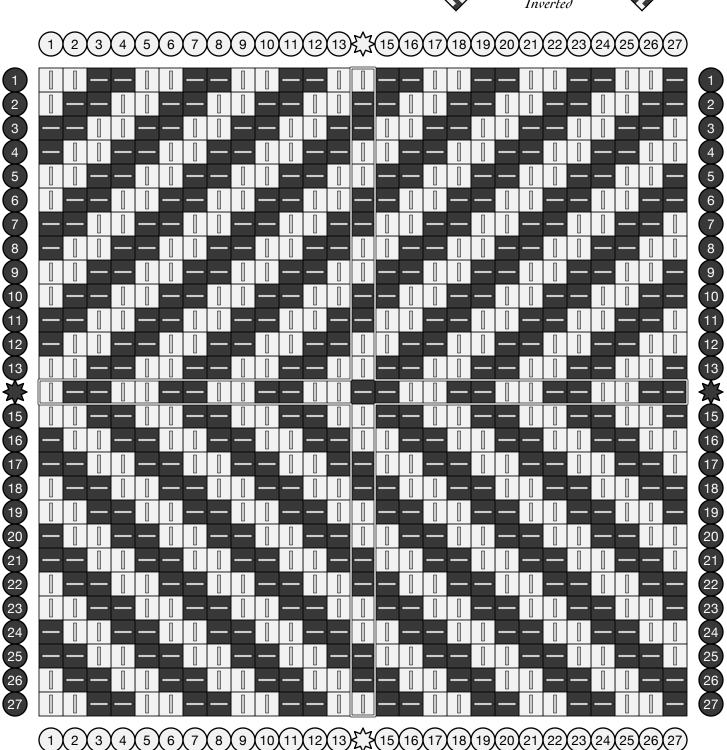




## Two-Two Twill Chevron

Weaving over two loops and then under two loops, shifting over by one loop on each row, produces a smooth, slightly puffy fabric.

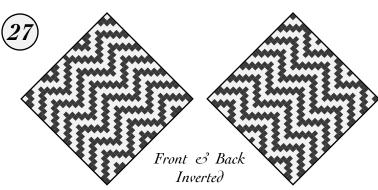


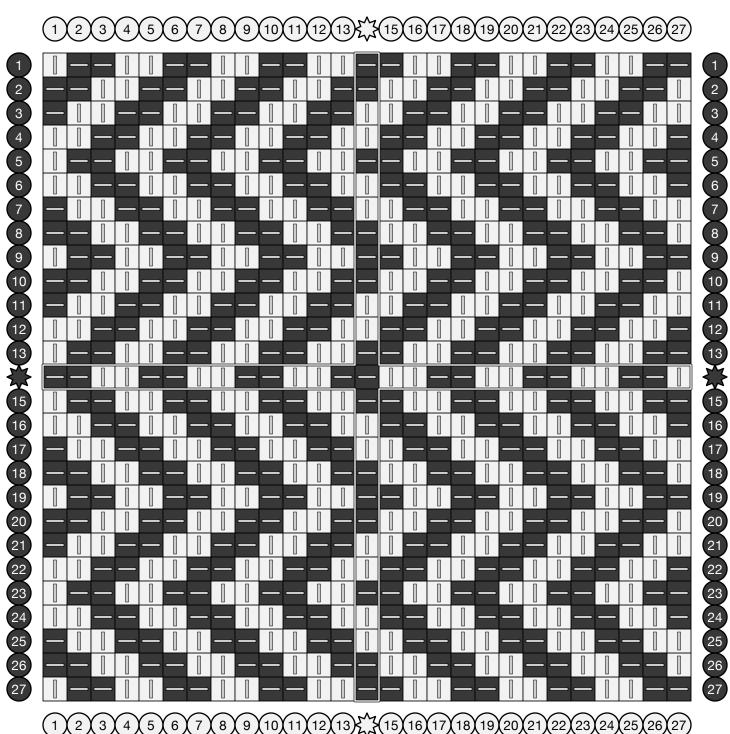


# Zig Zag Twill

Basic twill zigzags; if you are new to twill patterns, this is a nice way to ease yourself in. Evenly-dstributed floats create a puffy thickness that provides extra protection for heavy hot pots.

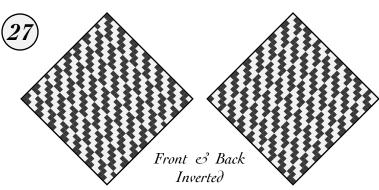
Charted February 2021.

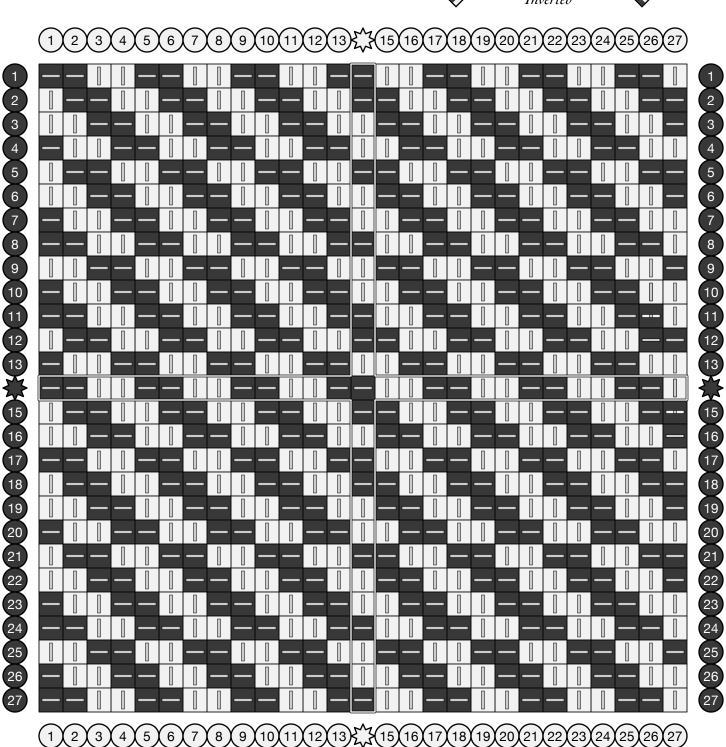




## **Broken Twill**

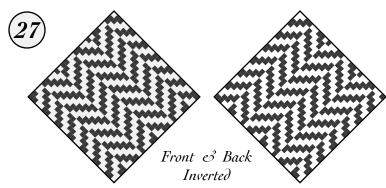
Weaving over two loops and then under two loops, shifting over by one loop on each row, produces a smooth, slightly puffy fabric.

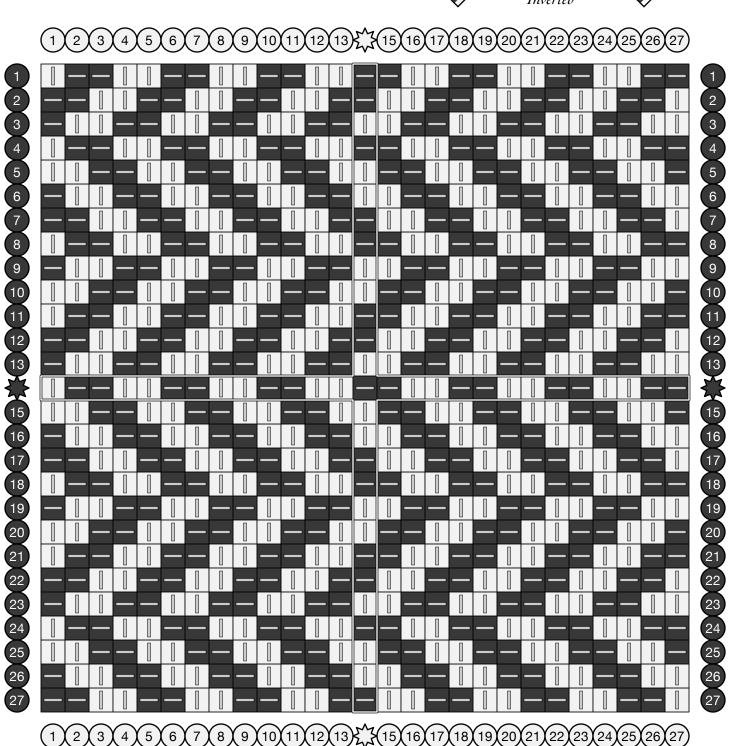




# Herringbone Twill

A two-two twill with alternating diagonals, herringbone is a traditional weaving pattern named for the rows of thin bones found in fish.

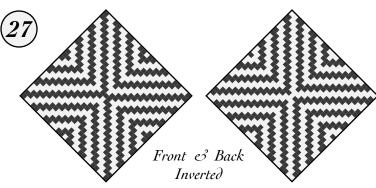


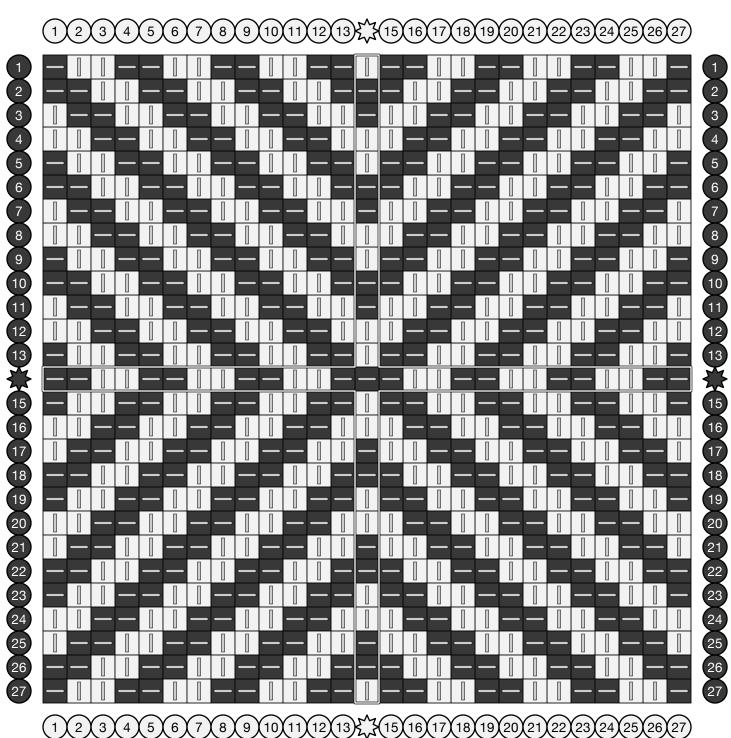


## Two-Two Twill Saltire

Weaving over two loops and then under two loops, shifting over by one loop on each row, produces a smooth, slightly puffy fabric.

Charted April 2022.

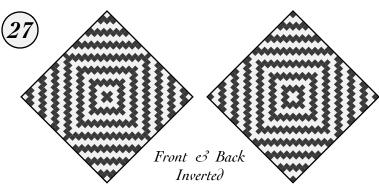


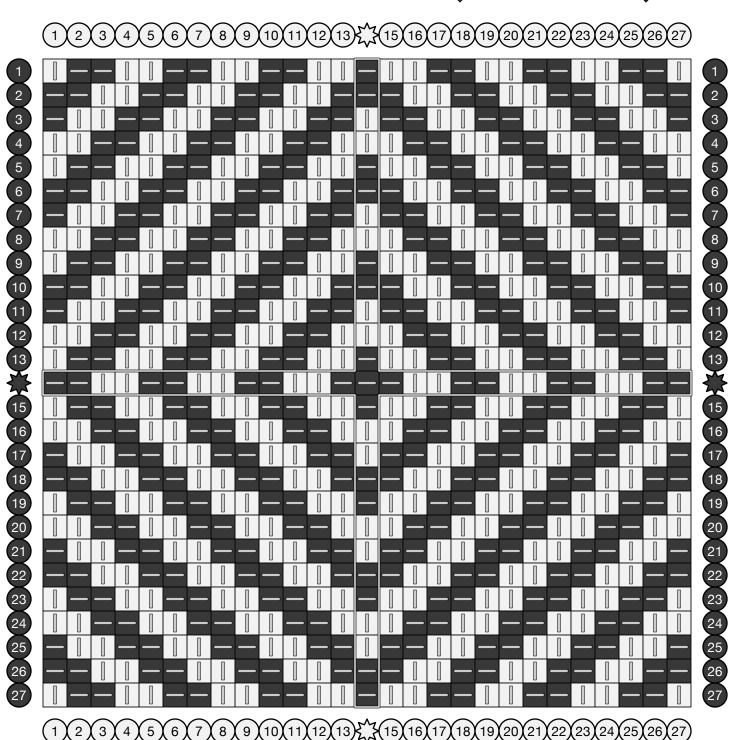


## Two-Two Twill Diamond

Weaving over two loops and then under two loops, shifting over by one loop on each row, produces a smooth, slightly puffy fabric.

Charted April 2022.

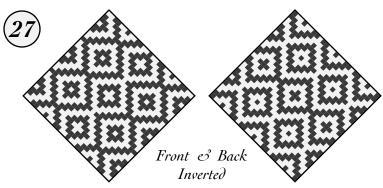


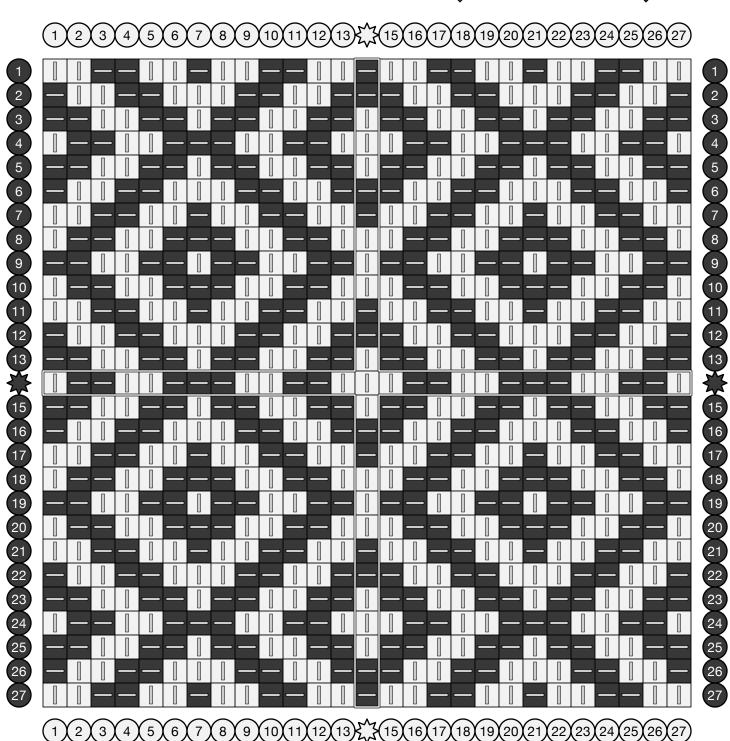


## Twill Pavé

Repeatedly reversing the direction of the twill produces a series of closely-set diamonds.

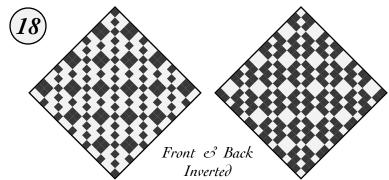
Charted April 2022.

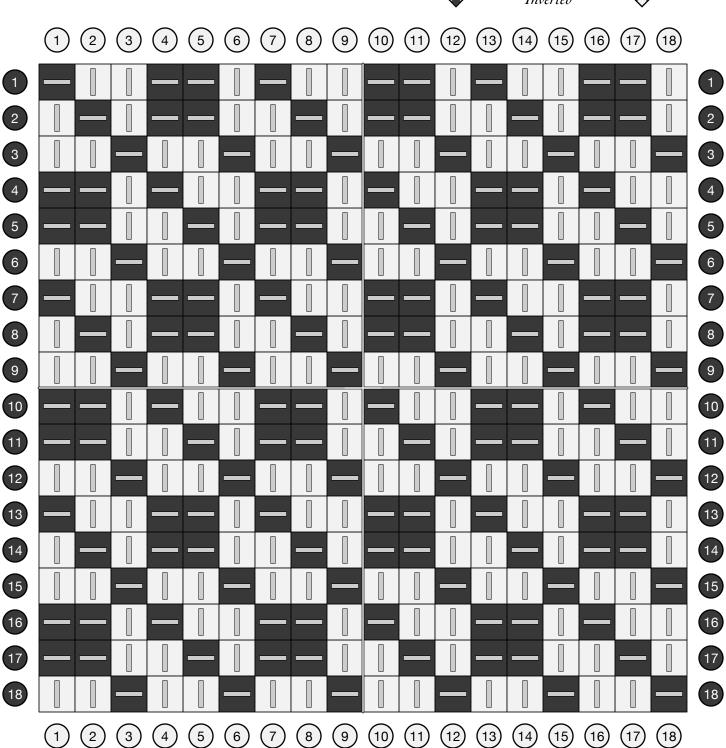




# **Beaded Twill**

Adapted from Griswold's *Classical Collection 1*, archived at handweaving.net (#2701).



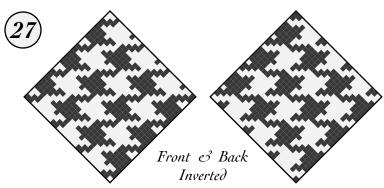


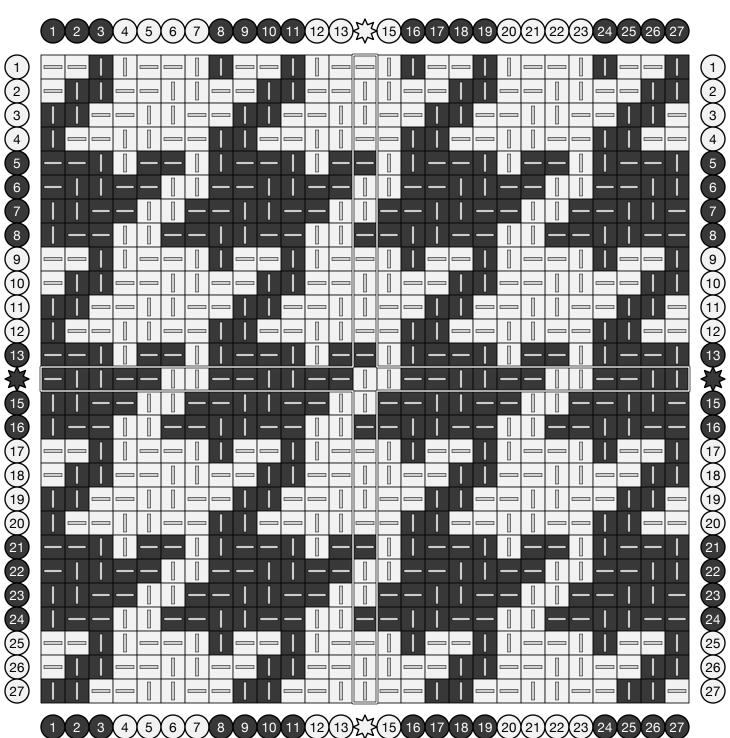
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## **Houndstooth Twill**

Combining a basic two-two twill weave with alternating color threading produces a repeating pattern of jagged shapes called houndstooth.

A classic pattern, added to our charts April 2022.

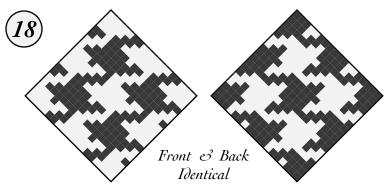


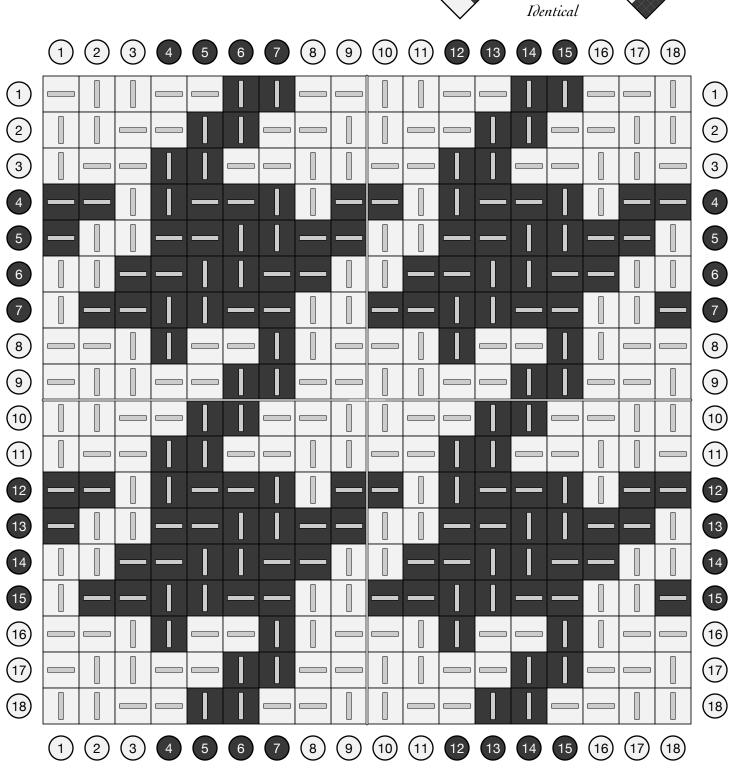


## **Houndstooth Twill**

Combining a basic two-two twill weave with alternating color threading produces a repeating pattern of jagged shapes called houndstooth.

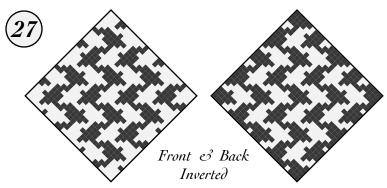
A classic pattern, added to our charts April 2022.

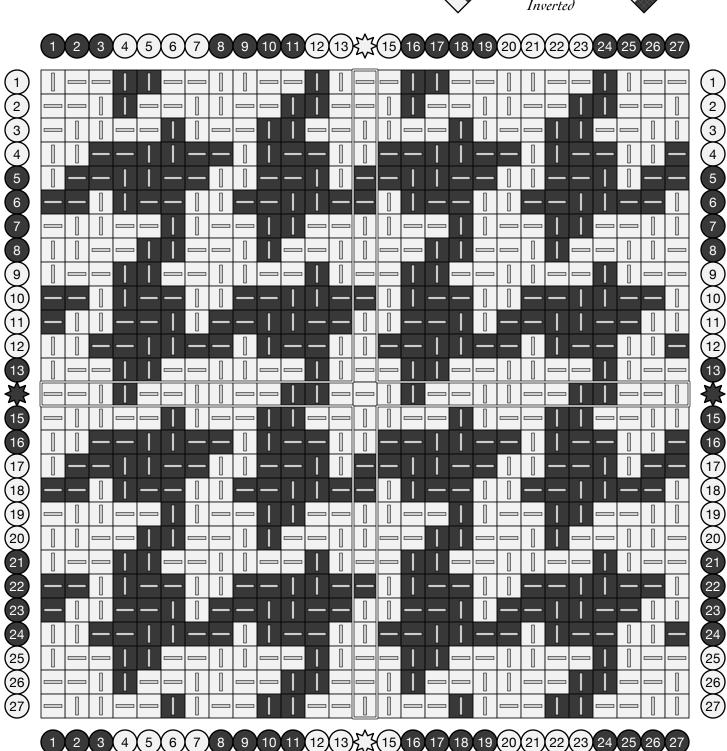




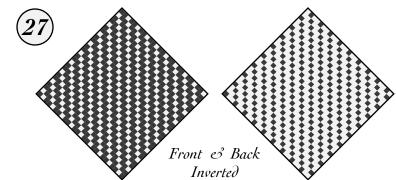
## **Sharktooth Twill**

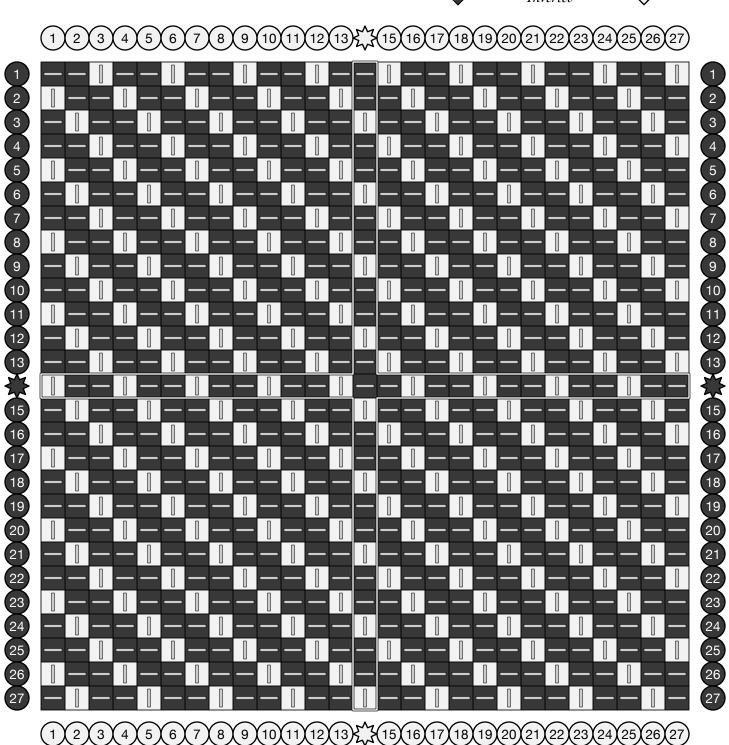
Combining a basic two-two twill weave with alternating color threading produces a repeating pattern of jagged shapes called houndstooth.





## Two-One Twill



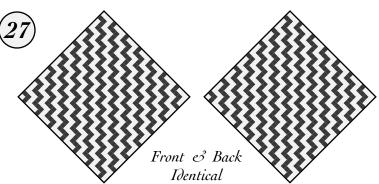


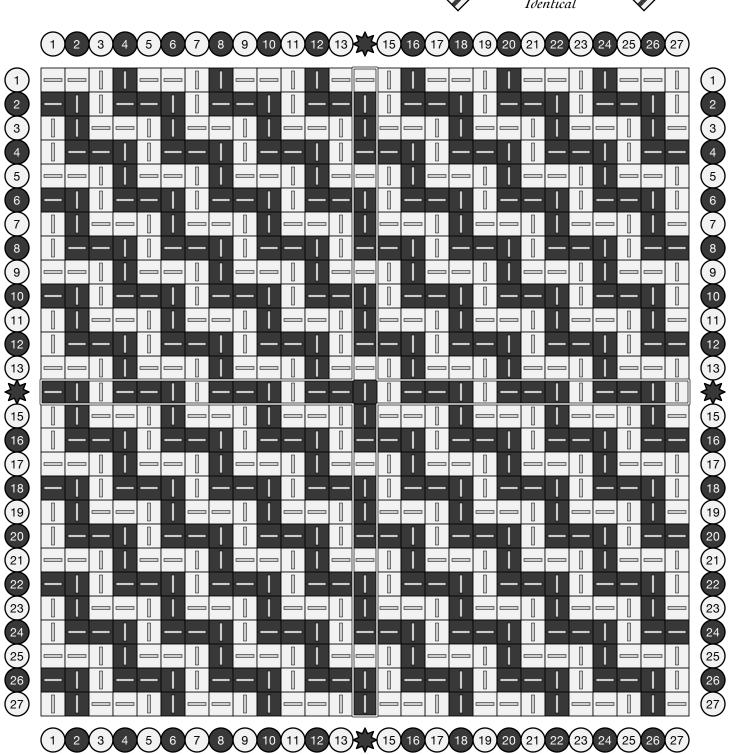
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# Two-Two Twill Steps

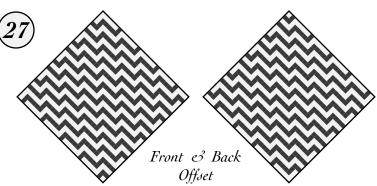
The combination of alternating color warp and weft with an over-two/under-two twill weave produces a stair-step pattern.

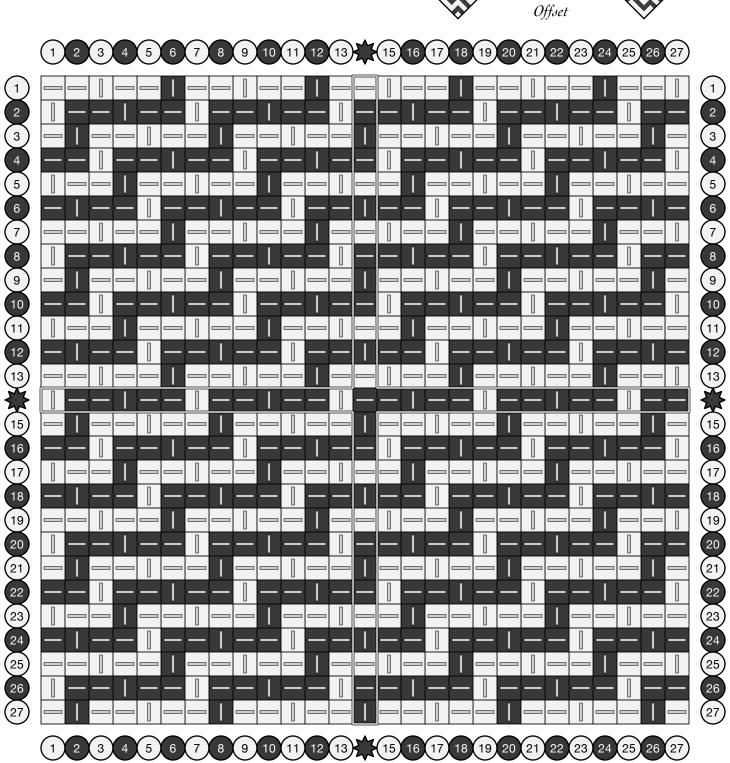




# Two-One Twill Steps

The combination of alternating color warp and weft with an over-two/under-one twill weave produces a stair-step pattern.

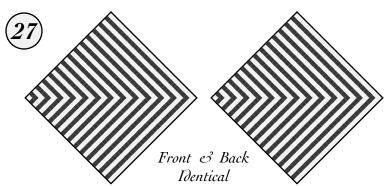


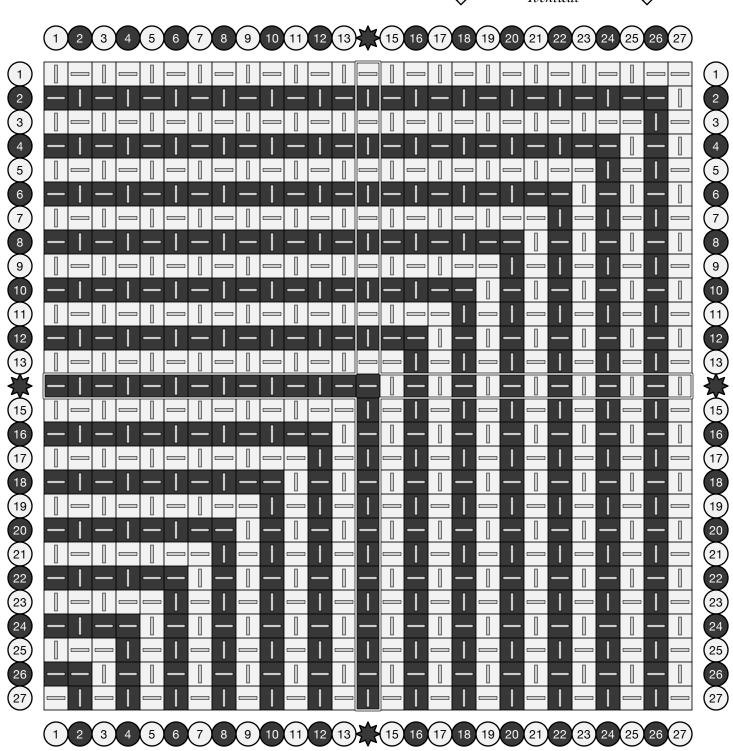


#### **Corners**

A single diagonal twill stripe gives this pattern a dramatic twist.

A simple original design from February 2021.

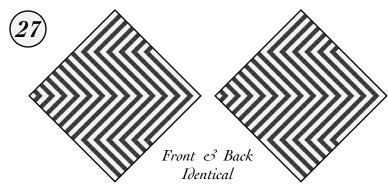


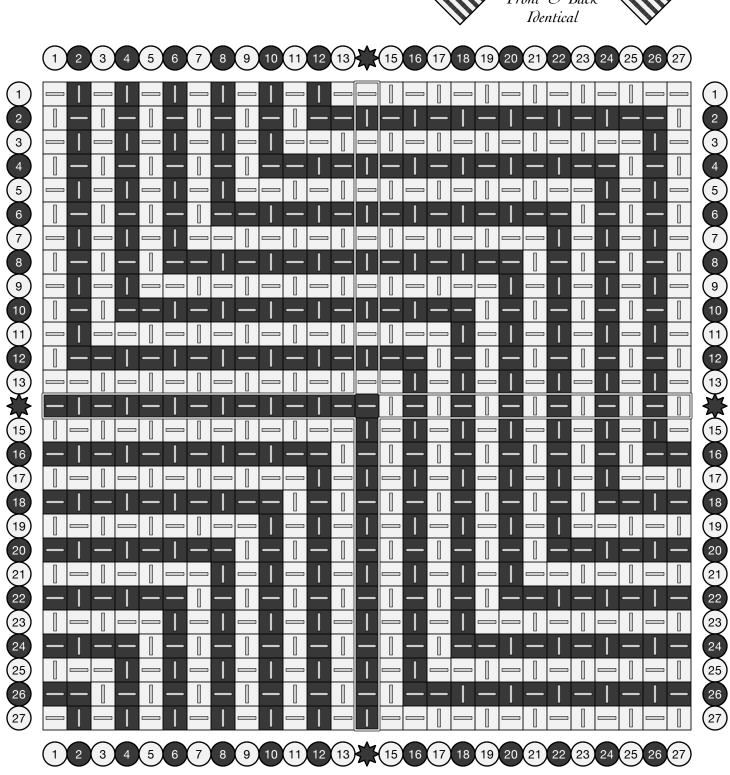


## **Twisted Corners**

Three diagonal twill stripes produce a series of nested chevrons.

A simple original design from April 2022.

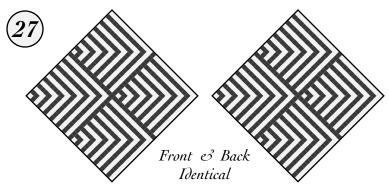


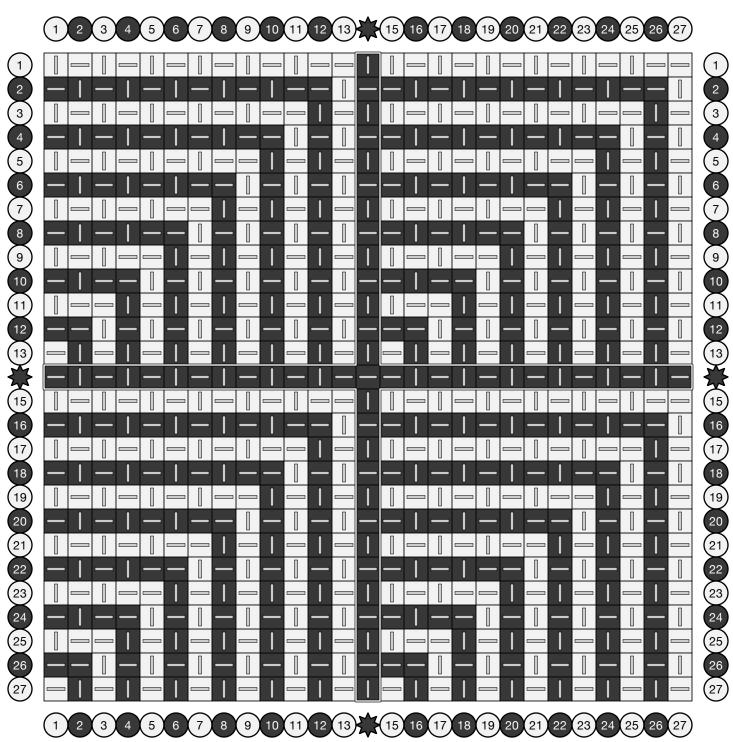


#### **Four Corners**

Multiple twill stripes produce a series of nested chevrons.

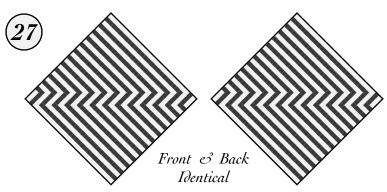
A simple original design from April 2022.

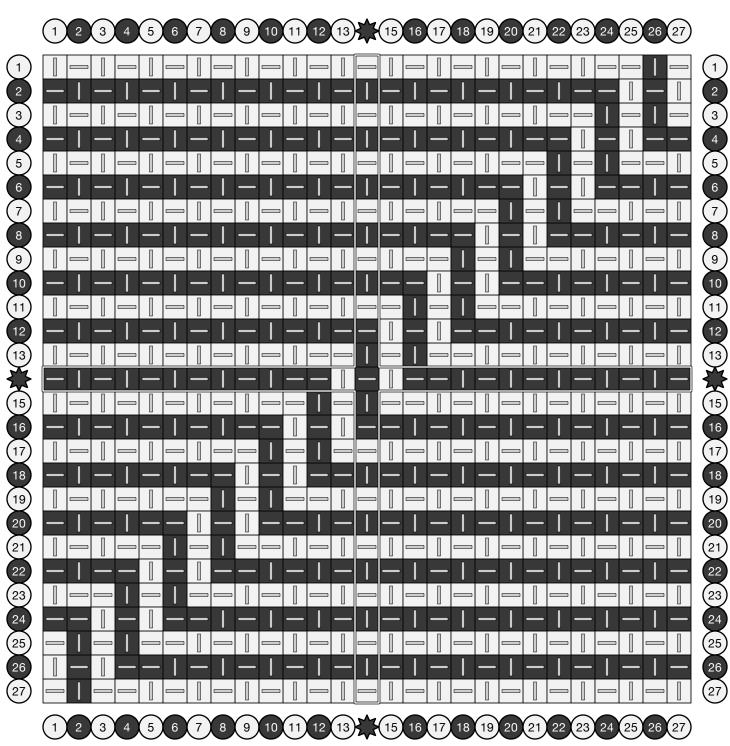




# Ziggity-Do-Dah

The paired over-two column twills in the long diagonal across the center form a natural indentation across the fabric, very suitable for gripping a frying pan handle.

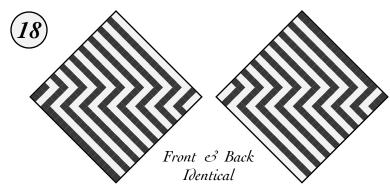


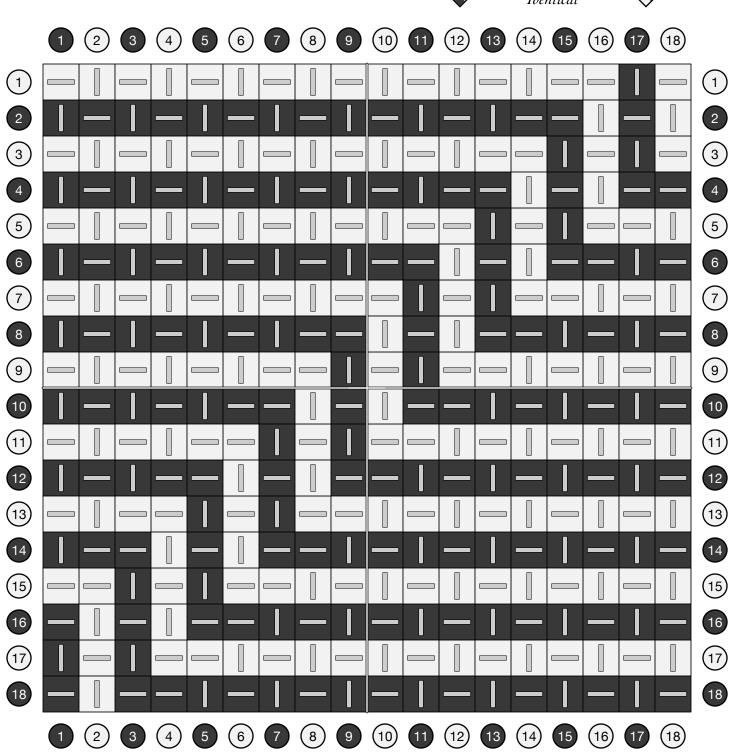


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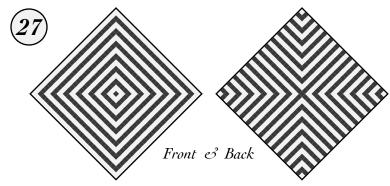


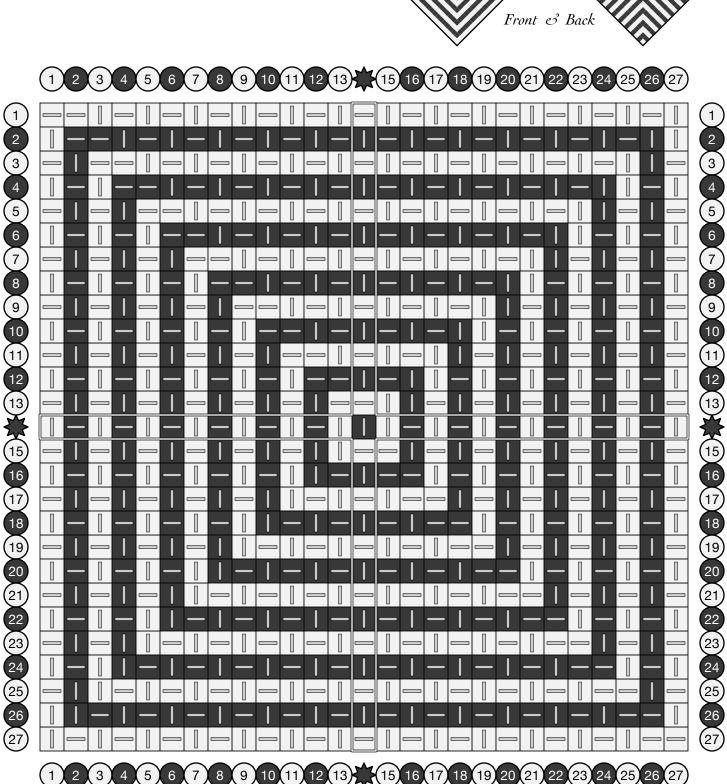


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## Noughts and Crosses

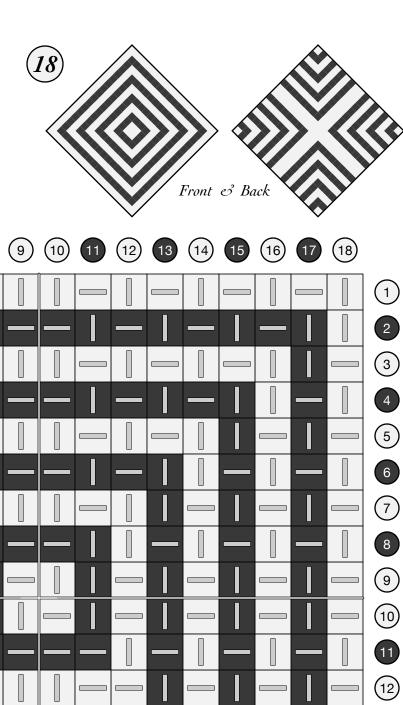
Squares on one side, crosses on the other.

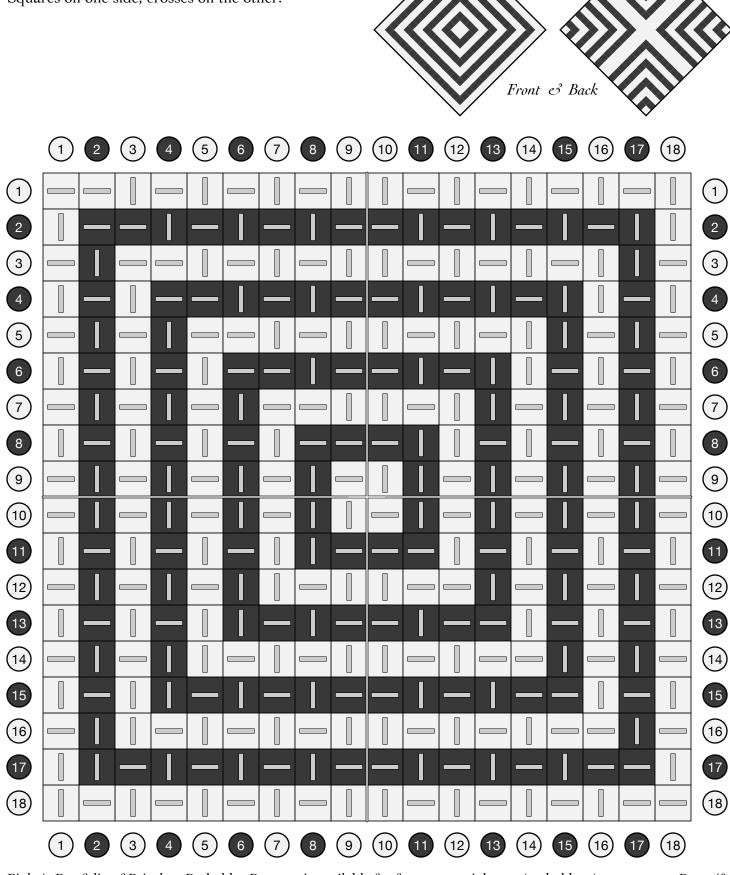




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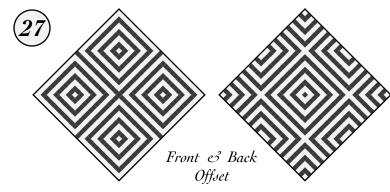


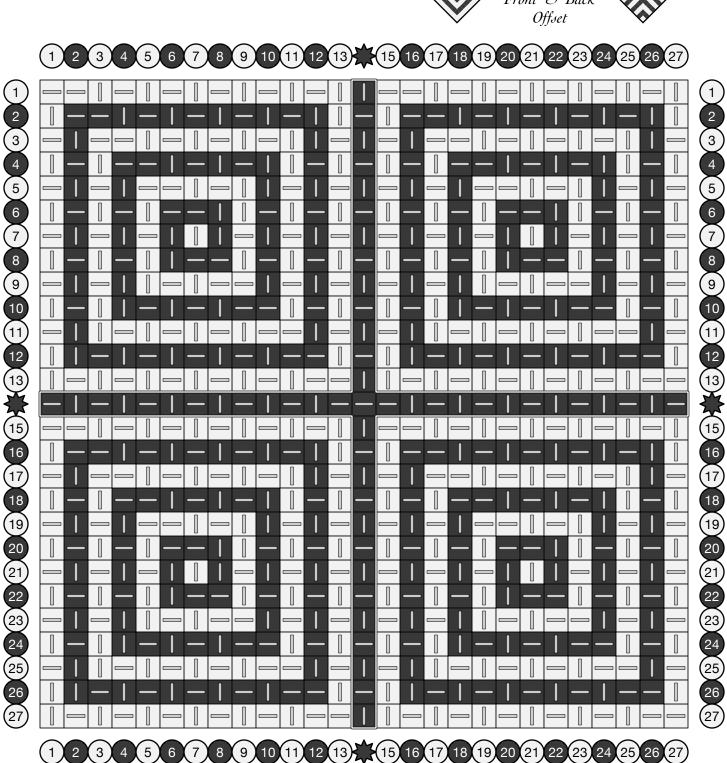
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# **Square Tiles**

Squares on one side, crosses on the other.

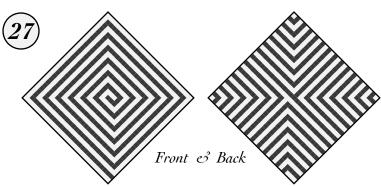


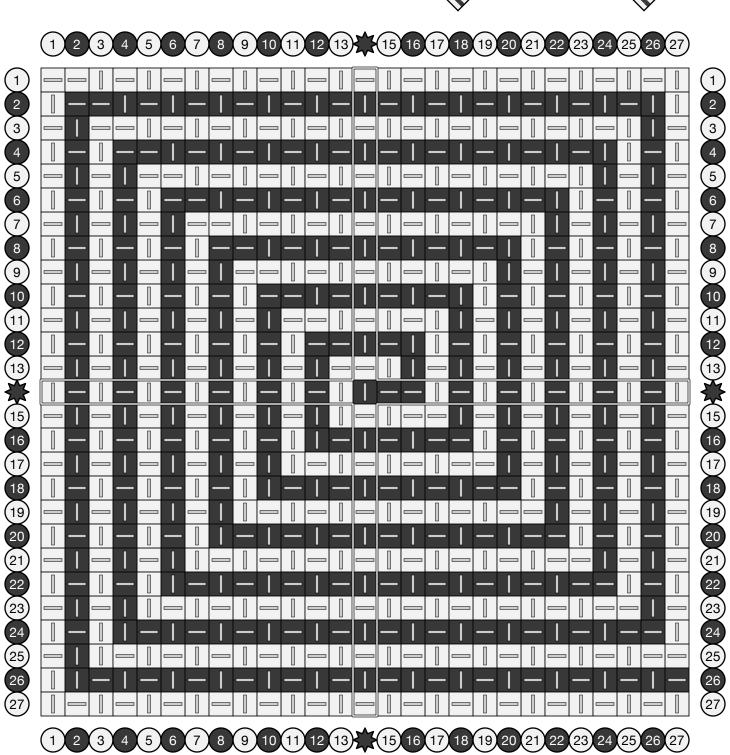


# **Square Spiral**

Offset twills cause this spiral to grow on each cycle.

Adapted from Bill West's Square Maze.

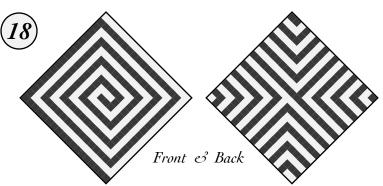


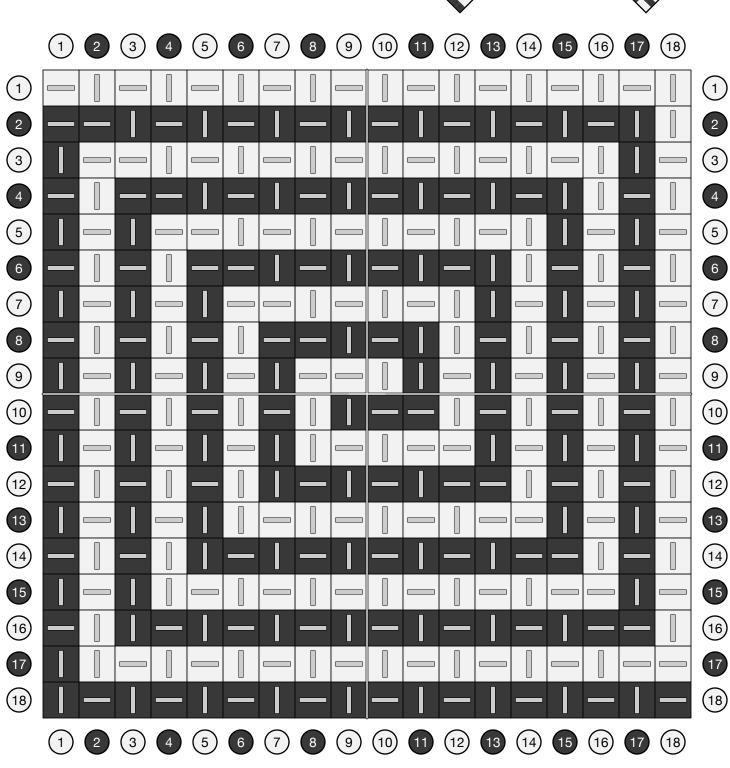


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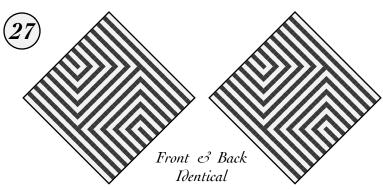


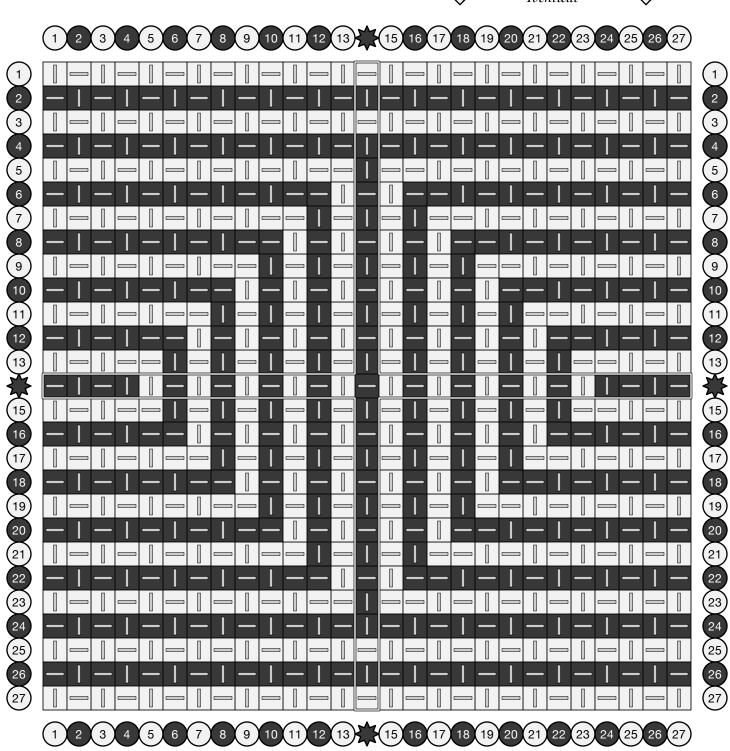


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## Floating Diamond

Worked in mostly tabby (over/under) weaving, mirrored pairs of over-two column twills on rows 5-23 change the line directions and texturally enhance the diamond optical illusion.



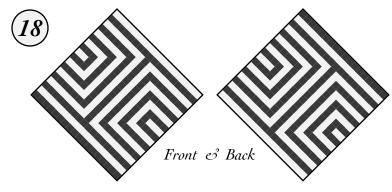


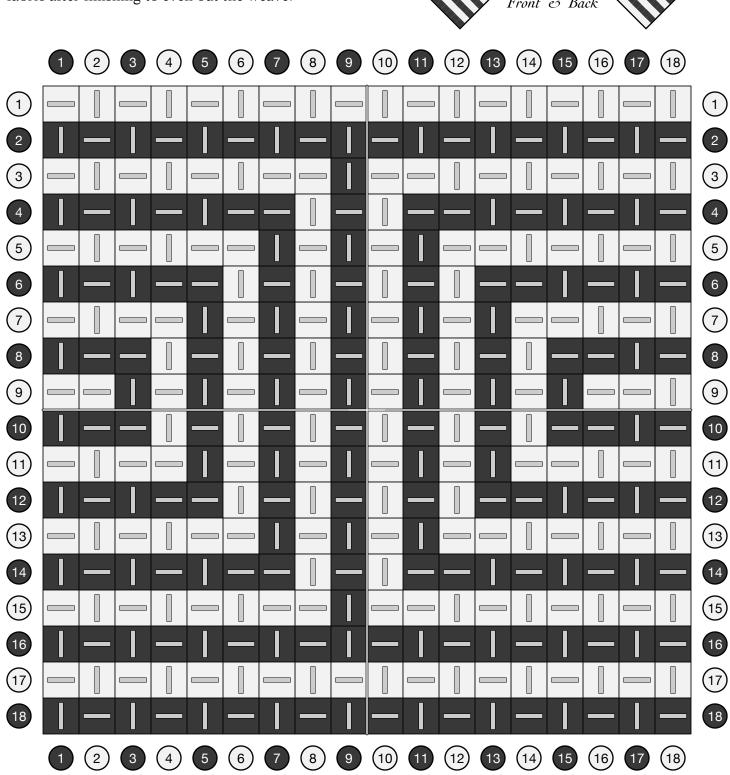
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## Floating Diamond

A smaller version of the floating-diamond pattern for traditional size looms.

To produce a better-centered pattern, omit the eighteenth loop in each direction, and then tug the fabric after finishing to even out the weave.

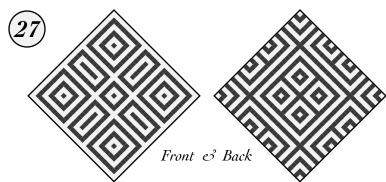


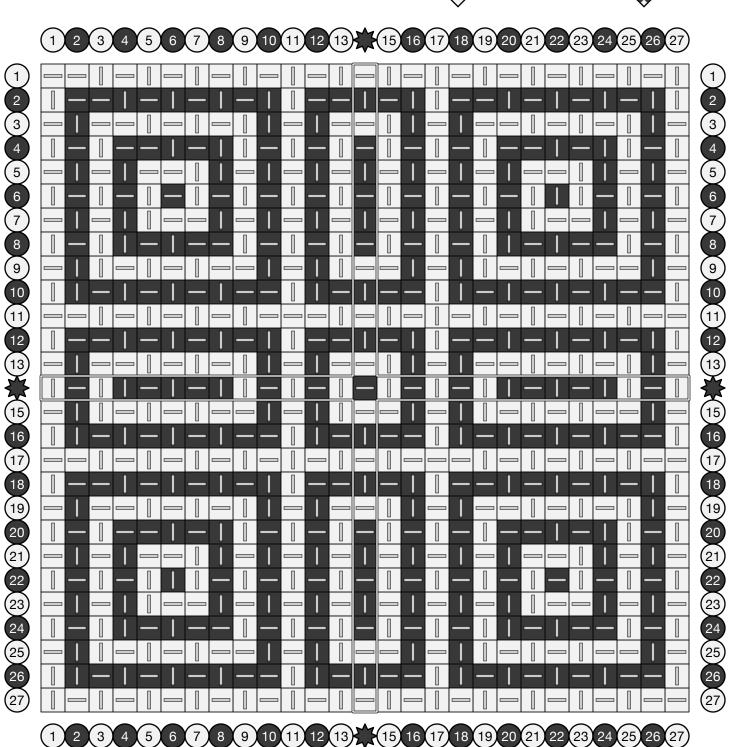


## **Nesting Boxes**

An original pattern of squares within squares.

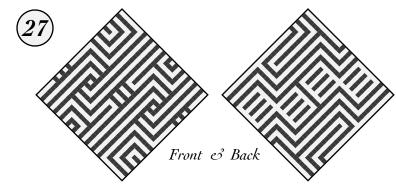
An original design from November 2020.

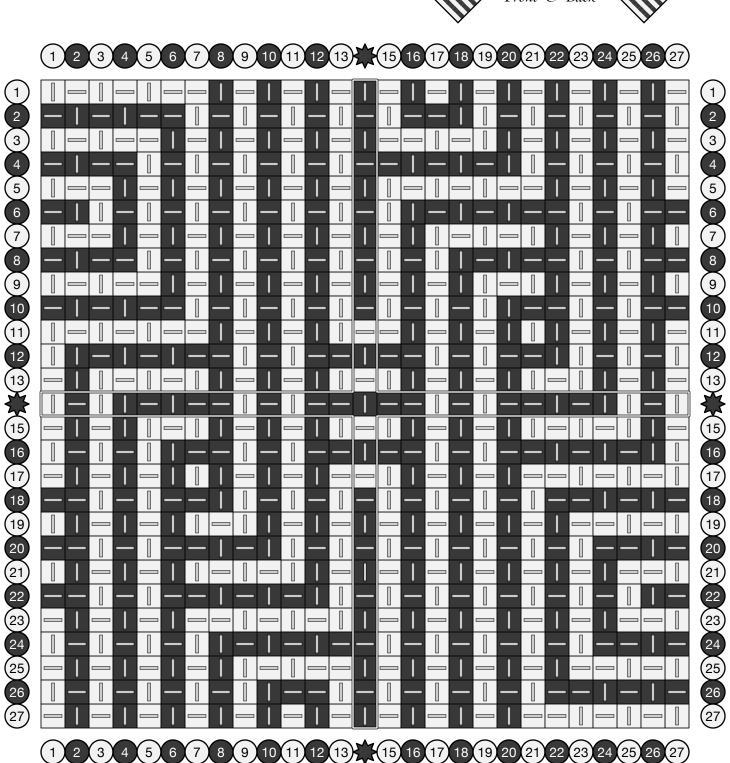




# Haring To Go

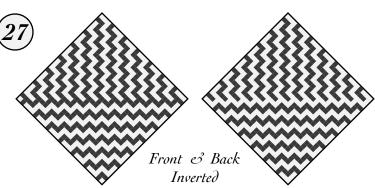
An original design from 2021 featuring interconnected strands.

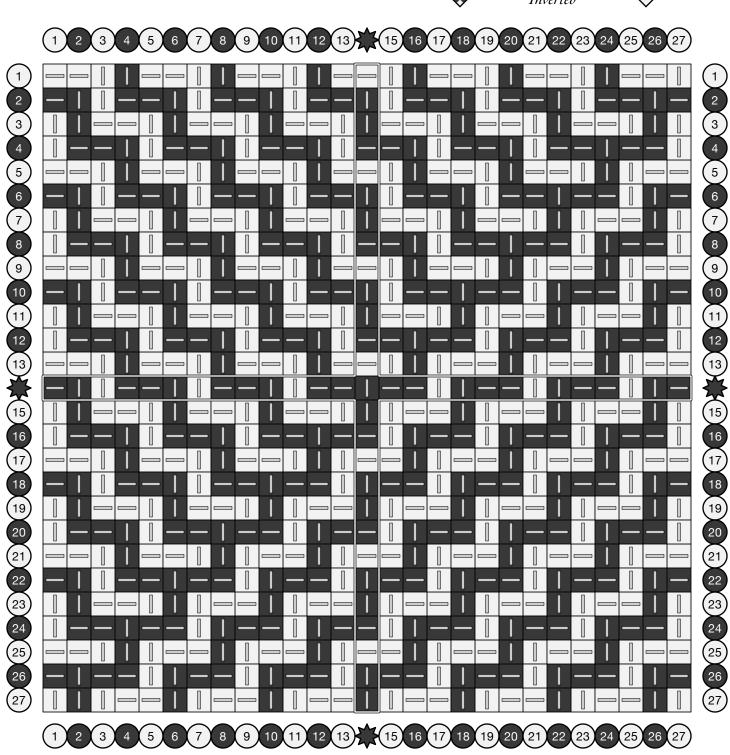




#### **Cross Breeze**

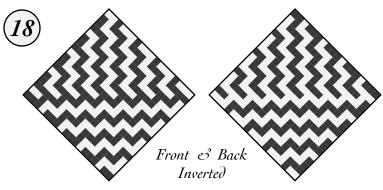
The flexibility and substance of the over-2/under-2 twill fabric provides a safe grip on hot pots while a long diagonal of under-3 twills creates a natural crease from corner to corner to fold around handles.

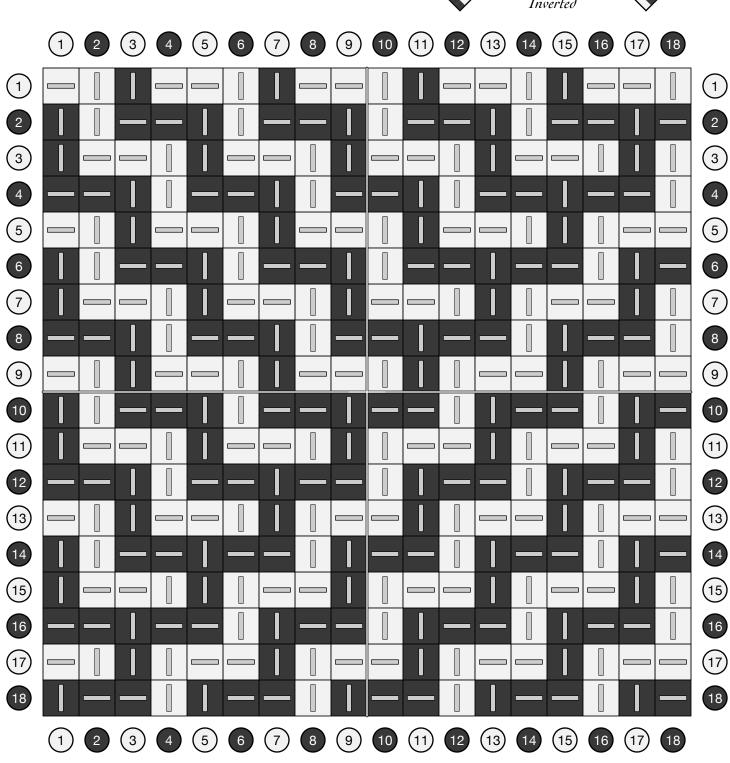




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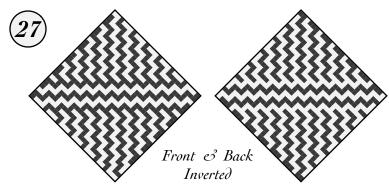


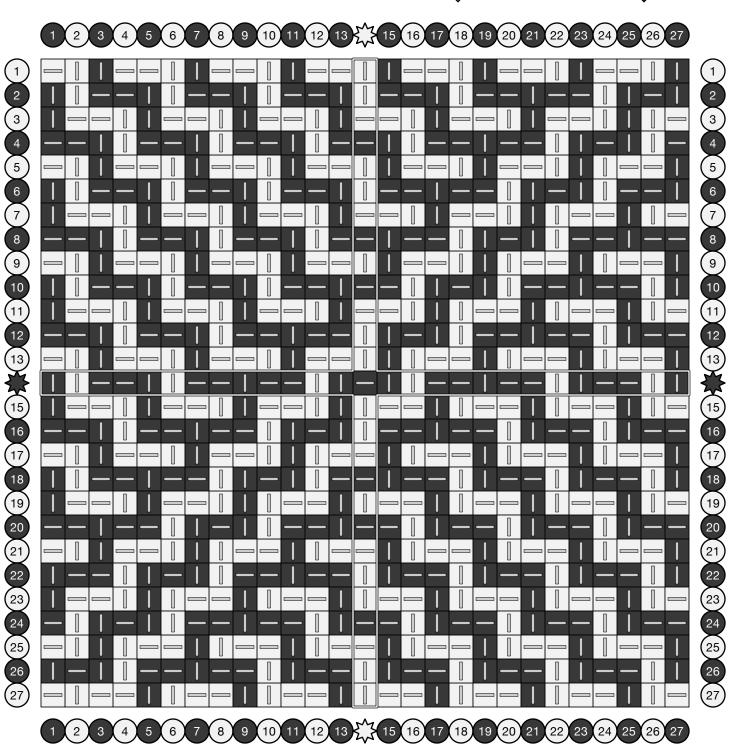


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### Rick Rack

The consistent diagonal 2/2 twill fabric is interrupted by a perpendicular ridge.

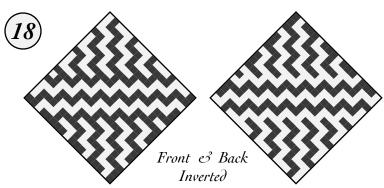


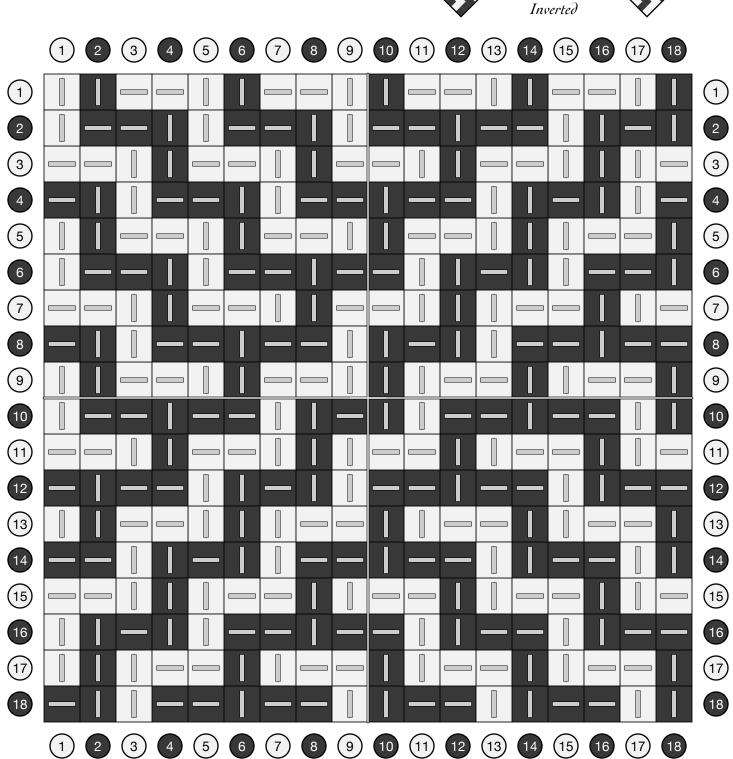


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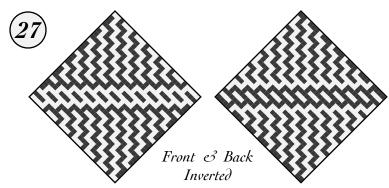
An original design from December 2021, adapted for 18-peg looms in April 2022.

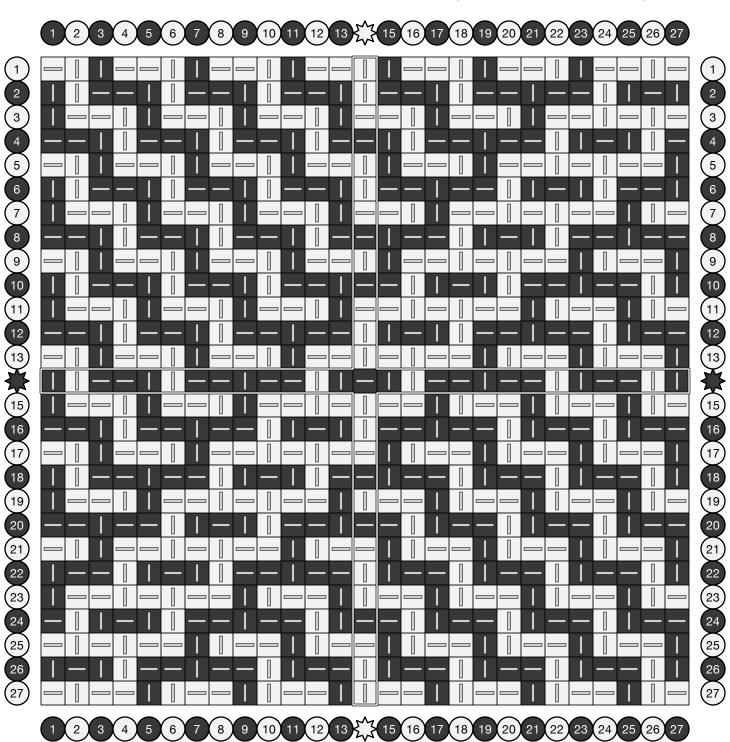




## Garden Path

The consistent diagonal 2/2 twill fabric is interrupted by a perpendicular ridge.

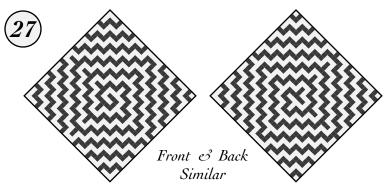


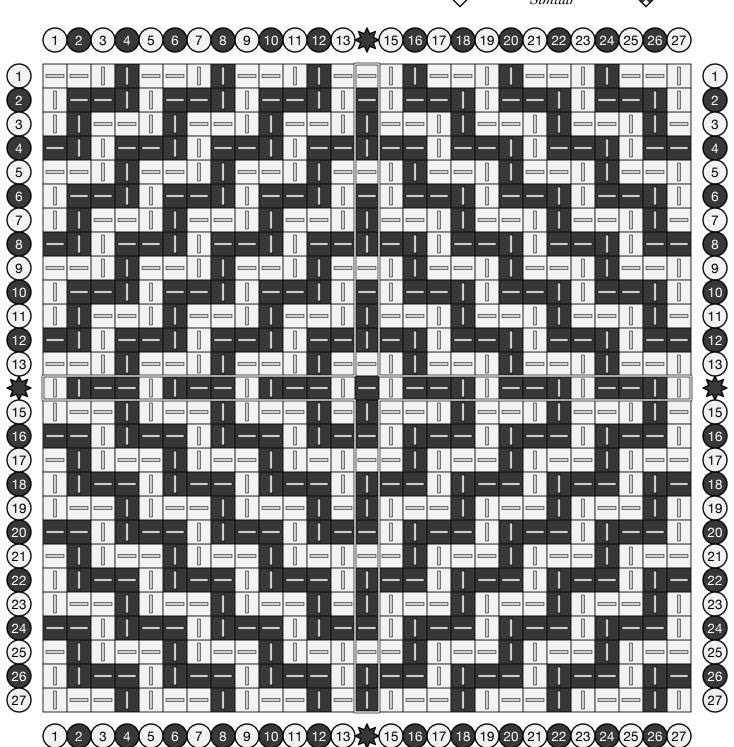


# **Diamond Spiral**

Adapted from "Spiral Maze" by Deborah Jean Cohen.

Charted Nov 2020.



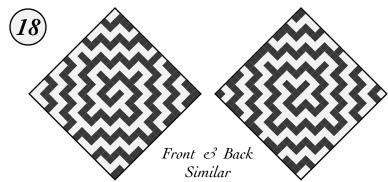


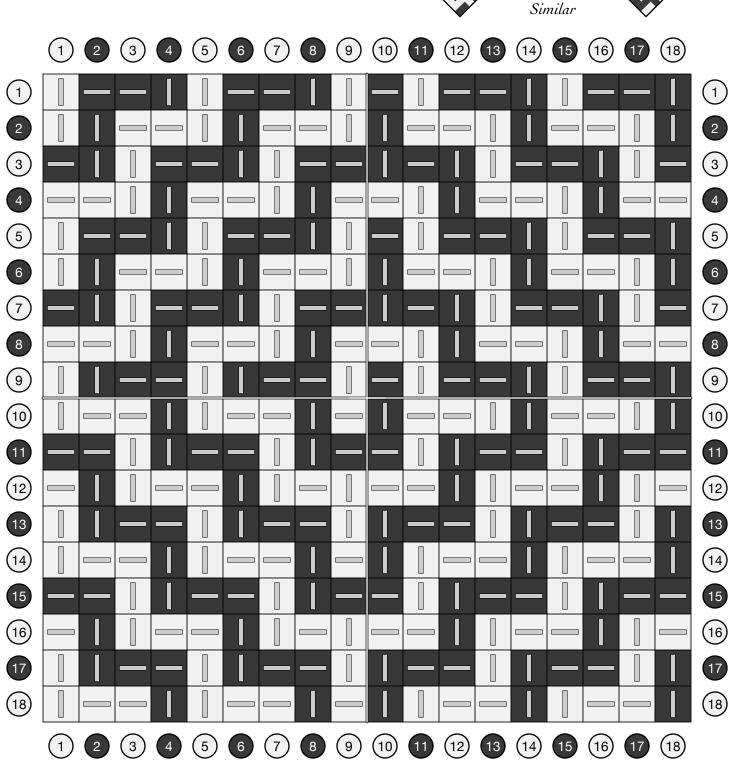
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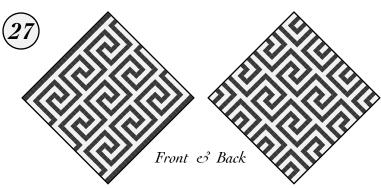


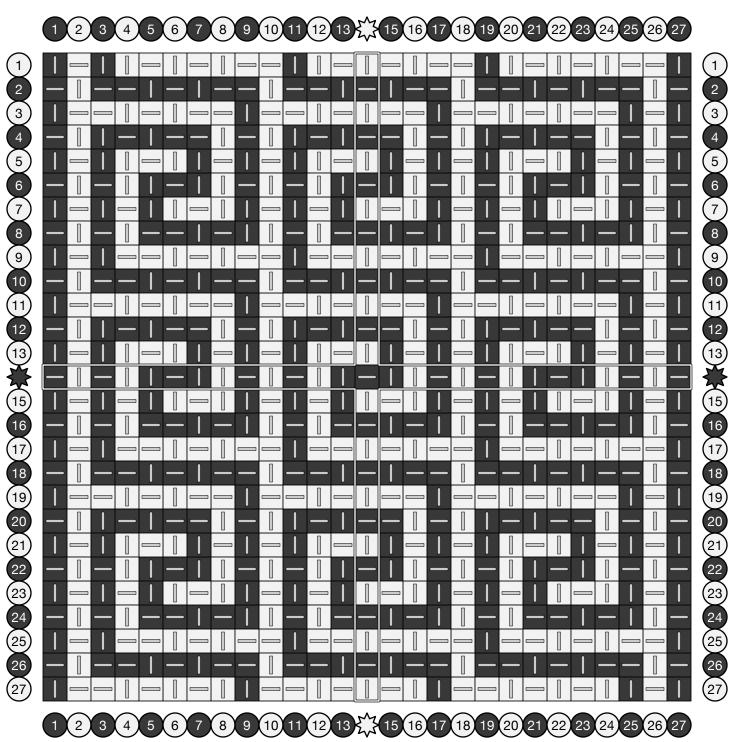
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# **Greek Key**

This original pattern uses an artistic motif called a "meander" found in Greek art and architecture since antiquity. The back has the same design, but offset.

Created in December 2020.

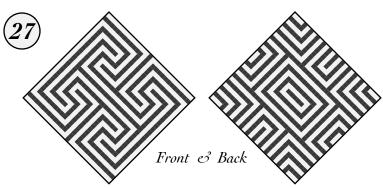


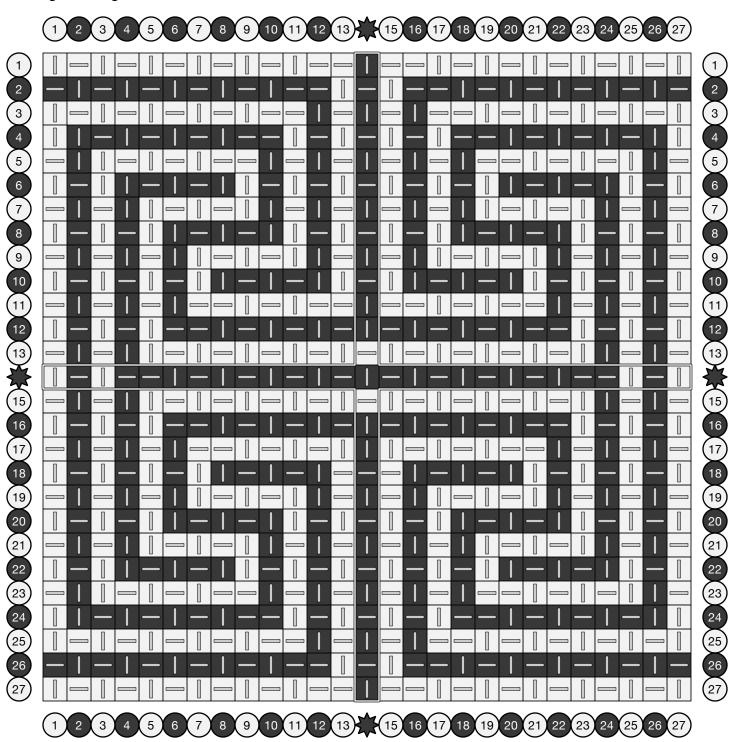


# Twisty Little Passages

A tabby weave is interrupted by twill diagonals to create a quadrilaterally symetric tangle of loops.

In the early computer game "Colossal Cave Adventure," escaping the "maze of twisty little passages" was a difficult challenge.

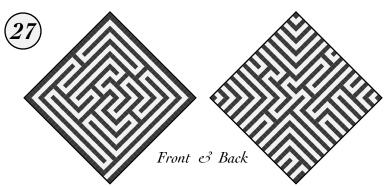


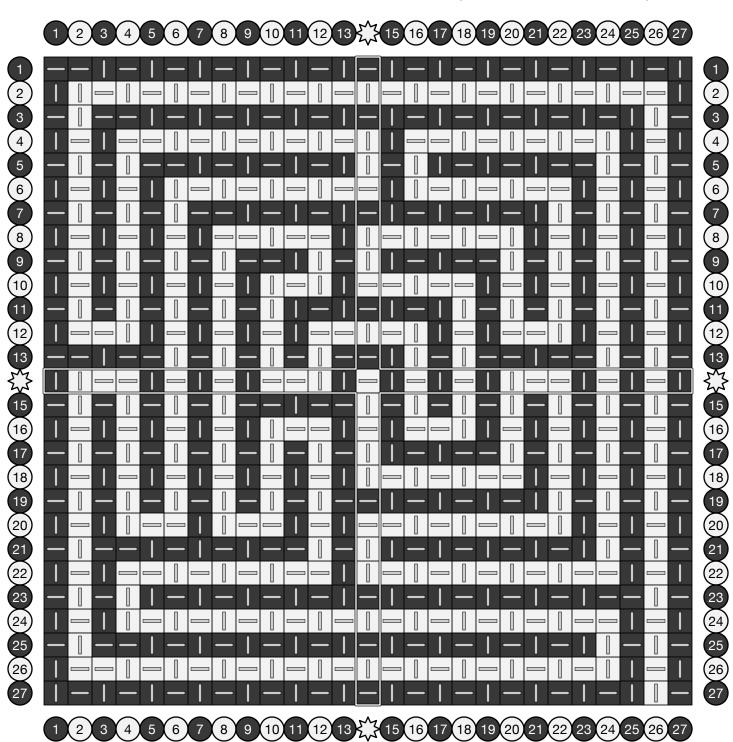


## **Chartres Labyrinth**

An original pattern inspired by the 13th-century design on the floor of the Chartres Cathedral.

Created in November 2020 and refined the following January.



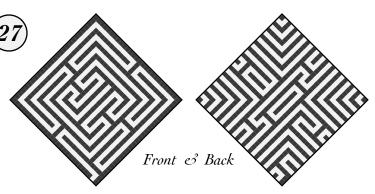


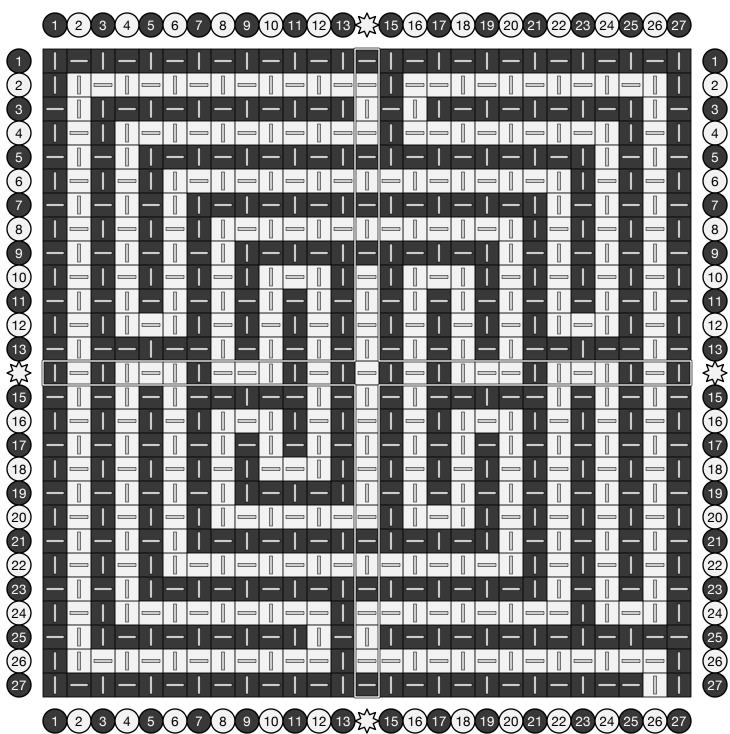
Chartres Labyrinth Revisited (27)

An original pattern inspired by the 13th-century design on the floor of the Chartres Cathedral.

A revised version of one of our earliest designs, more faithful to the pattern of the one in Chartres.

Created in December 2021.

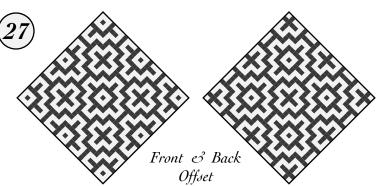


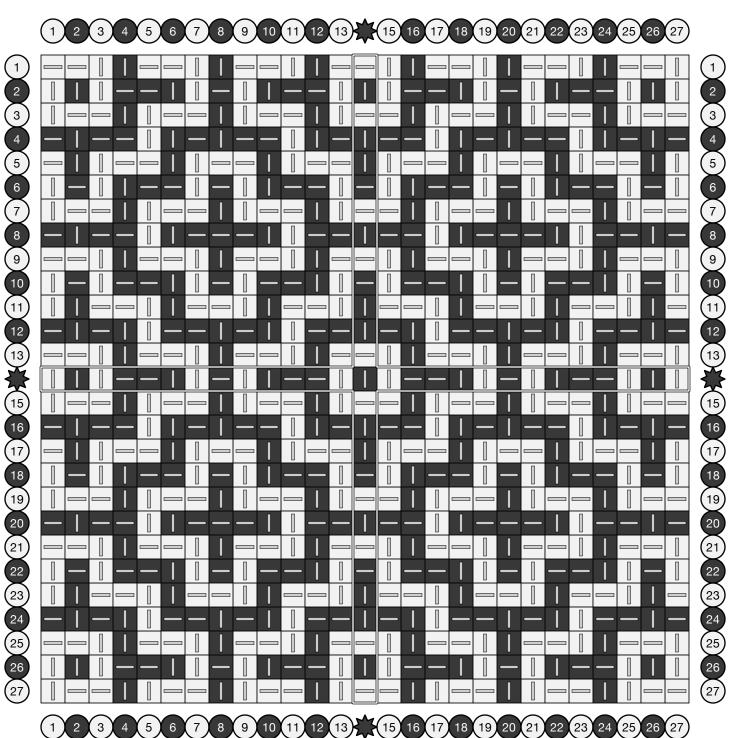


### Twinkle Twinkle

The puffiness and irregularity of this fabric, lightly distorted by uneven twills, enhances the twinkliness of the design.

An original design for cold winter nights, sketched out in February 2021 and charted that December.

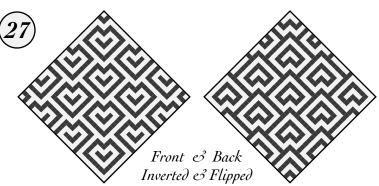


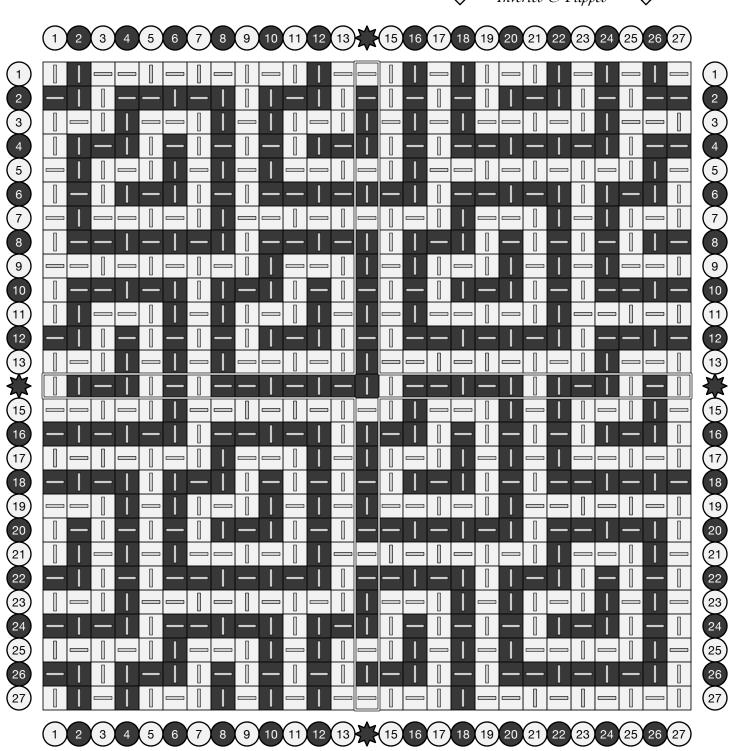


### It's Raining Hearts (Hallelujah)

Diagonal lines of hearts make a sweet pattern, and repeated in the opposite direction on the flip side. Numerous twills produce a soft and comfy fabric.

An original design created for our 25th anniversary in February 2021.

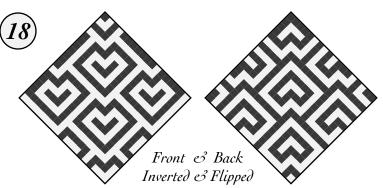


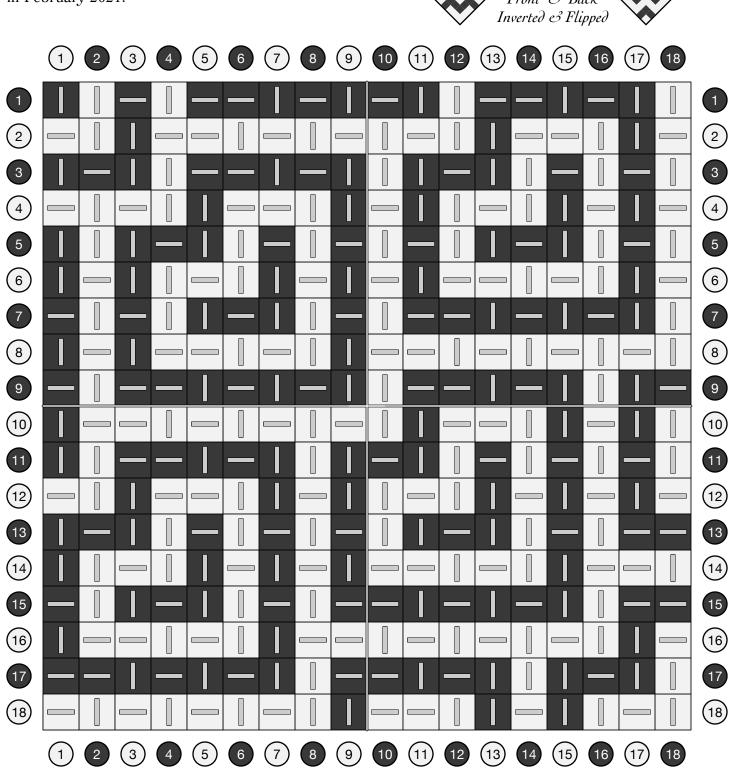


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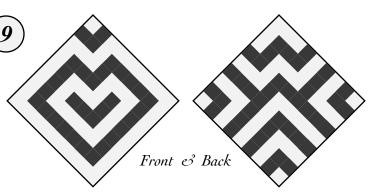


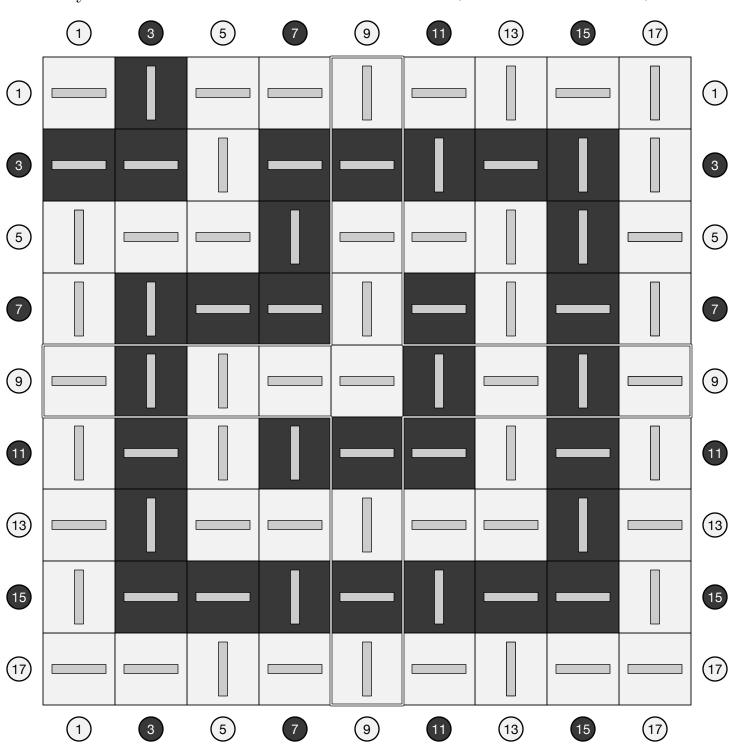
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With thanks to an example by Katie Warner Waller.

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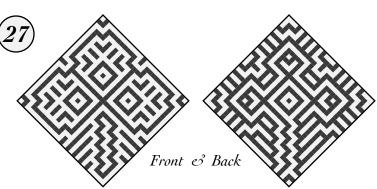


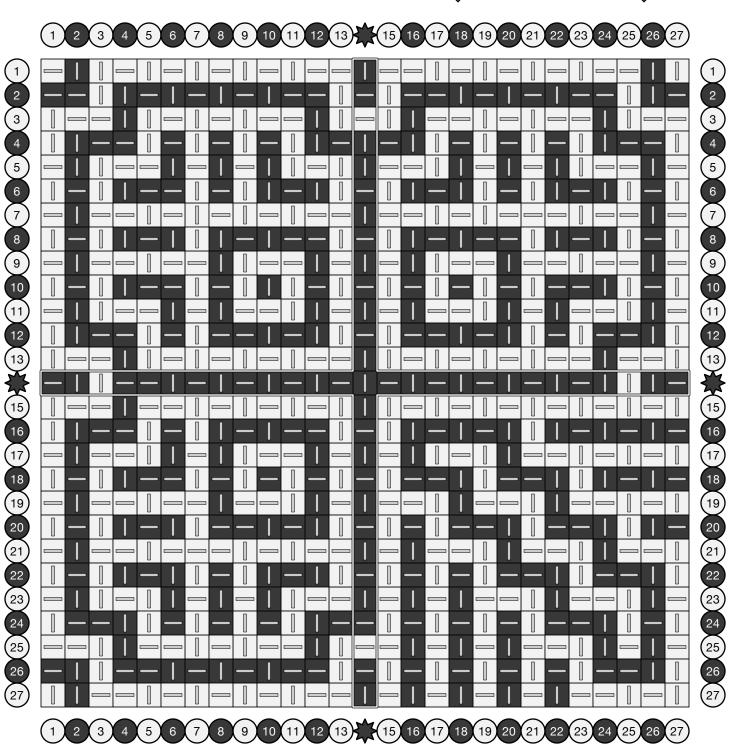
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### Sheila's Shamrock

Named in honor of Matthew's mother, Sheila Ryan.

An original design by Piglet in February 2022, in anticipation of St. Patrick's Day.

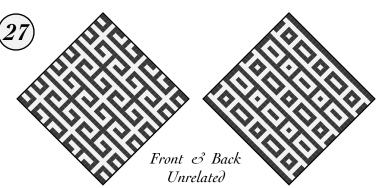


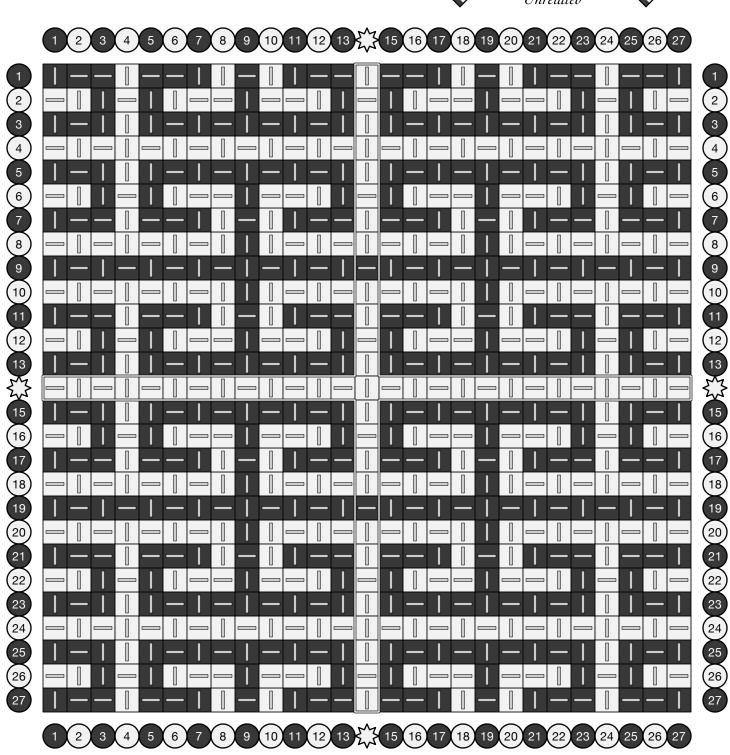


### Fifties Banded Flair

The neat rows of interlocking Greek keys and parallel rectangles soften when removed from the loom, leaving a pattern of organic shapes distributed between even straight lines.

An original design charted in April 2022.



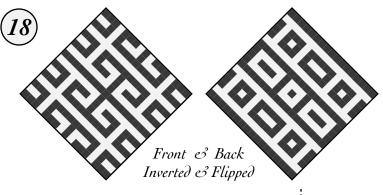


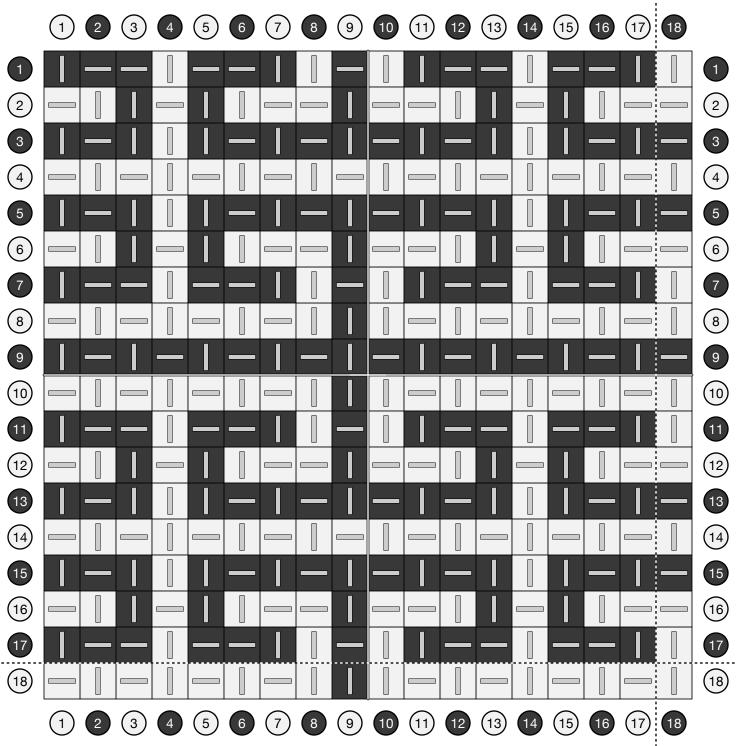
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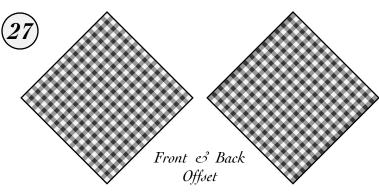
For better symetry, omit the eighteenth loops.

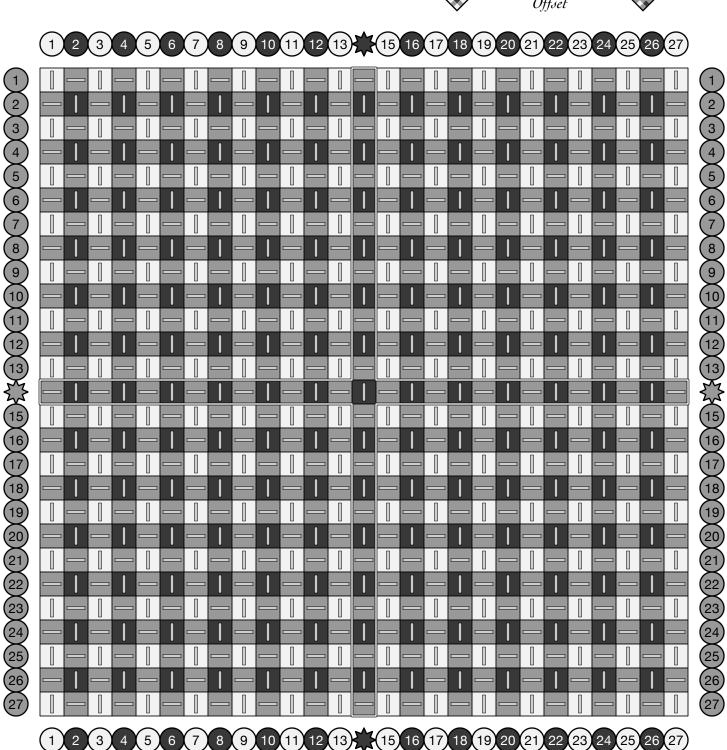




## Gingham

To produce a gingham effect, warp the loom with alternating light and dark loops, then use an intermediate color for all of the weft loops.



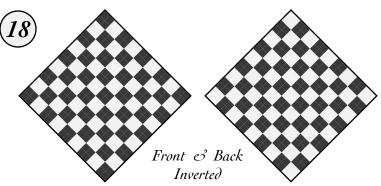


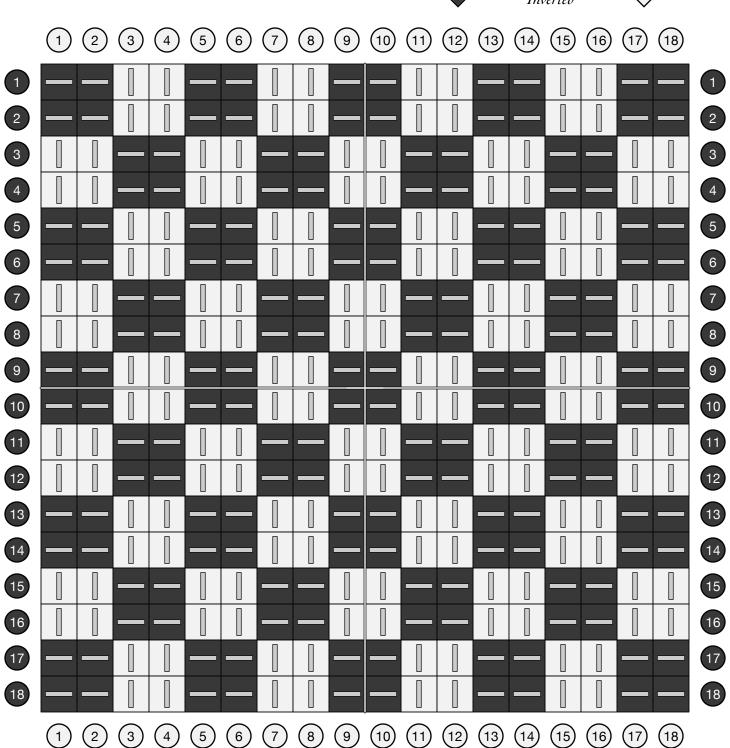
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## Two-Two Basketweave

For an absorbent coaster, try a basketweave tabby.

Similar to a tabby, but with multiple warp and weft threads in each shed.



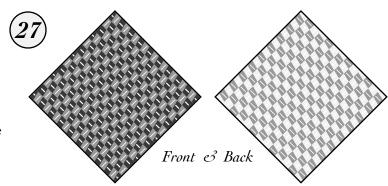


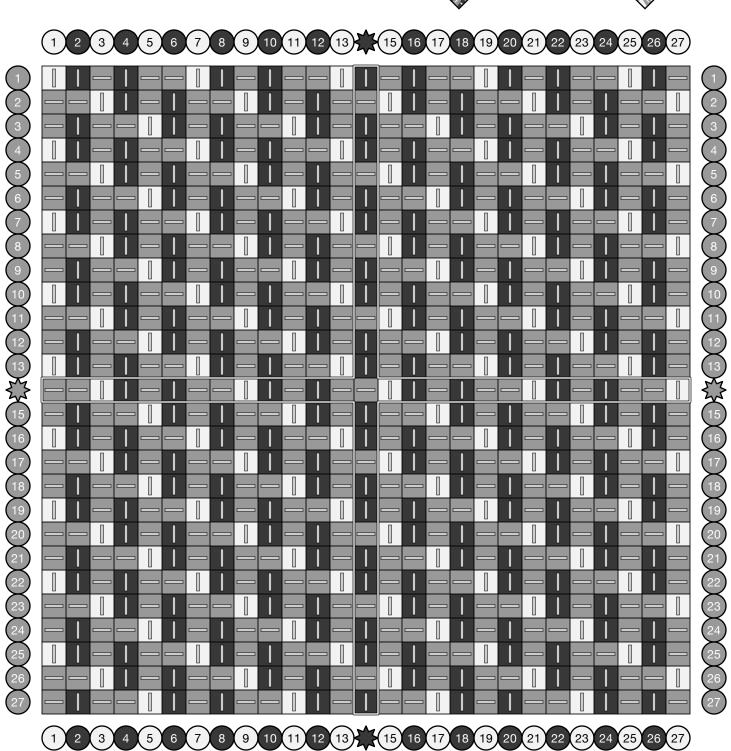
## **Magical Newsprint**

Pattern for 27-peg Potholder Looms

An alternating weaving pattern of 2/2/1/1. Repeats every three rows and six columns.

Collapses when taken off the loom so that each side of the fabric shows only alternate warp loops.

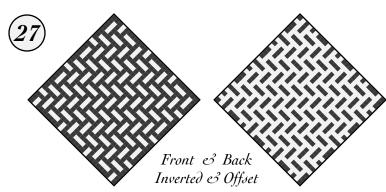


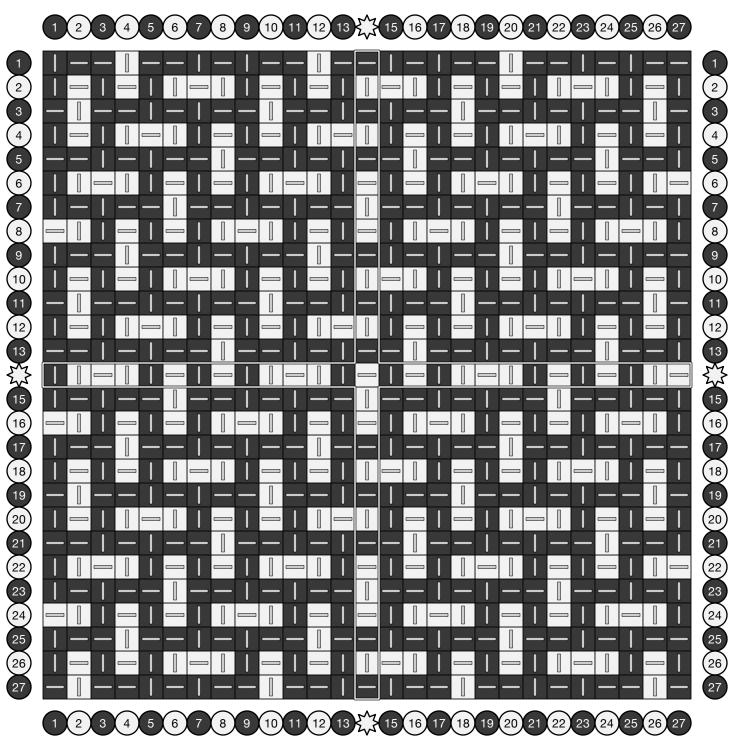


### Wonder Waffle

Woven as a herringbone brickwork pattern, this design transforms when taken off the loom, with each color's loops snugging up on each other to form a raised waffle pattern on one side of the fabric, surrounding dimples of the other color.

An original pattern designed in April 2022.





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