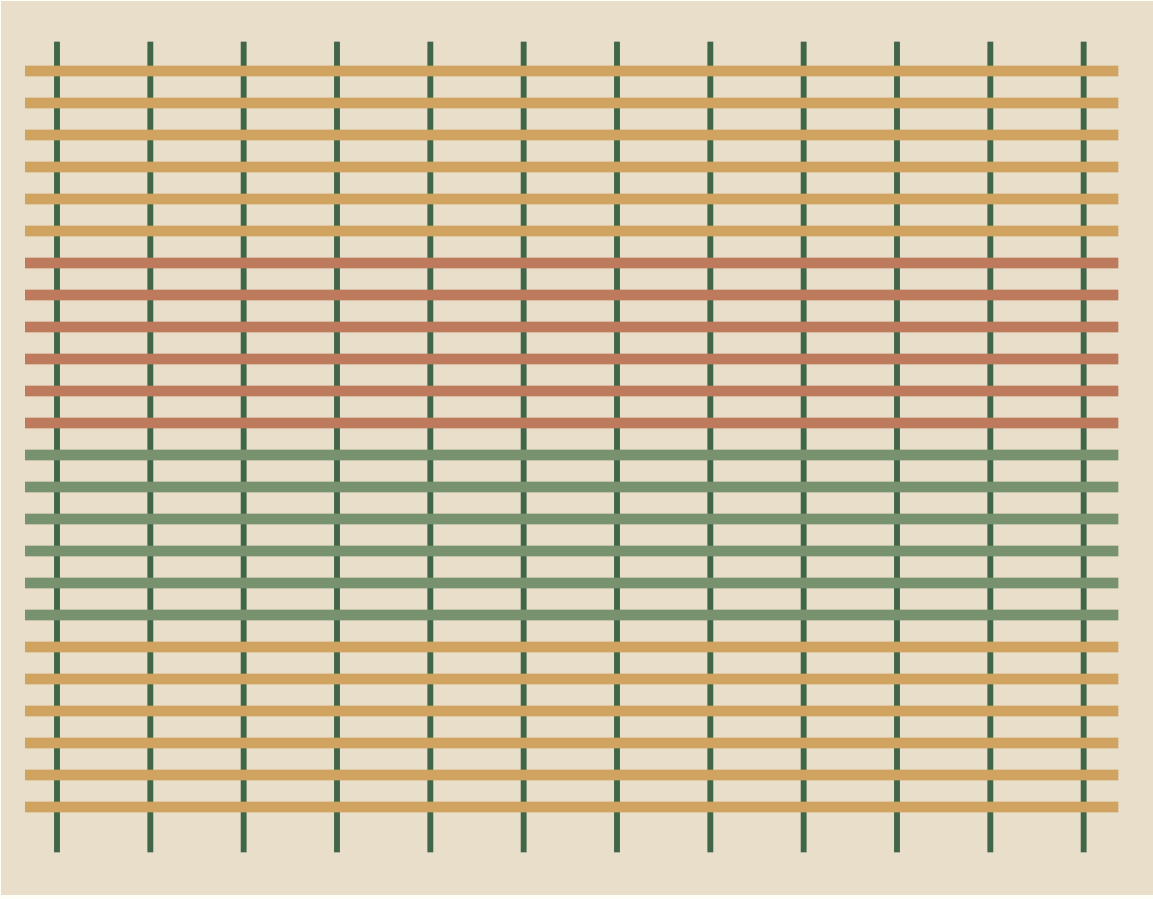
STEADLEAF PRESS

MAKE / ORIGINAL FREE GUIDE / STP-MAKE-F088

MAKE A STRIPED WOVEN COASTER



12 WARPS / 24 PASSES / A-B-C-A

Free original digital teaching pattern; no physical testing

Edition: Original Steadleaf Press FREE MAKE adult digital guide, independently editorially reviewed (PASS). All proposed measurements are starting dimensions for an adult learner, not physical-test results. No coaster, loom, heat tolerance, absorption, colorfastness, print scale, or durability test has been performed.

Why make this

A striped coaster can teach three things at once: how to keep the sides of a small weaving nearly parallel; how to continue plain weave across a color change; and how to finish yarn ends without piling bulky knots underneath a cup. This decorative coaster-sized textile is an instructional exercise. It is not a tested barrier against heat, moisture, dye transfer, scratches, or spills. Protect furniture separately and use only a cool, dry object after checking stability on a protected surface.

The project uses 12 separate warp strands (front-to-back vertical threads), 24 weft passes (side-to-side crossings), and four color bands of six passes each: A6 / B6 / C6 / A6. The twelve warps make eleven gaps across the front, not twelve gaps. There are 24 warp tails in all (12 top, 12 bottom), and four independent weft lengths leave eight separate weft tails. Count weft passes, not the uncounted arcs at the side edges.

Materials and starting measures

- Flat corrugated cardboard, about 18 cm wide x 22 cm tall, clean and free of staples; ruler, pencil, cutting mat and scissors suitable for cardboard.

- Twelve separate yarn warp lengths, about 55 cm each. Use smooth, easily handled yarn with similar thickness, and leave long back tails rather than pre-cutting fringe.

- Four working lengths of flexible, medium-weight weft: A light, B dark, C a third visible shade, and fresh A for the last stripe. Do not carry a strand up the side through a different colored band. Actual lengths vary with thickness and tension; allow generous ends and join another length only if necessary.

- A blunt large-eye tapestry needle, removable low-tack tape, wide blunt comb or fingertips, and a flat protected work surface. A second piece of plain card is handy for observing the released shape.

- Optional: paper and colored pencil to record a sample. Use small scissors carefully; don’t use a box cutter as part of this beginner lesson. Keep needles, yarn lengths, loops, and small parts away from children and pets.

The loom geometry

The 12 matching top and bottom notch centers are 8 mm apart. On an 18-cm-wide board, mark them from the left edge at 4.6, 5.4, 6.2, 7.0, 7.8, 8.6, 9.4, 10.2, 11.0, 11.8, 12.6, and 13.4 cm. This is 11 x 8 mm = 88 mm between outermost warp centers, not a guaranteed finished width. Each slit may be about 5-6 mm deep, only if the board holds without tearing. Align each upper mark vertically with its lower partner.

Run one independent strand down the front per numbered column: guide it through its top slit from the back, straight down the front through the matching bottom slit, and tape its upper and lower tails separately to the back. With a 55-cm strand and approximately 22 cm visible across the board, about 33 cm remains for the two back ends before allowing for notch routing, or roughly 16 cm each as an upper rough estimate. The actual lengths will be somewhat shorter; measure what is left and do not trim those tails. Do not route one length in a continuous U-turn across adjacent columns. Once taped, look for twelve parallel warp columns and twenty-four distinct free ends on the reverse.

Read the two-pass path before weaving

Pass 1 (odd, left to right): OVER warp 1, UNDER 2, OVER 3, UNDER 4, OVER 5, UNDER 6, OVER 7, UNDER 8, OVER 9, UNDER 10, OVER 11, UNDER 12.

Make an easy arc outside warp 12; that outside arc is an edge turn, not another counted warp crossing.

Pass 2 (even, right to left): OVER warp 12, UNDER 11, OVER 10, UNDER 9, OVER 8, UNDER 7, OVER 6, UNDER 5, OVER 4, UNDER 3, OVER 2, UNDER 1.

Make an easy arc outside warp 1 before the following pass. Each pass changes the crossing at each warp from the previous pass. At the change after pass 6, pass 7 starts OVER warp 1; changing yarn never resets the over/under pattern incorrectly. The same is true at passes 12/13 and 18/19.

For a color band, make three odd/even pairs = six passes; the working strand ends at the left side after pass 6, so the new color can start again on the left. Leave approximately 12-15 cm loose at both the start and finish of each color length. Never tie a bulky color-change knot on the face or under the intended cup area.

Four bands without squeezed edges

Use gentle warp tension: straight enough to weave, not tight enough to bow cardboard or distort the notches. Start the first pass about 3-4 cm above the bottom slits so the unwoven tails can be tied after release. Slide each pass into place with fingertips, without beating it down until the yarn flattens. Before every turn, leave a small arc around the outermost warp: if the sides pull in, ease that arc before adding the next pass. The 24-pass sample’s height depends on yarn diameter, packing and handling; there is no promise of a square or a fixed finished dimension. If the rows crowd the top, choose a taller board or thinner yarn before continuing.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Set up a safe table and choose the fiber

Clear a stable surface, add a cutting mat, and assemble card, pencil, ruler, scissors, tape, twelve 55-cm warp strands, a blunt yarn needle and working yarn A/B/C/A. Avoid slippery or very fuzzy yarn for a first test

because mistakes are harder to see. This is an adult craft lesson, not a child-safe kit. No hot object will be tested against the weaving.

2. Mark the twelve matched warp positions

Keep the cardboard 18 cm across and 22 cm tall. Along both the top and bottom edges, mark 12 centers beginning at 4.6 cm, then every 0.8 cm through 13.4 cm. Count twelve marks and eleven spaces, and check that each top mark sits above its corresponding bottom mark. Pattern 1 shows the geometry but must be measured with a real ruler, not a screen.

3. Make shallow aligned notches without damaging the card

Cut a short slit, approximately 5-6 mm deep, at each of the 24 marked edge locations with suitable scissors, with fingers clear of the blades. If the card splits, bends, or the slit becomes too open, start with stronger clean cardboard. More tension is not a repair for a torn notch.

4. Thread twelve separate warp columns

Take one 55-cm length for each of warps 1-12. Feed its upper end from behind through the top notch, run it straight down the front, then feed it through its matching lower notch and temporarily tape both free tails to the back. Do not share lengths between columns. The front shows 12 strands, with 12 top and 12 bottom tails on the back. Leave them long and uncut.

5. Check warp tension and space for the weaving

Look along the loom: warps should be almost parallel and not cut into cardboard. Loosen any strand that makes a side notch lean. Leave about 3-4 cm of open warp above the lower slits before the first weft pass; the sample should still have clear space above the final band. Lightly pencil a centerline only if it helps; it is not a target to stretch the finished cloth against.

6. Begin band A with the first odd pass

Thread a working length of A, leaving a 12-15 cm starting tail at the left. Across warps 1-12, work OVER 1 / UNDER 2 repeatedly, ending UNDER 12 at the right. Do not make an extra counted crossing while turning outside warp 12. Lay the weft in as a gentle shallow arc before settling it; pulling the strand straight and tight can pinch the edge.

7. Return from right to left with the even pass

After the relaxed outside turn, work OVER 12 / UNDER 11, alternating back toward UNDER 1. This is pass 2, not a repeat of pass 1. Leave the yarn comfortable at both edges and gently settle it against pass 1. If the cloth narrows after only two passes, loosen the side arcs while they are still accessible.

8. Finish six A passes, counting completed crossings

Repeat the same odd/even pair twice more, making passes 1-6: odd passes from left, even passes from right. At the end of pass 6 you are back at the left edge. Leave a loose 12-15 cm finishing tail, route it to the back without a large knot and keep it accessible. Note whether either edge is more pinched; do not pull the opposite edge tight to match.

9. Weave the six B passes without changing the structure

Start a new, separate B length at the left with a starting tail. Pass 7 begins OVER warp 1, because pass 6 ended UNDER warp 1. Weave passes 7-12 as three alternating left-right/right-left pairs. Keep an outside turn arc at every edge, and compare the woven width at the middle of this darker band with the width of band A. After pass 12, leave an ending tail on the left; do not carry B up the next color band.

10. Weave the six C passes and check for a straight edge

Introduce new C at the left after pass 12, with a separate tail. Work passes 13-18 in three odd/even pairs; the thirteenth begins OVER warp 1. Check that the weft has crossed every warp exactly once on each pass and the sides stay as relaxed as the first band. If a crossing was skipped, back out the recent rows instead of burying a float under more passes.

11. Return to fresh A for the final six passes

Use a new length of A, not an A strand carried along the outside of B and C. Start pass 19 from the left OVER warp 1; work passes 19-24 as three alternating pairs and end on the left. There should be 24 passes total = 6A + 6B + 6C + 6A. Leave a final 12-15 cm weft tail. If remaining loom space is insufficient, stop and reconsider yarn thickness/board height rather than crowding the release fringe.

12. Weave in all eight separate weft ends

The four color lengths created four starting and four finishing weft tails. Before taking the work off its temporary loom, use the blunt needle to guide each tail to the reverse and back through several adjacent weft turns in a similar-colored area, following yarn direction rather than puncturing strands. Keep these ends clear of the coaster’s central resting area. Fibre grip differs; there is no universal guarantee that a buried end cannot slip.

13. Remove the warp and tie six pairs on each end

Support the weaving with one hand. Release the back tape and lift each individual warp out of its top and bottom slit without cutting the woven field. Confirm 12 free top ends and 12 free bottom ends. At each edge, pair neighboring warp ends (1+2), (3+4), (5+6), (7+8), (9+10), (11+12) and tie a compact, familiar securing knot just outside the woven area, keeping the middle flat and without pulling the ends into a narrow point. You

now have six top pairs and six bottom pairs. Trim fringe only after the knots are secure; unfinished yarn can unravel if handled harshly.

14. Record dimensions, inspect flatness and use cautiously

Place the released sample on clean flat card. Measure actual woven width and height, compare top/middle/bottom widths, count six color-block passes in each stripe, and note any curling, pinched edges or loose tails in Record 1. Complete Record 2 with materials, knot and finish notes. Do not test a hot mug, hot pan, lit candle, liquid absorption or dye transfer on furniture. The first cautious dry fit, if attempted, should involve only an empty, cool cup on a separate protected surface; stop if unstable. This project makes no tested protective performance claim.

Fix, care and preserve

Sides pull inward

The outer turn may be too tight. On the working pass, relax the loop around the outside warp before you settle the next pass; never tighten adjacent warps to disguise a waist. A little irregularity is normal in first practice; record it rather than forcing the fabric to a diagram.

A contrasting band has a long float

You may have skipped a warp, repeated over twice, or crossed an edge arc as though it were another warp. Compare the last good pair to Pattern 2 and gently reverse the most recent passes with the tail still accessible. A color change does not change which warp comes next.

The fabric bows after release

Recheck whether 12 warps were tensioned evenly and whether the weft was packed uniformly. Rest the piece on flat card and observe rather than steaming or stretching without yarn-label guidance. If it cannot lie reasonably flat under an empty cool cup on a protected surface, use it as a visual swatch instead.

The knot or a hidden tail slips

Move the piece off the table, resecure the yarn using a technique compatible with the actual fiber, and do not promise wash or durability performance. Some smooth yarns need specialized finishing. Knots should be outside the center, not directly below a cup.

Cleaning and storage

Consult the yarn maker’s care guidance for the least aggressive option; dye migration and shrinkage are not

tested here. Do not recommend hot washing or heat-setting. Keep the piece dry until care requirements are understood; store fully dry and flat away from flames, pets and small children.

Pattern 1 - Twelve-warp cardboard cut plan

Board starting dimensions: 180 x 220 mm. Twelve top and twelve lower notches at x = 46, 54, 62, 70, 78, 86, 94, 102, 110, 118, 126, 134 mm from the left edge. Vertical alignment is more important than copying the digital diagram at screen scale. The 88-mm outer warp span is a layout reference, not guaranteed fabric width. An independent warp takes each matching top/bottom pair; no U-turn links adjacent warps.

Pattern 2 - Four color bands and two paths

Count 24 horizontal passes from the bottom upward in band order:

- A: passes 1-6 (odd L to R / even R to L)
- B: passes 7-12
- C: passes 13-18
- fresh A: passes 19-24

Every odd pass, including 7, 13, 19, starts on the left OVER warp 1. Every even pass begins on the right OVER warp 12. This maintains alternating crossings because there are twelve (even number of) warps. The arc outside an edge is never another crossing. Count precisely eight weft tails from four cut working lengths.

Record 1 - Band and tension observations

Yarn and thickness: _____ Cardboard: _____ Notch interval: _____

Band | Intended passes | Observed passes | Left / center / right width notes | Edge arc too tight?

A first | 1-6 | ____ | _____ | ____

B | 7-12 | ____ | _____ | ____

C | 13-18 | ____ | _____ | ____

A fresh | 19-24 | ____ | _____ | ____

Actual woven width: _____ Actual woven height: _____ Pinched edge or skipped crossing: _____

Record 2 - Finish and care observations

Warp count ____ (target 12); top knot pairs ____ (target 6); bottom pairs ____ (target 6); separate weft tails ____ (target 8).

Does the textile lie flat on protected card? _____ Loose ends? _____ Fiber label / care instructions? _____

Dry fit with empty cool cup on protected surface only, if attempted: _____ If unstable, retire as visual sample.

What would you change in a second sample? _____

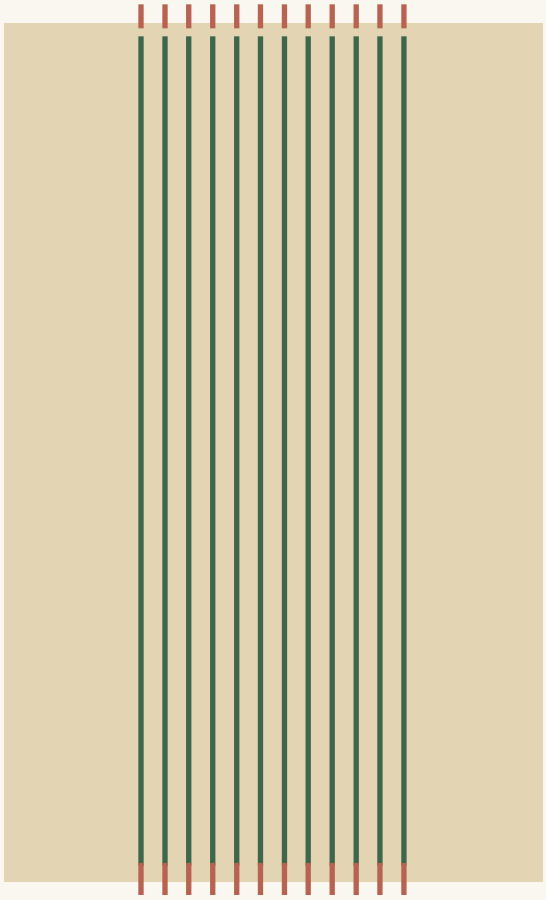
Technical and rights provenance

An original Steadleaf Press adult beginner instruction and four-band color/tension exercise. Original twelve-warp measurement plan, two-path crossings, band diagram, blank maker records and design/layout are produced for this guide. No source illustrations or text have been reproduced from another publication. Foundational warp/weft and alternating plain weave terminology is general knowledge; see Oakland Museum of California (cardboard weaving): https://museumca.org/learn-at-home/cardboard-weaving/ and Toronto Guild of Spinners and Weavers (weaving basics): https://toronto-guild-of-spinners-and-weavers.com/ .

Claims boundary: No original physical woven coaster, real scissors/cardboard trial, completed weave, heat/moisture/stain/colorfastness test, furniture performance, load/strength assessment, real print test or paper-ruler calibration has been performed. A weaving exercise is not a certified coaster or protective furniture accessory.

Twelve-warp cardboard cut plan

Board 180 x 220 mm; centers at x = 46 + (8 x warp index) mm.



Marks: 46, 54, 62, 70, 78, 86, 94, 102, 110, 118, 126, 134 mm

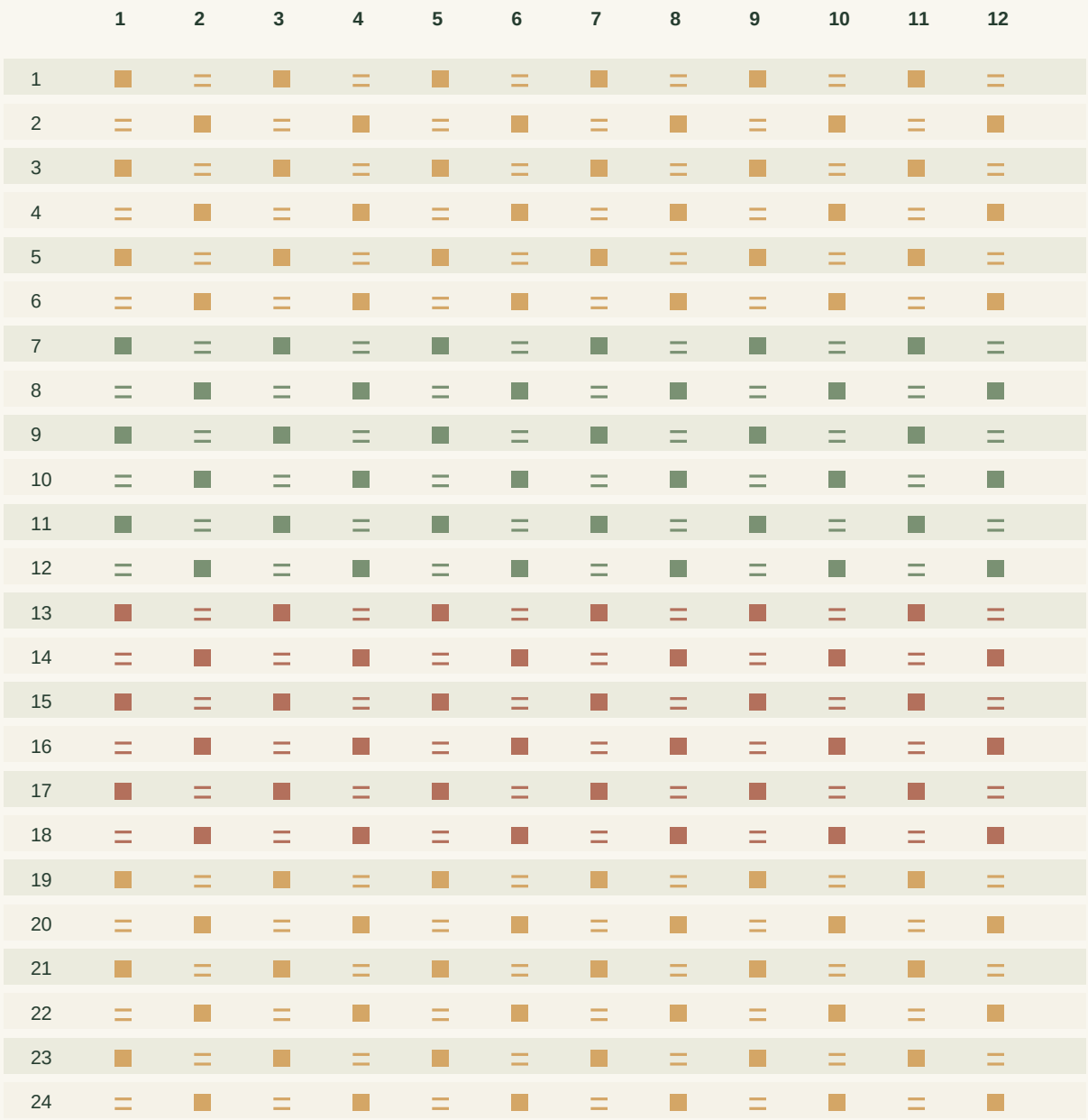
Eleven 8-mm spaces = 88 mm outer warp-center span.

12 aligned notch pairs, one independent warp per pair.

Measure your actual material; this page is NOT a calibrated print plan.

Four bands; over/under crossings

Filled line = OVER; open gap = UNDER; edge arcs are uncounted.



A: passes 1-6; B: 7-12; C: 13-18; fresh A: 19-24.

Band and tension notes

Yarn: _____ Board: _____

Warp count: _____ Notch gap: _____ Date: _____

Band	Passes	Count	Edges
A 1	1-6		
B	7-12		
C	13-18		
A 2	19-24		

Actual woven width: _____ height: _____

Pinched edges, floats, skipped crossings: _____

Changes to try on a second sample: _____

Original paper observation sheet; no physical trials by publisher.

Finish, flatness and care

Warp ends: _____ top + _____ bottom (targets 12 each)

Knots: _____ top pairs + _____ bottom pairs (targets 6 each)

Separate weft tails: _____ (target 8)

Does the sample lie flat on protected cardboard? _____

Are any knots or hidden tails loose? _____

Yarn label or care instructions: _____

Empty cool cup dry-fit on protected surface, if tried: _____

No hot mug, spill, scratch-resistance or colorfastness testing.

Next steps for a safer, flatter practice: _____

Original worksheet. Do not claim heat, moisture or furniture protection.