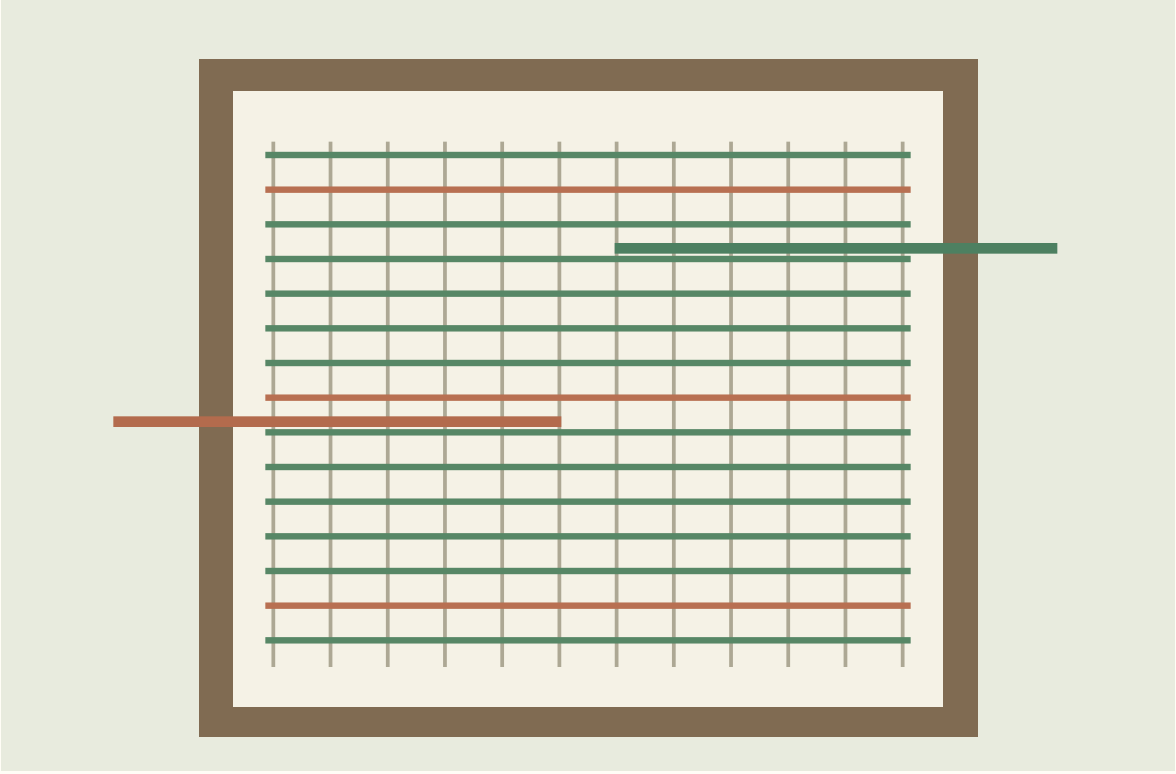
STEADLEAF PRESS

MAKE / ORIGINAL FREE GUIDE / F096

FINISH LOOSE WEAVING ENDS

on the Back



2 WEFT TAILS / 2 STAGGERED RETURN PATHS

Original diagrams and printable edge inspection records

Keep the warp ON the frame. No physical trials.

Edition: Original FREE Steadleaf Press adult digital craft guide, independently technically/editorially reviewed PASS. No real physical weaving, printed-scale or strength tests were performed. No physical loom, yarn ends, hand-stitching, tail holding, tensile/durability, washing, real-paper print size or child/pet safety trial has been conducted.

A tidy reverse, not a hidden knot

Two short yarn ends can protrude after a change of weft colour. In this small exercise, return each loose WEFT tail into the nearby woven structure using a blunt tapestry needle, rather than tying a lumpy knot at the visible edge. The original learner result is a mounted practice swatch with two tracked tails and a back-side edge-path diagram. The swatch remains attached to its stable loom throughout. This project does not show how to finish or cut the vertical WARP ends, and it is not a validated way to create a free-standing washable textile.

Start with a small existing plain-weave study on a purpose-made tabletop frame loom-roughly 12 visible front-facing vertical warp spans and at least 16-20 horizontal weft picks, with two deliberately left 10-15 cm weft tails emerging from separate changes near opposite edges. The 12x16-20 count is an accessible sample example, not a mandatory separate weaving project or a prescribed finished dimension. Existing F094's 12-warp/32-pick mounted study can provide practice if its back is accessible and a couple of weft tails were retained; do not dismantle F094 or cut its warp. If you lack a stable swatch with long enough tails or its back cannot be reached safely, use a purpose-made accessible teaching sample; do not force the procedure.

The small exercise tracks two distinct WEFT tails:

Practice tail | Original position | Plan | Checkpoint

Tail A | Left selvedge; an upper colour-change row | Return rightward along an adjacent WEFT path | At least 5-6 neighboring warp crossings observed

Tail B | Right selvedge; a lower change row | Return leftward along another WEFT path | At least 5-6 neighboring warp crossings observed

Total | Two separately retained loose WEFT ends | Two short, staggered back-side paths | No cut or untied warp ends

Direction is named by looking at the woven FRONT before turning the frame. Tail A travels inward from the left; Tail B travels inward from the right. When looking at the BACK after rotating the frame, left and right may appear swapped. Make a tiny labelled drawing on paper showing A/B positions before moving the frame. The apparent axes after flipping depend on how the loom is rotated: a flip about the vertical axis mirrors left/right, while a flip about the horizontal axis reverses top/bottom. Follow the actual A/B tails and their marked original rows, not either visual side name, whenever the frame changes orientation.

The goal is to reduce dangling tails and avoid bulky edge knots while observing that the face remains reasonably even. Do not claim invisible mending or permanent locking. On plain weave, the weft passes alternately front and

back; a returned tail following a nearby weft path may be faintly visible on the front at some crossings. That is expected. Stop and reassess if the surface begins to pucker, an edge narrows, or a warp shifts.

Suitable materials and a safe way to reach the reverse

Use a small weaving sample supported by a smooth, stable tabletop loom whose reverse can be reached without removing or cutting it. The sample should have two loose weft tails, each ideally 10-15 cm, similar yarn thickness and no damaged or sharp hardware. A teaching swatch with a few spare rows around each colour change is easier than a densely packed fabric. Put a clean protective pad or towel on the table before gently turning the whole loom to show its BACK; support the frame, never balance it on fragile weaving or the warp tension. If the loom design makes the reverse inaccessible, do not reach between sharp pegs or drag the needle through the front; set the method aside and choose a better-supported sample.

Tools: one blunt large-eye tapestry needle, a real ruler, removable paper labels A and B, a pencil, a soft weaving comb or fingertips, and scissors for a potential late tidy-up (not for shortening warp). Needles are tools, not toys, and even a blunt needle can damage yarn or pinch fingers if forced. Work over a stable desk and keep tiny scraps and free strings away from children and pets. Do not add glue, flame, heat-seal, barbed hooks, metal staples or permanent adhesive.

Separate WEFT from WARP. WARP spans run vertically on the front of the loom and are attached to it; cutting them would threaten this sample. WEFT is the horizontal yarn that passes over and under the warp. Only the two known loose WEFT tails are threaded or trimmed in this guide. If you cannot positively identify which end is weft, stop. Do not mistake a warp anchor or a loop behind the frame for a free weft end.

Two ways to see the back-side path

Pattern A - a careful parallel return

Find the change row to which Tail A belongs by inspecting the front. Mark it on your paper guide, then turn the whole frame safely onto a supported padded surface, BACK facing up. Thread the tail into a blunt tapestry needle, keeping its free end easy to retrieve. Starting immediately inside its edge, guide the tail inward for about 5-6 nearby WARP intersections, travelling approximately parallel to the original WEFT pick. At each point, follow the same over/under relationship as a neighbouring weft path AS SEEN FROM THE BACK as closely as the existing weave allows; the visible order from the reverse is the inverse of how the pick looked from the front. Match the actual back-facing adjacent pass, not a remembered front-side over/under sequence: where the original pick passes behind a warp, the needle may travel beside that tucked segment; where the route would have to force through a tight front-facing area, use a small nearby back-facing passage rather than piercing or splitting yarn. Do not simply slide the needle beneath six consecutive warps in one long straight float, because this might be conspicuous or slip out. Keep the needle close to the woven structure, not below loose warp anchors.

Keep the returned tail flat, not tensioned. Gently ease it through in small increments; do not tug until the edge bunches. A short path of six warp intersections is only an instructional checking count, not a strength or abrasion certification. If existing yarn makes the space too tight, stop after fewer intersections and document that limitation. You may weave into a neighbouring weft row rather than the identical row if that lets you follow the established weave without disturbing the original pick.

Pattern B - two staggered returns, not one lump

Tail B begins at a different, lower row and enters from the opposite original FRONT edge. Make a separate return path inward for about 5-6 neighboring warp crossings. Do not stack A and B under the same narrow set of raised fibers or cross them into a thick knot. Stagger the return paths across distinct nearby pick rows so each tail lies beside its own weft. Inspect the reverse for a crowded ridge or a tail crossing over the other. If an area swells, withdraw and use an adjacent row. The overlap of neighbouring structure helps keep a decorative tail from dangling, but no slip, wear, pulling or wash strength has been tested.

A learner can check three conditions after each tail: (1) the free WEFT end travels several crossings inward rather than hanging from the selvedge; (2) the edge remains straight and the front face does not visibly pucker; and (3) no vertical WARP anchor or cut warp has been altered. If a tail pulls free under gentle hand repositioning, do not trim it. Open and remake the return or leave it long for future instruction.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Choose an existing mounted learning swatch

Select a small plain-weave sample that remains mounted under ordinary, mild tension on a purpose-made tabletop loom. Aim for approximately twelve visible front warp spans and at least sixteen to twenty horizontal picks, although another secure mounted study is acceptable. Two loose weft tails from separate rows should be easy to distinguish. Never cut warp threads to gain access.

2. Confirm that both tails are actually WEFT

Trace Tail A and Tail B by eye to the horizontal weft passes that made them. Label A near the upper change and B near the lower change on a separate paper guide. Verify the vertical warp anchors are untouched. If either loose length belongs to a warp, set that piece aside; the present method is WEFT-only.

3. Measure and record each original free tail

Lay the loom flat and use a physical ruler to estimate the visible free length of each weft tail. A workable teaching allowance is about 10-15 cm per tail. A shorter 5-6-crossing return ordinarily uses less length than this on a small loom, but actual warp spacing and yarn bulk vary; check the real swatch rather than guaranteeing a

numerical fit. Record actual lengths in Record 1. Do not cut a longer tail before completing its return or stretch a short tail to imitate a longer one.

4. Draw the front-facing tail locations

Sketch the rectangle of the mounted patch with A at its original LEFT-facing edge and B at its original RIGHT-facing edge, or record the actual edges of your swatch. Draw A’s planned arrow inward from left and B’s arrow inward from right. This orientation reference prevents errors when the whole frame is turned over to see the back.

5. Set the loom down with its BACK supported

Place a clean pad on a stable table. Carefully rotate the entire loom, not the textile alone, so its back is accessible without cutting or undoing any warp. Depending on the direction of rotation, left/right or top/bottom can appear exchanged from the original front view; use the sketch and actual physical tail origins instead of assuming both axes stay aligned. Keep the frame supported at its sturdy wooden rim so the fabric is not crushed. If the reverse cannot be reached with a blunt needle without forcing hardware, STOP and find a differently designed practice loom.

6. Thread Tail A in a blunt tapestry needle

Hold Tail A, the loose WEFT end traced to the upper left-front row. Thread it carefully through the large eye of a blunt needle. Do not use a sharp needle, barbed hook or scissors to punch new openings. Keep the original entry point visible, and leave A’s paper label on the table.

7. Start A’s inward parallel return

From the back near A’s original selvedge, point the needle toward the interior of the fabric, not into loose warp knots. The first return crossing inside the selvedge is an edge-hold starting point, not a mechanically proven ’edge lock’; settle the yarn there lightly before progressing inward. Following the path of an adjacent existing weft pick, pass the needle along a short over/under route through the fabric structure, choosing accessible spaces without piercing strands. Do not lift or pull a vertical warp anchor off the frame.

8. Carry A through five or six warp intersections

Advance the returned A tail alongside a neighbouring weft path across about 5-6 successive warp crossing locations, one little passage at a time; the gaps may be compressed by mild warp tension, so ease each passage gently instead of forcing the tapestry needle through. Avoid a visible long float under six consecutive warps or a tight full-width pull. When the needle meets a crowded spot, back out and use a nearby weft row; if no gentle route is available, stop with fewer crossings and record the actual number.

9. Settle A and inspect the front

Gently pull A’s free end just until the return lies flat; DO NOT tighten the edge or distort warp spacing. Turn the whole supported loom back to inspect the FRONT, looking for a ridge, loose float, narrowing or puckering. Adjust the return while it is still reversible. Keep a visible free tail for later checking; do NOT trim A yet.

10. Locate Tail B on a separate lower weft row

Turn the safely supported loom to its BACK again. Identify Tail B from the original RIGHT edge in the front sketch, not the now-reversed visual left/right. Check that the intended inward route is a different nearby pick row from Tail A so the two returns will not form one bulky strip.

11. Return B inward without stacking

Thread B in the blunt needle and follow an accessible neighbouring WEFT path toward the fabric interior across roughly 5-6 warp intersections, counting actual crossings. Do not lay B directly on top of A’s return, tie a hard knot at the edge or pierce a warp fiber. If the path is tight or the tail slides during normal handling, leave the end untrimmed and note the limitation.

12. Compare the two edges on the FRONT

Set the loom flat, front facing up. Check both original selvedges for shape, shade interruption, visible bumps or shifting warp threads. A little returned-yarn visibility may remain because plain weave alternates front/back. If either edge narrows or puckers, undo the affected return rather than tugging harder or hiding the problem with extra yarn.

13. Trim only after an observable gentle hold

With the loom still supported, gently touch the settled weft tails and edges using light fingers, not a pull-strength test. If both returned tails remain in place, visually separate each intended WEFT tail from every nearby vertical WARP strand before bringing scissors close. Use yarn scissors to shorten ONLY the unmistakably identified extra WEFT tail beyond its last settled passage, leaving approximately 1-2 cm as a visible check until you have more experience. Lay that residual end flat along the back with a fingertip, without pulling it tight, so it is less likely to stand up and snag. If either tail moves easily, do not trim it. Never cut or loosen the vertical warp.

14. Finish records and store the mounted fabric

Complete Record 1 with which row, original length, returned crossing count and approximate tail length; complete Record 2 with flatness, visible front effects and all warp anchors intact. Keep the swatch mounted in its loom on

a stable dry surface or within a labelled protective container. Do not remove the fabric, wash it, hang it from weak yarn or treat it as a finished functional textile.

Fix, care and preserve

The tail looks bulky on the face

Returned weft can become visible on the front because plain weave travels alternately over and under warp. Do not promise invisibility; from the back, the original over/under relationship may look reversed compared with the front. Withdraw the needle, reduce overlapping bulk or select a neighbouring accessible WEFT path. Keep the approach gentle and record any visible line as a learning observation.

The edge has drawn inward

You probably pulled the returned end too hard. Ease the tail backward and restore the original weft arc at the selvedge without pulling the warp toward the centre. A gentle, balanced appearance is more important than hiding every millimetre of yarn.

The loose end is too short

Do not splice a load-bearing repair or tug it into a tight weave. If the tail cannot pass several intersections without exposing a dangerous sharp tool, record the limited result and retain an accessible end rather than cutting it flush.

The needle cannot reach the reverse

Do not pry, loosen a warp anchor or bend needles around frame hardware. A different small frame loom or a pre-warped sample with an exposed back is required. Finishing that demands a cut or full unmounting is a DIFFERENT exercise, not authorised by these instructions.

The returned end slips after a little handling

Do not trim it. Reopen the route and choose more compatible textured yarn, a different adjacent row or a longer retained tail if available. A small hand return is NOT a certified lock, strength-rated reinforcement, washable finishing method or secure load-bearing repair.

Confusion between WEFT and WARP

Weft is horizontal and changes colour across warp; warp is the vertical set of strands under loom tension. This method is only for loose weft ends. Do not try it on cut, slack or damaged warp anchors. The pattern deliberately leaves the loom-mounted warp untouched.

Dry storage and safe use

Keep the patch on its stable loom, away from children, pets, flames, food and water. Follow actual yarn care labels and the loom manufacturer’s safety instructions. Do not claim an off-loom textile, wearable, coaster, hanging piece or washable item when no actual warping, trimming, laundering or abrasion tests were carried out.

Pattern 1 - Reverse-side single-tail return with six warp crossings

Draw a simple mounted weave rectangle with FRONT warp positions 1 through 12. Mark a loose horizontal WEFT A tail emerging from the original LEFT side. After safely viewing the BACK, enter near A’s original edge and carry it inward in small steps beside an adjacent weft row across 5-6 warp crossing positions (record observed count). Do NOT bridge six warps with one uninterrupted exposed long float. Keep the needle in existing accessible gaps, avoiding splitting or lifting the vertical warp yarn. A tail path can be visible from the front because real plain weave interlaces the two sides. This is an original directional schematic, not a printed-size or thread-strength diagram.

Pattern 2 - Two staggered reverse returns and edge-shape record

Sketch Tail A from the upper original LEFT weft change and Tail B from a lower original RIGHT weft change. Let the two tails run INWARD along separate nearby weft rows on the reverse, rather than stacked along one path. Mark A’s observed crossings and B’s observed crossings individually; don’t report a guaranteed fixed holding length, load or invisible repair. Compare original left/right selvedges on the FRONT for puckering before any optional WEFT-end trimming. All WARP anchors stay on the loom; nothing is cut or unmounted.

Record 1 - Two-tail return measurements

WEFT tail | Original FRONT edge / row | Starting free length | Crossings actually followed | Residual visible end

A | LEFT / upper change | ____ cm | ____ (5-6 target) | ____ cm

B | RIGHT / lower change | ____ cm | ____ (5-6 target) | ____ cm

Loom type and warp-span count: _____.

Has the actual supported BACK been reached without hardware interference? _____.

Did each tail stay inside nearby weft passages rather than spanning a long exposed float? _____.

Was any tail shortened only after gentle check? _____.

Did either edge pull in or show changed colour on front? _____.

Record 2 - Reverse finishing and safe-storage checklist

[ ] Pre-existing stable small plain-weave swatch remains mounted.

[ ] Exactly two intended horizontal WEFT tails identified; WARP untouched.

[ ] A/B original FRONT sides and row locations sketched on paper.

[ ] Loom rotated with wooden frame supported on soft tabletop pad.

[ ] No sharp needle, cutting to gain access or strained loom fixture.

[ ] Tail A returned inward in small steps near a neighbouring weft row.

[ ] Tail B returned at a separate row rather than stacked on A.

[ ] Actual crossing counts for both tails recorded, not invented.

[ ] No long exposed six-warp float, tight edge knot or split fibre.

[ ] Both original selvedges reviewed on FRONT without puckering.

[ ] Only confirmed stable WEFT tail excess optionally trimmed.

[ ] All vertical WARP stays secured to frame and uncut.

[ ] Swatch kept mounted, dry and inaccessible to children and pets.

Visible front-side differences: _____.

Unsecured or too-short tail to address in a later lesson: _____.

How to improve the next mounted practice sample: _____.

Originality, factual references and limits

The original Steadleaf Press two-tail mounted exercise, separate A/B side sketch, five-to-six warp-intersection return diagram, staggered back-side weft finishing guide and two maker records are newly written and illustrated for this digital publication. General weave-in-weft-ends principles were checked against independent weaving education: LoomCraft's overview of weaving in loose weft tails and Tabby & Tweed's method for finishing weft ends after colour changes. The specific original prose and diagrams from those sites are NOT reused.

- LoomCraft, How to Finish a Weaving and Tie Off the Warp (weft-end return and difference from warp finishing): https://weaving-loom.com/blog/how-to-finish-a-weaving/

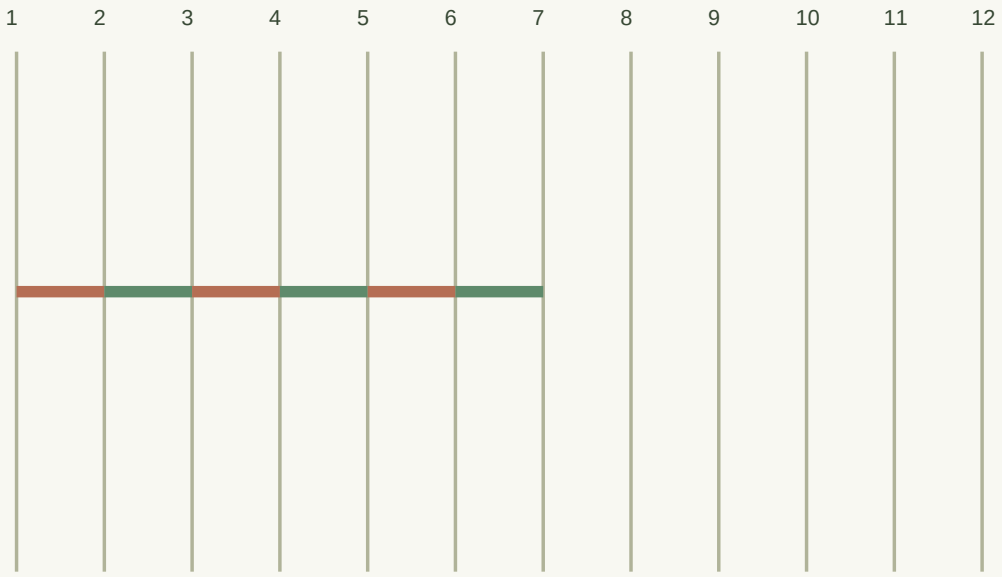
- Tabby & Tweed, 3 Methods to Successfully and Seamlessly Change the Weft Thread... (colour-change tails and end-weaving options): https://www.tabbyandtweed.co.uk/post/how-should-the-weft-colours-be-changed-when-weaving-a-scarf-on-a-rigid-heddle-loom

- Sally C Garner, Loom Instructions (small-looms, back-of-weaving finishing context): https://www.sallycgarner.com/loom-instructions

Scope: no physical weaving, actual reverse work, knot/edge strength, materials abrasion or dye, off-loom warp finishing, actual print-scale, laundering, usage under load, child/pet environmental or wear testing. A digital adult educational finishing guide for a mounted swatch only.

A single WEFT tail across six warp crossings

FRONT warp numbers 1 to 12; follow true A tail from BACK.



TAIL A original FRONT LEFT -> inward on reverse

Count about 5-6 crossings; one small needle step at a time.

Follow BACK-facing weft interlacement, not front memory.

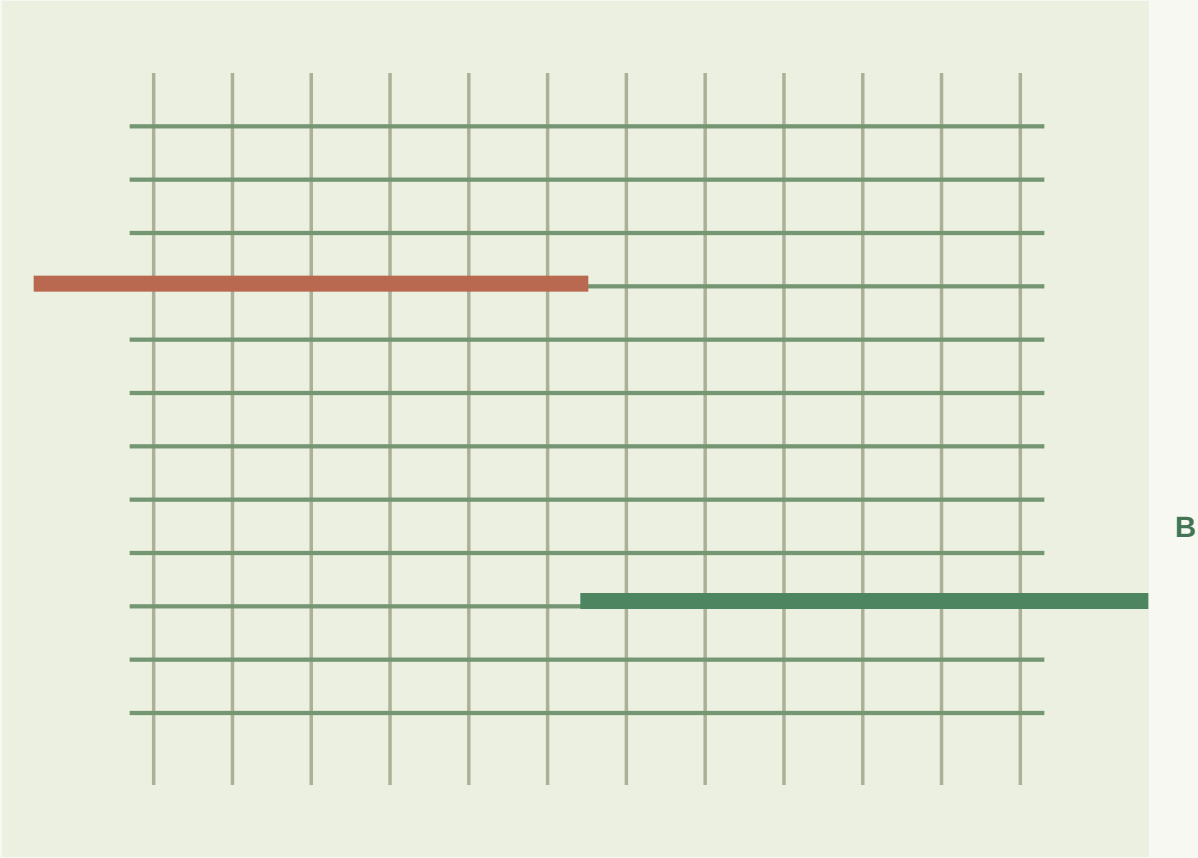
Never draw one long six-warp float across the reverse.

If needle access is tight, stop; do not pierce WARP.

A returned WEFT tail may remain faintly visible on FRONT.

Original digital schematic, not guaranteed holding strength.

Two WEFT returns staggered on reverse



A on upper row from original FRONT LEFT -> inward.

B on lower row from original FRONT RIGHT -> inward.

Avoid A/B stacking, edge puckers, knots and cut WARP.

Do not detach or wash: mounted practice only.

Two-tail return measures

Loom: _____ Date: _____

Tail	FRONT edge	Start cm	Crossings
A	LEFT	_____	_____ / 5-6
B	RIGHT	_____	_____ / 5-6

Remaining visible A: ____ cm / B: ____ cm

Warp threads uncut? ____ Back accessible? ____

Edge puckers or visible tail on front? _____

Too-short, loose, congested path notes: _____

No tested durable finish or off-loom warp release.

Reverse finishing and storage safety check

- [ ] Mounted pre-existing plain weave swatch checked
- [ ] Two loose horizontal WEFT tails, no vertical WARP tails
- [ ] Original FRONT A/B positions drawn on paper
- [ ] Stable frame turned with its wooden rim supported
- [ ] Back accessible; blunt needle not forced into wood
- [ ] A returned via nearby WEFT crossings, not long float
- [ ] B returned on another row, not piled on A
- [ ] Actual crossings counted and written separately
- [ ] Front rechecked for visible bumps and puckers
- [ ] Any optional cut isolated only the chosen WEFT tail
- [ ] All WARP threads and anchors remain intact
- [ ] Swatch stays on loom, dry and away from kids/pets

Not certified to resist pulling, washing or wear.