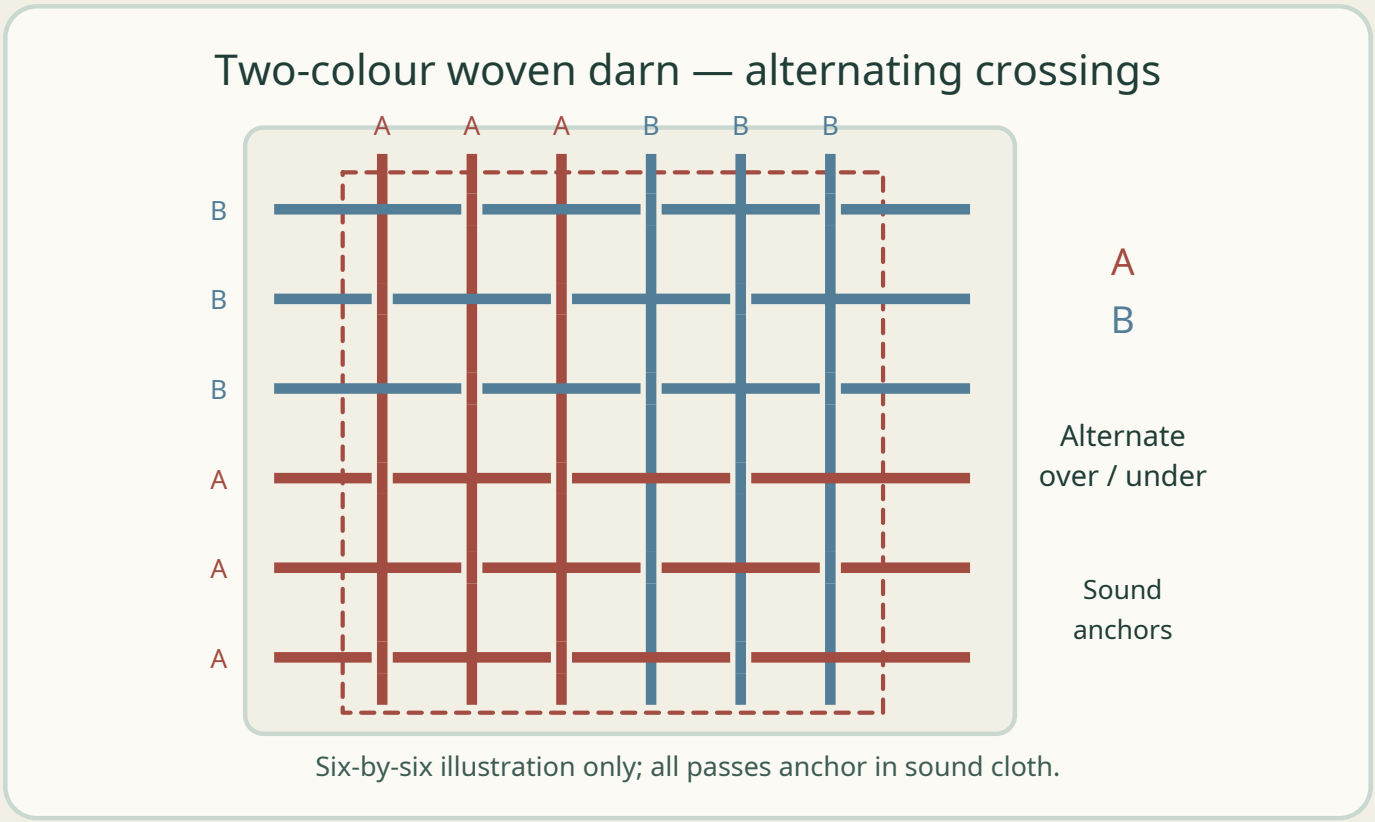
Use Decorative Darning to Fill a Small Hole



Bridge a small opening in ordinary woven cloth using a flexible woven darn with an original two-colour block chart.

14 practical steps • Original diagrams and repair records

Illustrative repair plans — not physical test results

Before you start

Decorative woven darning builds a new interlaced thread network across a missing section. This guide applies to a small localized hole in ordinary medium-weight non-stretch woven fabric with sound material around all sides and accessible opposite face. It is not a knitted-stitch reconstruction, repair of a broad thinned region, structural seam, pressure point or protective garment. If the gap requires long snag-prone bridges or the sound anchors are inadequate, select a compatible backing patch or consult a repairer.

Materials

Clean garment, two compatible flexible threads A and B of appropriate effective thickness, suitable hand needle and smooth blunt weaving needle where appropriate, rounded support, ruler, paper, magnifier and similar scrap. Avoid stretching the cloth over the support; keep other layers clear.

Plan the repair

Map the full hole and weak area. The example colour block uses six parallel bridge passes in the first yarn direction, first three A and next three B, followed by six crossing passes, first three B and next three A. Actual pass counts depend on the hole, thread and weave; do not force a hole to fit the chart. Each pass reaches sound cloth beyond the hole, and crossing passes weave alternately over and under the bridges with the sequence reversed on adjacent rows. Separate threads at colour changes and secure their ends in sound cloth. Keep the weave flexible, without dense packing, loose floats or pulling the original cloth together.

Steps 1–2

1. Inspect both faces

Locate the hole and complete weak area without tugging. If the surrounding cloth is broadly thin or inaccessible, choose another repair.

2. Confirm the fabric structure

Identify ordinary woven cloth and its two actual yarn directions. Do not use this chart for ribbing, elastic knits, technical fabric or a torn structural seam.

Steps 3–4

3. Map anchoring margins

Draw the hole and surrounding sound cloth on paper. Identify suitable anchoring paths in both directions, with room for staggered starts and ends.

4. Choose two threads

Compare effective thickness, softness and care to the original fabric. Use compatible threads A and B that can flex together; avoid oversized yarn or stiff cord.

Steps 5–6

5. Draw a colour block

On Pattern 1, label the first three illustrative bridges A and next three B; label crossing passes B then A. Plan your actual number of passes from the fabric, not from the chart.

6. Practise interlacing

On similar scrap, work a few relaxed bridges and alternate over and under. Reverse the sequence in the next crossing row. If this creates a rigid area, adjust thread or spacing.

Steps 7–8

7. Support the affected layer

Place the garment on a smooth rounded support in its relaxed shape. Keep the opposite panel, lining and pocket away from the needle.

8. Anchor the first bridge

Begin in sound cloth beyond the hole with a few small running stitches. Cross the opening without drawing its edges inward, and take small running stitches into the sound opposite margin.

Steps 9–10

9. Lay parallel bridges

Return on adjacent paths at spacing appropriate to the weave. Stagger the anchor points. Use A first, then secure that thread and start B in sound cloth for the neighbouring colour block.

10. Begin the crossing direction

Anchor the crossing thread beyond a perpendicular edge of the hole. Pass over one bridge and under the next, without splitting yarn. Finish the pass in sound cloth.

Steps 11–12

11. Alternate the crossings

Reverse the over-under order on each adjacent pass. Maintain colour B then A in this example, securing the old thread and anchoring the new one without a long connecting float.

12. Finish at the actual boundary

Complete the supported region without filling it with extra dense yarn. Secure ends in sound cloth on the reverse; do not cut original yarn or bridge a weak unanchored edge.

Steps 13–14

13. Inspect the woven darn

Remove the support. Observe both faces for snag-prone floats, gaps that need another repair, gathering or a stiff block. Do not pull-test; refer if anchorage fails.

14. Record the finished block

Note actual bridge and crossing counts, colours, anchor routes and relaxed shape. Revisit after normal wear and permitted care. Stop if the darn breaks or surrounding cloth tears.

Fix, care and preserve

The first bridges sag

Avoid pulling the original cloth to remove slack. If sound anchors permit, release affected new work and lay shorter relaxed bridges; refer if the opening is too broad.

Crossing yarn lies over every bridge

Check the over-under sequence and reverse it on alternate rows. Correct the affected new pass without damaging existing fibres.

The darn turns into a stiff square

The thread is too thick, the passes too dense or the tension too tight. Do not add further thread; choose a softer method or patch.

The colour blocks shift

Use separate secured thread lengths and note the actual colour order. Appearance is secondary to sound anchoring and a flexible weave.

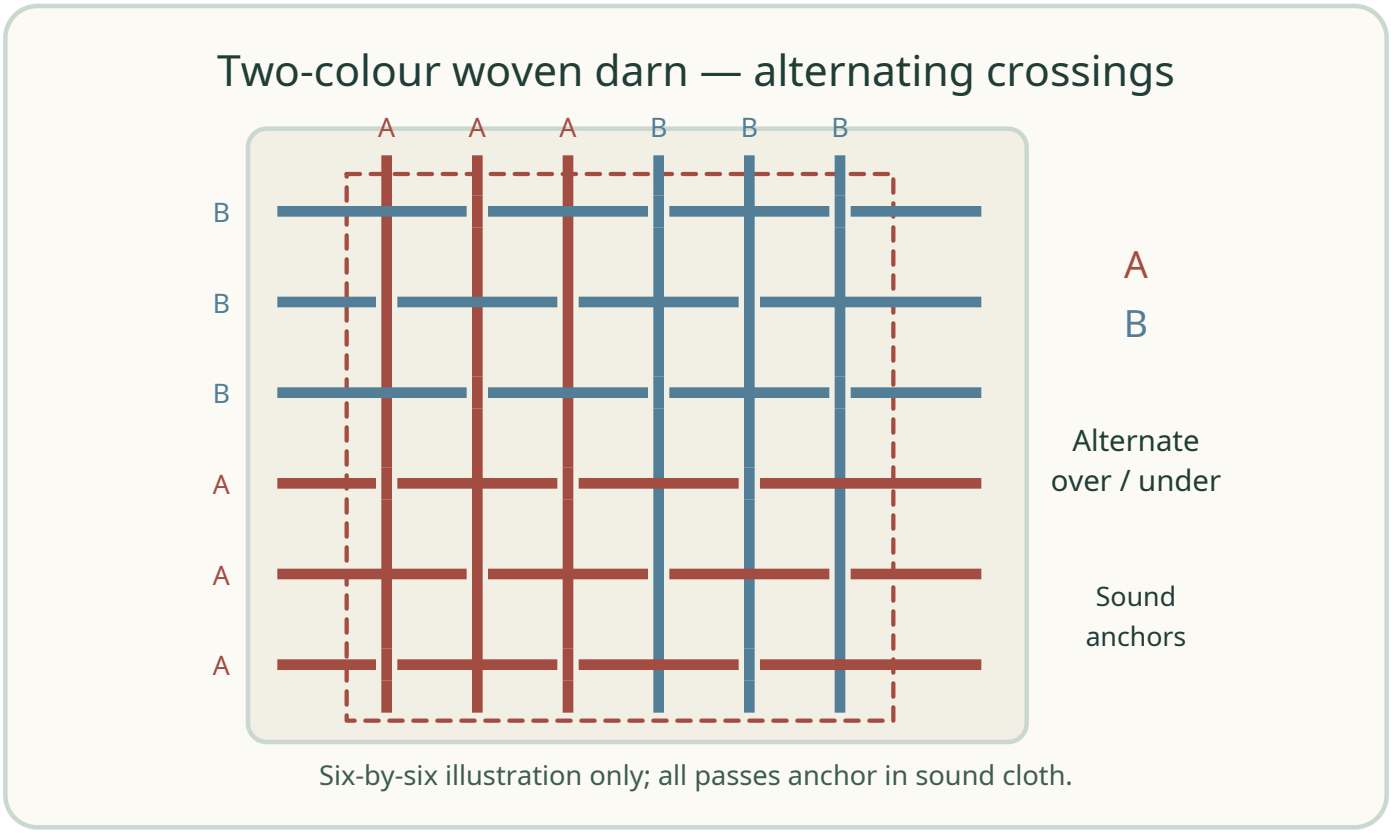
Originality and evidence boundary

Original Steadleaf English prose, design, diagrams and records. Follow the actual item, textile and tool instructions. No physical repair, durability, load, strength, washing, flame-resistance or compatibility testing was performed by the publisher. Ordinary adult garments and non-technical household textiles only; no safety or performance certification.

Print the following pages separately if desired. Schematics are illustrative, not full-size cutting patterns. Record only actual observations.

Pattern 1

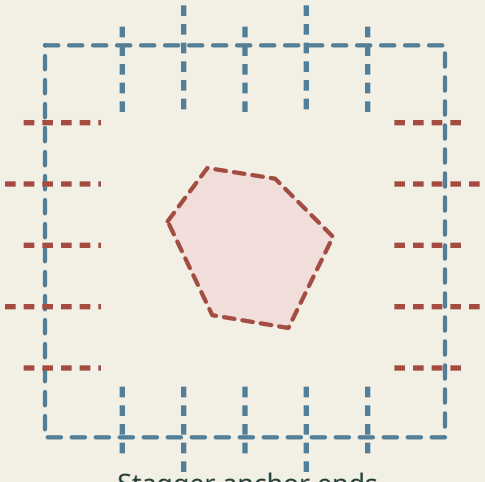
Original woven colour-block chart: six vertical bridge passes (A A A B B B) and six horizontal crossing passes (B B B A A A). Alternating crossing order is indicated at each cell, reversing on the next row. All ends extend into sound cloth; the chart illustrates order, not an exact stitch count or size.



Pattern 2

Blank stitch map and anchor plan: a relaxed small hole surrounded by sound fabric, with staggered anchoring zones on all four sides. Provide an empty grid to record actual colour letters and pass counts, using the enlarged over-under sequence in Pattern 1. No dense packing or pulling the opening closed.

Map actual passes and sound anchors



Stagger anchor ends

Your colour map

Bridge count: _____

Crossing count: ____

Use relaxed cloth; no packing, pull test or unsupported anchors.

Record 1 — Materials and repair plan

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Item / weave / care

Hole and full weak zone

Sound anchors in two directions

Thread A and B / compatibility

Actual pass-count plan

Colour block order / scrap

Support / layer access

Decision: darn / patch / refer

Record 2 — Finish and follow-up

Record actual observations only. Use UNKNOWN or NOT CHECKED for anything you have not established.

Actual bridge and crossing counts

Over-under alternation

Colour changes / secured ends

Sound anchors and relaxed shape

Reverse loops / no trapped layers?

Support removed?

Ordinary wear / care observation

Date / follow-up