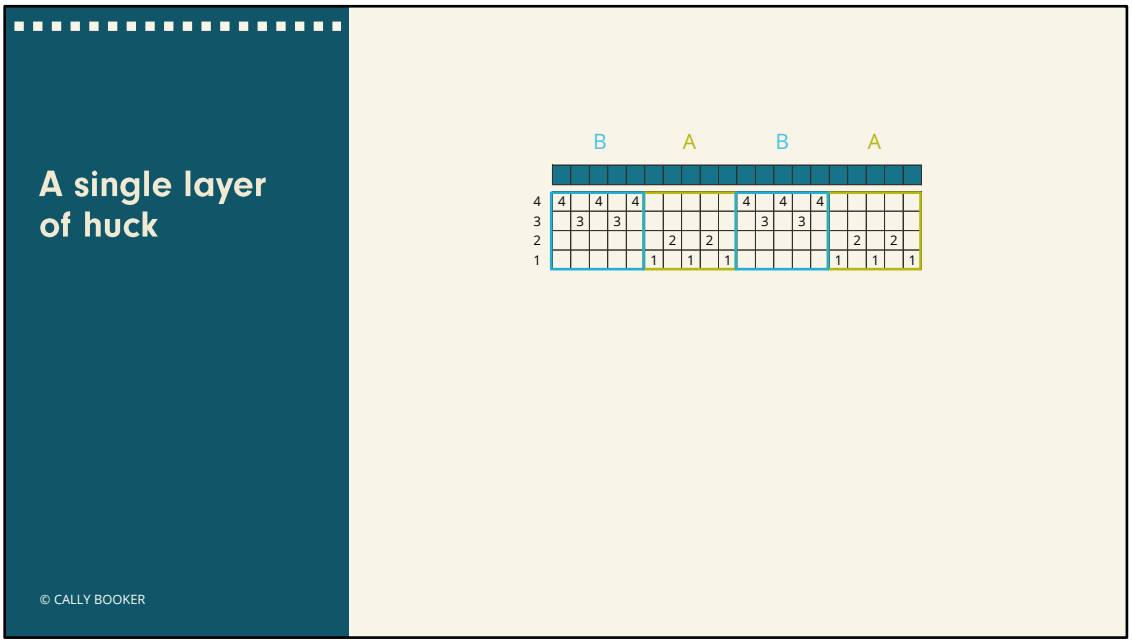
In this video we'll create a threading for double huck.

Having doubled our single huck threading, we will then look at the implications for our warp and consider some of the practical issues around putting this threading into action.

Threading for double huck

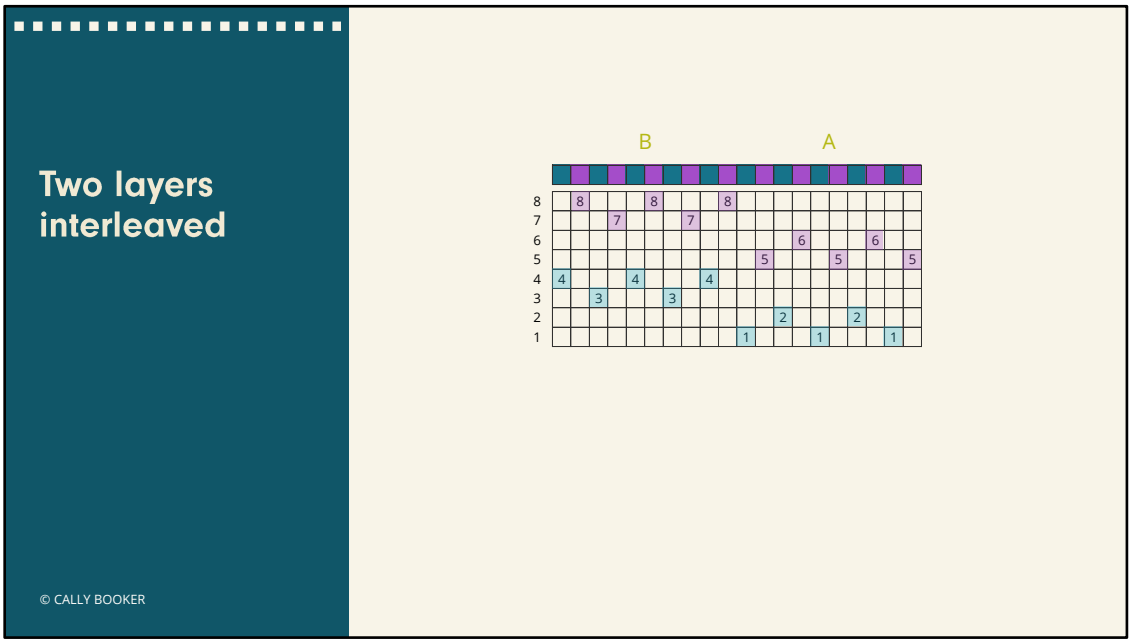


We looked at two different threadings for a single layer of huck, and I hinted very strongly that the second of these would be advantageous for weaving double huck. So it will not come as a surprise that it is the second option we are going to adopt.

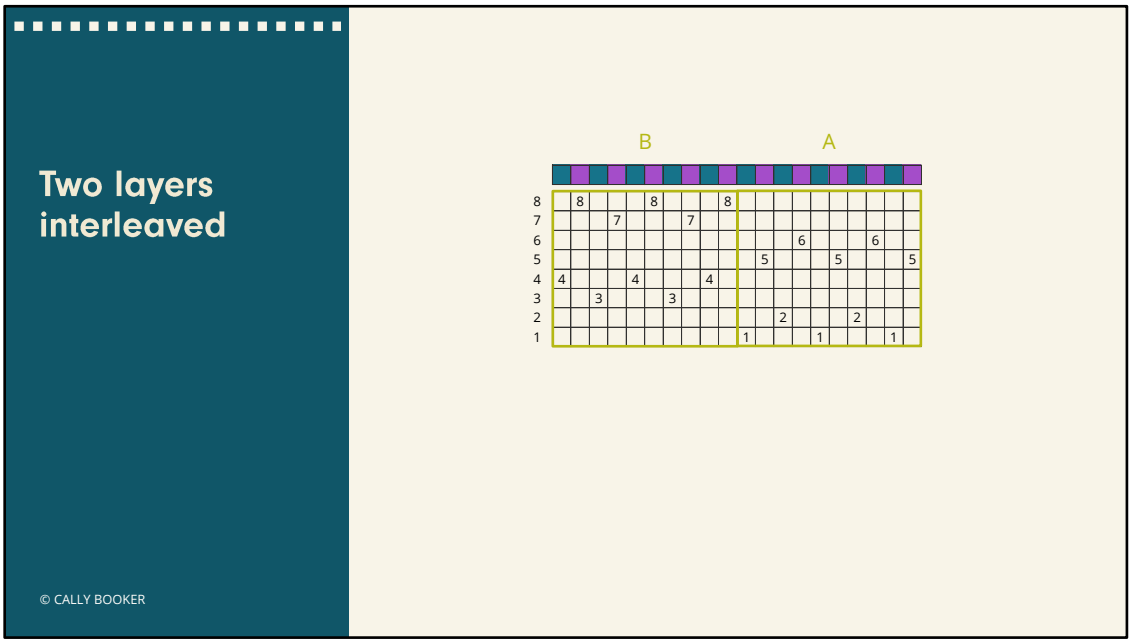
As a reminder, this threading begins with five ends on shafts 1 and 2, alternating 1-2-1-2-1, which I am calling half-unit A. The next five ends are on shafts 3 and 4, alternating 4-3-4-3-4 to make half-unit B. A and B cannot be repeated individually, but always work together, alternating all the way across the cloth.

Threading for double huck

For our double huck threading we are going to make a very straightforward adaptation of this starting point. We are going to take the threading on shafts 1 to 4 and echo it on shafts 5 - 8. We will use shafts 1 to 4 for one layer of our cloth and shafts 5 to 8 for the other, and we will interleave the two layers in a one-to-one ratio.



This means that whenever we thread an end on shaft 1 (for layer one) we will match it with an end on shaft 5 (for layer two). In the same way, every end on shaft 2 will be matched with one on shaft 6; every end on shaft 3 with one on shaft 7; and every end on shaft 4 with one on shaft 8.

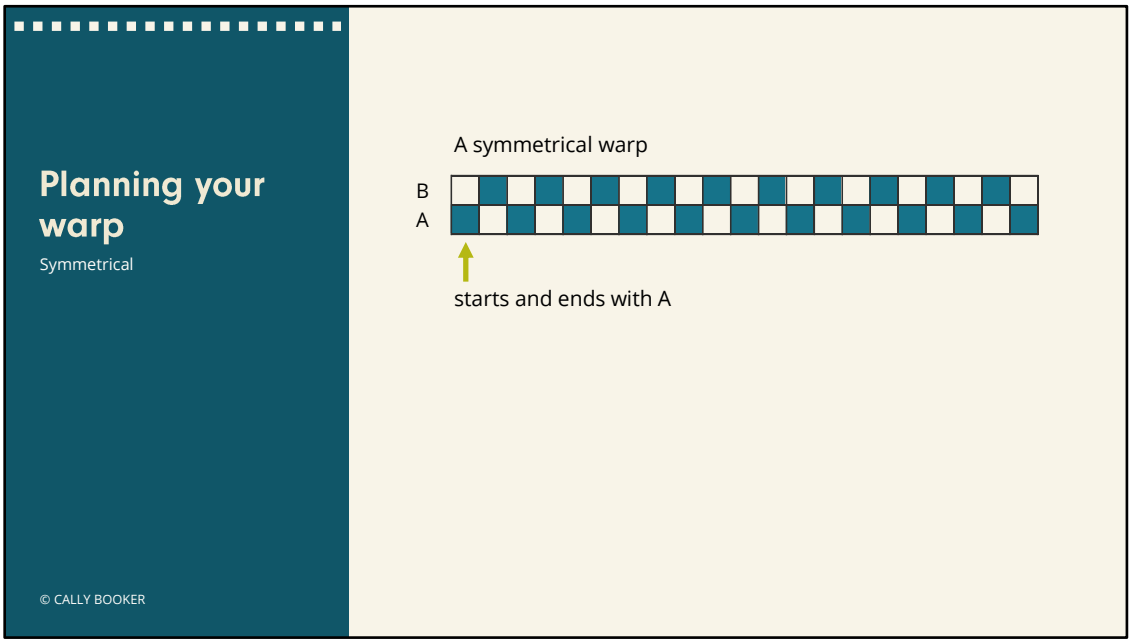


Now wherever we had a five-end half-unit we have a ten-end half-unit, with five ends corresponding to each layer. A is threaded on shafts 1, 2, 5 and 6; B is threaded on shafts 3, 4, 7 and 8. Just as with a single layer of huck, we will alternate A and B all the way across the cloth.

If you're thinking to yourself, hang on, this looks familiar, then you may be recognising the threading from regular double weave – that is, two layers of plain weave – especially if you happen to have taken my Understand Double Weave course! So isn't it just the same? Well, yes and no. Yes, we are using the same shafts allocated to the same layers and blocks. But no, it isn't quite the same approach because we have additional constraints on double huck which do not exist for plain weave. With regular double weave we can make each threading block as wide or as narrow as we please, and every block can be different. For double huck they all have to be the same, no exceptions.

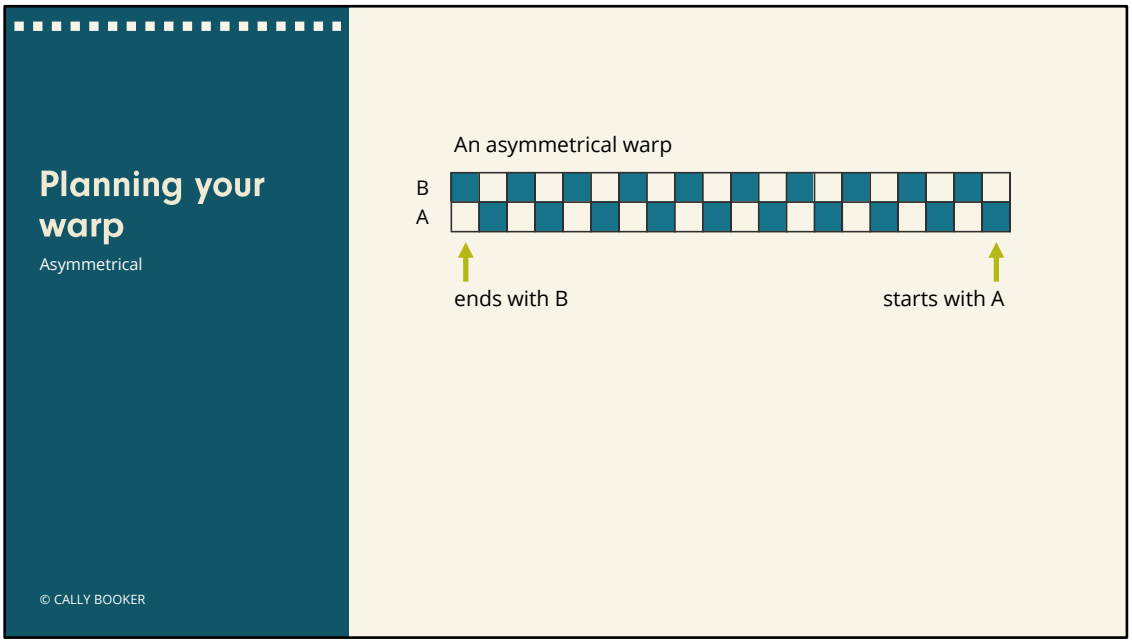
And for huck the single half-unit will always have an odd number of ends, so although our double huck half-units will have an even number of ends, they will always be 2 x an odd number: 2 x 3, 2 x 5 or 2 x 7. In our case, for two layers of five-end huck we have ten ends in each half-unit. This means that your warp will need to be a multiple of 10 ends.

Threading for double huck



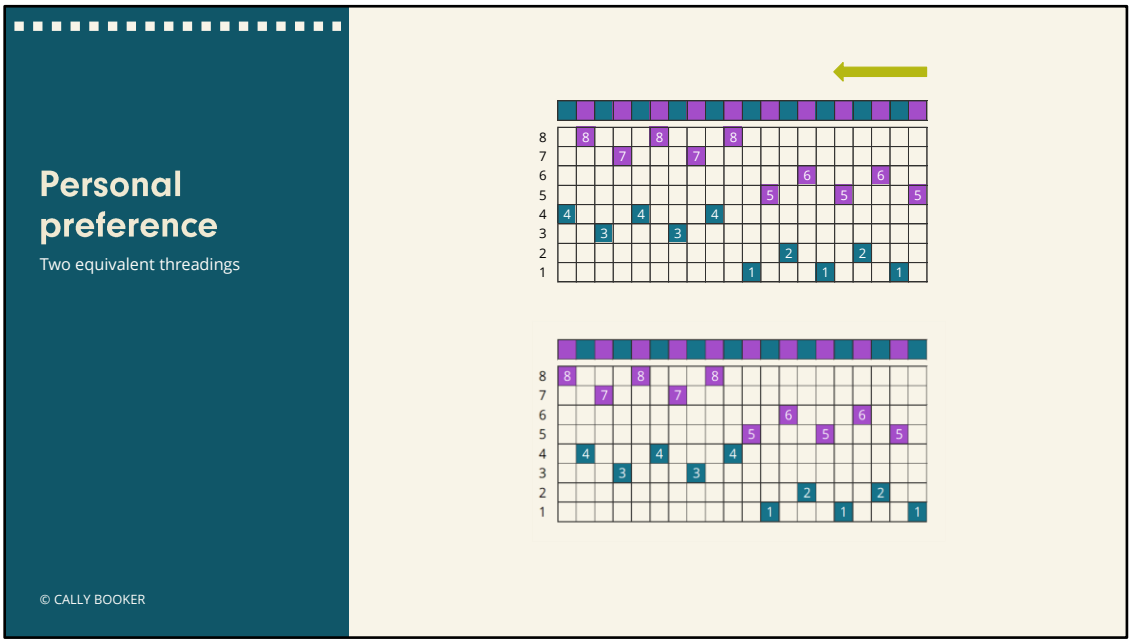
If you are making a symmetrical warp then I recommend you start and end with half-unit A. Your warp as a whole will have a multiple of 10 ends, but the multiple will be odd, e.g. 29 x 10 for 290 ends, or 35 x 10 for 350 ends. Each layer will have half that number of ends, e.g. 145 or 175.

The diagram here shows a small example in the form of a profile draft. Rather than indicate shafts, the rows in a profile threading indicate which unit – or, in the case of huck, which half-unit – is to be used. The example shown here has only 21 half-units, so it is a bit too small to be realistic. But it does illustrate that of those 21 half-units of 10 ends, 11 will be threaded as A and 10 will be threaded as B.

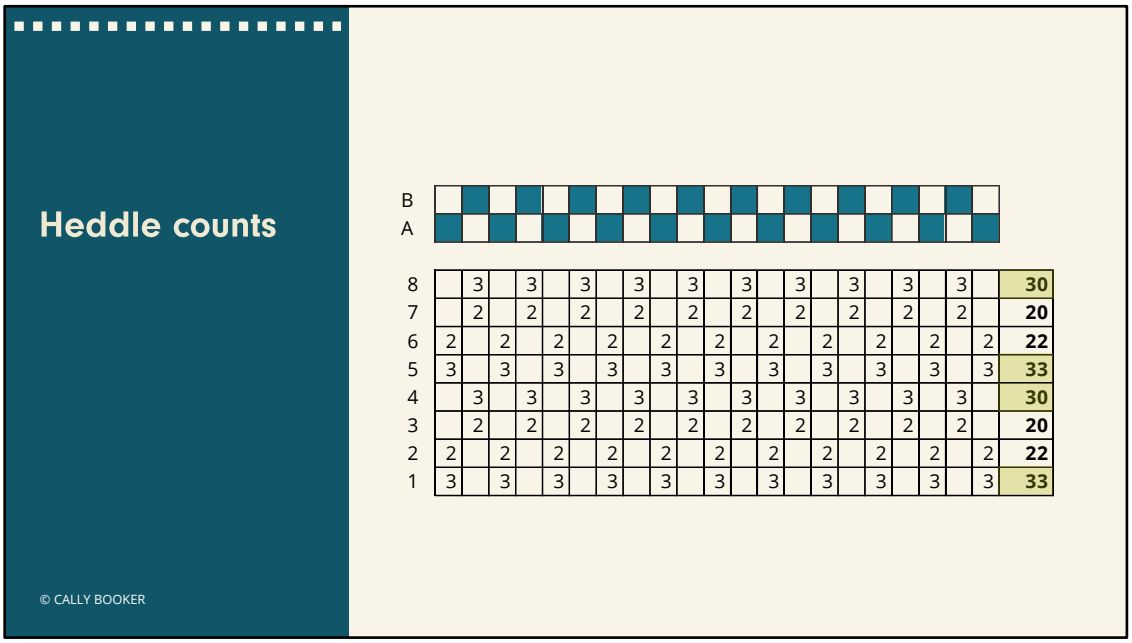


If you are making an asymmetrical warp, which starts with A on one edge but ends with B on the other, then your multiple will be an even one, e.g. 30 x 10 for 300 ends, or 36 x 10 for 360 ends, and each layer will also have a multiple of ten ends, e.g. 150 or 180. You will have equal numbers of A and B units in your threading.

Exactly what multiple you use will depend on your sett and the width of your sampler, so that will be the topic of the next video. Before we leave the threading, however, a couple of practical points.



When threading two layers in parallel, my personal preference is to thread the back shaft before the front shaft for each pair of ends. As I thread from right to left, this means that my preferred threading for half unit A is written 5-1-6-2-5-1-6-2-5-1. However, if you prefer to work from left to right, or to thread the front shaft first, then 1-5-2-6-1-5-2-6-1-5 will work just as well. In other words you can thread either layer first, **as long as you are consistent**. Warp ends from the two layers should alternate all the way across the cloth, so you never have two ends from the same layer in succession.

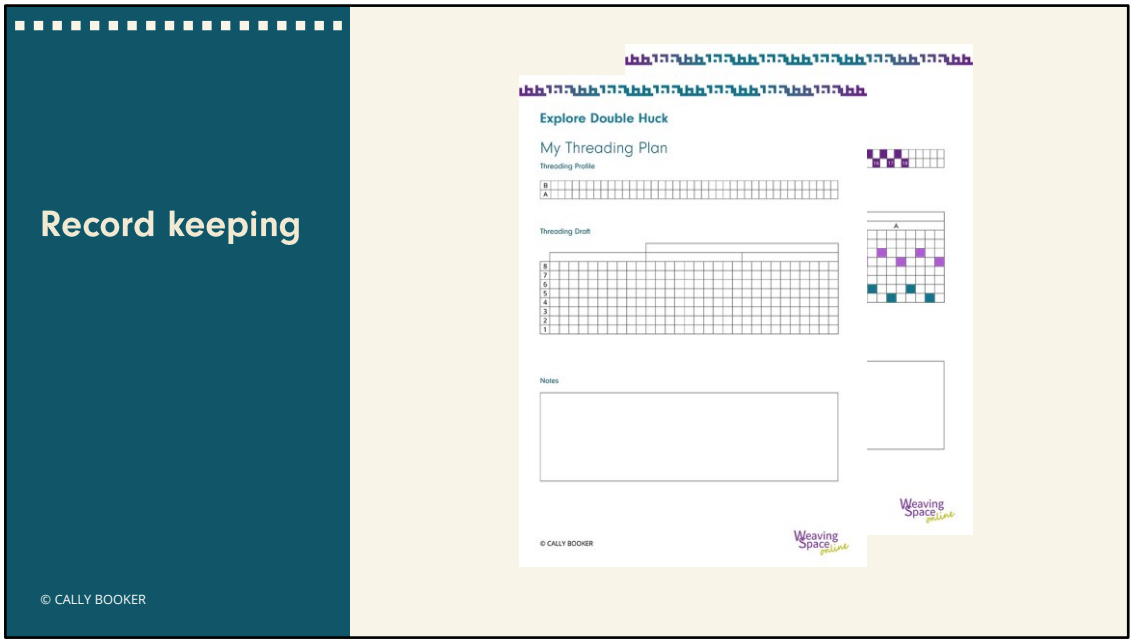


Finally, an important practical issue to address before we take the warp to the loom is the number of heddles we are going to need. Let's look again at the profile draft of my imagined mini-sampler which is just 21 half-units wide.

The leftmost blue square is in row A, where it indicates a half-unit of 10 ends threaded on shafts 1, 2, 5 and 6. Of these ends three will be threaded on shaft 1 and two on shaft 2; and these will be matched by three ends on shaft 5 and two on shaft 6. I've used a grid below the profile draft to record the number of heddles I will need on these shafts to achieve this. This pattern will be repeated across all the half-units in row A.

The squares in row B indicate half-units threaded on shafts 3, 4, 7 and 8. Of the ten ends in this half-unit, three will be threaded on shaft 4 and two on shaft 3; matched by three ends on shaft 8 and two on shaft 7. Again, this pattern is repeated for every half-unit in row B.

Now if we add up all the heddles needed for this threading, we can see that the small difference between two heddles and three heddles adds up to quite a large difference overall. Crucially there are more heddles needed on shafts 1, 4, 5 and 8 than on the other four shafts. Most of us will have plenty of heddles on shaft 1, but do take care to check that you have sufficient heddles on shafts 4, 5 and 8 as well.



Since this threading is quite tightly defined, it should not pose too much of a problem for record-keeping. It is up to you whether you prefer to write out the threading in full, to work directly from the profile draft or to find a comfortable place in between. I have put together some example worksheets recording the threading for a symmetrical and asymmetrical sample in the 'in between style' and you'll find these in the resources section of this lesson along with a blank template for you to use if you wish.