

## Explore Double Huck

# Making a two-colour warp with two crosses

[00:00:00] In this video, I'm going to demonstrate making a two colour warp using a warping mill, and I'm going to give this warp two crosses, a threading cross and a raddle cross.

[00:00:15] I've measured out a three and a half meter guide string, which I've already put in place on the mill.

[00:00:23] It's my personal preference to start and end my warp at the top right hand end of the circuit. So I will place my threading cross here on these pegs, and my raddle cross will be on the other set of pegs at the bottom left of the circuit.

[00:00:47] Down on the floor below the mill, I've put my yarns in position. I've got a magenta and a mid toned grey for this warp. I want the magenta yarn to go onto the mill first and the grey second, so that my warp ends will be sequenced magenta, grey, magenta grey, magenta, grey, all the way across the warp from the right to the left.

[00:01:15] I've therefore put the magenta cone down on the floor nearer to the mill than the grey cone. And in practice that will help me keep the yarn from tangling as I progress with the warp.

[00:01:35] My first step will be to take the two ends together and make a slip knot.

[00:01:47] Then I'm going to place the loop over the end peg of this upper triplet. My next step is to separate the two yarns and to put a finger between them, and I'm going to keep a finger between the two yarns the whole time that I'm making the warp.

[00:02:13] As I make the warp, I'm going to start by turning the mill anti-clockwise, and for that direction I want the yarn to be in my left hand so that my right hand can be pushing at the mill. On the opposite circuit I will change hands, and my left hand will be doing the mill pushing, and my right hand will be holding the yarn. But I will always have a finger between the yarns.

[00:02:46] So I want the magenta to go onto the mill first, and I'm going to have it follow the path of the guide string, going under peg two and over peg three, where the grey is going to go the opposite way. It's going to go over peg two and under peg three.

[00:03:06] As you can see, I'm bringing my thumb up under the grey yarn, and I'm going to position it over that first part of the cross. Then I'll put my thumb into the gap with my finger, into the gap between the yarns, turn my wrist a little, so that thumb and finger are now pointing away from me, and I'm just going to lift that magenta yarn over peg number three. And that gives me the first two ends in my threading cross. And now I just need to continue with this circuit of the mill.

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[00:03:52] So here I am back at the threading cross, and you can see now that I've got the yarn in my right hand, but still with a finger in between the two colours. So I'm actually going to take this magenta yarn with the index finger and just pop that over the leftmost peg. Then my thumb will go under the grey yarn, and again, I give a twist of the wrist, but this time in the opposite direction, so that my finger is swivelling out to point back at me, and I'm going to place the grey yarn over the middle peg.

[00:04:29] You can see all the time I've got both yarns running through the palm of my hand and just lightly held with my ring and little finger there. And as I turn the yarn flat again, I take both yarns over the end peg and as I do that, I just change hands ever so lightly. And again, my thumb goes under the grey yarn, then back in between the yarn with the index finger. Push these back a little way and use my index finger to place the magenta yarn over the left hand peg. And off I go around the mill again.

[00:05:18] And one more time, I'm back at the threading cross. Yarn in my right hand, finger in between. Take the magenta yarn over the left hand peg, thumb under the grey yarn, take it over the middle peg, and then both yarns together around the end, and I gently change hands and make the cross in the opposite direction.

[00:05:48] And so I keep going.

[00:05:53] I'm zooming in on the raddle cross for a minute. Really just to illustrate that it's exactly the same as any other raddle cross. Although with the two yarns it does build up twice as fast, which is rather nice, structurally it's exactly the same as any other raddle cross, and I put as many ends through the same shed as I need to.

[00:06:14] In this case, it's very quick. I only want four ends in a raddle dent. This is quite a chunky yarn, and so every circuit of the mill gives me another dent. So as I come down with this yarn, I'm on my fourth group here, I'm going to take it over, under and back around; and I'm going to change hands here as well, ready for the clockwise turn back up to the top.

[00:06:52] Once I've completed the warp bout I need to tie off both crosses pretty much as I would usually do, and I'll add as many choke ties as are necessary for the length of the warp that I've made. The only thing here that requires any special treatment is the false cross here, right at the front of the warp bout.

[00:07:16] It's my personal preference to tie the arms of the cross with these loose open ties that allow me to re-open the shed when I'm ready to insert the lease sticks. This is my threading cross, so these loops here are the ones I'm going to cut when I'm ready to start threading the loom.



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[00:07:38] However, in the meantime, I don't want these cross ties to slide off, and as these layers are separate - one above the cross peg and one below - when I take it off the mill those two layers could pull apart and I could lose my cross ties. So I want to put a choke tie around this part of the warp. I could put it around the whole thing, which with this wool yarn that's fairly elastic would be quite feasible. However, with a less elastic yarn, it's difficult to pull a tie sufficiently tight when you're working between the pegs like that.

[00:08:25] And so my general practice, which works for any yarn, is to put the choke tie in the middle, just around the false cross itself. This tie here captures the bottom part of the upper layer of the warp and the top part of the lower layer of the warp. It also catches in these starting and finishing ends that aren't part of a loop at all, so that's a bonus there that everything is securely caught in that central knot. And then when I come to the time when I'm ready to thread, I'll release that choke tie and cut these loops.