



WHAT IS DOUBLE WEAVE?

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We're about to embark on a journey towards understanding double weave. Before we start, let's establish some terminology. What is double weave? And is it written as two words or one? And how is it different from double cloth? Is it different from double cloth?? These are all excellent questions.

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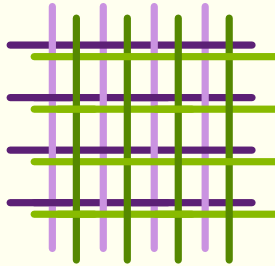


Let's begin with double cloth, which is sometimes written doublecloth, all as one word, or even double-cloth with a hyphen. I'm starting with this term because it is the thing we can touch: the cloth.

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DOUBLE CLOTH DEFINITION

A double cloth is a cloth which consists of two separate sets of warp and weft



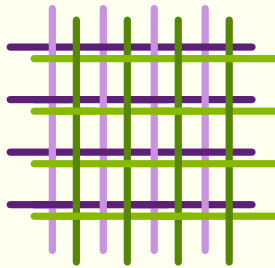
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We can define double cloth as a cloth which consists of two separate sets of warp and weft.

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DOUBLE CLOTH DEFINITION

A double cloth is a cloth which consists of two separate sets of warp and weft



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It is sometimes explained in these terms: that you could remove one complete set of warp and weft from a double cloth and you would still have a properly interlaced piece of fabric. How feasible that would be in practice is another matter, and it isn't universally true in any case! However, as a way of thinking about double cloth it can be quite a useful mental picture.


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**DOUBLE CLOTH
POTENTIAL**

Two independent layers
which may be

- Stitched together
- Interchanged with each other

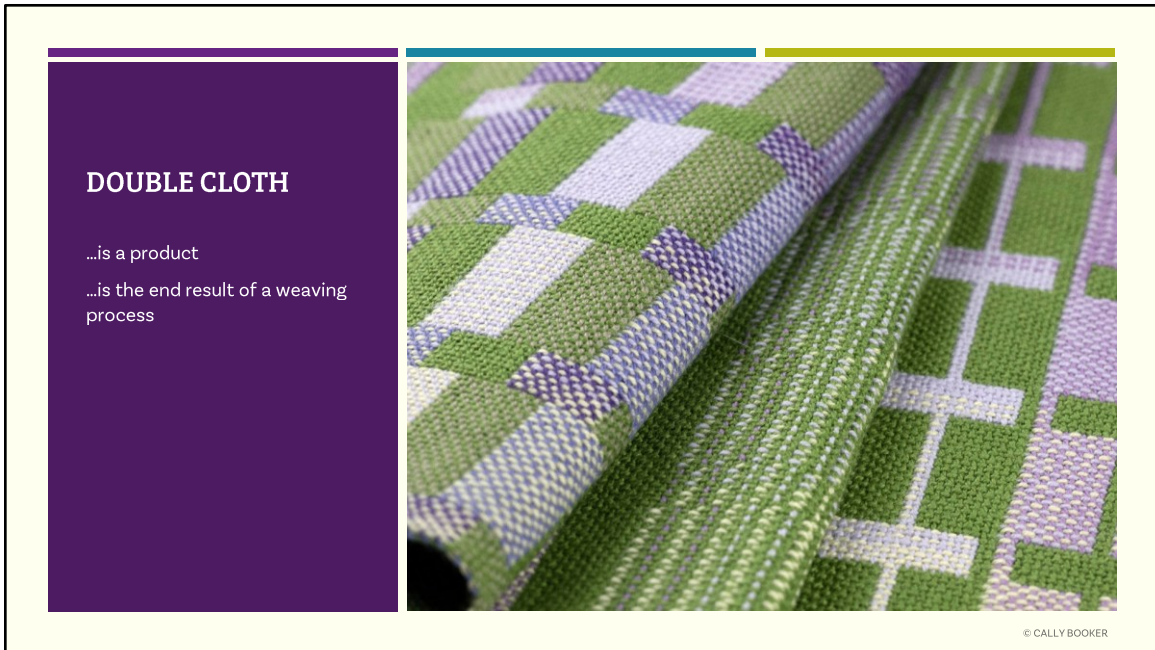
to create many different kinds
of patterning



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The two layers of the double cloth may be stitched together or interchanged with each other in many different ways. This is what produces the patterning that makes double cloth so exciting and full of design potential for the weaver.

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The essence of this definition is that double cloth is a product. It is the end result of a weaving process.

And that brings us back to the name of the process, which is....

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DOUBLE WEAVE DEFINITION

A process of weaving which is 'twice as much' as regular weaving

Double Weave
Doubleweave
Double-weave

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Yes, double weave – which may be written as one word or two, with or without a hyphen – is best thought of as a process: a process of weaving which in some sense is 'twice as much' as regular weaving. This may be because you are creating double cloth, so you have set up your loom with twice as many warp threads and are weaving with two shuttles rather than the usual one. That's what I am usually doing when I am using double weave, and that is what this course will focus on. However, there are other ways to think double in the weaving process. One of the most common is...

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DOUBLE WIDTH WEAVING

A process which...

...uses *some* of the principles of double weave...

...to create a cloth which is up to twice as wide as your loom.



The result is single cloth



It only has one set of weft threads



It only has one set of warp threads

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Double width. This is a process where you use some of the principles of double weave to create a cloth that is up to twice as wide as your loom. It does not produce double cloth, though. Once it is cut off the loom and finished, the result is single cloth, with no evidence that it was made using a double weave process. By our previous definition, we can see that this is because there is only one set of weft threads. Indeed, strictly speaking there is only one set of warp threads, though they are set up and used in two distinct groups in order to form the double wide cloth.

When I write or speak about 'double weave', I find that a lot of new weavers assume that the end goal is a cloth of double width, though personally I seldom use double weave in this way. Double width can be thought of as a subset of the double weave process. We will cover this later in a dedicated lesson on tubes and folds.

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IS DOUBLE WEAVE A STRUCTURE?

We can apply the principles of double weave to many different weave structures

- plain weave
- twills
- lace weaves



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Is double weave a structure?

Weavers often refer to double weave as a structure, and there's certainly no need to call the weaving police to put a stop to this. However, if we start to think about it in more depth it becomes clear that this isn't the best way to classify double weave. We can apply the principles of double weave to many different weave structures, and in our final lesson we will look at this in more detail. This is why I describe it as a process, or you might also call it an approach to weaving.

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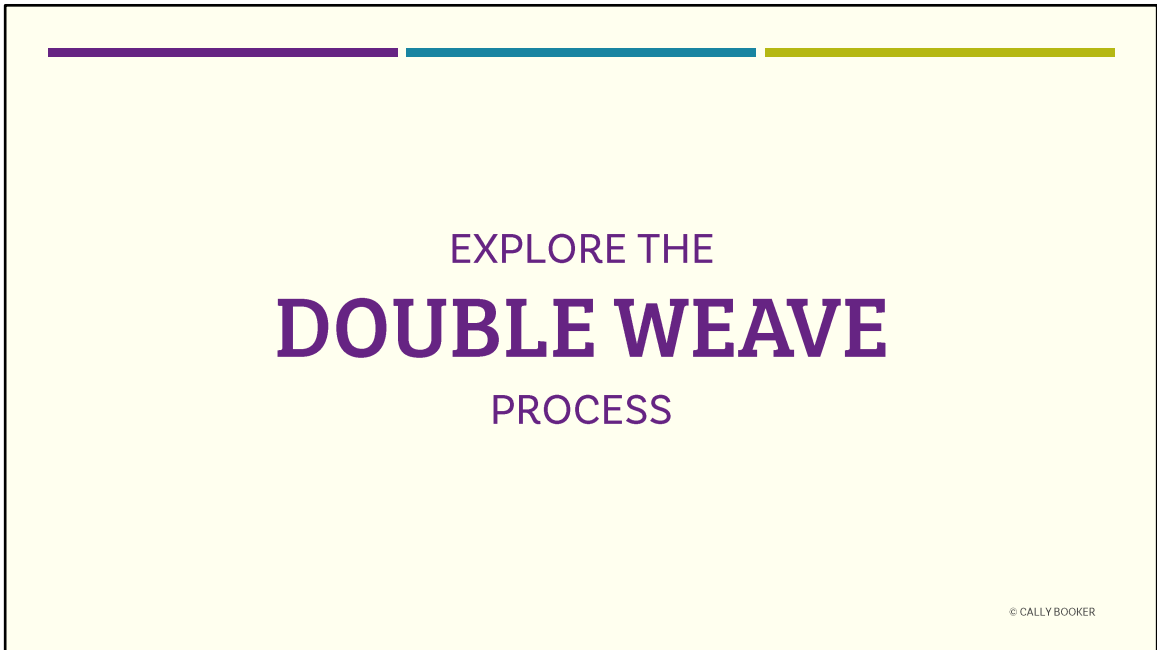
IF YOU LOVE PINNING THINGS DOWN...

Check out the 'Further Reading' notes in the Resources section of the lesson

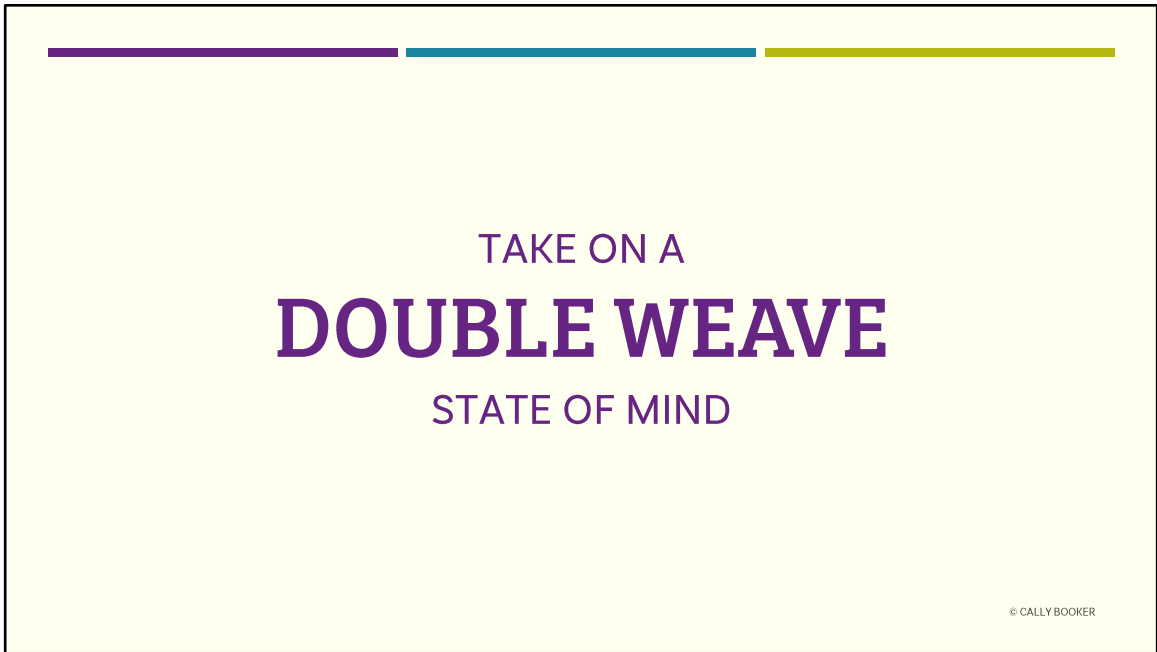
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It's worth stating that I'm not suggesting my usage is definitive, but I'm not a maverick either! I hope that making these distinctions help to clarify the intentions and vocabulary of this course. Weaving is a global craft and there is much diversity both in what we do and how we speak about what we do. If you are interested in pinning these things down, then you might want to check out some of the references in the Further Reading notes, which are in the Resources section of the lesson.

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For the rest of this course we're going to explore double weave as a process and learn to take on a double weave state of mind.



I hope you will enjoy the journey.