TWIST
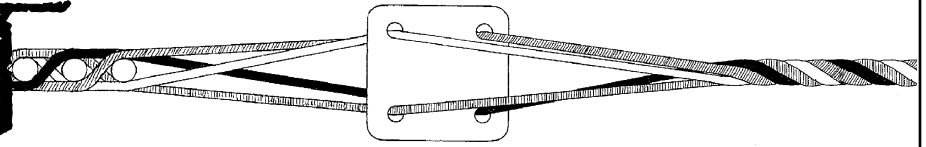
Tablet Weavers' International Studies & Techniques

S-Z Diagonals, Front

Not Your Usual Egyptian Diagonals
by Gudrun Polak

Everybody likes Egyptian Diagonals. Patterns are created with bold diagonal lines that form shapes like triangles, diamonds, spirals, or meanders. You can find many examples on my website at www.theloomybin.com/cw/egyptian.html.

Egyptian Diagonals are one-sided patterns. That means the pattern shows up clearly on one side of the band, and the back side shows a fuzzy version of the same pattern. Sometimes this is not desirable. In the Spring TWIST issue of 2007, I showed how to use the technique known as "Anglo-Saxon or Split Pack Card Weaving" to create patterns that look the same on both sides, colors exchanged. Recently I developed another way to achieve the same goal. Let's call this technique S-Z Diagonals.

Woven Examples

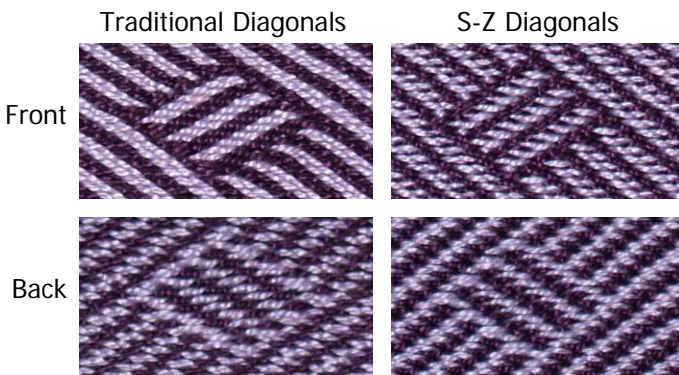Two different bands are shown here. The yarn is 5/2 pearl cotton.

Traditional Diagonals   S-Z Diagonals

Front

Back

Fig. 1: Comparing bands

Threading is Key

The first band is threaded in the traditional threading for Diagonals, 2 dark, 2 light threads per card for all pattern cards. The second band is threaded with just two threads per card. Like in the Anglo-Saxon technique we need twice as many cards for an equivalent pattern block but the number of threads stays the same.
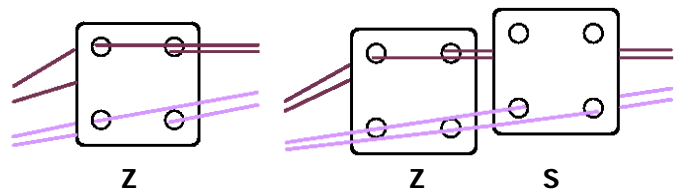
Fig. 2: Threaded cards, single vs. split

Each single Z-threaded card corresponds to two cards, one Z-, one S-threaded (Fig 2.).

The key idea is to separate the dark and light threads. The dark color is threaded as before but just two threads per card. The light color is threaded in a separate card. Together these two cards form a unit of four threads and this unit corresponds exactly to a single card in the traditional technique.
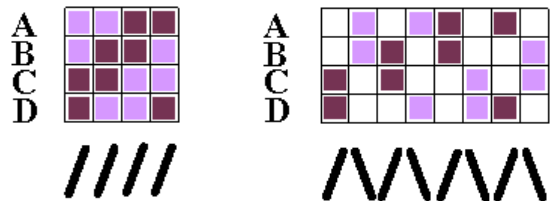
Fig. 3: Threading Diagrams

S-Z Diagonals, Back
Size 10 crochet cotton