

Beginner Tablet Weaving

Egyptian Diagonals

Notes for a 2-hour Workshop

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1 Prerequisite

For this workshop the student should have a loom warped with 20 tablets in 2 colours.

The four holes in each tablet should be threaded so that threads of each colour go through adjacent holes. The threading direction for each tablet is not important as tablets will be vertically flipped – reversing threading direction – as required.

2 Reading The Patterns

Each pattern is read from the bottom up. Each column represents one tablet and is read as follows, assuming that the weaver is sitting with the loom in front of them:

- The diagonal slash indicates the direction the thread travels through the tablet, as seen from above. Hence a / indicates that the thread travels from left to right through the tablet. If the thread is travelling in the wrong direction, turn the card around its vertical axis to flip the threading direction.
- The two coloured circles indicate the colour of the threads in the top holes. The bottom colour represents the top hole closest to the weaver, the top colour represents the top hole furthest from the weaver.
- Each row of squares represents one pick or quarter turn of the tablets.
 - A square with a white background indicates the tablet is turned forwards, away from the weaver.
 - A square with a grey background indicates the tablet is turned backwards, towards the weaver.
 - The coloured diagonal indicates the direction of twining, and the visible colour.

3 Weaving the Band

Prep Turn all the cards backwards (towards yourself) once, then place a popsicle stick. This makes it easier to make a clean start. Turn the cards forward again.

Start Place the weft in the shed, leaving a 6" + tail.

Weaving

- check the pattern row to see how the tablets should turn and turn the tablets
- clear the shed
- insert the shuttle and beat
- pull the shuttle through (and if there is tail left, pull it in the opposite direction.)
- Do *NOT* pull the weft tight until after the following quarter turn and beating.

Repeat the Weaving step until you reach the end of the band. A pick is one repeat of the weaving step.

4 Comment on using packs

I prefer to divide the cards into two packs that turn in opposite directions. Thus when the direction a card is being turned changes, this can be described as moving the card to the other pack. When all the cards turn in the same direction, there is of course effectively only one pack.

Weaving Egyptian Diagonal patterns it is difficult to go wrong as long as you always move cards in sets of two, and always change packs every second pick.

5 Patterns

Some of these patterns use the basic setup, and some the symmetric threading. Check the set up carefully.

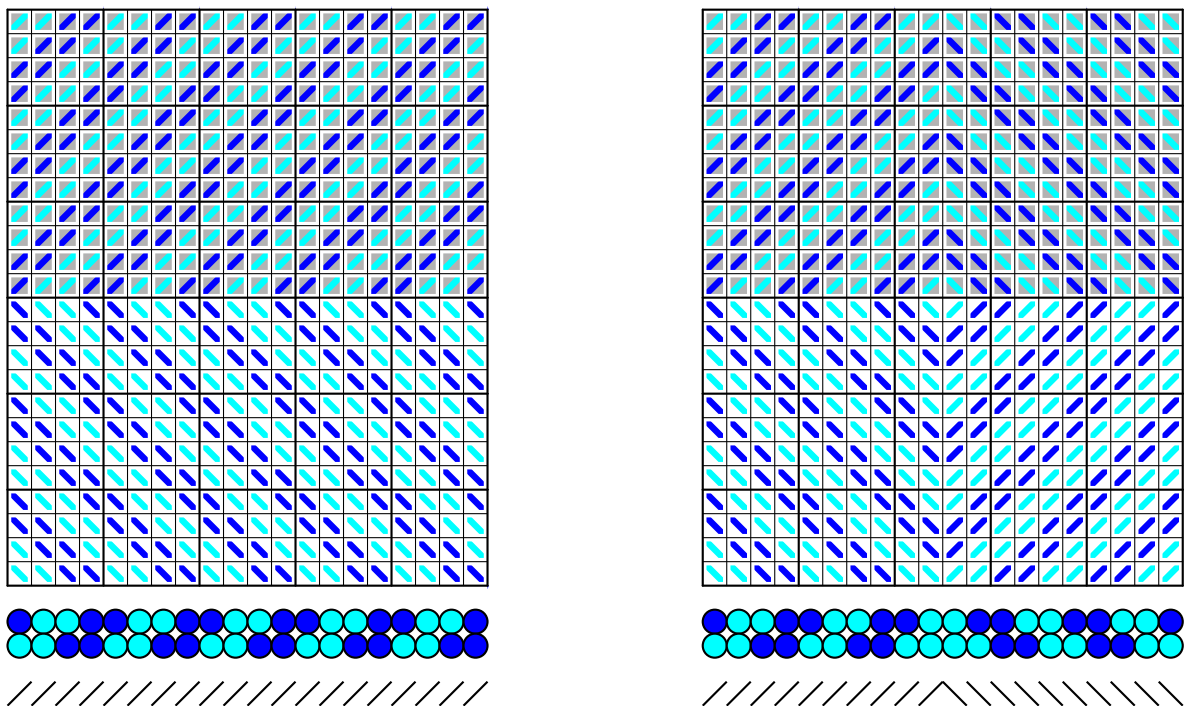


Figure 1: The effect of symmetry on simple all forward 12 rows, then all backwards 12 rows.

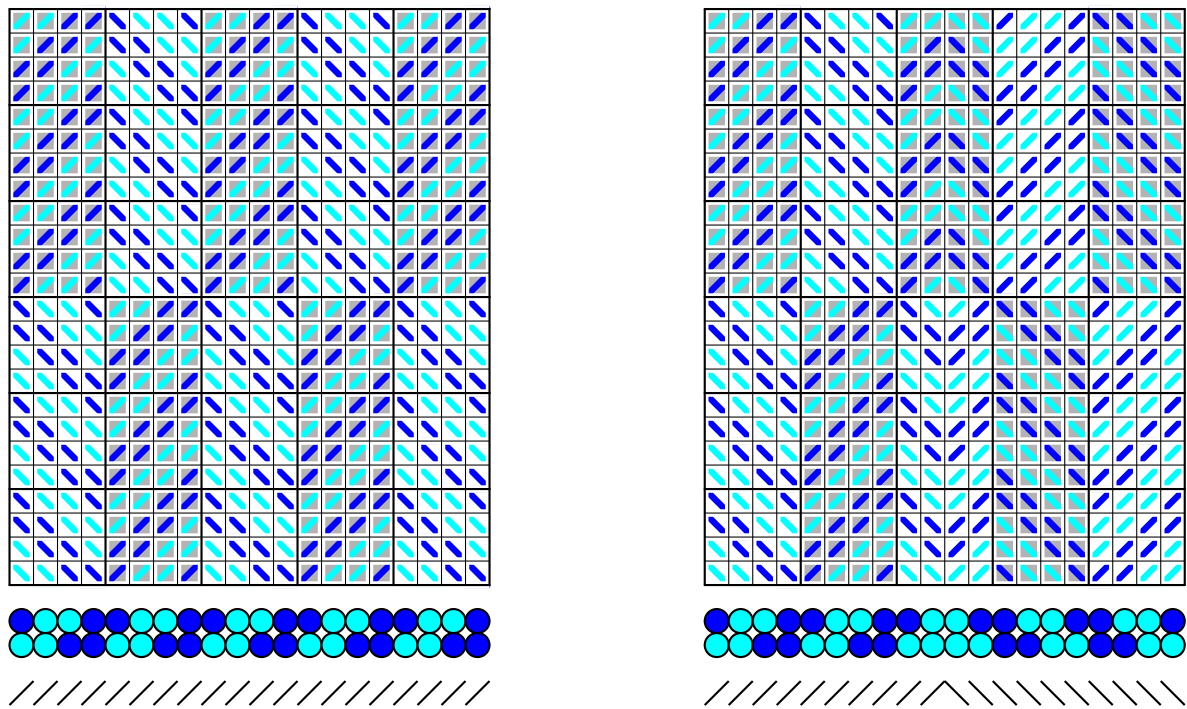


Figure 2: Dividing the cards into groups of 4 and alternating turning direction.

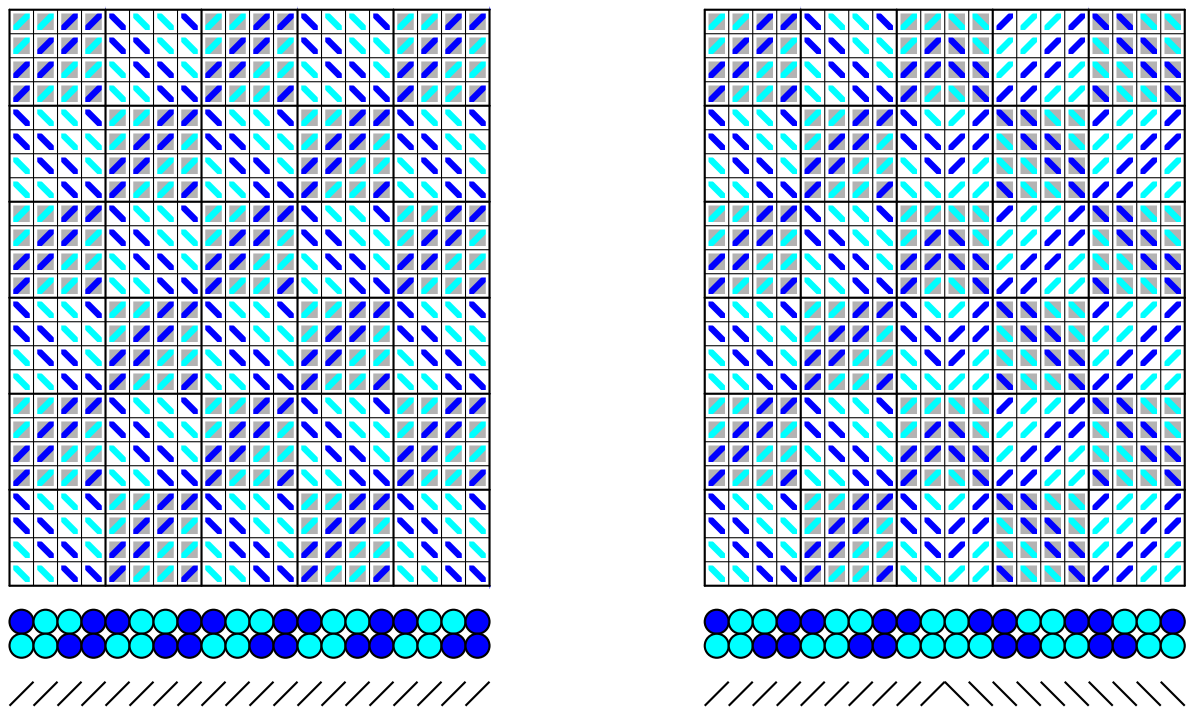


Figure 3: Changing the turning direction after every 4 rows rather than every 12.

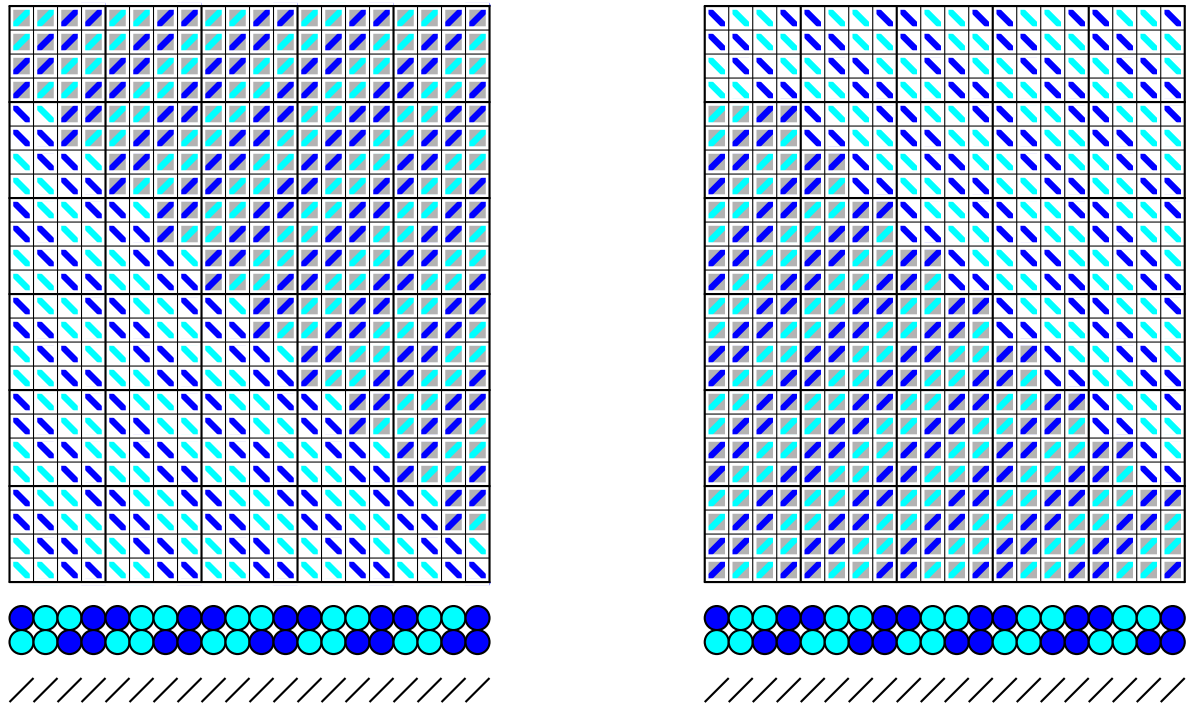


Figure 4: Alternate between these two patterns and you will have a twist neutral pattern.

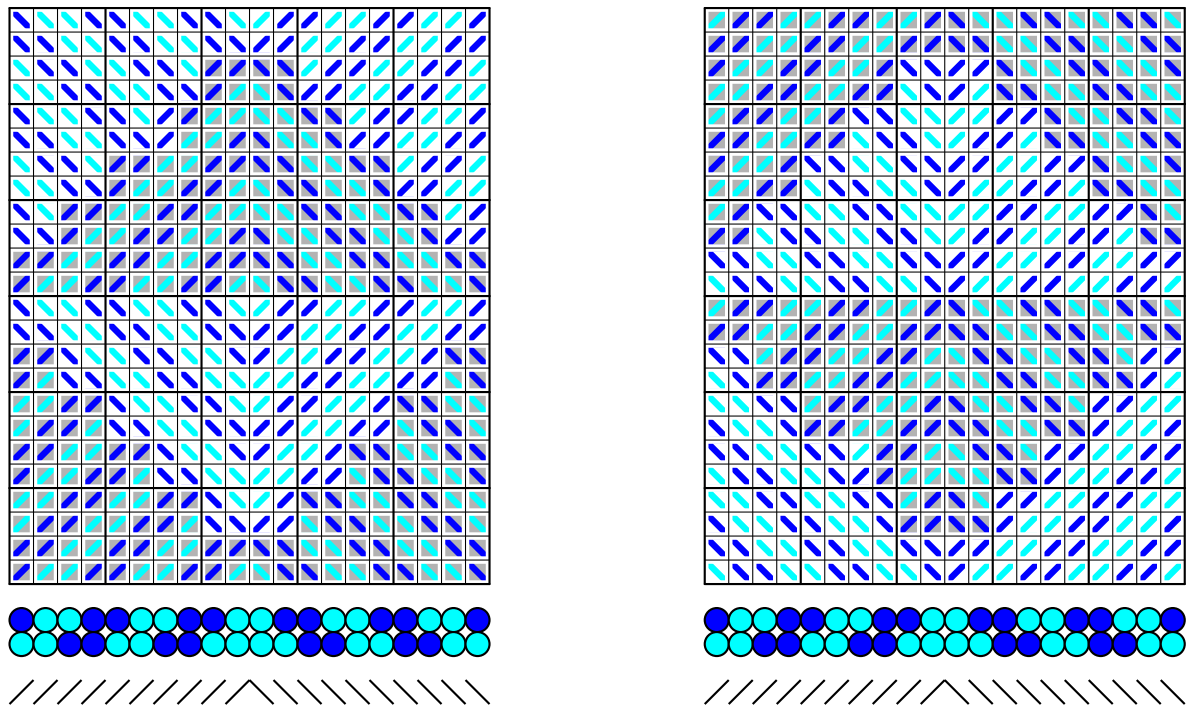


Figure 5: Taking advantage of the symmetric structure, cards are moved between packs every 2 picks. Depending on whether you work from the outside in, or the insire out, you get two different effects.

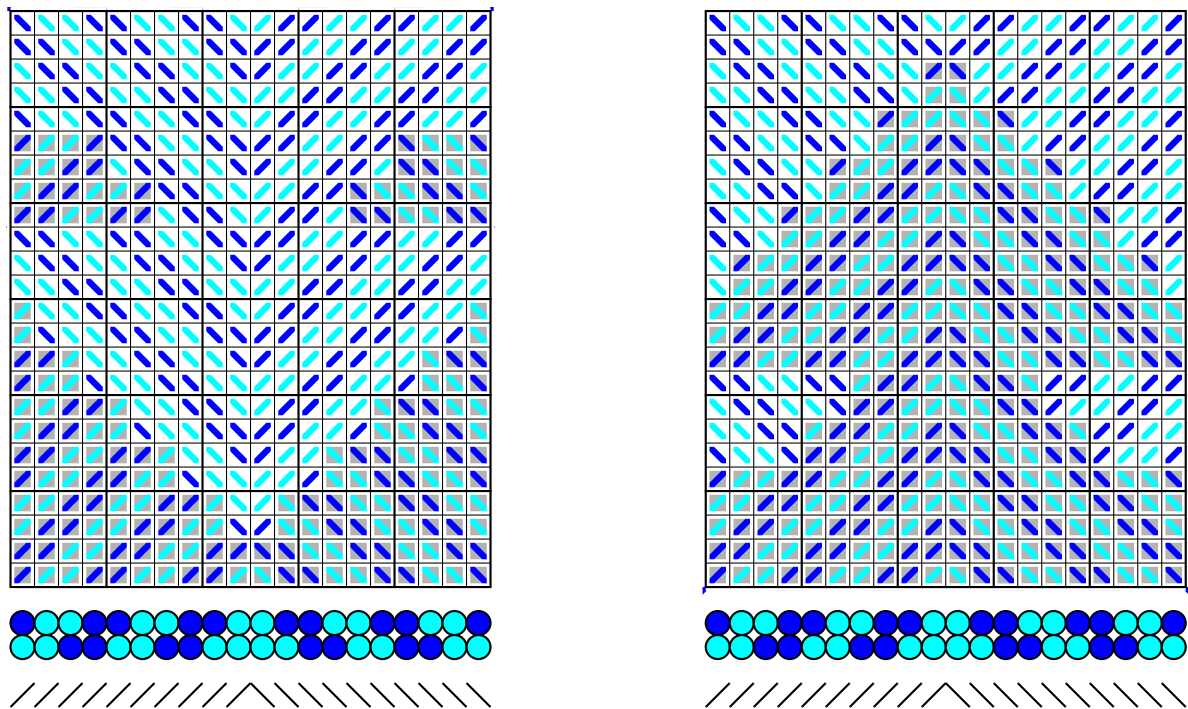


Figure 6: By nesting diamonds, you can create a very interesting pattern. Repeat the left hand pattern as often as you like, and then repeat the right hand pattern as many times to complete the nested diamonds.

6 Your Turn

And now it's your turn to weave some patterns. Included are four blank patterns you can use to record your turning directions as you weave. Be sure to note your threading direction and starting position.

