



WOVEN STYLE FOR THE 15" RIGID HEDDLE LOOM

by Tamara Poff

Poff Studio, 13540 SE 87th Circle, Summerfield, Florida 34491.

201. Softcover. 98 pages. \$23.

All levels of rigid heddle weavers can make simple garments using a 15" rigid heddle loom by combining weaving with sewing, crocheting, or knitting. If you are reluctant to cut your handwoven fabric, you can begin by making simple garments without cutting. Tamara Poff creatively adds knitting or crocheting along with simple sewing construction to make garments with very little waste. Poff is an experienced weaver and knitter who teaches rigid heddle weaving. She

"looks at rigid heddle weaving from a knitter's perspective." Most of the twelve projects in the book require easy knitting skills while two of the projects require intermediate knitting skills.

If you are looking for specific projects with detailed instructions to make different sized garments, specifying the brand, size, and color of yarn, this would be a great addition to your library. The author presents concepts that go beyond rigid heddle weaving and can be applied to any handwoven cloth you wish to make into a garment with additions of knitting or crocheting, such as these: 1. Quickly pick up stitches to knit by picking up multiple weft yarns on a crochet hook two picks below the selvedge edge, then transfer these stitches to a knitting needle with less stress on the yarn (page 28); 2. Construct garments with a tapered shoulder, using a sloped shoulder overlap (pages 26-27); 3. Add texture with a doubled warp at the beginning of each repeat (page 80); and 4. Double fine yarn and use the direct warping technique to bring the loops of yarn through *each* hole and slot, tie on, and wind on the warp, instead of bringing the loops of a single heavier yarn through the slots, winding on, cutting the loops and slewing through the holes in the rigid heddle (page 13).

Yardage for projects is provided if you wish to substitute different yarns. Models are photographed wearing the garments with casual but stylish jeans, inspiring me to try the projects. The author refers readers to her own YouTube videos for further information. Most projects use plain weave to accent the beautiful knitting yarns. Pick up is used for some of the projects to weave leno and create warp floats.

Readers should be aware of a few weaknesses in the book. When discussing EPI (ends per inch) and PPI (picks per inch) the author uses knitting terminology that is not usually applied to weaving, such as "measure along a visible warp thread to see if the under and over weft threads make gauge." Keeping in mind that the author views rigid heddle weaving from a knitter's perspective, the charts for the projects use "weaving gauge" instead of "sett." Some of the watermarked photos, for example on page 19, distract from the text making it harder to read the instructions. The instructions on page 39 to "skip a heddle" are confusing. However, the instructions are more clearly stated on page 40 to "skip 1 slot and 1 hole in each inch." Readers should also note the project for a boat neck top with sleeves on page 51 omits instructions for using a pick up stick to achieve the warp floats shown.

The author invites readers to submit questions or problems, and to share weaving triumphs. She has posted errata on her website, www.poffstudio.com.

*Reviewed by Patty Savignac
Albuquerque, New Mexico*