

## Acadian Weaving – Sample Warp

Epi 20                      12/2 cotton      Width 16”                      thread 1234, weave as tabby  
Length 4 yards              double sley 10 dent reed              320 ends + 4 + 4 for selvedge = 328 ends

### Catalogne

The weft is 12/2 cotton & strips of rag. Cut or tear ½ - ¾” strips, or 1 ¼ strips folded like bias tape. The original coverlets used wool rags, but later the rags were all cotton. Bright colors were used, with blue & red preferred. All white rags were used for the Couverture de Marriage – Wedding Coverlet.

### Boutonne

The weft is 12/2 cotton & strips of rag. Alternate 2 picks of the 12/2 cotton with one strip of rag. Pull up loops of rag to create a raised design, using a knitting needle to hold the loops in place. Leave needles in as you weave the next two sets of loops, then recycle the needles.

### Summer Skirt fabric

The weft is a fine, singles wool – like an 11 cut Cheviot tweed yarn, 2,200 yds/#. This is a linsey-woolsey fabric of a nearly balanced weave. Traditionally a wide band of one color would be alternated with bands of smaller stripes and *a la planche* patterning.

*A la planche* uses a pick up stick at the back of the loom to pick up alternate groups of warp threads, for example, every other group of 8 threads. Slide the stick to just behind the heddles and turn it up to raise the pattern shed. Use a second stick to pick up the pattern shed in front of the heddles. Leave the first stick in place, but slide it to the back of the loom to use again later. Transfer the pattern shed to the front of the reed & then weave 4 or more picks in this shed, catching the weft around a selvedge thread. Remove the front pattern stick to weave more tabby.

### Winter Skirt fabric

The weft is a fine, singles wool – like an 11 cut Cheviot tweed yarn. Treadle harnesses 1 & 2 against 3 & 4 for a wider set. This is a weft face fabric. Tent the weft thread to increase the length & help cover the warp. Beat hard! A double beat can help pack the weft, too. This fabric was striped much like the summer skirt fabric but with no additional patterning.

**Cordonne** Epi 20                      12/2 cotton      Width 16” (330 ends)                      Length 3 yard  
thread straight draw 1234 - For selvedge, double threads in first four heddles, Thread the next 35 ends 1 per heddle, then thread 8 threads together in the next heddle. Thread 39 ends 1 per heddle, then 8 together in 1 heddle – repeat 4 more times and end with 36 ends, 1 per heddle, then double threads in the last four heddles double sley in a 10 dent reed, sleying the groups of 8 threads together = 330 ends total Weave with 12/2 cotton as weft, grouping 8 threads together in one shed every 2”. Alternately, use mop cotton for the thick weft and carry up the side between shots.

**Melissa Weaver Dunning - Traditional Handweaving**

151 Concert Lane - Berryville, VA 22611 - [weaverdun@aol.com](mailto:weaverdun@aol.com) - 540 539-8081

## Resources

Keep Me Warm One Night, Harold & Dorothy Burnham, University of Toronto Press, 1972

The Comfortable Arts, Dorothy K. Burnham, National Gallery of Canada, 1981

Fashioning Fabric, the Arts of Spinning and Weaving in Early Canada, Adrienne Hood, Lorimer, 2007

Labors of Love, Judith Reiter Weissman & Wendy Lavitt, Wings books, 1987

L'Amour de Maman, la Tradition Acadienne du Tissage en Louisiana, La Rochelle, Musee de Nouveau Monde, 1983

By Southern Hands, Jan Arnow, Oxmoor House, 1987

Another Shore, Nancy Bond – historic/time travel fiction set in Acadian Canada

Acadian Culture in Maine - <http://acim.umfk.maine.edu/textiles.html>

Elaine Bourque - [http://www.louisianafolklife.org/folk\\_bios/bourquee.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/folk_bios/bourquee.html)

Louisiana Folklife -

[http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Virtual\\_Books/Keeping\\_It/creole\\_book\\_keep\\_cotton.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Virtual_Books/Keeping_It/creole_book_keep_cotton.html)

Acadian Textiles exhibit - <http://www.textilemuseum.huec.lsu.edu/peacadiantextilesintro.html>

The Acadian Museum, Erath Louisiana - <http://www.acadianmuseum.com/>

LARC Acadian Village, Lafayette LA - <http://www.acadianvillage.org/#!>

Acadian Museum, PEI - <http://peimuseum.com/index.php3?number=1043064&lang=E>  
<http://museeacadien.org/an/>

Acadian Museum, Nova Scotia - <http://www.novascotia.com/see-do/attractions/acadian-house-museum-lacadie-de-chezzetcook/1539>

Historic Acadian Village of Nova Scotia - <http://levillage.novascotia.ca/>

Musee des Acadiens des Pubnicos - <http://www.museeacadien.ca/english/index.htm>

The Acadian Museum, New Brunswick - <http://www.amnb.ca/museums/the-acadian-museum-of-the-universite-of-moncton/>

**Melissa Weaver Dunning - Traditional Handweaving**

151 Concert Lane - Berryville, VA 22611 - [weaverdun@aol.com](mailto:weaverdun@aol.com) - 540 539-8081