Laurie Herrick, *Shawl Sample – yellow/cream*, 1976
Wool; Collection of Ann and Jon Sinclair

Laurie Herrick wove her shawls on 6 harnesses using 4 blocks, probably in order to facilitate the threading. Her notes indicate that she used a 6-treadle tie-up, using 2 treadles to weave each of her pattern picks. The grid profile on 6 shafts follows the way that Herrick wrote them in her notes. The design also can be woven easily on a 4-shaft loom with 2 blocks, as the full draft included here shows.

The yellow and purple shawl is the second of three that she wove using the same basic grid draft. In her notes, Herrick indicates that in order to enhance the “OP” effect, two bands should be omitted in the center reversal. The draft included here omits two block units following her suggestions, resulting in a more effective illusion in the transition between the two halves of the grid.

Herrick’s yellow and purple shawl was woven with 2/6 worsted yellow and purple pattern wefts, with a white tabby weft of about 2/8. Other tips included in Herrick’s notes: “Be sure to start with yellow for purple weft faced units on white if starting with first treadle” and “Secure pattern wefts same shed at start and finish of each band.”
Profile Draft

Six-shaft Threading Profile

Text and draft by Kristin Pesola, Curatorial Intern. Special thanks to: pixeLoom®. Photos by Dan Kvitka.