



**WEAVING ON 3 SHAFTS** by Erica de Ruiter  
Stubenitsky, De Hoeve1, 6668AZ Randwyk, Netherlands  
2017. Spiral bound softcover. 136 pages. \$48.00.

*Weaving on 3 Shafts* is a fascinating dual-language book resulting from forty-plus years of passionate study by Erica de Ruiter. There are thirty information-packed chapters concisely and clearly describing the variety of weave structures and design possibilities that can be accomplished on a three-shaft weaving loom. The Preface gives historical information and background about these seldom-discussed weave structures, including when they were used in Western cultures.

This book first explains how three-shaft looms of various types can have their shafts positioned, including the tie-up possibilities. Verbal explanations of using heddles horses are included, along with clear drawings describing how to tie up counterbalance looms with heddle horses.

The first weave structure discussed is twill, the structure many weaving students study after plain weave. Advantages and characteristics of three-shaft twills as opposed to four-shaft twills are presented. Twill variations are included, along with their computer drawdowns, and a draft for a twill sampler. Tips and techniques for twills and other structures are provided as needed. Many of the tips, such as the improved drape of a three-shaft twill as opposed to a four-shaft twill, are weaving information often missed in weaving classes where three-shaft techniques are rarely, if ever, discussed.

After an examination of the basics, the structures become more complex. In addition to twill, there are chapters on Krokbragd, M's and O's, Huck and Swedish lace weaves, combined weaves, warp cord, weft cord, padded cord, waffle weave, supplementary warp, honeycomb, pile weaves, block weaves, distortion weaves, bead leno, taqueté, damask, and additional weave structures and techniques. The last section is an in-depth look at pick-up techniques and designing for them.

The illustrations are excellent. Each weave structure, along with its variations, has a computer-generated draft and drawdown. The draft of each structure, with its variations, is paired with a color photograph of the actual cloth and a verbal description. Seeing the draft along with a photograph of a cloth sample is helpful in visualizing design possibilities. The section on pick-up includes graphs to assist the reader in designing their own patterns based on these techniques.

In addition to information about three-shaft weave structures, there is great amount of information that applies to designing any woven textile. Where appropriate, setts are given. Information about yarns suitable for various structures is provided. It is helpful to know how to read a draft and dress a loom as those topics are not covered in the book.

Author Erica de Ruiter has created a gem of a book about weaving that is an asset to any weaver's library and is sharing her vast knowledge and experience in an understandable way. This book is a resource for weavers interested in historical weaves, three-shaft weaves, rigid heddle looms using two heddles, multiple weave structures, structures from simple to complex, and weaving design possibilities.

*Reviewed by Terri Bryson  
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