



WEAVING PATTERNED BANDS: HOW TO CREATE AND DESIGN WITH 5, 7, AND 9 PATTERN THREADS by Susan J. Foulkes. Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 4880 Lower Valley Road, Atglen, Pennsylvania 19310. 2018. Hardcover. 152 pages. \$26.99.

Splendidly designed patterned bands used for costumes, clothing embellishments, ceremonial rituals (including special bands for funerals or weddings), and more are the focus of Susan Foulkes' latest book on band weaving, with an emphasis on the designs prominent in the Balkan region. Research in museums throughout Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, and the United Kingdom revealed a rich variety of band styles and motifs pictured in the introductory chapter with a look at the similarities and differences among cultures. This leads into the heart of the book as Foulkes shows with clarity and detail how to create these and similar patterns using a double-slotted (Sunna)

heddle, also known as a pattern heddle. Unlike a rigid heddle with an alternating slot and hole, the double-slotted heddle has an additional, shorter slot through which the heavier pattern yarns are threaded. The ease with which these threads can be picked-up with a shuttle is quickly evident. After describing the direct-warping method, threading, and set-up of the loom (using a backstrap and band lock), the author shares threading and pattern charts alongside photos of woven bands (with reverse sides shown when relevant). The generous size, color, and spacing of the charts is easy on the eyes, especially helpful for weavers new to this way of manipulating threads. The book is divided into three sections depending on the number of pattern threads (5, 7, or 9), with over three dozen patterns in each section. Foulkes explains not only how to replicate the motifs, but also how to change the orientation, repetition, and combinations of hearts, scrolls, flowers and other designs for pleasant results that avoid overlong floats or skips. Not to be ignored in the design process is the use of attractive borders; the author explains through twelve examples how a change in threading order and color will result in stripes, ladders, and other effects on the edges of the band.

Foulkes' fascination and knowledge in this area is evident through her books, blog (durhamweaver64.blogspot.co.uk), contributions to the Braid Society, and workshop presentations. To whet the weaver's appetite, a few specific projects are given in the book: a bookmark, handfasting bands (six lovely bands with symbolic colors and motifs used to join a couple's hands during a wedding ceremony), and three contemporary guitar straps. For those not using the double-slotted heddle, Foulkes briefly shows how a traditional heddle or inkle loom could be used, although additional instructions would be needed to understand how to warp and heddle on the inkle. Finally, the resource section provides a listing of international equipment suppliers, organizations, a bibliography, and YouTube videos that will provide additional information (a visual explanation for setting up the backstrap loom, for example). Blank threading and pattern charts can be reproduced for design practice, and after reading this book, it would be hard to *not* want to pick up a heddle and shuttle to create a few bands of one's own.

*Reviewed by Susan Knorr
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*