

Jason Collingwood Rug Weaving Workshop: 4-end Block Weaving and Shaft-Switching Techniques. This workshop was hosted by the Springfield Fiber Arts Guild in Springfield, Missouri, last June. It was four days packed with lots of information — new technique to try each morning and afternoon. I took my little 4-shaft Schacht Wolf Pup loom. The majority of the workshop was on the many ways in which a weaver can manipulate Four End Block Weaves.

The highlight for me was learning how to convert the 4-shaft loom into a simulation of a multi-shaft loom by using the shaft-switching technique which Jason's dad, Peter, developed years ago. For the warp threads you wish to manipulate, don't thread them through any heddles, but leave an extra heddle on the two shafts surrounding the warp strand involved. Then thread a strong linen string, long enough to make a loop above the heddle frame, through the heddle on, for example, the eye of the heddle on shaft 3, around the warp strand, then back through the same heddle eye. Bring each end of that string to each side of the top of shaft 3's heddle frame. Do the same thing with another string, but thread it through the vacant heddle on shaft 4 on the other side of the same warp strand. Go around the same warp strand, then back through the heddle eye on shaft 4 and bring both ends of that string to the top of shaft 4 frame. Tie the two string from shafts 3 and 4 together, leaving enough slack for each shaft to move separately. Then make a firm slip knot with a separate yarn around both halves of each individual shaft switching string. When you want that warp to act as though it is on shaft 3, slide the slip knot down close to the shaft and keep the slip knot on the string on shaft 4 loose. When you want that warp to act like its on shaft 4, do the opposite: slide the slip knot tight against shaft 4 frame and loosen the slip knot on the shaft 3 string. If you have threaded several warp strands next to each other in this manner, you can manipulate each warp individually to create some awesome pattern blocks. I purposely kept my exercise asymmetrical and nicknamed my design "the drunken sailor".



4-End Block and Shaft-Switching Sampler

If you ever have an opportunity to take a workshop with Jason, I highly recommend it. Jason also offers workshops in his studio in England. Great opportunity to take a real vacation abroad. A couple students at this workshop had done just that. For more information, check out: www.rugweaver.co.uk or contact him at Jason@rugweaver.co.uk.

Notice: Items pictured in the book *Continuous Strand Weaving Method* are being offered for sale. Some will also be included (soon, I hope) on Etsy, *CarolLeighsSpecialty*, with my grandson Ben's assistance. If you have the book and are especially fond of a particular project piece, talk to me: 1-800-874-9328 (TRI-WEAV).

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