Petit Point Treadling Method

Petit Point is a treadling method (see entry) that uses one shot of pattern weft and two of tabby.

The pattern weft is loftier and larger than the ground and the ground tabbies may be smaller than the warp grist. The first tabby weft is sometimes called a binder since it is not truly a tabby. In the fabric below the warp is a 5/2 cotton, the tabby and binder picks are 10/2 and the pattern weft a 2/2 cotton.

The drawdown on the left is the classical petit point treadling; each sequence of pattern weft, binder and tabby can be repeated as long as desired, in the example twice, ending with the opposite tabby. There are four blocks, resulting in the dots of pattern weft – the petit point of the name – staggered on the surface of the cloth. The floats on the other side may be long so attention must be paid to the warp sett.

There are some variations of the technique, the most common of which is to use the pattern shot followed by the two tabbies; for example, block A would be treadled 2 & 3 & 4 with the pattern weft, followed by 1 & 3 and then 2 & 4 with the ground weft.