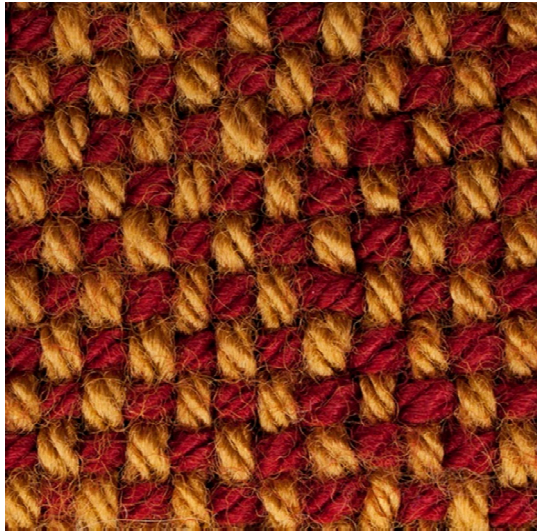


Tabby

Tabby is a perfectly balanced plain weave, 50% warp and 50% weft. The drawdown is identical



to that of plain weave (see entry), and the photo on the left shows how the fabric is half gold and half burgundy; the other side has the same 50/50 ratio, but the gold and burgundy are exchanged.

To obtain a tabby fabric, the warp and weft must be the same size and the warp sett at half the grist, as shown in the photo below. We wrap the yarn around an inch and count the wraps; the sett is the number of wraps divided by two. In this example, there are 32 wraps per inch and thus the warp sett is 16 epi, or ends per inch, for tabby.

I wove the fabric above as it is oriented in the photo, the warp is gold and the weft is burgundy, but the fabric could have been woven with a burgundy warp and a gold weft; generally it is not easy to tell unless we see the selvages.



Sometimes people use the term “tabby” to refer to plain weave, but they are not synonymous. All tabby is plain weave, but not all plain weave is tabby. Plain weave can range from totally weft-faced to totally warp-faced, with tabby in the middle as shown in the continuum below.

Weft-faced	Weft-dominant	Tabby	Warp-dominant	Warp-faced
