

## Month 5: Compound Weaves, Supplementary Sets, #1

Compound weaves are those that have more than one warp or wefts, or both. The first group of those are the structures which are compounded by adding sets of elements. We will start with those weavers call supplementary weft weaves: overshot, Monk's Belt and crackle that some believe to be a hybrid.

If you have never woven any of those, you may want to start with Monk's Belt which may be considered a subset of overshot. Or start with a simple overshot pattern. If you have done overshot before, try a more complex pattern which will challenge you in matching your warp ends for the project with those of the repeat of the structure. And finally, you can try crackle.

The basics are on these pdfs from my Pictionary:

<https://www.marcypetrini.com/images/Pictionary/Overshot.pdf>

<https://www.marcypetrini.com/images/Pictionary/Overshot%20Rose%20Fashion.pdf>

<https://www.marcypetrini.com/images/Pictionary/Monks%20Belt.pdf>

<https://www.marcypetrini.com/images/Pictionary/Crackle%20Traditional.pdf>

Overshot and crackle are the only 4-shaft structures which can produce 4 blocks. Overshot is derived from a straight twill, crackle from a pointed twill.

Overshot forms three distinct sections of the cloth: the overshot, where the supplementary weft floats over the plain weave ground; the half-ones, the blocks on either side of the overshot; and the ground where the supplementary weft floats underneath. Blocks share shafts which result in the half-ones. If we don't want the half-ones, then we reduce the 4 blocks to 2, which is Monk's Belts.

In expanding overshot to more shafts, we have 8 blocks on 8-shafts. As in the 4-shaft version, each overshot block is surrounded by half-ones, but that leaves 5 blocks of ground where the supplementary weft floats on the other side of the fabric. That is generally not usable, so we have to combine blocks, but adjacent blocks cannot be combined because they share shafts and thus

the floats would be too long.

On 8-shafts, Monk's Belt has 4 blocks; Some consider this a 4-block overshot, but it has no half-tones, so I prefer to keep it separate because I think that the half-tones are the distinguishing characteristic of overshot.

There are many books on overshot patterns, ranging from miniatures to coverlet size motifs. If you would like an overview of the structure, Peter Mitchell's books and more recently Donna Sullivan's book are excellent sources.

If you become intrigued by crackle, Susan Wilson's book is a great reference; there is also a book by Lucy Brusic which was published about the same time. For a quick overview of crackle on 8 shafts (which I have never woven), Carol Strickler's book has some nice options.

These weaves have a ground cloth which is woven tabby and a supplementary weft that is 2-3 times the size of the ground thread; thus they tend to be a bit heavy; it's not an accident that these weaves are used for coverlets. If weaving a coverlet seems a bit daunting for a month's project, think pillows. In one of my past in-person class, one of the students wove a series of bookmarks using fine threads and overshot pattern; each bookmark was a different color and/or a different treadling. A nice way to experiment, although with the fine threads, the weaving is not very fast. Pin cushions is another idea.

Happy Weaving!