

Drafts, Shafts, Heddles, Sticks, and Rod

Any draft can be woven using the technique we explored in the Twill Be Done Weave-Along. As your skills grow, you will begin to see structures that you can weave on your rigid heddle by examining drafts. To do this, you have to determine if you can create the threading depicted in the draft and then if you can lift the right combinations of ends. The unique challenge for the rigid-heddle weaver is managing the yarns threaded in a hole, because they are not as easily manipulated as a yarn threaded in a slot.

Rigid Heddle Set-Up	2-Shafts	3-Shafts	4-Shaft Straight Draw*	4-Shaft Point Draw*	4-Shaft Broken Draw***
Drawdown as Pick-Up Chart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One Heddle	✓				
One Heddle + Pick-Up Stick(s)		✓			
One Heddle + Pick-Up Stick(s) and/or Heddle Rod(s)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Two Heddles	✓ (for finer setts)	✓	✓	✓	
Two Heddles + Pick-Up Stick(s) and/or heddle rod(s)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Three Heddles		✓	✓	✓	✓
Three Heddles + Pick-Up Stick(s) and/or Heddle Rod(s)			✓	✓	✓

*I think of a straight draw (1, 2, 3, 4) on two heddles as a “standard threading” although this is an artificial construct. It is, perhaps, the easiest threading to wrap your head around. There are other ways to thread the heddles to achieve other threadings.

**A point draw threading would be 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2.

*** “Broken” refers to a draw that is not following a progressive up or down order. Overshot is an example.

Note: This is my approach to interpreting drafts. You can make a case for other set-ups, configurations for more than 4 shafts, and find an exception for almost every rule.

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