The Devil's in the Detail

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Quality, quality, quality! – Don't let complacency get the best of you.

This applies to any and all of the following:
- Materials
- Sett and scale of proportion
- Beat (including advancing the warp often)
- Selvedges
- Finishing and details

Some ideas for making the details of your work better and/or easier

Hems
- Straight and even
- Machine sewn vs hand sewn - In my opinion, usually a really well machine-sewn hem is far better than a mediocre hand-sewn hem
- If you choose to do a machine-sewn hem, consider hand basting the hem first or secure it in place with **Steam-a-Seam 2 Lite**. It's a double-faced adhesive strip that comes on a roll and doesn't add bulk or stiffness to the hem. Tape it down with the peel-off back on top and press it with an iron. When the tape cools, peel off the back. The area will be tacky and you can then position the edge where you want to secure it. The tackiness will hold the fabric, but will allow you to reposition it if you choose. When you have it where you want it, press the edge with an iron. The hem will now hold securely while you sew it on a sewing machine.

Crisp edge for towels, placemats, etc.

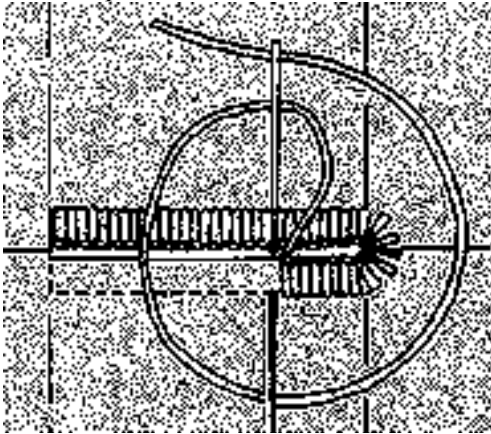|	
The images to the right show the hem portion for a dish towel. While weaving the hem portion, a strand of heavier smooth yarn is woven **with** a hem weft pick where the hem will fold (For the example, a 3/2 cotton yarn was used for the towel woven with 10/2 cotton). I like leaving a loop at the selvedge so I can easily hold on to the cord to pull it out.	
Keep these ends in place during the finishing process until you're ready to hem the towel. Pull it out. The space left will not only make for a sharper edge, it will provide a visual reference for getting straight hems. Note: Use a smooth yarn so it will pull out easily. Also, use a yarn that won't bleed into the hem.	

Buttonholes - If you must do buttonholes and you choose to do them by machine, complete the finish on the buttonhole by hand finishing it with buttonhole twist thread, silk, or even a fine version of the yarns you're weaving with.

Simple hand-worked buttonhole   Hand-worked buttonhole with cord
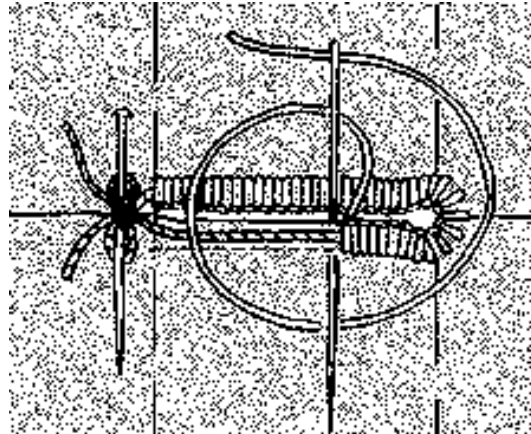
Twisting Fringe - To avoid spaces on the weft when dividing warp ends into sections to make fringe, "swap" ends on the outside of the sections before twisting or braiding your fringe.
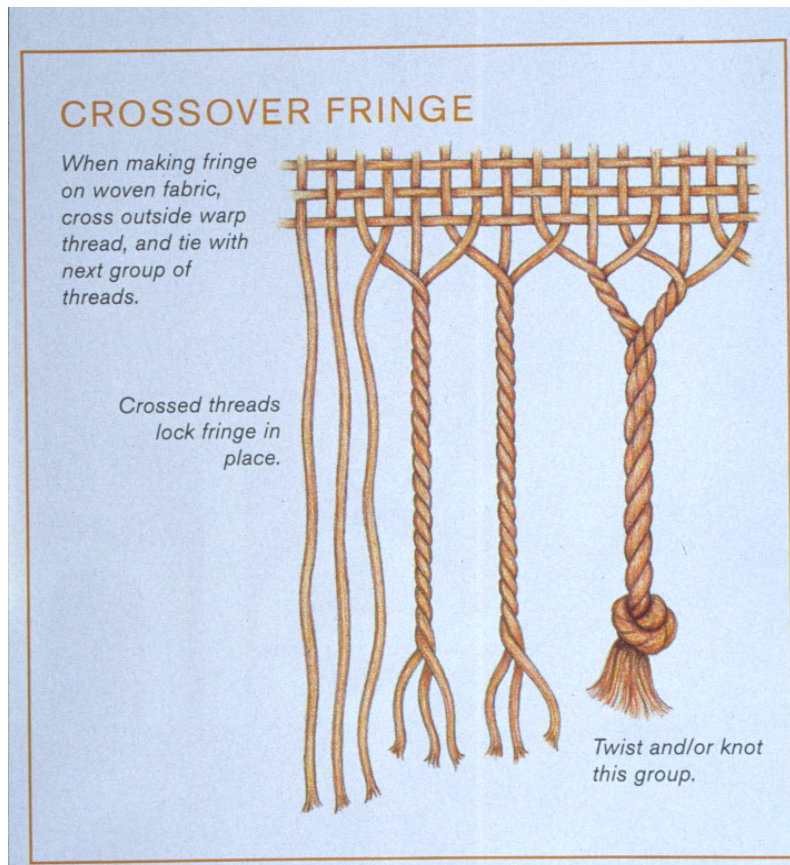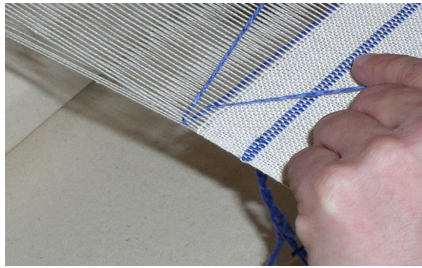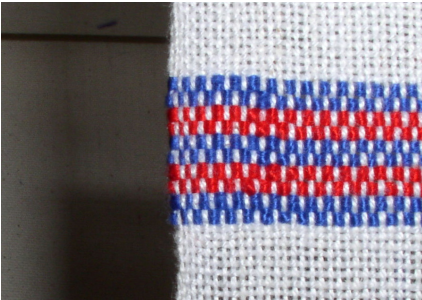
CROSSOVER FRINGE

When making fringe
on woven fabric,
cross outside warp
thread, and tie with
next group of
threads.

Crossed threads
lock fringe in
place.

Twist and/or knot
this group.

Image sourced from *Threads* magazine

Beading Fringe - Use a dental floss threader to easily string beads onto fringe. A loop of fine stiff yarn or heavy thread on a sewing needle works well too.
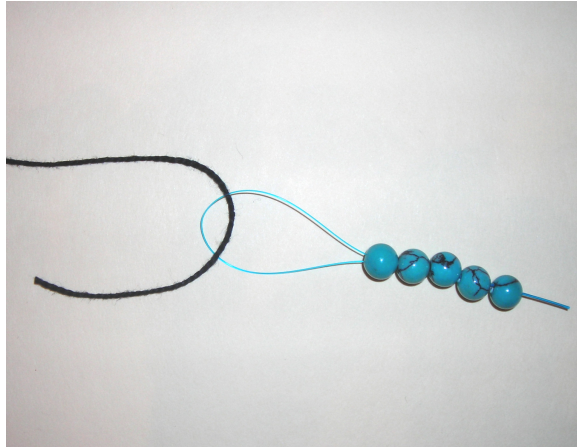

Concealing the Weft End of Plied Yarns

Step One - Lightly beat in the new weft leaving a tail about 2"-3" long. Leave the shed open.	
Step Two - Carefully un-ply the tail of the weft. This is most easily done by twirling the end of the yarn until the plies are side-by-side. Then, with your thumb nail, from the selvedge pull the plies apart. Be very gentle since the plies of some yarns may pull apart.	
Step Three - "Unweave" one of the plies back through the open shed and pull the end out through the warp ends. (I prefer to go to the back, but the pictures show the ends coming to the front.)	

Step Four - Take the other tail of the weft end, wrap it around the outer most warp end, weave the end back over itself, and pull the end back through the warp ends just after the place where the other ply comes through the warp.	
Step Five - Lightly beat the weft in place and continue weaving. Trim the ends later.	

Taking it to the Next Level – Ideas and Fun with Design and Proportion

The Golden Ratio - The Golden Ratio is a ratio based on a phi, which is 1.618033988749895… The Golden Ratio is the ratio of the sum of the quantities to the larger quantity is equal to the ratio of the larger quantity to the smaller one. It appears in nature, geometry, art, architecture and other areas and is considered to be pleasing to the eye. The Golden Ratio may also be referred to as the Golden Section, Golden Mean and Divine Proportion.
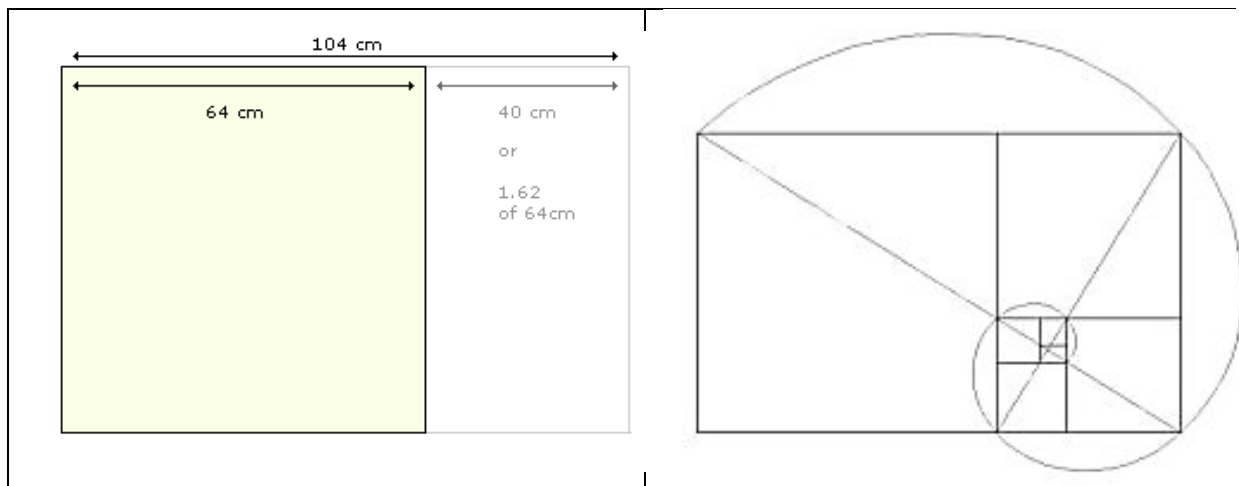

See application of the Divine Proportion in fashion at the following website
http://thefashioncode.com/before-and-afters

Fibonacci - In mathematics, the Fibonacci numbers are the numbers in the following sequence:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144 . . . .

The first two Fibonacci numbers are 0 and 1, and each subsequent number is the sum of the previous two. Some sources omit the initial 0, instead beginning the sequence with two 1s.

Fibonacci and the Golden Ratio are interrelated. The Fibonacci number sequence follows the same proportions as the Golden Ratio's diagram. See below.
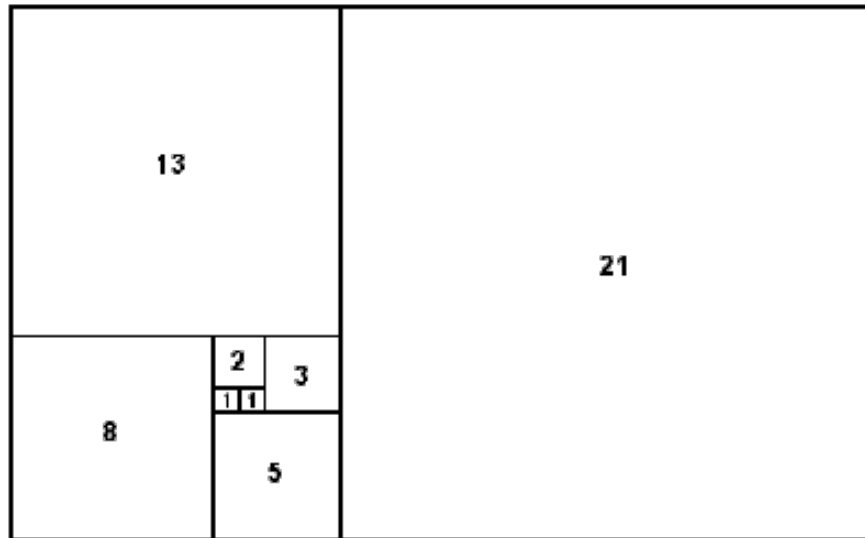

The Fibonacci number sequence can be easily used in the design of patterns in weaving. The image below is a table runner where the stripe sequence was based on the Fibonacci numerical sequence.

Rule of Thirds – This is a basic principle in design . . . especially photography
- The rule of thirds helps to compose an image or place important objects on a canvas.
- Consider your design image and divide it in thirds horizontally and vertically.
- Position important objects at the intersections of the lines.
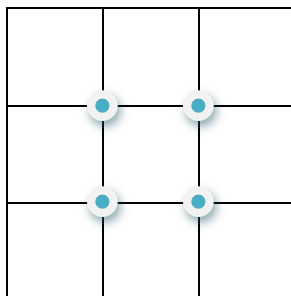
Algebraic Expression – A strategy for developing sequencing that may be applied to the use of color, stripes, weave structures, etc. The two publications below are available at **http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/weavedocs.html**

- Dietz, Ada K, *Algebraic Expressions in Handwoven Textiles*, 1949
- Johnson, Nellie Sargent, *Algebraic Formulae for Draft Writing*, July 1947

Tessellations - A tessellation is created when a shape is repeated over and over again covering a plane without any gaps or overlaps. The artist, Erte, was well-known for his use of tessellations.
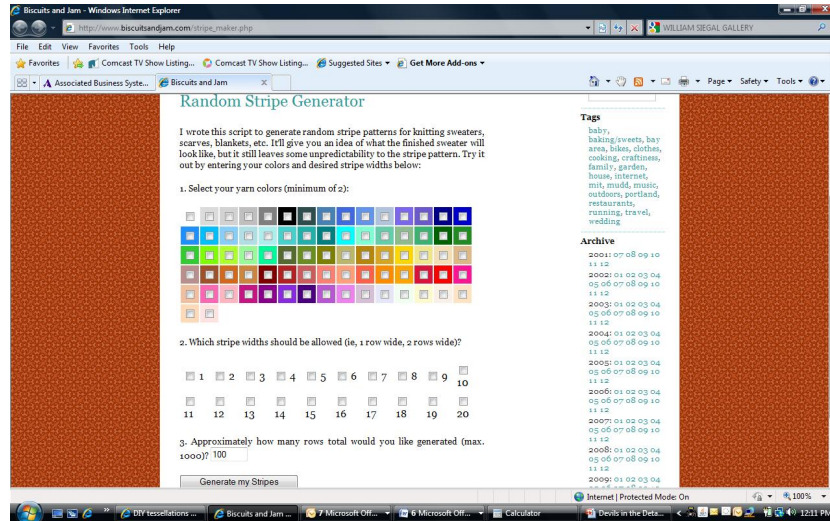
Tessellations.org is an informative website for learning more about tessallations. **http://www.tessellations.org/**

Interactivate has an area of their website that allows you to try out making your own tessallations. **http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Tessellate/**
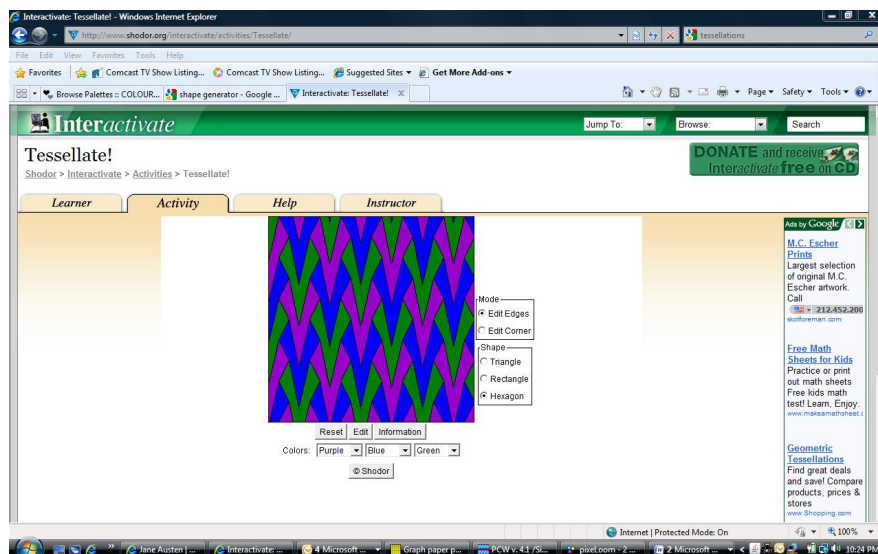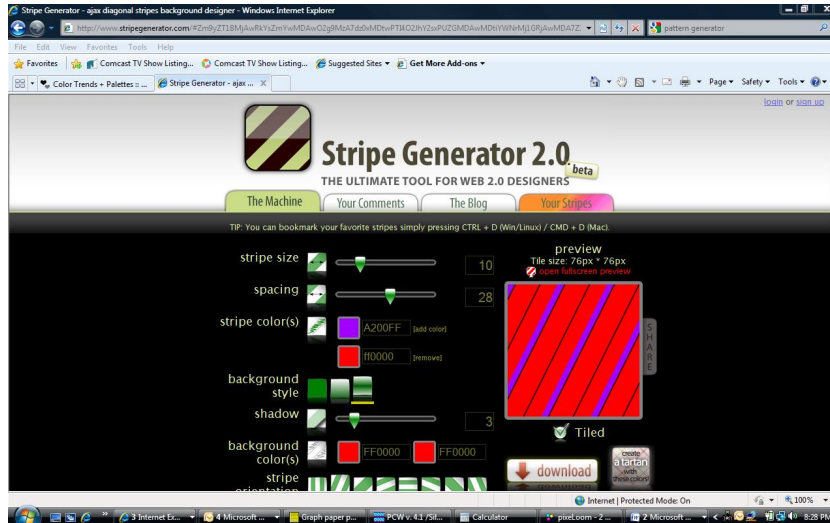
Generating Stripes – Sometimes the greatest challenge in designing stripes is to come up with something new and exciting. Keep an eye out for examples of stripes you like. Also, there are some resources available on-line that can help you play with generating stripes.

http://www.biscuitsandjam.com/stripe_maker.php


http://www.stripegenerator.com/ and http://www.stripemania.com/

Barcode generator **- http://www.barcodesinc.com/generator/index.php**

Value

Value – what is it? Value refers to the relative lightness or darkness of a certain area. Value can be used for emphasis. Variations in value are used to create a focal point for the design of a picture. A light figure on a dark background will be immediately recognized as the center of attention, similarly for a dark figure on a mostly white background. Gradations of value are also used to create the illusion of depth.

Value is one of many ways of describing the qualities of a color. It refers to the relative amount of dark or light. By changing the value of a color, the color takes on new traits. For example, by adding white, the lowest value possible, the value of red is reduced and it changes its appearance. Add enough white and red becomes pink, a form of red with a low value. By increasing the value of red by adding black, red takes on a darker form and can start to appear burgundy.

Value Scale

Determining the value of a particular color can be tricky since colors in their purest state can possess very different values. For example, yellow as a pure hue, looks appropriate in a color wheel with other pure hue colors even though it has a significantly lower value. No color can have a value as dark as black or as light as white. There are a couple of ways to confirm the value of a color. One way is to make a black and white photocopy of the image and convert colors into black, white, and shades of gray. Another way is to look at the image through red cellophane.
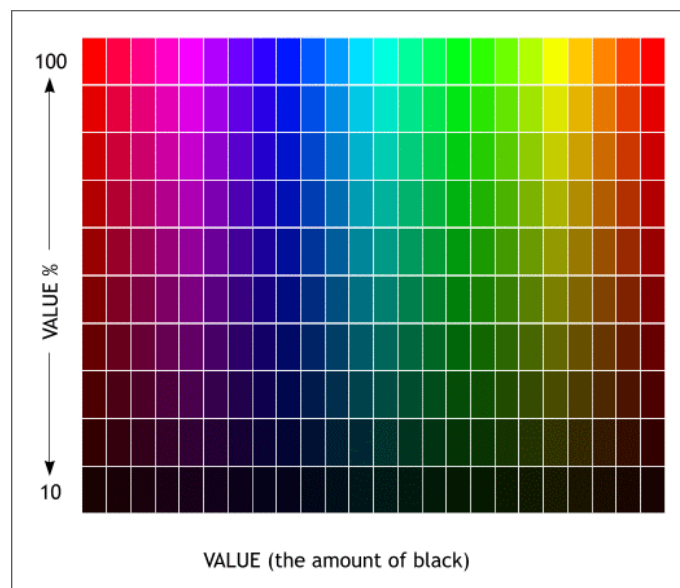
## Value in Color Wheels

Intensity

Intensity or saturation is the brightness of a color or put another way, it's the force of the color.

In Itten's *The Elements of Color*, a summary of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's (1749-1832) conjecture is summarized that proposes that pure colors possess different "light values" or intensities. For example, in his calculations, yellow is three times as intense as its complementary, violet. As a result, in order to achieve harmonious proportion in color, there needs to be three times as much violet as yellow. Goethe's model on proportional color harmony is supported by this sample.

von Goethe's Light Values					
Yellow	**Orange**	**Red**	**Violet**	**Blue**	**Green**
9	8	6	3	4	6
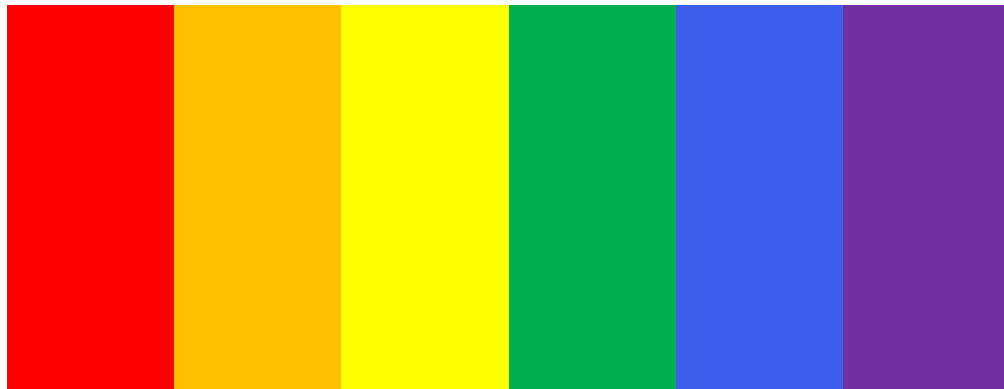
Evenly proportioned
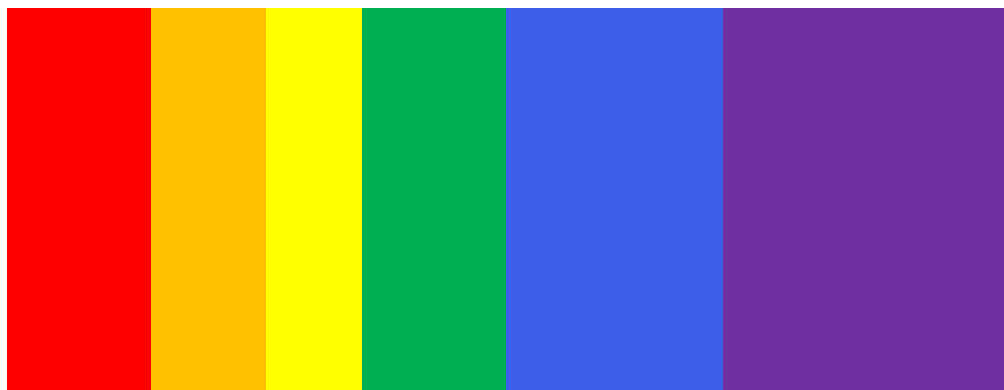
Adjusted for von Goethe's light values intensity

Resources to Help with Color

Colour Lovers - http://www.colourlovers.com/
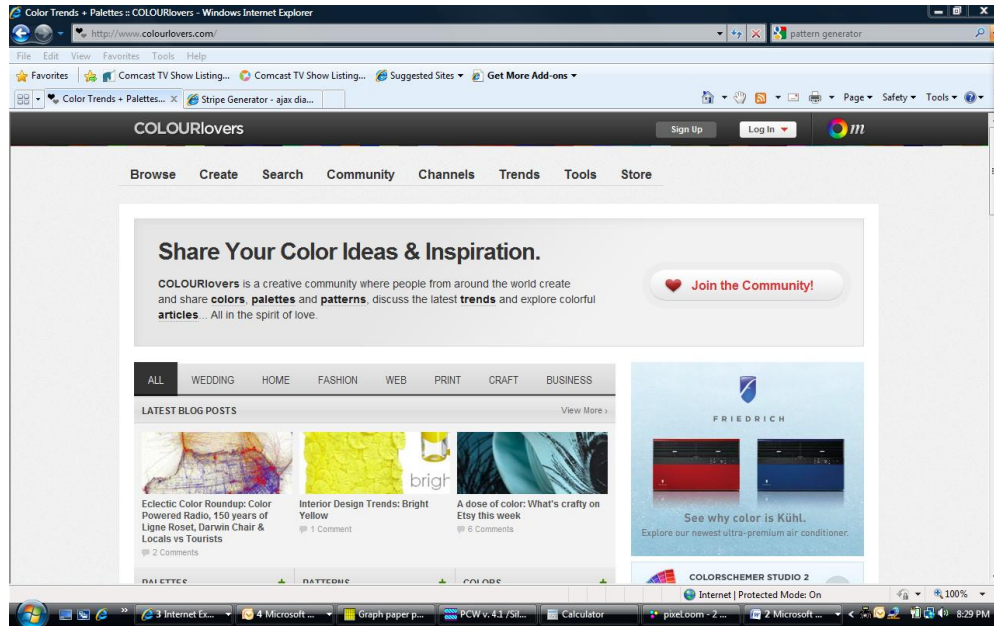
Home page for Colour Lovers
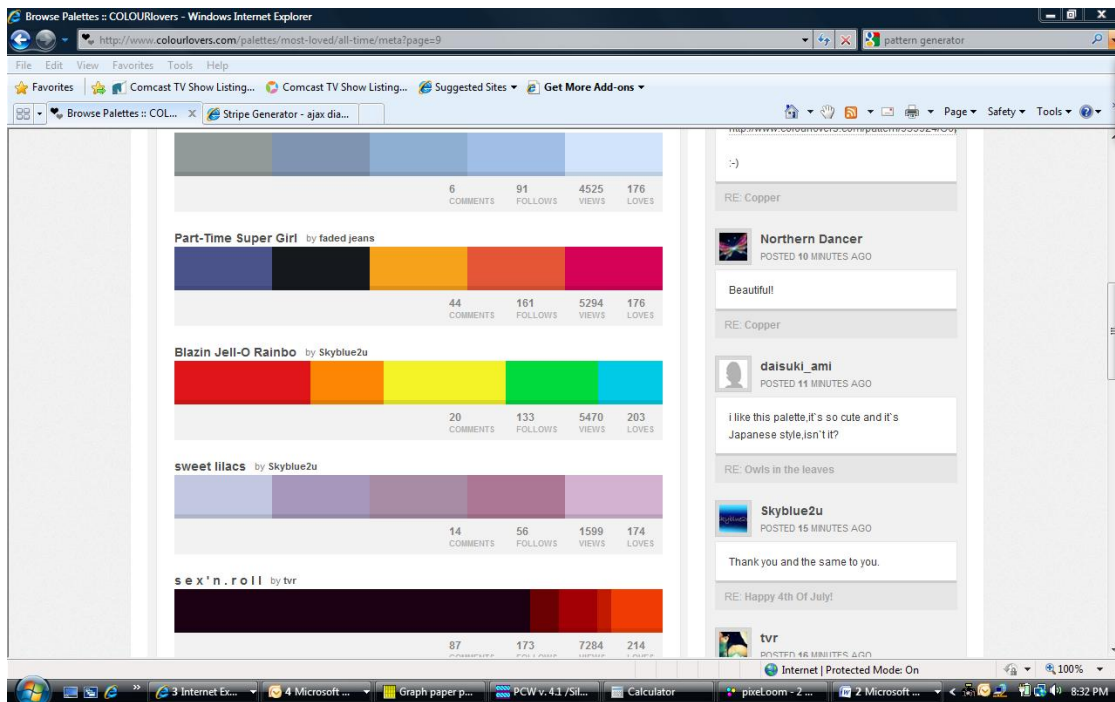
An example of one of nearly 3 million color palettes for Colour Lovers

Don't be coy
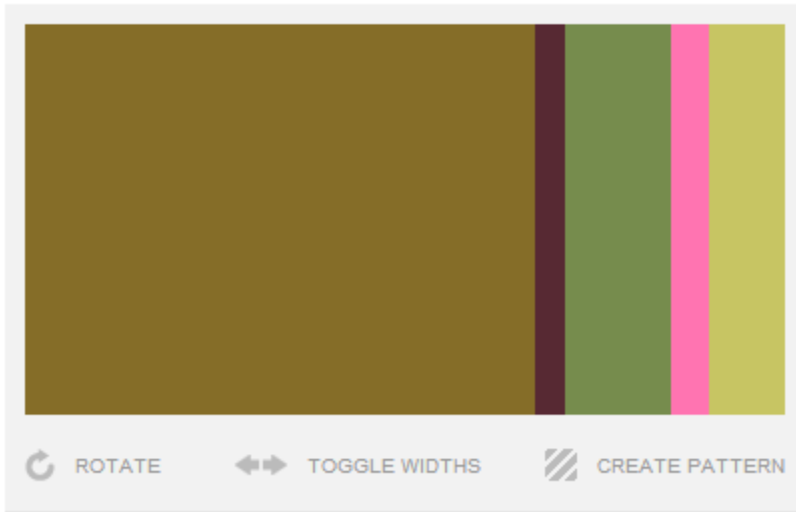
LOVE THIS +
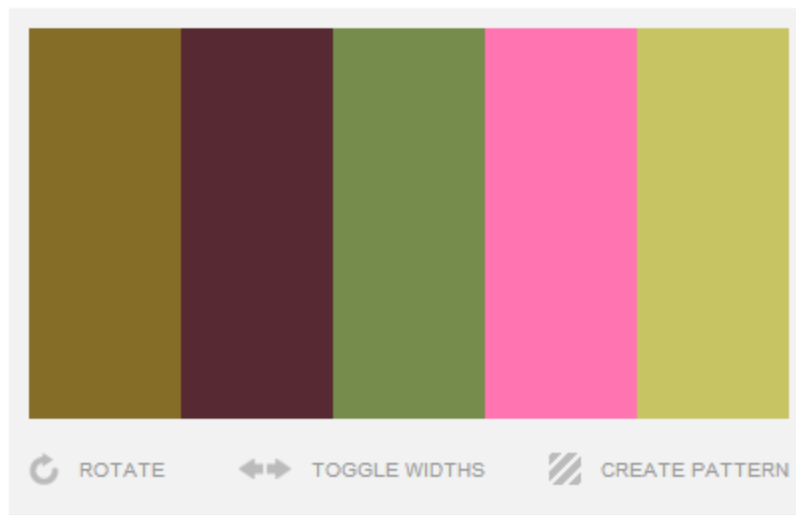
5
LOVES

0
COMMENTS

167
VIEWS

ROTATE   TOGGLE WIDTHS   CREATE PATTERN

Don't be coy

LOVE THIS +

5
LOVES

0
COMMENTS

167
VIEWS

ROTATE   TOGGLE WIDTHS   CREATE PATTERN

The above screen captures are shown here as examples of the impact of proportion on color.

Color This Pattern

PATTERN PREVIEW
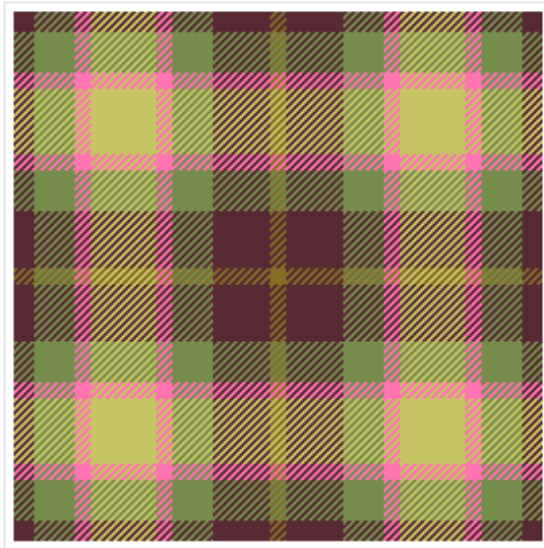
BROWSE PATTERN STYLES

Color Scheme Designer - http://colorschemedesigner.com/

Color Wizard - http://www.colorsontheweb.com/colorwizard.asp

Easy RGB – http://www.easyrgb.com/index.php?X=HARM

Color Blender - http://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/color-blend/

Kuler - http://kuler.adobe.com/

Tartan Generator - http://www.tartanmaker.com/

House of Tartan's *Interactive Weaver* –

http://www.house-of-tartan.scotland.net/interactive/weaver/index.html

HOUSE of TARTAN®

Info   e-mail   login   search

interactive weaver   tartan finder   clan finder   learn about tartan   first contact   shop for fabrics & products

INTERACTIVE WEAVER
weaving your own tartan

BEGIN

Special Weave FAQ

Welcome to the Interactive Tartan Weaver. This unique site gives you the chance to design your own Tartan. You may just wish to play and produce your own Tartan images. Perhaps for inclusion on your own web site. Interactive Tartan Weaver allows you to:

- Quickly design your own unique Tartan.
- Experiment with colours and thread counts.
- Produce an image.
- Order Products from House of Tartan in the tartan of your own design.

Detailed Help

Well Done! You have successfully designed your own Tartan. Press the continue button on the Right to view a larger picture of your tartan.

CONTINUE ☞

45   4

25   15

4   15

4   25

4

DRAW TARTAN

CHANGE COLOURS   CHANGE ORDER

Design/Mood Boards

What is a mood board? – A collage compilation of elements that represent your ideas and inspiration for any design. Design/mood boards are not just visual, they are also emotional.

How to make a design/mood board

- **Start with a space on paper, poster board, bulletin board, etc.**

- **Designate what areas of the space will include** (Note: Rule of Thirds can be useful)

- **What should I include?**
  - Colors
  - Color combinations and color schemes
  - Design theory (e.g., 60/30/10,
  - Yarns
  - Fabric
  - Texture
  - Weave structure and/or draft
  - Sett
  - Pattern
  - Function
  - Inspiration
    - Words
    - Images
    - Shapes

Important thoughts
- Design/mood boards are a starting place.
- What you leave out is as important as what you include
- Nothing is permanent. Elements of the design/mood board are being "auditioned"

Outline the components of a previous, current, future, or fictional project below. In one area, include the colors being considered.