



## Tablet Weaving: 4-Hole Patterns

# Ermine 3: Tiniest Ermine

*Stringcrafter*

*Three different motifs in doubleface tablet weaving*



a



b



c



d

Ermine points are also known as ermine spots. They are stylised representations of the black tipped tail of an ermine (stoat). They are used in heraldry either as single motifs (charges), or as an all-over pattern called a 'fur'. The way they are drawn varies wildly depending on where and when in history any original source material comes from.

This leaflet contains charts for three small ermine points, figures a to c (left). Each motif uses the minimum number of cards possible, while still including enough detail to show a recognisable ermine point. Figure d shows how a small motif can be used as a background fill on a wider band.

## Planning a band

### Number of cards

Each motif is eight cards wide, but they do look better with a bit of space around them. The charts have two extra pattern cards to either side of the motif, and the threading diagram includes 3 border cards on either side. If you want to match the border cards and the background colour, you can opt for the minimum of eight pattern cards. If you want contrasting borders, then it makes sense to leave the extra pattern cards in place.

### Yarn count

**wc** (worsted count) and **nm** (metric count) are both yarn counts. They are measures of how fine a yarn is, and how many threads are plied together. Both have two numbers separated by a forward slash. The lower number refers to ply, and the higher number to fineness of the yarn. Katie Eggington's article "Understanding Yarn Counts" gives a broad overview of these and other yarn count systems: <https://creative-threads.co.uk/yarn-counts/>

### Warp thread

- All samples were worked in 2/16wc (~18/2nm) worsted wool. Eight cards produced a motif that was 7-8mm wide. Using the same size thread, and working the charts as shown, produced a band that is 14mm to 16mm wide depending on weft tension. The length of each motif in 2/16wc wool is noted next to the relevant chart.
- You can use any thread you want! I suggest sticking with 18/2nm or smaller for trim. I work in cotton, silk or wool. If you're just getting started with doubleface tablet weaving, I suggest mercerised crochet/tatting cotton because I find it easiest to use when learning a new technique.

### Weft thread

Eight rows length of a double face pattern take up more space than eight cards wide does. This can lead to a design looking stretched. The aim is to minimise this effect. Pick a thread that is thinner than your warp thread. For these samples, I chose to use two strands of standard sewing thread that match the motif colour.

### Space between motifs

Each motif needs to be distinct from its neighbours, when viewing the band from a distance. As a starting point, I recommend a minimum separation of one-third to one-half the length of a motif, worked as plain doubleface. The minimum number of extra rows plain is noted next to each chart.

## Using the charts

- Each cell/rectangle represents one card and two rows.
- The border cards are included in the threading diagram. They do not appear in the pattern chart. They always turn forward.
- The design outline shows the points where the color changes from foreground to background & vice versa. It is not a turning instruction.

Starting at the bottom of the chart:

**Rows 1 + 2:** Turn background pattern cards and border cards forwards.  
Turn foreground pattern cards backwards.

**Rows 3 + 4:** Turn background pattern cards backwards and all other cards forwards.

And so on...

### Key:

□ = ¼ turn forward

■ = ¼ turn backward

┌┐ = design outline

2F = turn the next two cards  
¼ turn forward

5B = turn the next five cards  
¼ turn backward

