

S H O R T C U T SD O U B L E B E A T I N G

We have said it over and over again that under normal circumstances we beat only once at the very moment of changing the shed, that is when the first shed is just closed, and the next not yet opened.

We also learned that the beating may come a little earlier, if we want to pull in the edges, or a little later if we want to spread them out.

But what about beating twice?

If it is a routine it is a bad one. Sheer waste of time. If it is a necessity it proves that the beater is too light for the job, and that it should be replaced or weighted.

Sometimes beginners find out that their beating or rather the spacing of the weft is more uniform when they beat twice. This may be true because the sum of two uneven beats will average better than single beats. All it proves is that the weaver did not learn how to keep a steady rhythm of weaving.

There are however cases when double beating is legitimate. We have such a case when the warp is rather sticky, for instance soft wool very closely set. Unless the beat comes after the shed is changed (this as we know has a tendency to spread the edges), the shed will not be quite clear. The warp ends will stick together particularly at the edges where they are closer than anywhere else. If we throw the shuttle at this moment, the weft will make loops around the stuck ends. Thus the edges will be soft and uneven. Here a second light beat will help, but it has nothing to do with packing the weft. It simply clears the shed.

We find another similar situation whenever some of the warp ends are tight, when the rest is loose. This may be due to very poorly made warp, but it is a rule with such weaves as Doup Leno, Warp Pile Weaves, and with all weaves except Embroidery woven with a Pattern Harness, or a Draw Loom. In all these cases it may happen that the shed is not clear after the first beat, and a second one will help.

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