

14. Creating a Plaid (the basics)

Creating a woven plaid

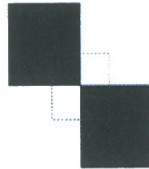
Creating a woven plaid involves four basic steps. First you create the weave. Then you create the warp and fill. Then you apply your warp and fill to your weave to create the plaid. *Don't forget to always double check that the Anti-alias function (found at the top of the screen) is not checked and that the Feather is set to 0 with the various tools that you will be using.*

Step 1: Creating the weave

Note: Practice this, however if step 1 gets confusing simply open weave 1 from the folder call "PLAIDS" on the enclosed CD and then proceed to step 2

1. Start out by creating a new window by clicking on **File** then drag down to **New**. A dialog box will pop up. Enter these settings **Width** = 9 inches, **Height** = 9 inches. Make sure that you are in **RGB** color mode and that the **Resolution** is **240 pixels/inch**. Under **Background Contents**, **White** should be selected. Click **OK**.
2. Make sure your rulers are turned on; if they aren't then go to **View** → **Rulers**.
3. Change the color in the **Foreground** color box (found near the bottom of the **Toolbox**) to **H=0, S=0, B=0**.
4. Make sure that the **Background** color box is set to **H=0, S=0, B=100**.
5. Click on **View** → **Fit on Screen**.
6. Draw a square box with your **Rectangular Marquee Tool** (approximately 1/16th of an inch) in the center of your window and fill it with black.
7. Create another black box with the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** (approximately 1/16th of an inch) at a diagonal to the first one creating a checkerboard. → 

8. Draw a square box around the inside of the checkerboard using the **Rectangular Marquee Tool**. **Note: make sure that you define the area that's inside the checkerboard only. Do not select the area around it.**

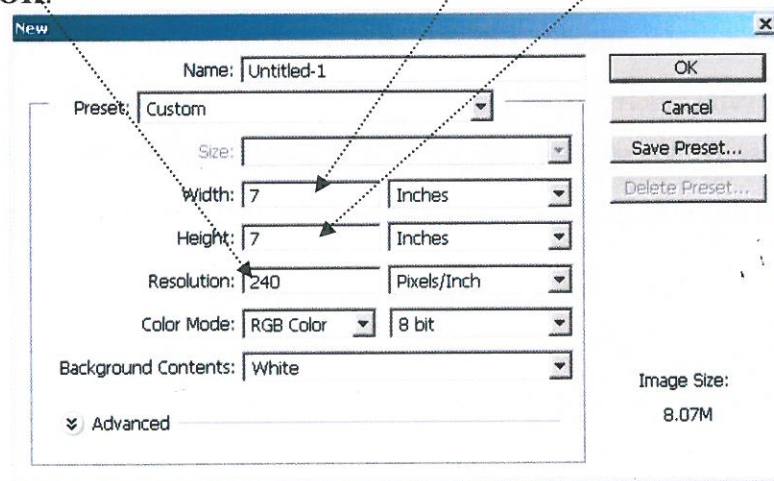


Example of drawing a square box around the inside of the checkerboard using the Rectangular Marquee Tool.

9. Go to **Edit** then drag down to **Define Pattern**. In the dialog box that pops up give your weave a name (name it **weave A**) and then click **OK**.
10. Deselect the **Marquee** by going to **Select** then dragging down to **Deselect**.
11. Click on **Edit** then dragging down to **Fill**. The **Fill** dialog box will pop up.
12. Change the word next to **Use** to the word **Pattern**.
13. Change the **Custom Pattern** (by clicking on the arrow next to it) to the pattern that you had just defined (**weave A**). Click **OK**. Your screen should now be filled with that pattern. Save this window as **weave 1** to a folder on your computer where you can easily find it again and then close it.

Step 2: Creating the warp

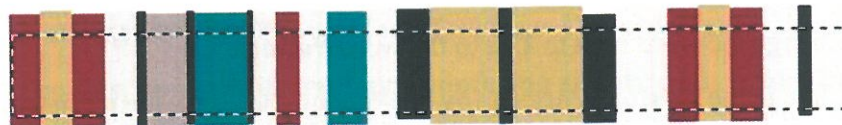
1. Start out by creating a new window. Go to **File** then dragging down to **New**.
2. A dialog box will pop up. Enter these settings **Width = 7 inches**, **Height = 7 inches**. Make sure that you are in **RGB color mode** and that the **Resolution** is **240 pixels/inch**. Next to **Background Contents**, **White** should be selected. Then click **OK**.



3. Click on **View** then dragging down to **Fit on Screen**.
4. Create several colored boxes using the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** (do not use **H=0, S=0, B=0** (Black), or **H=0, S=0, B=100** (White)). They should be side to side and touching like the example below.



5. Okay, it's time to get rid of the white background. Place the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** around the colors you had just created (The **Marquee** should only be touching the colors, not the white ground around them) like the example below.



6. Click on **Image** then dragging down to **Crop**.
7. Save this Image to a folder on your computer where you can easily find it again (name it **warp 1**) and then close it.

Step 3: Creating the fill

1. First create a new window by clicking on **File** then dragging down to **New**.
2. A dialog box will pop up. Enter the settings **Width = 7inches**, **Height = 7 inches**. Make sure that you're in **RGB** color mode and that the **Resolution** is **240 pixels/inch**. Next to **Background Contents**, **White** should be selected. Then click **OK**.
3. Click on **View** then dragging down to **Fit on Screen**.
4. Create several colored boxes using the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** (do not use **H=0, S=0, B=0** (Black), or **H=0, S=0, B=100** (White)).
This time draw the boxes one on top of the other......➡



5. Place the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** around the colors you had just created (The **Marquee** should only be touching the colors, not the white ground around them.)
6. Click on **Image** then dragging down to **Crop**.
7. Save this Image to a folder on your computer where you can easily find it again (name it **fill 1**) and then close it.



Step 4: Putting it all together

1. Open up the files **weave 1**, **warp 1**, and **fill 1**.
2. Make the **warp 1** window active by clicking on the top of it.
3. Click on **Select** then dragging down to **All**.
4. Go to **Edit**→ **Define Pattern**. In the dialog box that pops up type in the name **warp 1** (*you probably don't even have to type it in, warp 1 should already be there*) and then click **OK**.
5. Make the **fill 1** window active by clicking on the top of it.
6. Click on **Select** then dragging down to **All**.
7. Go to **Edit** then dragging down to **Define Pattern**. In the dialog box that pops up type in the name **fill 1** (*you probably don't even have to type it in, fill 1 should already be there*) and then click **OK**.
8. Make the **weave 1** window active by clicking on the top of it.
9. Select the **Magic wand**  from the **Toolbox**.
10. Look at the top of your screen. Make sure that the words **Contiguous** and **Anti-alias** are not checked.
11. Click on one of the white boxes in the **weave 1** window.
12. Go to **Edit** then dragging down to **Fill**. The **Fill** dialog box will pop up.
13. Change the word next to **Use** to **Pattern**.

14. Change the **Custom Pattern** (by clicking on the arrow next to it) to the pattern you had just defined (**warp 1**). Click **OK**. Your white boxes should now be filled with that pattern. *Don't be distracted by the slightly shaky image you see on your screen. It's simply the selection you made marching around the weave (called marching ants). It looks crazy, but it's correct.* →

15. On top of your screen go to **Select**→ **Inverse**.

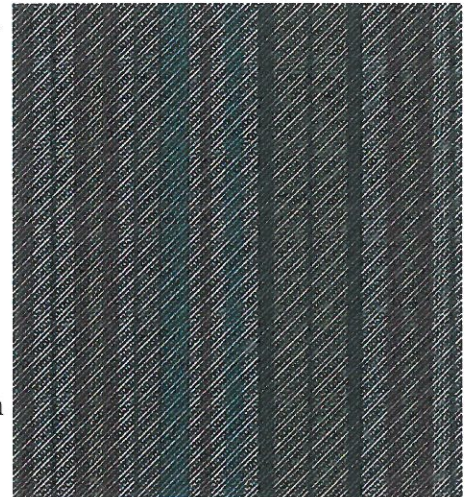
16. Go to **Edit**→ **Fill**.

17. Change the word next to **Use to Pattern**.

18. Change the **Custom Pattern** (by clicking on the arrow next to it) to the pattern that you had just defined (**fill 1**). Click **OK**. Your black boxes should now be filled with that pattern.

19. Deselect your image by going to **Select** then dragging down to **Deselect**. That's all there is to it! Your plaid is done! →

I've been doing this for years and it's still magic to me when a plaid comes together. There are more weaves and twills you can play with in the folder called **WEAVES** on the enclosed **CD**.



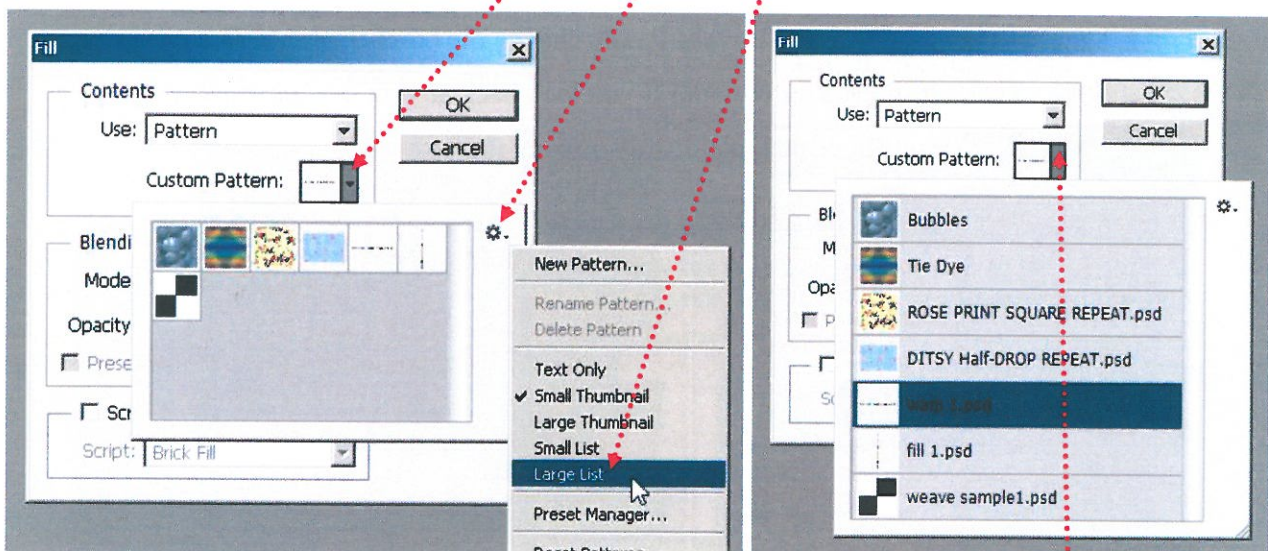
Creating a printed plaid

Here's an even simpler way to create a plaid. Before attempting this technique make sure that you practice the previous exercise (Creating a woven plaid) and understand it thoroughly.

In this exercise you're going to reuse the custom patterns (warp 1 and fill 1) that you had defined in the previous exercise.

1. Start out by creating a new window. Go to **File** then dragging down to **New**.

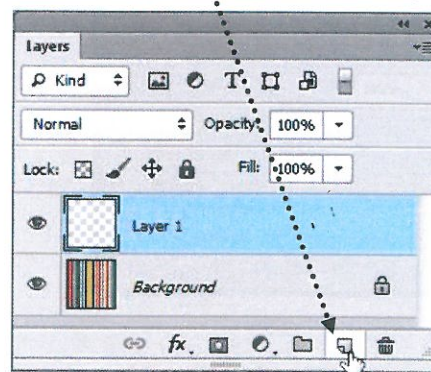
2. A dialog box will pop up. Enter these settings **Width = 9 inches, Height = 9 inches**. Make sure that you are in **RGB color mode** and that the **Resolution is 240 pixels/inch**. Next to **Background Contents**, **White** should be selected. Then click **OK**.
3. Go to **Edit** then dragging down to **Fill**.
4. Change the word next to **Use** to **Pattern**.
5. Now I want you to click here, then here, then here (on the words **Large List**).



Now whenever you click on the arrow next to the words **Custom Pattern** you should see both thumbnails of your patterns and their names. Sweet!

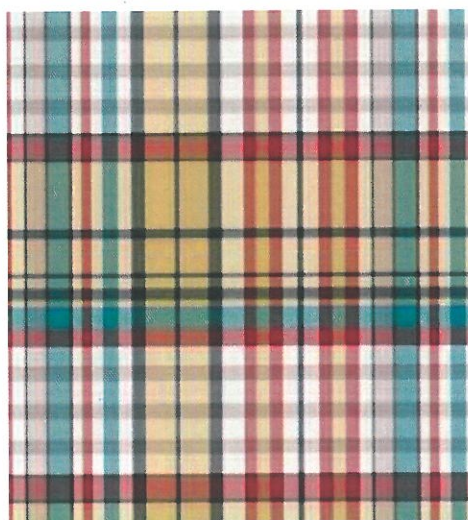
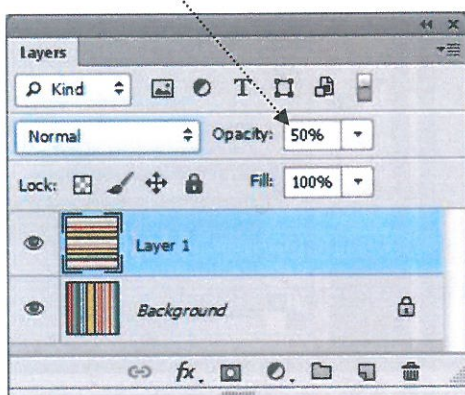
6. Change the **Custom Pattern** (by clicking on the arrow next to it) to the pattern that you had defined in the previous exercise (**warp 1**). Click **OK**. Your canvas should now be filled with that pattern.
7. Go to the **Layers Panel** and click once on the **create new layer icon**. **Layer 1** will appear on the **Layers Panel**.

*On the Layers Panel notice that **Layer 1** is highlighted with blue. This is because **Layer 1** is the active layer.*



The Layers Panel

8. Click once on the words **Layer 1** in the **Layers Panel** to make sure that it is the active layer.
9. Go to **Edit**→ **Fill**.
10. Change the word next to **Use** to **Pattern**.
11. Change the **Custom Pattern** (by clicking on the arrow next to it) to the pattern that you had defined in the previous exercise (**fill 1**). Click **OK**. Your canvas should now be filled with that pattern.
12. Now for the magic! On the **Layers Panel**, change the number next to **Opacity** to **50%**. That's it! Fini! You're done! If you look back at your design window you'll see a beautiful printed plaid.



Wait! Whoa Nelly! Did I say you were done? (actually I did) There's one more thing you can do. Don't close your plaid and go on to the next page.

Note: this is a continuation of the exercise on the previous page.

Creating a printed plaid with a texture

1. Click once on the words **Layer 1** in the **Layers Panel** to make sure that it is the active layer.
2. Click on the arrow next to the word **Normal** on the **Layers Panel**. Change the word **Normal** to **Dissolve**.

Presto! Another new, textured (and might I add easy) way of creating a plaid.

