

The Cross-Wrapping Pattern know as “Scales” or “Jets”

I created this short tutorial for those just beginning to try cross-wraps and have yet to purchase any books or CD’s on the subject and are only familiar with the standard diamonds or chevron patterns. This pattern starts like any other cross-wrap. A thread is spiraled up then back down the blank at about a 45-degree angle. This creates crosses where the thread intersects itself. These crosses should be spaced equally and the distance from center to center should equal the diameter of the blank at the middle area of where the cross-wrap is placed.

I’m not going to go into layout and spacing anymore than that here and now. If you’re not already familiar with that process you’ll need to do some more homework before going further.

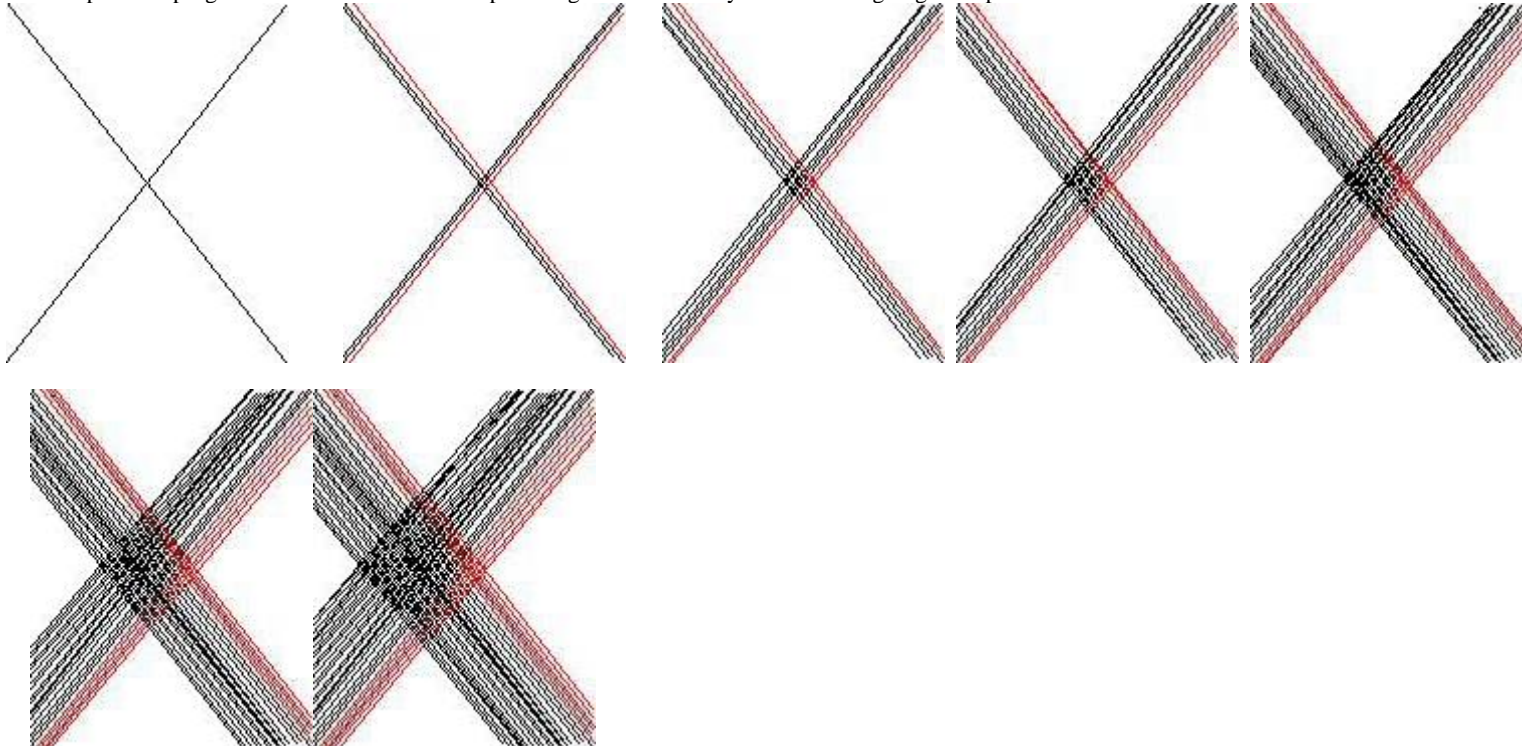
For those not familiar with the term “pass”. A “pass” is another term for “step” and each pass is a completion of a step after the initial layout thread(s) are placed. In the case of a solid color diamond each pass consists of wrapping thread on BOTH side of the cross. First up & back on one side then up & back on the other. In the case of a diamond, upon completion of the first pass you will have 3 threads on the blank. One is the layout thread and the other two are one either side of the layout thread. Again, each “pass” is up and down the blank TWICE.

Basically, the scales pattern is a split diamond. That is, a diamond being wrapped in 2 colors with 2 solid halves.

To make a standard “split diamond” for each pass you wrap up then back down the blank with one color on one side of the cross then up & down the blank on the other side of the cross. What creates the “scales” however, is the order in which the colors are placed around the beginning cross to form the diamond. One half of the diamond is wrapped normally and each pass is completed with one thread going up the blank on one side and coming back down the blank on the same side. (Side being left or right or top or bottom) The other half of the diamond is wrapped with a “plus one” (+1) progression. This means that on every pass you add an additional thread of that color before the “pass” is completed.

When finished you can see the diamond being formed mostly of the background color (in this case black) with the “scales” pattern color (in this case red) completing the rest of the diamond.

Here is the pictorial progression of a black & red wrap starting with a black layout cross and going for 6 passes.



Step 1 = Black layout

First Pass = 1 Red thread on the right side of the cross and 1 Black thread on the left side of the cross.

Second Pass= 1 Red thread on the right side of the cross and 2 Black threads on the left side of the cross

Third Pass = 1 Red right then 3 Black left

Fourth Pass = 1 Red right then 4 Black left

Fifth Pass = 1 Red right then 5 Black left

Sixth Pass = 1 Red right then 6 Black left.

And so on for as many passes as you like

Notice how on each pass the red thread added is longer than the previous? The laying down of progressively wider bands of black is how that is done

By elongating or compressing the spacing you can change the angle of the scales. The photo at the end here is one I wrapped on 2 axis (double diamonds) with black “scales” and a red background with a blue border.

This pattern looks much better wrapped on 6 or 8 axis and the 3-D effect really pops!

For additional information and “How To’s” on cross-wrapping I strongly recommend these fine books.

Rod-Building Guide by Tom Kirkman

Decorative Wraps by Billy Vivona aka: Billy40

Advanced Custom Rod Building by Dale P. Clemens,

Custom Rod Thread Art by Dale P. Clemens,

