

How many ends per section?

In general, you would just take the ends per inch (EPI) that you plan to use in the reed times the size of the section in inches. For example: A set of 24 epi in a two inch section would require 48 ends per section.

One problem is sometimes the total number of ends you need for a particular project does not divide equally by the desired EPI.

Say you need 300 ends sett at 24 epi which provides a warp 12 ½ inches wide; (or 6, 2-inch sections + 12 extra ends). In this case you would divide the total number of ends by the closest number of sections, in this case 6 sections. So, 300 ends divided by 6 sections gives you 50 ends per section. The warp will be 12 inches wide on the beam and 12-1/2 inches wide in the reed, this small difference will not cause any problems during the weaving process and works just as well if the warp is slightly wider on the beam.

Another issue when doing sectional warping is a very open sett. We do want to create flat even layers, but 6 or 8 epi doesn't provide enough ends to fill the section with a solid flat layer.

In this case, it will be necessary to create the layer from two or three revolutions of the warp beam. Roll the bout on tightly and at the full width of the section, the ends will settle into the spaces below in an orderly way and make the flat layers over a few revolutions.

A very dense sett doesn't seem to present many problems, just be sure to keep the layers flat with no build-up at the sides of the section.

General Rules for Sectional Warping:

1. All sections must have the same number of ends of the same yarn size – i.e., the circumference of each section must be identical.
2. Wind on with at least as much tension as will be used when weaving off the warp. When in doubt, tighter is always better!
3. The number of ends per section does not have to be the same as the sett in the reed, but should be within about + or - 10%.