



Color Gradation Techniques for Tapestry

Materials you will need for this class:

- computer or iPad
- high-speed internet connection
- digital camera if submitting photos
- loom suitable for weaving tapestry
- warp yarn
- weft yarn
- scissors
- tapestry fork (unless you use bobbins)
- permanent marker
- measuring tape
- tapestry needle
- thread for sewing slits

Optional materials for the Vertical Gradation section

- mat board, cardboard, or other stiff paper for yarn wrapping
- masking tape
- Color Aid paper or paint chips (optional)

Warping information

You are welcome to weave at any width and sett that works for your materials. I most frequently recommend warping 8 to 12 inches wide at 8 ends per inch for my classes. Some people weave a couple yards of samples and practice pieces in this class, some people only weave a foot or two. It depends on how much practice you want.

If you are not using a weft yarn that works well at 8 epi, please don't warp at 8 epi! Use whatever sett you need for your materials. If you're newer to tapestry weaving and you're not sure what sett you need, warp as I suggest and use a standard yarn like Harrisville Highland or Faro for your weft. There is a video and handout about weft yarns in the Color Theory portion of the class.

And here are some details about those materials listed at the top of the page. Please visit my [FAQ](#) page for further details.

Computer: The course works with Mac or PC. iPads also work. The best browser is Google Chrome. Mozilla Firefox and Safari also work well. Chrome and Firefox are free internet downloads.

Internet connection: This course is very video-heavy. You need a fast enough connection to stream video (if you can watch YouTube, you're okay). If you pay for your data by the GB, you may not have enough data. If you have dial-up, the course won't work.

Digital camera: This is so you can submit progress of your work and ask me questions. The camera on your phone or tablet is fine. If you take the self-directed version, you don't need a camera.

Loom suitable for weaving tapestry: I recommend a Mirrix for small tapestry work. Copper pipe looms are also great. Large upright tapestry looms are excellent as are any counterbalance or countermarche floor looms. Some jack looms work very well for tapestry, a few work okay, and some don't work at all. I consider the 12-inch Little Guy loom to be the smallest loom you can use for tapestry.

Warp yarn: I use 12/6 cotton seine twine available from Glimakra USA. It is 1800 yards/lb. At 8 ends per inch, 12/9 cotton seine twine will also work just fine. It is a little thicker than the 12/6. These are also available from The Woolery or Halcyon Yarn online as well as through many weaving shops.

Weft yarn: I use Harrisville Highland and a singles yarn made by Harrisville Designs in the videos for this class. You can get it in cones in the weaving section or in skeins under the knitting yarn section of the website. The knitting put-up in skeins has been scoured and I do recommend that yarn for this class. It is exactly the same yarn, the "knitting" yarn is just washed and skeined. You can use a wide variety of other weft yarns though I recommend choosing just one while you practice. There is a section in the Color Theory portion of the class which talks about choosing weft yarns including whether you want to use a singles yarn or a more basic yarn like Harrisville Highland. You might wait to spend a lot of money on yarn until you have seen this module.

Tapestry fork (also called tapestry beater): If you use bobbins, just carry on with your regular self. Some people use both bobbins and a tapestry fork.

My two favorite tapestry forks are:

- Maggie beater from Magpie Woodworks. <http://magpiewoodworksusa.com/>

Look for “Tapestry and Navajo weaving forks” under fiber art tools on the right side of the page. I use the medium fork at 10 times per inch. As of January 2015, John was having difficulty filling orders and he has a note on the website why this is.

- [Threads Thru Time](#). This is an Etsy shop and if they don't have beaters available, please inquire. They may well make you one. Sometimes they have lots of them, sometimes none. They are lovely and worth waiting for.
- Another lower cost beater which is also handmade and quite lovely is made by Al Snipes. You can order them from [Village Spinning and Weaving](#). Either the 1 or the 1.5 inch beater is a good size for this class.

tapestry needle: I like size 20, but any similar size will likely work. This is just a needle that is blunt on the end and used for sewing slits. Available at fabric or craft stores.

mat board or cardboard: in the Vertical Gradation section we will be making yarn wraps. A stiff cardboard or pieces of mat board work well for this. You can use something you have around the house.

Color Aid paper or paint chips: in the Vertical Gradations section I talk about using this special paper or (free) paint chips from the home improvement store to play with value and hue. These are optional materials and you may want to wait to see the videos to decide whether you need them.

thread for sewing slits: I use Coats upholstery thread in white or you can use button hole twist, also available at your local fabric store.

If you are buying a Mirrix, this is what comes in the box (get the one with a shedding device).

- Loom
- Shedding device
- silver bar to hold warp into the spring
- bag of springs plus little Allen wrench for tightening shedding device
- wrench for tightening tension

What DOESN'T come in the box and you might consider buying is **heddles**. The heddles Mirrix sells are not cheap, but they are reusable indefinitely, they are uniform, they don't catch on each other, and they don't come untied. That said, you can make your own. They come 100 to a spool so you only need one spool to start with. If you are going to do bigger projects or ones with a larger sett (warp closer together), you'll eventually need more than 100.

If you have specific questions about a loom you have or are considering purchasing for this class, feel free to [contact me](#).