



Materials List

Warp and Weft: Learning the Structure of Tapestry

Below are the materials suggested for this course. There is a wide variety of yarn and equipment that will work, so ask questions or feel free to substitute as needed.

MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED FOR THIS CLASS

There is a resource page that I keep updated on my website with links to lots of places to get yarn and tools. Please ask questions about materials if you have them so you get yourself set up well.

<https://rebeccamezoff.com/resources>

- A computer with an internet connection fast enough to play video.
- Digital camera to take snapshots of your progress and upload them if you want feedback on your work. This could be the camera on your phone or iPad.
- Loom suitable for tapestry weaving.
- Warp and weft yarn. There is an extensive handout with potential warp and weft yarn sources. I recommend cotton seine twine for warp.
For weft, please consider using just one weft yarn and making it one of the ones I recommend or that follows the guidelines in the Yarn Sources handout. I know we all want to use up what is in our stash, but if you constantly change the yarn you're using, it will be very difficult to learn how to manage it so that your tapestry stays even and certain techniques don't work well with differently sized yarns. I recommend starting with Harrisville Highland if you're in the USA because it is easy to get, isn't too expensive, and you can use one strand at a time. You'll need at least 5 colors.
- scissors
- tapestry fork/beater (unless you're a bobbin user, then carry on with your regular self)
My two favorite tapestry forks are:
 - Maggie beater from Magpie Woodworks. <https://magpiewoodworks.com/>
 - [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.
- Sharpie marker for marking the warp; I now use the Industrial ones as they are heat and waterfast
- measuring tape

- 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.
- 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. You can start by using regular sewing thread if you'd like.
- 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. They come 100 to a spool which is enough for 12 inches of weaving width. If you are going to do bigger projects or ones with a larger sett (warp closer together), you'll eventually need more than 100. Alternatively, you can make your own heddles using a jig (piece of sturdy cardboard) that is 3 1/8 inches long. They are identical to the Schacht Arras heddles which do come with that loom.

Loom possibilities

There are so many possible looms and which you choose depends a lot on what you want to weave. I've written about this a lot on my blog and I recommend exploring this category if you are having difficulty deciding. <https://rebeccamezoff.com/blog?category=Looms>

Some possibilities include:

- Mirrix
- Schacht Arras
- Glimakra Freja
- A pipe loom that you make yourself
- Counterbalance or counterbalance looms (see below)
- Smaller nontensioned looms will also work for this class but you'll need to rewarped frequently.

Notes on Mirrix looms: They are very portable and extremely sturdy looms. (<http://www.mirrixlooms.com>) With the exception of the small Saffron loom, Mirrix looms have shedding devices which means that you can hold the two layers of warp apart while working. It is also somewhat faster than looms without shedding mechanisms such as copper pipe looms. You can go as big as you like. The very smallest Mirrix is for beading. I do have an 8 inch Lani loom that is wonderful but it only weaves to 5 inches wide so I use it for very small things and travel. For this course I'd recommend the 12 inch loom or larger. The sizes that they list on the website are the width of the loom, not the weaving width. Their looms weave to three inches less than the width given. So the Big Sister loom which is listed as a 16 inch loom, only weaves to 13 inches wide. This is their most popular loom for good reason.

Notes on Schacht tapestry looms: I very much dislike the original Schacht Tapestry Loom which is still sold. It is an intensely frustrating loom to use and I've had students quit because they couldn't master it. The [Schacht Arras](#) tapestry loom which came out in 2020 is fantastic. It is a wonderful machine that will serve you for the rest of your weaving life. It has a shedding mechanism that works much like the Mirrix and it is made of beautiful wood. The smaller peg looms they sell are fine, just warp carefully as there is no tension adjustment (the Easel Weaver and Lilli Looms).

Notes on making your own copper pipe loom:

Copper pipe looms such as the Archie Brennan style looms you can find online (<http://susanmartinmaffei.com/writings-2>) do produce excellent tension and you can make them yourself from materials at the hardware store. You can also fashion a shedding device for a copper pipe loom or make a leash bar and attach leashes. There are instructions in the Weaving Tapestry on Little Looms and Fringeless courses on how to build these or ask for more tips in the course. I've written blog posts about this with instructions.

Notes on beamed looms:

I weave all of my large-format tapestries on floor looms. Almost any counterbalance or countermarche floor loom works well for tapestry. The best brands are the Harrisville Rug Loom, Cranbrook by Schacht, or Glimakra (along with many Scandinavian versions in Europe). Rio Grande walking looms are also excellent tapestry looms. Many jack looms do work somewhat for tapestry though the lighter weight looms won't hold a high enough tension. Macomber's larger than 40 inches are one type of jack loom that do work well for tapestry.

There are also wonderful high-warp tapestry looms out there. Most are no longer manufactured, but you can find great deals on used ones such as the Fireside Cantilever, Shannock, Crisp Ruthie, and Tissart looms. Leclerc still makes their Gobelin loom.