



Materials List

Color Gradation Techniques for 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

- A computer with an internet connection fast enough to play video.
- Digital camera to take snapshots of your progress and upload them. This could be the camera on your phone or iPad.
- Loom suitable for tapestry weaving (see below for more information). If you are buying a Mirrix loom, heddles do not come in the box. You must buy them separately or plan to make your own. There are only 100 heddles on a spool. If you are going to weave wider than 12 inches at 8 ends per inch, you will need more than one spool.
- Warp yarn. I use 12/6 cotton seine twine available from Glimakra USA (website is: <http://glimakrausa.com/>) It is 1800 yards/pound and you just need the natural color. 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 online shops like The Woolery, Eugene Textile Center, Halcyon Yarn, and Lone Star Loom Room. The warp I use is sold by Bockens but there are other warps sourced from Scandinavia that are great.
- Weft yarn. I use Harrisville Highland in the videos for this class. It is available from Harrisville Designs (<https://harrisville.com/>). 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.
- scissors
- hand tapestry 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/> It looks like in 2021 she has tines set at 8.5 per inch. This is perfect for weaving tapestries between about 6 and 16 epi.
- [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
- 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.
- For the last module, *Vertical Gradations*, you may want these additional materials.
 - masking tape
 - cardboard, mat board, or folded index cards to make yarn wraps
 - Color Aid paper (completely optional)
 - paint chips (also optional)
- 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 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. Alternatively you can make your own heddles using a jig (piece of sturdy cardboard) that is 3 1/8 inches long.

Note on looms:

If you want a small tapestry loom, I highly recommend a Mirrix. They are very portable but extremely sturdy looms. (<http://www.mirrixlooms.com>) 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.

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 other small-scale tapestry looms out there, many of which will work just fine for this course.

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 (NOT the lighter weight jack looms), Cranbrook, or Glimakra. 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. Macomers larger than 40 inches are one type of jack loom that do work well for tapestry.

I have written a lot on my blog about looms. You can find that loom category here:

<https://rebeccamezoff.com/blog?category=Looms>