

TRANSCRIPT

Introduction

Hi, guys, welcome to Hand Weaving Basics. I'm really excited that you're here today to talk with me about weaving. It is one of my long, long, long-time passions, and I'm really excited to be able to share this with you and get you in the door so that way, we can go on to doing more exciting things with making your own cloth.

Now, I feel like creating your own cloth from scratch is one of the most exquisite experiences that you can have as a fibre artist. It's one thing to be able to take the fibre from a sheep and then wash it, process it, spin it, dye it, and then to be able to make your own cloth with that is just, it's just incredible. And cloth is something that we are wrapped up in every day, we wear, we sleep in, we wrap our babies in it, we carry our babies in it. It is just the most amazing thing, and to be able to make your own cloth, I just feel like, is absolutely magical.

So welcome, I wanna talk to you guys more about this. So welcome, I can't wait to get started with this. Now, weaving can sometimes be a little bit intimidating to people to get started because it seems like when you start weaving that you need a lot of equipment. It seems very expensive to get involved in. It's seems like there's just, there's a lot. And there is a lot of terminology, there's a lot of little things to learn, there's a lot of little very straightforward, very common sense things but they are absorbed and acquired over a long period of time, and so, with this entire practice, I really wanna encourage you guys to be patient with yourselves, as always, to just give yourself space to explore and learn and understand how things work.

Now one of the ways that we're gonna start is we're just gonna talk about how basic cloth is created. Weaving is simply, at its most fundamental, just about holding one set of yarns under tensions, that's your warp threads, and then, the other thread, the weft thread, interlaces through those warp threads in different ways. If it interlaces over, under, over, under, every other warp thread, then you create the most interlacements possible. You create plain weave. It's also called tabby, and it is the most fundamental of all fabrics. It is the strongest of all the fabrics because of this interlacement. There's the maximum number of interlacements between the warp and the weft. And so, whether we're talking about tapestry weaving, frame loom weaving, rigid heddle weaving, multi-shaft floor loom weaving, all it is is different ways of holding the warp under tension. That's really it.

Now, looking at how those yarns are interlaced between the warp and the weft, if you interlace them in different ways, you might produce a twill fabric, or you might produce a waffle weave fabric, all of these different kinds of weave structures produce different qualities to the fabric that you create. Maybe it makes a fabric this is more drapey, more soft, more supple, or maybe it makes a fabric that is almost three-dimensional in structure, something that, you know, like the waffle weave, actually produces a raised, three-dimensional structure where it forms pockets of yarn, and those pockets help to trap air and can become more insulating. So there's lots of different things that you can do with the weave structures to create fabric that has functional purposes.

So my goal here with teaching you about weaving is simply to introduce you to the amazing craft that weaving can be. I will never come here when I'm finished learning how to weave to share knowledge, because I will never be done. We'll never be done. There is so much to learn about creating cloth with your own hands, and there's only so much we can do at one time, and so I just encourage you to take it one step at a time, one piece at a time, understand

each little thing as we go, and I hope that you get as much enjoyment out of this as I do.

My other goal with teaching about weaving is to be very tool and loom agnostic, and by that, I mean, use whatever equipment you wanna use. If you wanna use a tapestry loom, go ahead. If you wanna use a rigid heddle loom, go ahead. If you wanna use a 40 shaft, AVL floor loom, go ahead. It's really about using whatever it is that you feel comfortable working with. Everyone has different loom preferences, different equipment preferences, because of either space or budget or size restrictions, whatever it is, everybody's gonna choose different things, and so, what might work for you might not work for someone else, and so with this, I just think that equipment is very, very individual. Everyone's loom and equipment preferences are going to be very individual and the only way that you'll find out what works for you is if you experiment and try different kinds of equipment. If you don't even know if you wanna get started with weaving, it can be as simple as working with a little cardboard, a little piece of cardboard, and making yourself a little loom out of the cardboard to see, you know, if this style of weaving is what you might like, or maybe you want more efficiencies, and so maybe you wanna work with a rigid heddle loom, which will automatically create a shed for you, and make plain weave. Or maybe you wanna go to a multi-shaft loom, because you want even more efficiencies, and more options for making different weave structures.

In this particular series, I'm gonna show you how to warp and work with a frame loom, how to warp and work with a rigid heddle loom, as well as a multi-shaft floor loom, so that you'll get sort of a fundamental, you know, baseline of all of these different kinds of looms.

In this first series of handweaving basics, we're gonna focus purely on plain weave. So we'll be making plain weave in a frame loom, we'll also have some, a few other stitches as well, but mostly plain weave, and then we'll look at plain weave in rigid heddle weaving, and plain weave in multi-shaft loom, and once we know how to work with these looms, once we know how to use a warping board, how to set up a warp, how to dress the loom, how to do all those things, then we can look at colour and colour interaction in plain weave, and then, from there, there's lots more to study.

So thank you guys so much for being here, and let's go ahead and get started with weaving.