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Linen and wool **Tapestries 3746**

The Weaver's Pick
Spring 1/2021

Purpose - **Wall hanging**

Weave - **Overshot**

Shafts - **4-shaft, 6 treadles**

Material - **Line Linen, Wool**

Level ●●○

Weaving Library
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Linen and wool tapestries

3746

The warp Line linen (long fiber) Nel 16/4, unbleached,
tex 104x4
1 kg = 2 400 m, Lappajärven Värjäämö
Warp width 63,7 cm
the sett 4 threads/cm
number of warp ends 255 + 2 additional ends
for the edges = 257
length 4,35 m
amount of yarn needed 485 g
Reed 40/1 (1 end per dent in a 40-dent reed)
Structure Overshot

Woad - Bluish-grey tapestry

Finished size 60 x 106 cm

WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS

Weave 6 cm plain weave for the hem with a turquoise-blue wool yarn at the beginning and the end of the fabric. Weave the tapestry according to the treadling instructions using grey linen yarn as a tabby weft and single wool yarn as a pattern weft. Weave the treadling repeat with blue or light blue wool in turns. Woven length is 103 cm + hems.

The sett is 6 tabby picks and 6 pattern picks per cm.

AMOUNT OF YARN NEEDED FOR THE WEFT

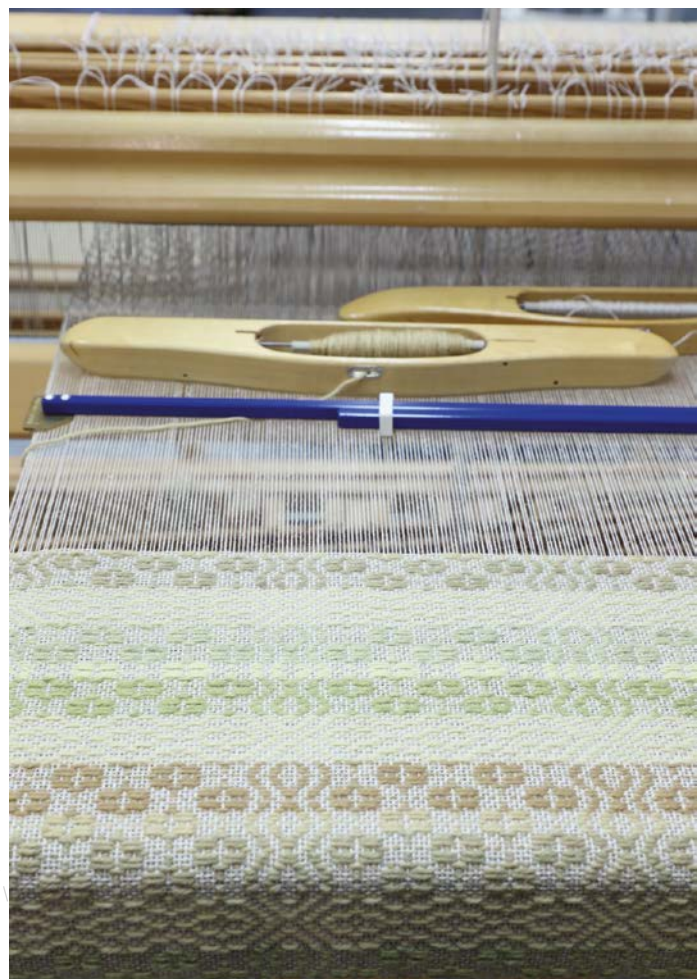
Line linen Nel 16/4, 1 kg = 2 400 m, Lappajärven Värjäämö,
19 bluish grey 167 g.

Esito Worsted wool blanket yarn, tex 143x3, (1 kg = 2 300 m)
off-white dyed with woad, blue 166 g and light blue 76 g.

FINISHING

Finish by sewing 3-step zigzag stitches on the ends. Stitch the hems by hand with a linen thread or other strong yarn.

The inner hem allowance is approx. 1 cm and the height of the finished hem is 2,5 cm. ▶





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Tip Typically the hem is accidentally narrower than the rest of the fabric. Use the temple as soon as possible from the beginning of the weaving and remember to adjust it to the same width as the warp is sleyed in the reed. You can weave scrap yarn at the beginning of the fabric to be able to attach the temple before the actual piece is woven.

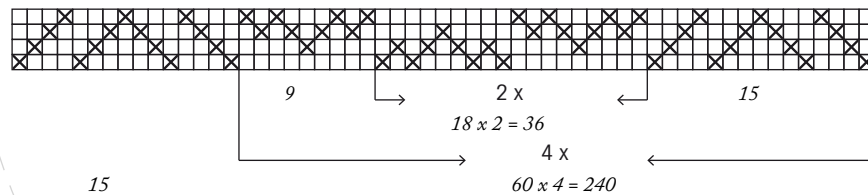
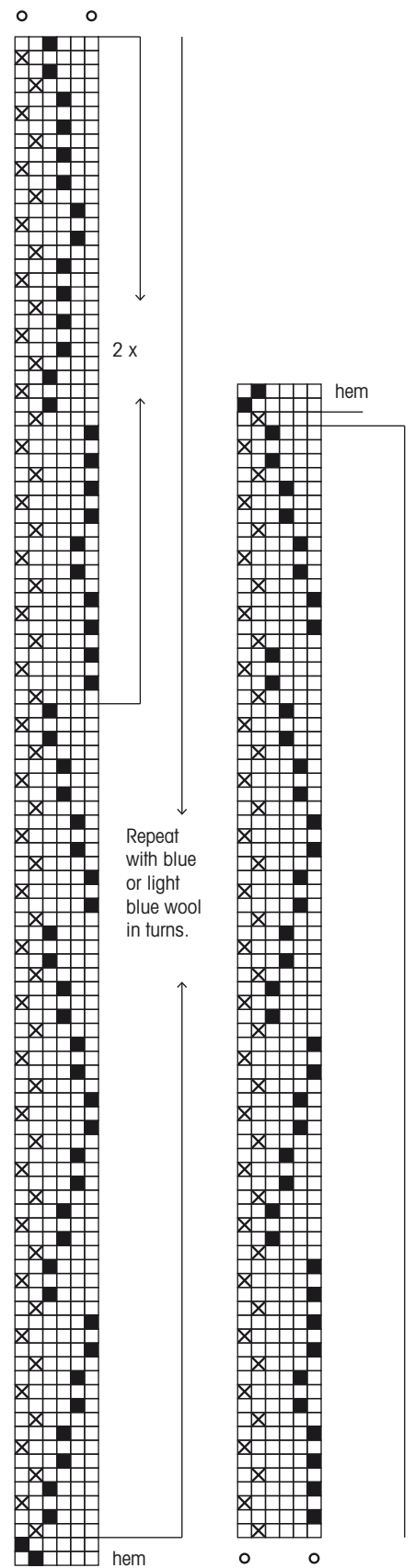
WOAD - BLUISH GREY TAPESTRY

Treadling:

- = blue wool yarn
- × = bluish grey
- Line linen 16/4

Threading:

Double the edge thread on both sides.





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Button - White tapestry

Finished size 59 x 94 cm

WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS

Weave 6 cm plain weave for the hem with a wool yarn at the beginning and the end of the fabric. Weave the tapestry according to the treadling instructions using the warp yarn as a tabby weft and double wool yarn as a pattern weft.

Woven length is 92 cm + hems. The sett is 4 tabby picks and 4 (doubled) pattern picks per cm. Finish the same way as the Woad tapestry. ▶

AMOUNT OF YARN NEEDED FOR THE WEFT

Line linen Nel 16/4,
tex 104x4, 1 kg = 2 400 m,
Lappajärven Värjäämö,
unbleached 97 g.

Esito Worsted wool blanket yarn,
tex 143x3, (1 kg = 2 300 m),
7001 white 220 g.

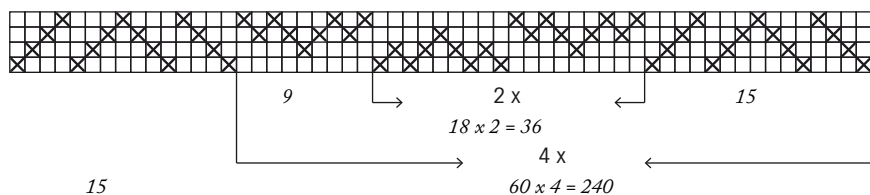
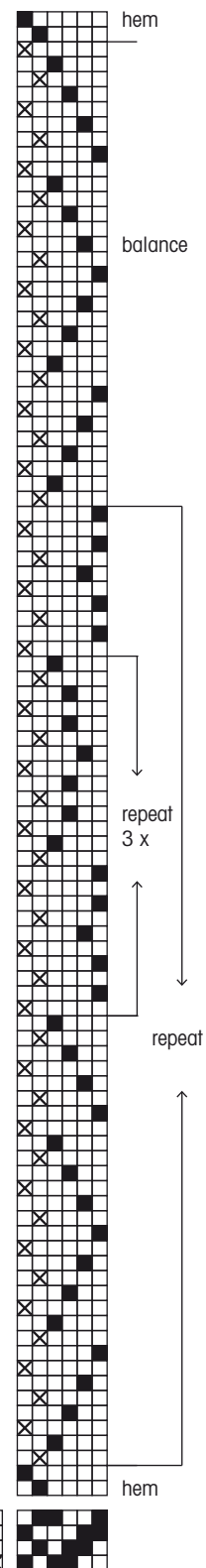
BUTTON - WHITE TAPESTRY

Treadling

■ = white wool yarn doubled
× = Line linen 16/4
unbleached

Threading:

Double the edge thread on both sides.



255 ends
+ 2



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Striped Tapestry From plant-dyed yarns

Finished size 60 x 74 cm

WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS

Weave 6 cm plain weave for the hem with a wool yarn at the beginning and the end of the fabric. Weave the tapestry according to the treadling instructions using the warp yarn as a tabby weft and wool yarn as a pattern weft. See the weft colour order in the treadling instructions.



End to the green pattern stripes. Balance with yellow stripe and weave the upper hem.

Woven length is 76 cm + hems.
The sett is 9 tabby picks and 9 pattern picks per 2 cm.

AMOUNT OF YARN NEEDED FOR THE WEFT

Line linen Nel 16/4,
tex 104x4, 1 kg = 2 400 m,
Lappajärven Värjäämö,
unbleached 91 g.
Plant-dyed wool yarns, various
weights, 1 kg = n. 1 800 – 2300
m,
different colours, total 151 g.

FINISHING

Finish by sewing 3-step zigzag stitches on the ends. Stitch the hems by hand with a linen thread or other strong yarn. The lower side of the fabric has been used as the right side. Fold and stitch the hem to the wrong side.

STRIPED TAPESTRY FROM PLANT-DYED YARNS

The lower side of the fabric has been used as the right side.

Treadling

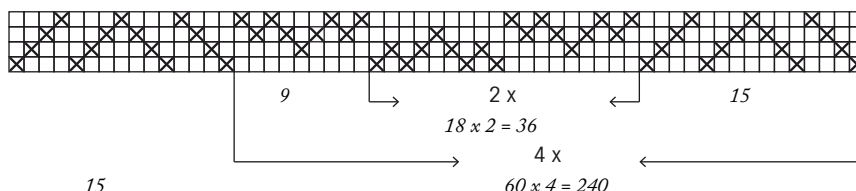
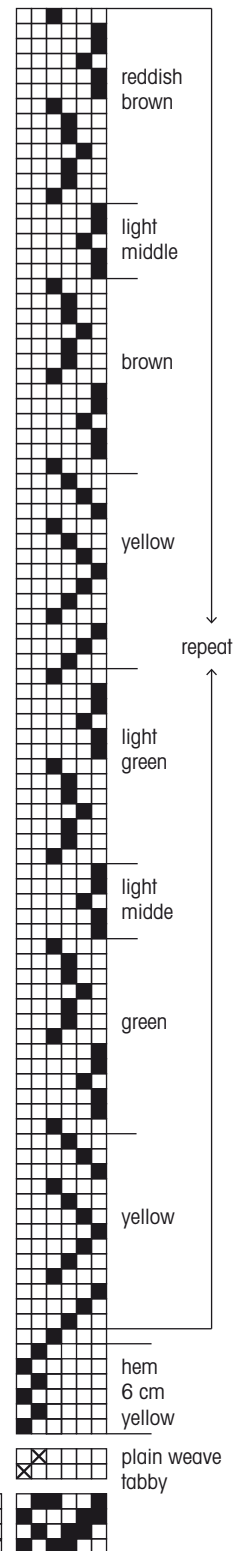
■ = wool yarn

× = Line linen 16/4

Poljentaan on merkitty vain kuviokuteet. Heittä jokaisen kuviokuteen väliin yksi paltfinakude.

Threading

Double the edge thread on both sides..



The weft yarns in the blue tapestry have been dyed with woad

This is how we dyed the yarns:

1. Shred the woad leaves in a pot. Pour boiling water over the leaves and fill the pot. Let it simmer under the lid for about 30 - 40 minutes. Keep the dye bath warm.

2. Strain the leaves from the liquid. The first year woad harvest has the most dye. Woad is a biennial plant. The first year it grows a rosette and the second year the flower and the seeds.

3. Add sodium carbonate to the bath to make it alkaline (pH 9-10). Oxidize the bath by whipping it with a whisk or by pouring it back and forth between two pots for 5 - 10 minutes. The dye will change to dark green.

4. Heat the bath to 50°C and add carefully the sodium dithionite. Use personal protective equipment! Let it sit for 30 - 40 minutes. The colour of the bath turns yellowish-green.

5. Soak the warm and wet wool yarns to the bath and let them take up the colour for 10-15 minutes. The bath shouldn't oxidize anymore, so stir the bath only as much as it is needed to ensure an even colour.

6. Remove the yarns from the dye bath. The colour of the yarns will change gradually from yellowish-green to blue. Let the yarns oxidize for 10 minutes. Rinse. You can add a little vinegar to the last rinse water.

- Explore books on dyeing before trying it. Follow the safety instructions.

We had almost finished the weaving of the white tapestry when the cold days of autumn warmed up once more. We had still a chance to try out dyeing with woad and take out the dyeing pots! If we succeeded in the dyeing, we would get the weft yarns for a tapestry.

Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) can be used to get blue dye the same way as indigo (*Indigofera tinctoria*). The dye is applied to the yarn with a vat dyeing process. Besides the ordinary equipment for stovetop dyeing, you need sodium carbonate and sodium dithionite (=sodium hydrosulfite). Sodium dithionite is a strong chemical, therefore you need a respirator face mask, eye protectors and gloves. Carry out the dyeing outside or in a well-ventilated space.

You need approximately: 100g yarn - 400-800 g fresh/dried(?) leaves - 5 litres of dye bath - 50 g sodium dithionite. In this dye bath we used additionally woad powder because we didn't have enough leaves (280 g leaves + 5 g of powder - 7 litres of dye bath - 60 g sodium dithionite - 300 g yarn).



The most magical moment happens when the yarns are lifted from the dye bath. The yarn is yellowish-green in the bath, but changes to blue due to the air exposure.

