

Prep for Weaving 106 Workshop with Kathrin Weber - MAFA 2025

For this workshop, please put a dummy warp on your loom using **2 threads per dent in a 12 dent reed** which will create 24 epi. If you don't have a 12, you can use a 10 dent reed which will create 20 epi.

Notes on Dummy Warps:

A dummy warp is a warp that is threaded through the heddles and the reed and secured to the back rod but is not long enough to actually weave. We will use the dummy warps to tie onto. If you haven't used the tie on technique before, this will be another aspect you can look forward to learning. If you are not changing your threading pattern with every project, tying on can be a time saver and sight saver. For me, it is a valuable design tool, too.

How to start a dummy warp?

Wind the dummy warp threads a generous 1 yard length (or as long as it needs to be to secure to rod at front and back of loom). You can set up front to back or back to front in whatever order or method works best for you. You will have your reed and your heddles threaded, your warp secured on the back rod, and tensioned onto the front rod. Please be sure that the dummy warp is not merely looped around the back rod. It needs to be tied securely to the back rod so that it won't slip when the threads are tied onto in the front during the workshop. You can tie knots to the back rod or use lark head knots. Weave an inch or so to check for errors in threading and slewing. Time spent fixing errors will take valuable time away from your workshop experience. Leave it that way for safe traveling.

What to use?

Use inexpensive yarn. It needs to be small enough that it will pull through the reed and heddles after it is tied to another thread. It needs to be strong enough not to break during that action. Use alternating colors in the dummy (ie: each dent might have a blue end and a white end. Tip: Black is hard to see when you are tying on at the workshop.) Strong 8/2 or 8/4 carpet warp work well. Please do not use heavy knitting yarn.

How many?

300 thread dummies. You can choose to use more or less depending on your mood, your work speed, and personality. :-) The workshop warps I bring are wound in groups of 100. If your dummy is not perfectly divisible by 100, I will show you how to split and save extra warp threads for a later project.

What threading?

Straight draw threading in both 4 shaft and 8 shaft has a lot of flexibility in design for several weave structures and fabric choices. If you have 8 shafts and would like to use a more complex threading, please see the attached threadings. **Please make a copy of them to use during class for tie-up and treadling blocks in Turned Taquete.** We will start weaving with a plain weave tie-up and treadling. We will move on to Turned Taquete later.

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What sett?

These projects will be a bit warp-predominant in order to showcase the hand-dyed warp yarns. You might choose to do a lightweight fabric or a dense fabric. Please use a 12 dent reed. If you don't have a 12, a 10 will work. Sley the reed two ends per dent and one thread per heddle. Please do not use more or less than 2 threads per dent.

Weft material?

Since we don't know which warps or which projects you will choose, it is hard to know exactly what you should bring for weft. The warps are usually sett at least a bit on the warp predominant side so the weft is less of a consideration than it might be otherwise. Bring a few cones of your favorite colors in medium weights and colors. It is safe to say bring anything you have in black cotton or rayon. If you don't have any, you might choose to go ahead and get a few spools of 8/4 black carpet warp. I find that is very useful in many of my workshop projects. We won't need the weft until the 2nd or 3rd day.

Don't stress over this. Keep it simple.

Tools Students Should Bring:

- **Personal weaving tools:** Decent, sharp, full size scissors, tape measure, threading hooks, two shuttles (boat for fine weft and ski or rag for heavy weft), appropriate sticks or paper for winding 4.5 yard warp
- Fine Point Black Sharpie Pen
- Calculator, pen, and paper.
- 2 spring clamps big enough to clip onto your back beam (As long as there are several pairs in the room, that will be enough to share. We don't really need a set for every single person.)
- Roll of 1" masking tape Look for yellow, light green, or light blue painters masking tape. The light colors work better than the dark blue. **No wider than 1"**. This is not optional. It will be inconvenient for you to share this with a friend.
- Sticks or paper long enough to accommodate winding on a 4.5 yard warp.
- We will need a bobbin winder for the class. Hopefully, someone will bring one.