



weaversbazaar News

Gifts Ideas Galore!

Weaversbazaar has a wonderful range of gift ideas for textile artists and enthusiasts – here are just a few. Find them, and more, on our [Gifts Page](#).



weaversbazaar
Gift Voucher
£10, £20, £30, £40, £50



Great offer for tapestry weaving tutors!



We are delighted to be able to offer those who teach tapestry weaving, a set of our 'tresses' for use during workshops. Tresses are cut hanks of each of the colours in our Fine (18/2), Medium 1 or Heavy worsted wool. They hang on poles enabling users to easily extract even lengths. It is a cost-effective way of providing a rich resource of materials that will enhance the learning experience of those using them especially as we have worked out a very affordable price. [Contact us](#) for more details.



weaversbazaar Adjustable Tapestry Frame



We have decided to move back to the Adjustable Frame design that uses threaded metal rods rather than wooden dowel for the sides. This is because we have found the metal rods give much more nuanced control over the movement of the top bar to tighten or loosen the warps and because we had feedback that the metal rod version is preferred by weavers. In addition, we have changed the fitting that the metal rod screws into making the overall look of the frame more streamlined. Meanwhile, we have just one of the all wood frames available at a one-off price on our [Special Offers>Equipment & Kits](#) page.

weaversbazaar Poll: beating the weft

Our last poll invited respondents to indicate what tools they used to beat down the weft. Overwhelmingly the answer is – a combination of different tools (26%). Interestingly kitchen forks were used by 13% of respondents, which was the same percentage that used bobbins. Only 5% of those responding exclusively used their fingers to beat down the weft. Metal-beater users outnumbered weighted-wooden beater users but only just. Our next poll explores what fibres are used in the weft. Add your contribution [here](#).

Machine knitting with Worsted Wool

We were delighted that Trish Vickers, a machine knitter with years of experience, volunteered to test out our worsted wool on knitting machines. We sent her some Medium 1 (9.5/2) yarn and she ran it through several machine knitting processes. Here is her summary:

“When I started I had high hopes because it went through the machine really well, no twisting or anything. It seems the best weight for a standard gauge machine; just one end knitted well at a fairly standard tension. The plain stocking stitch looked fine although it was very hard to the touch. When I got on to the textured pieces it really held the texture. It reminded me of the work of Alison Ellen who, I believe, gets her yarn specially spun for her. The springiness (new technical expression!) really showed off the texture. The Fair Isle sample took several attempts for exactly the same reason, but not in a good way. The fabric kept bouncing off the needles and it took a lot of weights to keep it on the machine. When I tried to steam the pieces it just didn't work; I couldn't get the samples to flatten at all despite having a steam generator iron. I tried to knit another stocking stitch sample at a looser tension and washed it, but it just collapsed and lost all its bounce. I really can't see the yarn being suitable for garments, but it would be good for non-wearables for example accessories and furnishings. The way it holds texture is the best bit about it.”



Slip stitch. Tension 6. 60 stitches x 120 rows



Stocking Stitch. Tension 6. 60 stitches x 90 rows (steamed)



Stocking stitch. Tension 7. 60 stitches x 90 rows (washed)



Turk Stitch (Card 3). Tension 6. 50 stitches x 140 rows



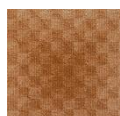
First Fair Isle Sample. Stitches bounced off needles.



Fair Isle. Tension 7. 60 stitches x 80 rows

Above are the photos of her samples. We really appreciate Trish's assessment of our worsted wool as a machine knitting yarn – it adds to our better understanding of how it can be used to best effect. This information will be uploaded to our [Knowledge Zone>Knitting](#) page for future reference for anyone interested in having a go with our yarns, and if you do we would love to see the results. Thank you Trish!

weaversbazaar Article #7: Finishing a shaped woven tapestry



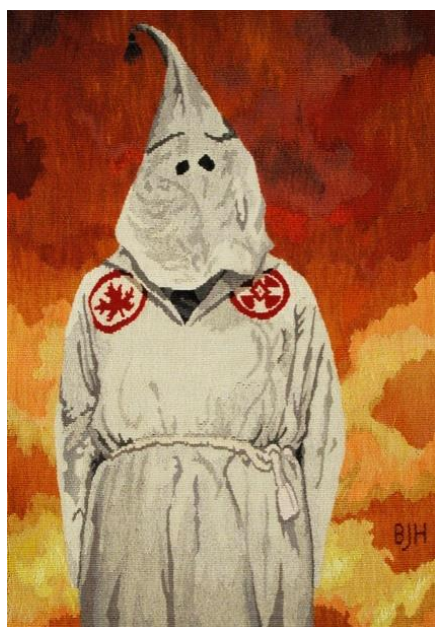
Margaret Jones has put together a fascinating and informative article on how to finish a shaped tapestry. This is always a challenge with a square or rectangular shaped tapestry but with a circular or unevenly shaped one the problems increase. Margaret has the answers in the article which you can [find in our Library](#) (scroll to the bottom of the list).

Coffee Break: South African tapestry artist, Marguerite Stephens



This month's coffee break item is an [interesting video](#) lasting about 20 minutes (so time for 2 mince pies with your coffee!). In it tapestry weaver, Marguerite Stephens explain the process of making a Cecil Skotnes's tapestry. Marguerite, or Mags, as she is known, has a studio in Midrand, Johannesburg and has been weaving tapestries out of hand spun, hand dyed mohair for a stable of select South African artists for many years. As a Seasonal bonus (and to give you time for another mince pie) here is a [short video about the Stephens Studio](#) and an even [shorter video](#) in which South African artist William Kentridge, explains why he welcomes his work being translated into tapestry.

Artist Profile: Barbara Heller



In her online biography, Canadian tapestry artist Barbara Heller, doesn't share with us just how long she has been a tapestry weaver. However, references to her weaving during the first Gulf War (1990 – 1991) and to her establishing the British Columbia Society of Tapestry Artists in 1993 would indicated that it has been several decades. One thing is very clear – Barbara Heller is a fearless tapestry artist. As she says in her artist's statement: *"My themes are becoming more demanding and, as the news becomes more depressing, my tapestries are becoming more explicit. I have woven images of adults out of touch with their environment, each other, and themselves, and children looking to a bleak future created by war and poverty in an ever more alien world. I am concerned with how we alter reality to fit private dreams; whether it is how we remember the past to make it more romantic or how we imagine the future to make it*



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more palatable." Those of us who heard her speak at the 'Narratives of our Times' Tapestry Symposium, at the Holborne Museum in Bath, gained a valuable insight into what moves her as an artist and what messages she is wanting us to hear through her work. [Barbara's web site](#) contains not only an extensive gallery of her work but also of her poems. It is well worth spending time exploring and her body of work gives us a great deal to think about especially at this time of the year.

Calls for Submissions & Opportunities

Last few days!! weaversbazaar 2018 Sponsorship call. Deadline 31st December 2017



Each year we sponsor several projects or individuals who have applied under our sponsorship scheme. Details of past recipients and of the criteria for suitable projects can be found on the sponsorship page of our website. The deadline for submissions for awards in 2018 is December 31st 2017 and submission is by a simple form. [Contact us for details](#).

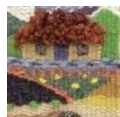
American Tapestry Alliance Blog Tour 2018



ATA is pleased to announce the 2018 blog tour! In anticipation of this year's annual unjuried exhibition, The Biggest Little Tapestries in the World, ATA invites you to join the trek through the world wide web of weaving, delving into dynamic posts by weaver-bloggers on January 22–26. Blog tour attendees will also have the opportunity to win one of several prizes including a Jim Hockett Loom Kit, 4 of his Tiny Turned, ATA memberships, free entry into the unjuried exhibition, as well as supplies from Halcyon Yarn and yes of course - weaversbazaar. The tour begins on January 22nd via [ATA's website](#). We look forward to finding you there!

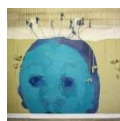
Courses

Tapestry Weaving Courses for Beginners. Alana Sayers 17th January 2018. Exeter, Devon, UK



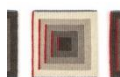
Discover the wonderful art of tapestry weaving at Alana Sayers' studio set in the beautiful East Devon countryside. She is offering 1 day courses suitable for beginners. Students will learn how to warp their own loom, weave their own textile, and then finish and create a woven wall hanging. [More details](#).

Tapestry weaving: the principles of design. Pat Taylor 5th – 9th February 2018. West Dean, W. Sussex UK.



Great design is more than learned aesthetics and style. Students will explore, understand and then use design elements: harmony, balance, proportion, dominance, emphasis, variety, movement and rhythm. If you are a tapestry weaver with curiosity, and perhaps only a little knowledge about design, then this course, led by master weaver Pat Taylor, will guide you to produce individual and personalised woven tapestry. [Read more](#)

Tapestry Weaving for Beginners. Caron Penney 9th – 11th February 2018. West Dean, West Sussex UK



Led by master weaver Caron Penney, the course will start with a demonstration of the warping-up process. Once this has been achieved, participants begin weaving a technical sample, which is designed to help at various stages of your development as a weaver. Some of the techniques covered are: plain weaving, stepped/soft diagonals, hatching, dovetailing, blending, shaping and more. You should expect to complete a finished woven sample over the two days. [More details here](#)



Events

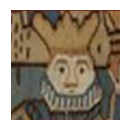
Stitched Together: Dionne Swift Until 23rd December. Green Howards Museum Richmond, Yorkshire. UK



The exhibition, which has drawn on the Green Howards Museum's uniform and textile collections for inspiration is providing an array of intricately worked pieces which are both practical and thought provoking. The 'Stitched Together' project was launched by the Army Welfare Service to offer military families the opportunity to build relationships in their local community that would create support networks away from home. [Details here.](#)

Found on the web

Norwegian Textile Newsletter



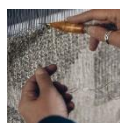
The Norwegian Textile Newsletter is another fascinating read covering virgins, nettles and study! As always, the items included are taken from very well researched sources and beautifully illustrated – and they are in English, which is a bonus. [Read it here.](#)

Blog by Dovecot Studio PhD Student



[This blog](#) covers a period from 2010 – 2014. In it the writer, Francesca Baseby, explores a whole variety of topics related to tapestries both ancient and modern but also a wide range of other subjects. You can scan through them all using the Blog Archive tool which can be found low down in the right-hand panel.

Weftfaced in House & Garden Magazine



If you missed this article, there is a [link here to it](#). In it journalist Emily Tobin talks to Caron Penney and Katherine Swailes about their work as weavers translating the artistic outcomes of other artists for the loom.

1000 year old beating sword found



A 1,000-year-old perfectly preserved Viking beating sword has been found by archaeologists at the historic site of the former Beamish and Crawford brewery in Cork City. The wooden weaver's sword is a little over 30cm in length, made entirely from yew, and features carved human faces typical of the Ringerike style of Viking art, dating it roughly to the late 11th century. [Read more](#)

The hidden labour behind the luxurious colours of Purple and Indigo



Perhaps no other colour in history has been so celebrated and so reviled as the colour purple. Although it has come to be known as the shade of royalty, the workers who laboured to make the dye in the Roman Mediterranean were often viewed as lowly. During the later Roman empire, these workers were even subject to state control. [Read this detailed article](#) about how both purple and indigo were made available for those who could afford them.

Nordic Tapestry Group's Exhibition



If you were unable to get to this event, held in Washington, Connecticut during the Summer, [this web site](#) will at least give you a flavour of what was on offer. Nordic Tapestry is a group of weavers working with photo-realistic tapestry inspired by Helena Hernmarck's unique technique. The weavers live in Sweden, Iceland and USA.

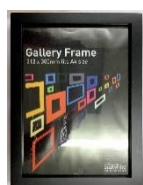


Textile Gallery: Adonis Rising



Adonis Rising is the image Matty wove following the weaversbazaar Joan Baxter Masterclass this year. It is 122cm long and 49cm high and woven in our Medium 1 worsted wool on a 3.5 epc sett. It is based on photos taken during a field trip to Highdown Hill, on the South Downs, during the class and on designs further developed during the Masterclass.

Stop Press 1: Picture Frame Bargain



We have a very limited number of picture frames that could be ideal for mounting tapestries at a special offer price. Stock is limited though. Full details can be [found here](#).



Stop Press 2: Seasonal closing

The weaversbazaar order preparation and packing unit will be closed from Saturday 23rd December 2017 to 1st January 2018 inclusive. The website Online Store will remain open all hours during the holiday season but orders placed during the above dates will be dispatched promptly from January 2nd onwards.

Important notice- due to seasonal postal pressures we are already experiencing some delays on orders being shipped to the USA.

Happy Weaving & Season's Greetings!

