

40–50 boys and girls that came to my classes those three days, left without a self made small tapestry. And they liked it! My worries about impatience and comments like ‘I tried weaving in kindergarten and that was enough’, was done in vain.

I would like to share some of my experience from teaching tapestry to children, with readers.

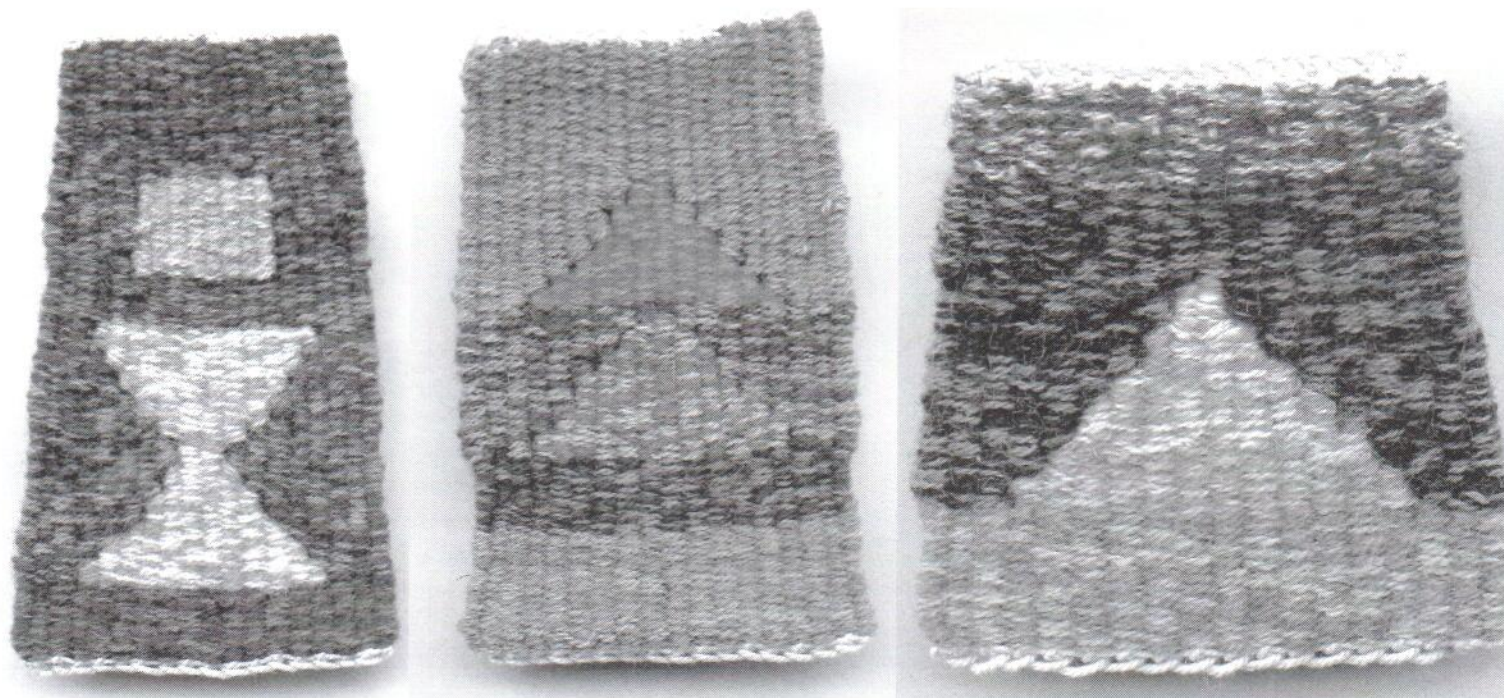
- **Frame.** Home made frames sized 65cm x 55cm attached to the table by clamps, work well. Masking tape at top and bottom with 1.5 cm between

- **Blending.** Yes, children love colours. I very much encourage the young weavers to mix shades. They quickly discover that the expression in their work becomes much more alive when they do this. Good fun! Things start happening in the warp! Blending and trying out how colours act and change according to shades and hues put next to them, is one my favourite aspects of tapestry.

- **Turn backs.** A turn back may be a good way of starting and ‘warming up’ before the actual tapestry making. Just

backs around the edges of the board and fasten at the back with a staple gun. Kids may like to cut out the board themselves. If no turn backs were made, use velcro at the front.

My presentation of tapestry to young people does not suggest much experimentation. It is mainly basic techniques taught in a way that encourages children and teenagers to like it, I am after. The final part of my chapter in *Kids Weave* will show how a small tapestry may turn into a cushion or a bag, by adding fabric to



the pencil marks, I find is good spacing for 11–12 year old beginners. This gives ca. 13 warps pr. 10 cm.

- **Warp.** Thick cotton is very good. Unfortunately this is difficult to get in Norway. Double thin cotton or linen warp is a good alternative.

- **Weft.** 4 plies of wool with thickness 2600 m/kg goes well with the above mentioned warp. The 4 plies can be made of two threads taken double, and we use the bend to start with. A sort of half hitch is made by the double loop. If the loop (before pulling the 4 plies through it) is put behind the warp pointing in opposite direction of the first pass, the starting point will not be seen in the tapestry, and there will be no end to darn in.

straight weaving with passes from one edge to the other.

- **Shapes.** My first tapestry project for young people was called *Zigzag Weave*. Zigzag shapes are made of angular lines which is a good start for new tapestry weavers in all ages. A girl asked if she could develop these lines to a heart. Of course she could! Soon several hearts turned up. In *Kids Weave* I have changed the zigzag to triangles.

- **Mounting.** I like small tapestries to come a bit out from the wall. This makes them look less like a sampler. Children’s first woven pieces do not have straight angled corners (neither do mine!). Cut out a piece of board with the same shape as the tapestry, but a wee bit smaller, stretch the turn

it. Even though the woven edges did not become straight, pieces of fabric can easily be cut so that they fit the shape of the tapestry. Top and bottom woven edges are usually horizontal. It is the width that decreases as you weave. Think ‘the central part of log cabin patchwork’ when fabric is to be attached by sewing machine. The cushion and the bag I have made for *Kids Weave*, came out so well that I think I will continue experimenting in this way later on. Perhaps you too have some woven samplers not really fit for the wall but potentially super for a unique cushion or bag? Don’t hesitate! Re-design with small tapestries may be good fun.

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