

NoBo Meeting Minutes - October 2015

By: Margaret, Terry and Ted

Agenda

Introduction and Possibilities of Card Weaving

Business

Show and Share

Introduction and Possibilities of Card Weaving

About Jayne



Jayne Flanagan from Scarborough, Maine, a *Long Time Thread Bender* presented an introduction to card weaving. After the demonstrations, members tried the looms that Jayne had warped

Jayne is the past president of NEWS and lectures on weaving and spinning including teaching those topics at grade school.

Card weaving



Fundamentally, card weaving is using a card or multiple cards to control the warp threads. For the demonstration, Jayne set up a number of looms fitted with 4 hole cards. The simplest example was four threads and a single card. More threads can be added in groups with additional cards controlling the threads.

Weaving involves rotating the cards 'forward or backward to create a shed through which the weft thread is passed. Complexity is introduced by changing the sequence in which the cards are rotated and the threading through the cards.

Card weaving and Inkle weaving are closely related, in their simpler forms both are warp faced weaves.

Jayne continued that the cords can be plied in different directions, *this is like Leno on steroids.*

History

Similar to inkle, card weaving creates "narrow wares" or bands. A few hundred years ago there was no velcro, plastic zippers or buttons. Fastenings were done with bands, for example apron ties.

The first evidence of card weaving dates to the 6th Century BC in Germany, evidence found in blankets. Cards provided a stable technique for use with a warp weighted loom. The earliest written article found was around 50AD.

Cards

These are available in 4, 6 and 8 strands although different shapes are possible, Jayne showed samples of cards from 3 strands using a triangular card to a hexagonal card. Sizes vary from small for silk to large for 'rope'. Cards have been found made from leather, wood, bone, etc. For your own cards any cardboard can be used, playing cards work well.

That could mean you are playing with a full deck! Courtesy of Lousie Cramer

The printed side of the card is the face. Mostly the holes are lettered in a clockwise order.

All the threads have to be in the same direction. The card needs to turn. Jayne uses a convention which is *the face of the card is to the left of the weaver*.

Shuttles

Conventional inkle style shuttles may be used although any *stick*, such as popsicle sticks, can be used to hold the weft thread. A useful modification is the addition of a hole so that the thread will not unwind. If a hole is not present, use a rubber band.

Yarns

Use yarns that withstand abrasion and have *no knots*. The threads need to be *smooth* enough to allow the cards to move, forward and backward. Crotchet cotton is good, real silk, 3/2 cotton. And similar. Jayne's demonstrations were setup used 10/2 mercerised cotton.

One way to make yarn stronger is to size it.

Wool can be used but it may need to be respun tighter. Do not use a sticky wool.

Accessories

- Large needle.
- C clamps which make the loom, used in the demonstration. The primary purpose to keep the warp tight. One advantage of a backstrap loom is that by leaning forward to remove tension. a modern backstrap loom would have the *weaver sitting in a rocking chair*.
- An Inkle loom is really just two fixed points.

Warping

Jayne uses a conventional warping technique involving a cross. To avoid knotting threads of different colours together, Jayne winds multiple warp chains, one for each colour. These are threaded through the cards from the cross in the required colour sequence.

Drafts

Jayne described use of a **Threading Defined** draft using 4 hole cards. This technique stacks all cards together and all are turned at the same time. The alternative is a **Turning Defined** draft where cards are turned independently. **Turning defined** allows more variations including double weave.

There are many variables available for drafts:

- Number of cards used
- Number of holes
- Number of threads through the card.
- Missed hole technique.

Tips

- Bands have a defined back side and front side.
- If you make a mistake don't try to take it out
- Use choke ties in the warp
- All threads have to be at the same tension.
- A warp spreader works like a raddle
- Maintaining width, similar to Inkle, need to get used to it.

Threading

The **home position** is with **D and A** on top. **S** threaded and **Z** threaded are defined as the path the thread takes through the card. Looking down to the cards, the direction of the thread is in the slant of an S or a Z. Left threaded is the slant in an **S** or a **forward slash**.

Turning

Please ensure the cards are secured either with a rubber band or thread. *Interesting things happen if you drop the cards!*

Direction of the twist is created by turning. A **forward turn**, is a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn **in the same same direction as car wheels turn moving forward**.

Reading the draft, numbering starts at zero.

The patterns Jayne supplied in the handout are designed for 4 turns forward followed by 4 turns backwards.

Computer Aided Support

There is computer aided support programmes available on the *Loomy Bin site*.

<http://www.theloomybin.com/cw/>

Organisation

TWIST, Tablet Weavers International Studies and Techniques

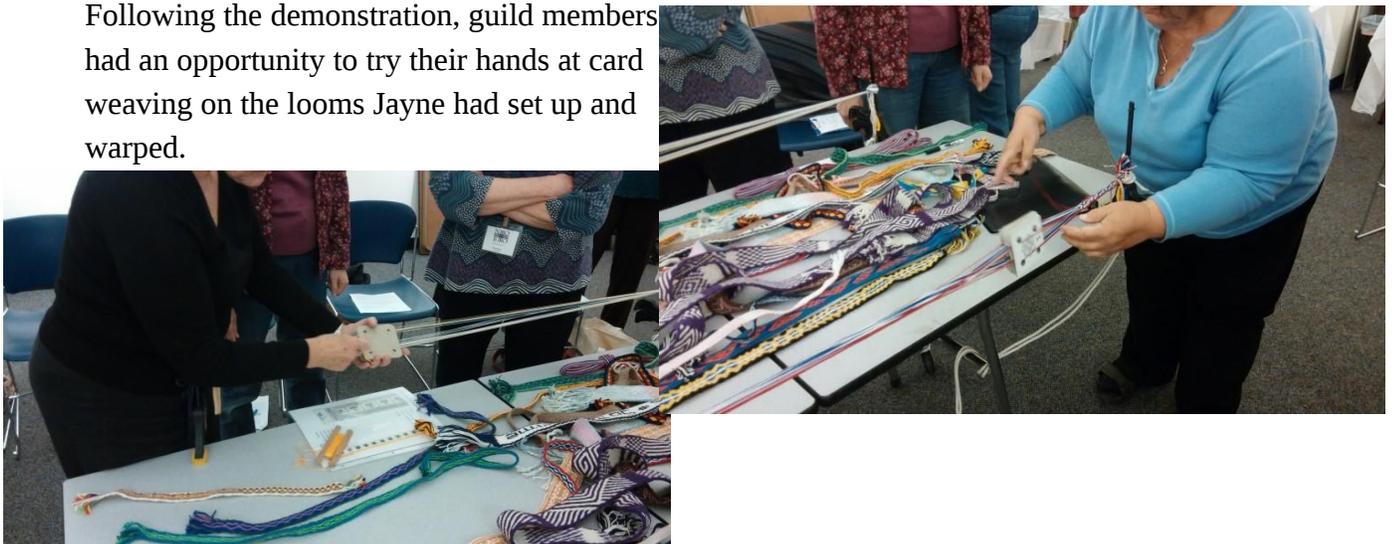
<http://www.tabletweavers.org> and <http://www.weavershand.com/>

The site also has YouTube lessons.

Demonstration:

Jayne then demonstrated the weaving technique using a simple 2 card setup and popsicle sticks in place of a weft thread.

Following the demonstration, guild members had an opportunity to try their hands at card weaving on the looms Jayne had set up and warped.



Business Section

New Member

Welcome John A. Griswold to the guild.

Tip Jar

Thanks to Terry for this tip:

When using a floating selvedge and you are using less harnesses than your loom has, you can thread the floating threads in separate harnesses that are not being used. For example, a 4 harness twill would have the two floating threads in harnesses 5 and 6 (on an 8 harness loom). Then, for straight twill, the lift plan would be: 1-2-5, 2-3-6, 3-4-5, 1-4-6.

Keeper of the Shekels Report

The members approved reimbursing Kathie and the News Representatives for travel expenses supporting and representing NOBO at NEWS.

The library donation is becoming due, the last contribution was for \$100 in 2014. It was agreed that the same contribution would be given around the time of the Christmas party.

NEWS Update

No date has been set for 2017, it may be the week following Independence Day.

There will not be a runway fashion show, items will be on static display. The reasons are poor lighting and the smaller articles are not easily seen. The static display will be extended by an extra day. The two awards split by a speaker

Table Cloth Project

Betsy would like yarn cones back.

Due date is February meeting.

Newburyport Arts Show

The pre-show meeting on November 5th for pricing and setup at **A Loom with a View, 6:30pm.**

Future Meetings

Meetings will continue to be held in the Newbury Town Library in Byfield.

The November meeting falls on Thanksgiving, December 3rd will be the Holiday Party. There will be our potluck feast and a Yankee Swap that is fibre related at the Party.

Events

- The Fiber Festival of New England, Nov 7&8, West Springfield, MA
- Weavers' Guild of Boston Weaving Exhibit and Sale, Nov 5-8, Weston, MA

Samples Binder

There has been little activity adding to the samples folder. In order to promote this the samples will be on the show and share table as a reminder.

Show and Share

Louise Cramer purchased a jacket from Sarah Fortin, the presenter of handwoven garments at our September meeting. Louise fabulously modeled it for us..

Kathy Corcoran displayed two scarves, one of which was leno using her handspun wool. The second was a cotton mix in an undulating twill

Margaret displayed one of her “Shepherd Scarves”, woven from the wool of North Ronaldsay sheep from the Isle of Auskerry – www.isleofauskerry.com

Pat Beamish displayed an 8 shaft block twill scarf.

Penny Boling displayed coasters which she wove, felted, and then decorated them with needle felted leaf designs.

Ted and Sandra displayed 5 scarves, 2 *snowflake* pattern in Tencel, and 3 inspired by the *snake scarf* design in **Handwoven**, 2 in Tencel and 1 in Bamboo.

mr/ta/tg 10/24/2015

