

FRIENDSHIP TOWEL EXCHANGE WEAVING GUIDELINES

SYRACUSE WEAVERS GUILD 2015—2016

The yarns in these kits are hand-dyed with natural dyes and processed by women weavers of San Rafael, Guatemala. The project was led by Mayan Hands, a fair trade organization devoted to improving the lives of women and their families and communities by providing the women with sustainable income generation opportunities that support their indigenous culture.

With the yarn from ½ kit, you should have enough yarn to weave 4 towels.

YARN: 8/2 Unmercerized Cotton (3,360 yards/lb)

EPI: 20. Order of sley: 2/dent in a 10 dent reed. 1-2-2 in a 12-dent reed. 2-3 in an 8-dent reed

WIDTH in REED: 19 Inches

TOTAL WARP ENDS: 380

LENGTH of WARP: 4 yards.

WOVEN LENGTH per TOWEL: 30 inches. This allows for 1 ½ inch for a hem at each end of each towel.

If you are weaving a twill or twill derivative, add floating selvedges. Not needed for Plain Weave. It is very important to follow these dimension guidelines if you purchased ½ kit. If you purchased a full kit, you can make larger towels if you choose.

APPROXIMATE YARN QUANTITIES per FULL KIT:

Dark indigo-(268 yds)

Light indigo – (760 yds)

Dark cochineal – (566 yds)

Light cochineal – (566 yds)

Osage Orange – (550 yds)

Dark madder- 2 balls- (750 yds)

Green- (268 yds)

Natural – 1,200 yds)

Note that there is more Natural than dyed colors. If you purchased a half kit, your quantities will be half that shown above.

YARN MANAGEMENT

Each color of cotton yarn is wound into 1 or 2 balls. Each has two ends, one on the outside of the ball and the other coming from the core. The two ends are wrapped around the ball and secured in a knot. Before using the yarn ball, undo the knot and wrapping. Be sure the end coming from the core is well-secured inside the center of the ball. Use the end that unwraps from the outside of the ball of yarn.

OUR WEAVING CHALLENGE

Weave at least 1 towel for our towel exchange at our May meeting. You can also bring a second one to exchange. **The towels for the exchange must incorporate EVERY COLOR in the kit and yarn ONLY from the kit!** Consider incorporating colored stripes

into both the warp and the weft. At our September meeting, we looked at possible pattern drafts on pp. 19, 30 & 40 from A Handweavers Pattern Book with structural stripes that could be combined with the different colors in the kits.

HAVE FUN EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF THESE BEAUTIFUL YARNS!

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS? Contact Sarah Saulson at 315-449-9423 or sarahsaulson@gmail.com