



## San Diego Creative Weavers' Guild Master Weaver Certification Program

This certification program was designed to serve as a self-paced, directed study that includes anonymous evaluation to ascertain the achievement of specific goals. The program's purpose is to encourage an increase of the participant's weaving knowledge, skills, and craftsmanship. It is directed toward the weaver who comes into the program with experience winding a warp, dressing a 4-shaft loom, reading a draft and recipe, weaving fabric, handling weft joints, and appropriately finishing hand woven cloth. The use of a loom with multiple shafts is required (four at the introductory level) as well as readings in weaving texts to research structures and techniques.

The program is divided into three levels of increasing skill and knowledge: Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master. Each level has specific requirements that must be met to achieve certification for that level. These include weaving samples and functional articles, maintaining records, researching structures and techniques, and presenting the body of work by a specified due date. General suggestions are given in the Master Weaver Supplement.

The body of work will be identified only by the registration number when it is evaluated. Three judges (knowledgeable and experienced weavers who are willing to act as anonymous mentors) shall work independently and privately to determine if the submissions meet all the requirements for the applied level. Constructive suggestions for growth and improvement along with points of strength from the judges shall be passed on to the applicant after the program chair compiles all results. Certificates of Achievement will be awarded for each level passed. If an item is determined as not meeting requirements, the applicant will be encouraged to re-work that item and re-submit at the next due date. Re-submission should be considered as part of the learning experience and not as a signal to quit the program. All evaluations and record are kept private between the applicant and the chair.

### **General Requirements for all levels:**

1. Applicants must officially register by signing an intent to work *registration form*. Only work completed after receiving an official registration number may be submitted. Once registered, the number is good for all levels and for an unlimited time.
2. All work is to be of the highest caliber: showing even beat, even selvages, be knot free, pleasing to the eye and hand, meet all requirement, be appropriate for the stated function and have no obvious threading or treadling errors.
3. All work (warp winding, loom dressing, weaving, finishing, and record keeping) must be that of the applicant and woven specifically for this program.. (Levels I & II allow one garment sewn by another).
4. Designs and drafts should be "personalized" (recipes and layouts must be modified) at levels I and II, and be original for level III.
5. While minimal sizes are stated, articles of various larger sizes and for a variety of functions (mat, scarf, towel, runner, throw, pillow, bag, rug, garment, upholstery, etc.) are encouraged.

6. Woven articles must serve as functional items and be properly finished and processed.
7. Any obvious stitching must be done neatly by hand in thread of appropriate size.
8. Selvages must be accessible for viewing. Do not stuff pillows; leave an opening in lined items. All Level I articles must retain selvages; for Levels II & III, retain selvages on the majority of articles.
9. Written records may be completed by hand in ink or typed on official SDCWG forms. (Purchase from the chair or download from the guild internet web site and print or photocopy onto cardstock weight).
10. The complete body of work to fulfill the requirements and the record sheets must be submitted together at one time. Each woven item should be tagged with the registration number and keyed to a record sheet. Record sheets are to be grouped in a notebook or folder, and the woven articles neatly contained in a tissue lined box.
11. Items found to be unacceptable may be reworked and resubmitted at a future due date. Level I must resubmit the body of work with the reworked item(s) substituted; Level II and Level III need only submit required reworked items (all at one time) together with their record sheets .
12. Each level of certification must be achieved before working on the next level. A participant may not submit for two levels at the same time. Work submitted for one level may not be resubmitted for another subsequent level.

### **Resources and Recommended Readings**

For basic overall reference:

Black, Mary: New Key To Weaving

Van der Hoogt, Madelyn: The Complete Book of Drafting

See also other books and magazines for information on specific structures and techniques (i.e. rug weaving, tapestry, lace weaves, designing with blocks, working with linen, cloth finishes and processing techniques, etc.) as well as ideas for articles. The Guild maintains an extensive library of books, monographs, sample notebooks, back issues of Handwoven, Weavers, and Shuttle Spindle and Dyepot, swatch notebooks, and videos for members' use. A notebook about the program including information given to the judges for guidance can also be found in the library.

### **Schedule of Important Dates**

Participants must register for an official number by the June Guild meeting in order to submit work for the following or any subsequent September due date. Submissions are due in the chair's hands by the date of any September Guild meeting. Work shall be returned in November (or sooner) after evaluations have been compiled. Certificates of Achievement shall be awarded at the December Guild meeting.

## **Level I: Apprentice**

This introductory level stresses development of high craftsmanship, basic weaving knowledge, and use of references. Recipes may be used as a starting point in order to learn to recognize correct settings, plan and weave to a specific size, choose yarns appropriate to the function of the item, and use appropriate finishing techniques and cloth processing. Modification of the recipe by changes to overall size or fiber content, introduction of more color or inclusion of textured yarns, etc. is encouraged as means of personalizing the product. At this level, computer assisted looms or fly shuttles are not to be used because level of hand skills and control is included in the evaluation.

Four articles of differing types, properly finished are required, each woven on a different threading producing a different type of interlacement. For example: do not use four different twill or four huck lace threadings, etc. The purpose is to understand and experience the effects of float length on sett, hand, selvages, etc. as well as experience four different interlacements. Each warp must also be different from the others by change of fiber type or size, not just by color. Minimum size of the finished articles is 8½” by 11”. The goal is to experience planning, winding, threading, weaving, and processing a variety of warps. All articles should include selvages accessible for evaluation.

Basic records must include a minimum of: statement of function of article, threading and treadling drafts, tie up, reed size, denting, ends per inch, and width in the reed. The source of inspiration or recipe should also be noted.

### **Requirements for Level I (See also: General Requirements of the Program)**

1. Minimum size of articles to be 8½” by 11”.
2. Selvages must be retained and accessible on all articles.
3. Four finished and processed articles showing the use of
  - a. Four different threadings and interlacements
  - b. Four different warps, accompanied by
  - c. Four appropriately matching record sheets.

In the event that an item for Level I is found unacceptable, that item may be reworked and substituted in the body of work; the revised collection should then be submitted at the next due date.

## **Level II : Journeyman**

The purpose of Level II is to gain an increased awareness of the variety of weave structures, and an understanding of block weave concepts, as drawn in treadling, thread by thread drawdowns, and sett effect on cloth structural balance. The weaver at this level should not just copy recipes but strive for personalization, working toward original designs by modifying the threading and/or treadling orders. Awareness of threading and treadling relationships will be explored through weaving an article with four matching borders, and by weaving as drawn in. Weaving all wool yardage stresses planning for processing effects: weaving all linen directs one to learn its properties and needs. A variety of required weave structures are listed, including choices that use two shuttles or have an unbalanced sett.

### **Requirements for Level II** (See also general requirements for the program)

Submit a minimum of 10 articles, 1 yardage, 11 corresponding record sheets, two drawdowns in ink by hand, and an essay. Any article may be submitted for two requirements if it satisfies both. If a dobbie or computer assisted loom, or fly shuttle is used, so state, and include records for both standard loom (shafts, treadles, tie-up, treadling) and peg plan or pedal/sequence printout.

#### A. Technical Section

1. Minimum size 8 ½"x11" (one may be a belt option) with accessible selvages on the majority.
2. Record sheets must include weave structure, shafts needed, source of inspiration, function, reed size, sett, sley, width in the reed, warp length and content, weft content, tie-up, threading and treadling orders. Include yarn samples. More than basic information is encouraged.
3. The record sheet for at least one article must show the process by which you determined the warp length and how warp and weft amounts were determined.
4. Explain block weave; list at least 8 possible weave structures that can incorporate the concept.
5. Submit a woven article using block weave theory.
6. Submit an article woven in straight twill treadled as drawn in, and include a hand drawdown.
7. Submit an article woven in overshot, treadles as drawn in, and include a hand drawdown.
8. Design and submit an article that presents the same patterned border on all four (4) sides.
9. Submit 100% wool yardage, minimum finished size 21" wide by 1 yard long. State proposed use.
10. Submit article woven with linen for both warp and weft using more than four shafts.

A. Creative Section: Design and submit eight articles, each using a structure from the following list. Use traditional threading, tie-up, and treadling for each structure.

Warp faced with no weft visible (other than damask)  
Weft faced with no warp visible (other than tapestry or damask)  
Point Twill or extended point twill  
Bronson lace or spot  
Huck lace or Huck spot  
M's and O's

Shadow Weave  
Crackle  
Embroidery Weave  
Summer and Winter  
Damask or False Damask  
Honeycomb

### **Level III: Master**

The goal of Level III is that the weaver be able to create woven designs independently without assistance, and create original designs, threadings, tie-ups and treadlings. Woven samplers showcase the effects of different treadlings and tie-ups. Research will be done to understand a range of draft types. Variations of Double weave and rug techniques will be woven as well as a tapestry. A variety of fiber types and sizes ranging from fine to coarse will be experienced. Records should be complete in all facets, with all the information necessary for someone to duplicate your article. It is suggested that the weaver at this level try some structures they have not previously experienced. All designs and drafts should be original.

#### **Requirements for Level III** (See also: General Requirements for the program)

Submit a minimum of 12 articles, three samplers, 15 corresponding records, tapestry cartoon, and essay, and a drawdown (may be computer generated). The two articles of section A may be planned to also qualify for Section B. If a doobby or computer assisted loom or fly shuttle is used, so state, and include records for use on both the standard loom (shafts, tie-up, treadles, treadling) and the peg plan or pedal/sequence printout.

#### **A. Technical Section**

1. Write definitions for the following 6 terms related to drafting:  
PROFILE      BLOCK      NAME/CODED      TURNED/TIPPED      BLENDED      NETWORKED
2. Weave two samplers, each in a different weave structure requiring more than six shafts, with enough repeats to show the effect of the pattern and to be at least 10 inches wide after processing. On each, weave at least 12 different treadlings. The tie-up may be changed within the samplers. Record sheets should show all treadlings and tie-ups. Ends of the samplers should be secured (processing required).
3. Chose a treadling from each sampler and weave two articles each using one of those treadling.

#### **B. Creative Section:**

Design original drafts and weave 8 different articles, each 12" X 15" minimum after processing. Fiber for articles should range from fine (24 EPI minimum) to coarse, and include the following: (The record sheet for one of these must include a drawdown).

All cotton	All synthetic yarn	All novelty yarn	A combination of yarn types
All wool	All plied linen	All singles linen	Your own choice

#### **C. Special Techniques Section:**

1. RUG WEAVING: On four shafts, weave a sampler 8" or more wide, with samples 8" long using flat rug techniques for three samples, and knitted or looped pile for three samples.
2. DOUBLE WEAVE: Weave three separate articles, each 15" X 15" minimum in finished size:
  - a.. Double width fabric, in any fiber (finished minimum size 30" in width when opened).
  - b. An original design woven in a pick-up technique like Finn weave or Mexican method.
  - c. Double weave project of your choice.
3. TAPESTRY: Make a traditional weft faced tapestry using wool weft on a suitable warp, woven by hand (not loom controlled). The original design must include curves, diagonals, hatchings, and straight lines. Slits must be properly closed. Minimum 8" X 6". Submit cartoon, records.

## **Administration of the Master Weaver Certification Program**

Information about the Program is given in the new member's packet when joining the Guild, and is on file in the Guild library. The San Diego Guild website, <<http://www.sdcwg.org/programs.htm>> has a page listing all information for this program as well. A notebook of information for the mentor judges can also be found in the Guild library.

Fees occur to the participant for any purchase of official record sheets, duplicated copies beyond first set of program information and any mailing or shipping costs necessary for their participation.

The Guild President appoints the Chairperson to a yearly term; the only qualification required is Master level status. The duties of the Chair include: maintaining all records and forms; handling registration; updating forms; collecting submissions; presenting certificates; publicizing the program; announcing reminders of due dates and any changes in the requirements through the newsletter, web site, and at the Guild meetings; reporting as needed to the membership and Board; and keeping a record of expenses. The Chair shall answer any questions about the program and sell official record sheets.

A committee of those who have earned or have Master Certificate level of weaving knowledge and skills assists the Chair.

The Judges will be chosen by and known only to the Chair. Judges shall possess the knowledge and skills required of the Master level of certification and be guild members.

Judging: Three judges working independently rate submitted items anonymously. Check sheets and a notebook about the program are given to each judge to assure familiarity with the requirements and a common basis for evaluation. Judges are also to write comments on the strengths of submitted work, as well as any areas of weakness, and give suggestions for improvement and further growth. This information is passed on to the applicant with the author unidentified.

Anonymity: Work and records are identified only by the registration number. Assigned numbers, names of applicants and judges remain private outside the Chair's records.

Successful Submission of a Body of Work earns certification for the appropriate level. Notice that the work has been passed and judges comment pages are included with the returned work. The work must be submitted by the September meeting; the certificate will be awarded in December.

If any item(s) fails to pass the Evaluation, the applicant shall be encouraged to rework that item(s) and resubmit. Judges comments will help the weaver to understand which requirements were not met. Re-submissions are accepted at any September due date. For Level I, resubmit the body of work (four articles and four record sheets) with reworked item(s) substituted for any previously not accepted). For Levels II and III, resubmit reworked item(s) (as a group if more than one) and corresponding records only.

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