

MIRRIX TAPESTRY & BEAD LOOMS

The Kaleidoscope

WEDGE WEAVE

T A P E S T R Y

WRITTEN BY
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Project Overview

SECTION ONE

Supplies & Materials

- A Mirrix Loom: A Saffron Pocket Loom with an optional 14.5 rod or any classic series Mirrix Loom (except for the 5" Mini Mirrix) with an 8 dent warp coil or combs
- A Kaleidoscope Wedge Weave Tapestry Kit
- A good pair of scissors
- A measuring tape
- A beater (or fork)
- A tapestry needle
- Heddles (48 or 42 for the 8" Loom) (only if you are using the shedding device)

Project Details

Final Piece Size: 5.5" x 10" (*5" wide for the Saffron or 8" Looms. 9" long for a Saffron without a longer rod.*)

Sett: 8 EPI

Techniques

Wedge Weave

Project Description:

This tutorial will show you how to create a stunning, simple wedge weave tapestry. Experiment with the size of your shapes and placement of colors. Since this is most likely a new technique for you, be patient while you figure it out.

Wedge weave is an interesting technique initially developed by the people of the Navajo Nation. Since then it has been adopted by others with a lot of interesting variations. It is structurally different from other tapestry techniques because rather than weave horizontally, wedge weave is woven on the diagonal. This creates a distinctive appearance in that it creates scallops at the selvages.

Project Overview

SECTION ONE

Weaving this piece on a Saffron Pocket Loom:

If you are using the Saffron Pocket Loom whether you are using the regular or extended rod for this piece you will be weaving from comb to comb to make a four-selvedge tapestry.

Extend the top beam so that there is an inch and a half of threaded rod showing on top of the beam. This gives you the ability to increase the tension on the loom. As you weave, the tapestry will loosen slightly, so adding tension keeps the warp threads nice and tight.

One very useful trick when weaving from comb to comb is to, at some point near the top of the piece, stop weaving from the bottom up and weave from the top down. The reason for this is it's tricky to get those last rows in near the top comb. Using a thin tapestry needle works great for this.



Design

SECTION TWO

Let's talk a little bit about the design of this tapestry.

There are six distinct sections in this piece. We show you how to weave the first section and the beginning of the second section. The rest of the piece follows the exact same pattern.

You are welcome to follow our use of color or you can create your own color pattern. All the colors in this kit look great together.

We have listed all the colors that we use in each section below. Our stripes vary in width. Some are five full passes, some are more. You can change colors whenever you want.

Every section starts with a wedge created by weaving back and forth to the selvedge reducing one warp at a time. For the first section the wedge starts at warp 12. You will weave twelve full passes to create the wedge. This determines the height of the section. You can make your wedges bigger or smaller. In the second section we made the wedge slightly bigger by starting at warp 17. After you have woven the wedge, you will weave your wefts at a sharp angle rather than straight across.

Colors in order starting at the bottom:

Row 1 (left to right): Black, magenta, light purple, dark purple, bright blue, turquoise, lime green, dark green, yellow orange, dark brown.



Design

SECTION TWO

Row 2 (right to left): light brown, cream, black, gray, bright blue, dark purple, burgundy, magenta, black.



Row 3 (left to right): gray, cream, light brown, dark brown, yellow orange, dark green, lime green.



Row 4 (right to left): medium blue, bright blue, burgundy, black, gray, cream, black.



Row 5 (left to right): light brown, dark brown, light purple, medium blue, bright blue, dark green.



Row 6 (right to left): yellow orange, magenta, burgundy, dark purple, light purple, black.



Warping

SECTION THREE

Sett/Warp Coil: 8 EPI, 8 dent warp coil or comb

Number of Warp Threads: 48 for looms 12" and larger and 42 for the Saffron or 8" Looms

Loom Height: At least 16" (If you do not have the longer rod for the Saffron Loom, your piece will be slightly shorter.)

Warp your loom at 8 EPI 48 (or 42 for the Saffron or 8" Looms) warps wide. Use double warps at the selvages if you are not using a Saffron Loom, *Click the links below to access warping resources if you need them.*

Resources:

[How to warp a Mirrix Loom for tapestry](#)

[How to warp a Mirrix Saffron Pocket Loom](#)

[Balancing the warping bar](#)

Using a Shedding Device

This wedge weave piece can be woven on a loom with or without a [shedding device](#). The difference is: with a shedding device, you rotate and engage the shedding device to create one shed, and rotate in the opposite direct to make the second shed.If you are not using a shedding device you will pick the warps with your fingers or a needle.

Weaving Techniques: Wedge Weave

Resources:

[How to weave a header](#)

[Advancing your weaving](#)

[Preventing pulling-in](#)

[Starting and ending threads in tapestry](#)

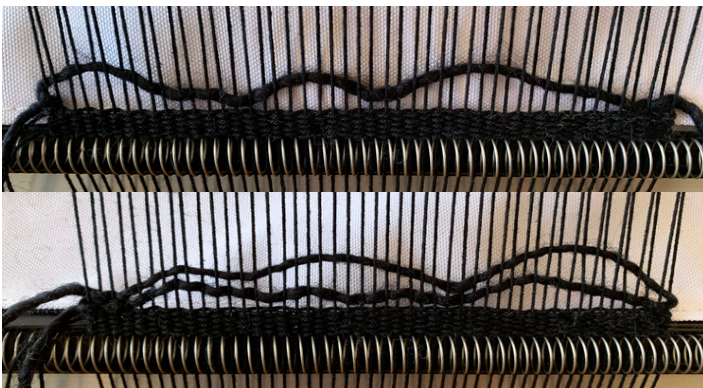
[Starting and ending a tapestry](#) (Soumak knotting, weaving a header, weaving a footer)

[Tapestry Definitions](#)

Begin weaving with a row of Soumak knotting and a header using your warp material. (Skip this part if you're weaving on a Saffron Loom.)

In all instances, insert your first weft going from left to right. Weave two rows (a full pass) of the black weft.

Remember, click the links under "resources" if you need help with some of the basics like starting and ending threads, soumak knotting or weaving a header.



Weaving Techniques: Wedge Weave

You will start this tapestry by weaving a wedge. This sets up the whole row.

Weave the black weft beginning from the left selvedge to warp twelve. This is the first row of the wedge.



To weave the rest of the wedge, weave back and forth to the left selvedge, decreasing one warp at a time. This wedge is the base for each of the six sections of this tapestry.



Weaving

Techniques:

Wedge Weave

When you have reached the left selvedge warp, wrap your weft around it and then weave down the triangle to the base, ending at one warp beyond where the tail began. You are beginning your wedge.



Weave back to the selvedge and end the weft.

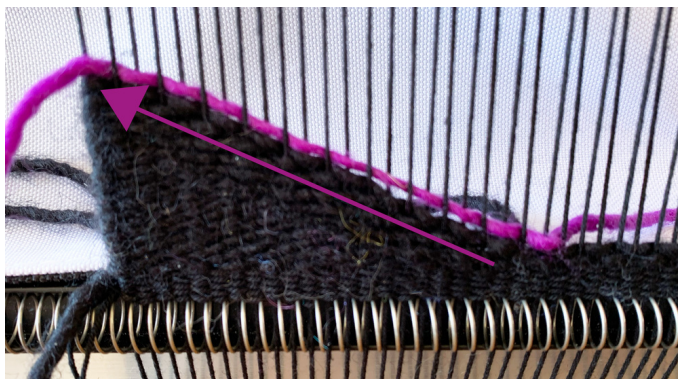


Weaving

SECTION FOUR

Techniques: Wedge Weave

Insert the tail of the magenta weft one warp to the right of the beginning of the black wedge in the opposite shed and head all the way to the left selvedge.



Weave the magenta weft to the right moving over one warp.



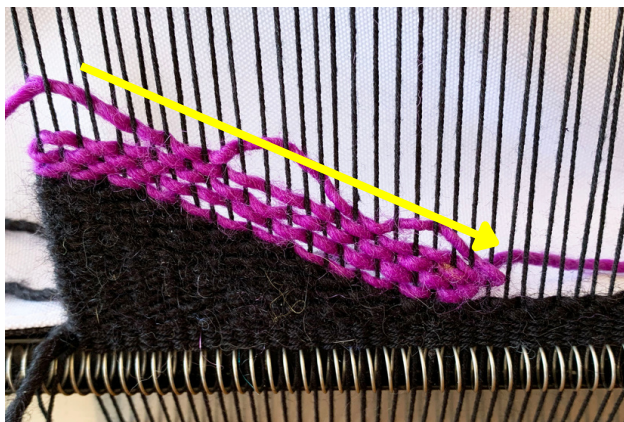
Weaving

SECTION FOUR

Techniques:

Wedge Weave

Weave the magenta weft back and forth at this angle, moving one warp to the right each time. Weave seven passes ending at the right.



Insert the light purple weft one warp to the right of where the magenta weft ended. Weave toward the left selvedge.



Weaving Techniques: Wedge Weave

The pattern is to insert all new wefts in this way.

Weave six or seven full passes of each color.



In our example, the sixth stripe reaches the right selvedge. All subsequent stripes will go to the right selvedge and decrease one or two warps on the left, eventually creating a straight edge on top.

The pattern we used for the decrease was:

Every three passes decrease by two instead of one. The reason for this is we have found that if you decrease by just one warp the line at the top of the section tends to get too high as you progress.



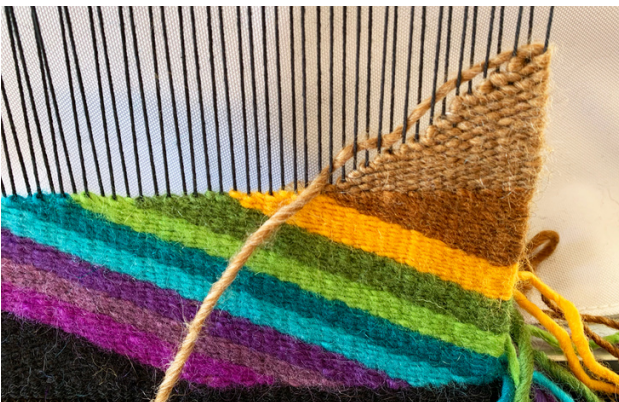
Weaving Techniques: Wedge Weave

Next, you will start a new section. You will start a new wedge on the same side that you ended the final weft of the previous section, which is on the right. Start a wedge the same way you began the black one, but on the right selvedge. You will now be weaving from right to left. We started 17 warps to the left of the right selvedge. Weave back to the right selvedge. Then weave to warp 16. Return to the right selvedge. Then weave to warp 16. Return to the right selvedge.



Continue this pattern until you have completed the wedge.

You will weave this decrease until you wrap around the final warp. Then weave straight down the hill. To do this, weave back to the right selvedge. Then weave to warp 16. Return to right selvedge.



Once the wedge is complete, start weaving over it as you did in the first section.

Weaving

Techniques:

Wedge Weave

SECTION FOUR

After weaving ten colors and completing the black final weft in the second section, we started with a gray wedge on the left in the third section, following the pattern from the first section (weaving left to right.)



You will repeat these same techniques for the next three sections for a total of six distinct sections.

We ended the last section with two full passes of black weft.

If you are not using a Saffron Loom, weave a footer ending with a row of soumak.



Finishing

SECTION FIVE

To finish your piece on a classic series Mirrix Loom, decrease the tension on the loom by turning the wing-nuts. Remove the warping rod. The piece will slip off the loom. Trim the loops at the ends of the warp threads. Turn the piece face down and either sew in the weft tails or trim them. Tie pairs of warp threads starting with one selvedge thread, then the next selvedge thread so the piece does not unravel. Do this for both ends. Then tie the rest of the warp ends. Fold down the header to the back and sew it down.

To finish your piece on a Saffron Loom, turn the wing-nuts to release the tension. Remove your piece from the loom. All selvages are finished except for two warp ends. If one of your warp ends was attached by a slip knot, just release the knot. Remove the knot from the tied warp. Sew the two ends into the back of the tapestry.



Resources:

[Finishing a four-selvedge tapestry on a Saffron Pocket Loom](#)

[The basics of finishing a tapestry](#)

[Starting and ending a tapestry](#)

Finishing

SECTION FIVE

What to do with your tapestry:

You can hang your tapestry by making a loop on the back that is an inch and a half below the top edge. The loop will be hidden when the tapestry is hung.

You can also easily turn a four selvedge weaving into a table runner. If you want to turn the piece with warp ends into a table runner, after you tie off the warp ends trim them to about an inch and a half.

If you have questions along the way, email claudia@mirrixlooms.com.

