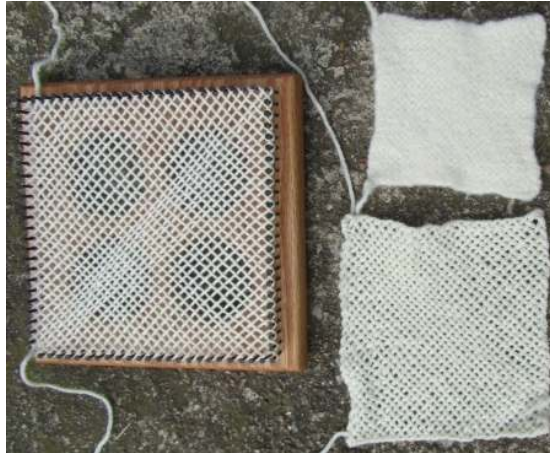


Embroidery Project Idea for MiniMod Looms

At our annual Weaver's Guild sale I saw a friend, Jenny Sennott, demonstrating weaving on our little Mini-Mod square. When I asked what kind of project she was working on, she brought out these exquisitely embroidered small squares. She weaves white wool squares, then throws them in the washing machine to felt them, then embroiders tiny flower scenes. She may tie them to a cord for "prayer flags." There are any number of possibilities here — like attaching them together for a vest or pillow top.



MiniMod Square, Woven, Felted



Four Embroidered Designs

Charlotte Kwon Natural Dye Workshop, hosted by Sara and Michael Barnett of Ancient Textiles in western up state New York. The workshop included: One-pot Dyeing, Fermented Fruit Indigo Pot, New Dye Items, Block Printing, Painting with Tannins, and Natural Dye Extracts.

Yes, Charlotte, and her daughter Sabina, kept us busy for the 5-day dye workshop this summer. I learned a lot — something new every day. Handout for the class was a 3-ring binder with 100 pages of dye recipes, dye articles, dye projects from around the world, and more. Dozens of various fabrics were used for different effects. The "**one-pot dyeing**" created 5 colors by dyeing 5 skeins the first color, then removing one skein before adding another dye to build the second color, and so forth. Osage orange for yellow, add marigold for gold, brazilwood for orange, lac for burgundy, then logwood for rich brown. We dyed with 14 different **natural dye extract** and extract blends on 4 types of silk and cotton fabric, 8 color combinations on cotton yarns, and the same colors over-dyed with Indigo. We explored **3 types of Indigo** vats, including lye/thiox, and fermented banana/calc for higher pH for cellulose fibers, and fermented pear & peach/calc for lower pH for protein fibers. We did a **tannin study** by painting one fourth of a cotton handkerchief with each of four tannins: Gallnut, Myrobalan, Pomegranate, and Cutch, all thickened with Guar Gum, to provide backgrounds for printing with *Ferrous acetate*. There were dozens of different carved blocks for exploring various **block printing** techniques. We explored various **ikat and shibori resist** techniques for Indigo dyeing. We used a natural plant mordant, **Sympocos**, as well as *Potassium alum* and *Alum acetate*.

Charlotte and Sabina have studied with and worked with various villages in India for 30 years, helping weavers and dyers develop skills and economic markets for their wares. Charlotte's dyework company, Maiwa Handprints Ltd, of Vancouver, Canada, offers supplies and workshops with renown international craftsmen. Check out www.maiwa.com for more information.

Banana/Indigo Recipe

Over-ripe bananas were used to reduce (remove the oxygen) from the Indigo vat. Calcium hydroxide (lime) combined to raise the pH for the indigo to work. Cook fruit in small amount of water, strain out pulp, add indigo to fruit juice, add half the calx. This starter, after it is balanced (bath looks green with dark blue "flower" on top), is then added to the vat of warm water, and the remaining calc is added to the vat and stirred gently. Sample amount proportions: 50 grams powdered indigo, 1 Kilogram over-ripe fruit, 30 grams lime (calx).