



# Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of NSW Inc

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## CERTIFICATION IN HAND WEAVING

### Introduction

In 2015 to encourage the pursuit of excellence in hand weaving, a certification program was established by the Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of NSW Inc (the Guild) based on the successful program run by the Guild of Canadian Weavers. Certificates are awarded to successful candidates at the Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Master levels. Candidates must be Guild members.

To maintain impartiality, candidates are identified by a number only. This number is issued by the registrar when you register for a certificate. Registration can be done at any time. Work must be submitted for assessment within three years of registration.

The completed samples and documentation, the current assessment fee must be delivered to the Guild rooms on, or before May 31. Basic, Intermediate and Advanced level tests are sent to one examiner. Master Weaver level tests will be assessed by at least two examiners. Examiners complete marking sheets with comments which are returned to the candidate with their samples.

The registrar reserves the right to request resubmission of one or more samples if the candidate has not understood the concept of the weave structure. Contact the registrar if you have any questions about the wording of the requirements. Join the Weavers Interest Group at the Group if you need further guidance.

### Marking Guidelines for Basic Certificate

A sample will be disqualified for one mistake in threading or sleying, or for two mistakes in treadling.

A total of ten marks will be given for each sample. A maximum of two marks may be deducted for each of the following:

#### *Technique*

- Incorrect warp sett or uneven warp tension
- Poorly woven edges
- Knots in warp or weft, poor joins or turn-ins of weft
- Uneven beat
- One mistake in treadling or lifting

#### *Design*

- Poor colour and/or design

#### *Finishing*

- Finishing not satisfactory
- Incorrect finished size/inadequate size details

#### *Documentation*

- Draft, drawdown, etc, not correct or poorly executed Incomplete record cards

Passing marks will be as follows: Basic test 65%

## General Directions for Candidates of Basic Weaving Certificate

*Woven samples/articles:* Candidates are encouraged to use a variety of setts and materials appropriate for the weave structures and functions of the articles. Quality materials should be used. The technique being demonstrated should fill most of the article. All submitted work must be the candidate's own, with no direct supervision or assistance from a teacher or other person.

*Finished Size:* Unless otherwise stated, the **minimum** size of all samples, after finishing (not including fringe), shall be 20cm by 25cm, or about 500 square cm and must include two visible selvages.

*Size details:* It is important to be able to weave to size, therefore it is necessary to record careful measurements of woven pieces to determine amount of take-up and shrinkage. Measurements should be taken:

- 1) with material on loom under tension
- 2) off the loom before finishing
- 3) after washing or steam pressing

*Threading and Sleying:* Threads must be entered in correct heddle and dent, and exactly follow the threading draft. Thread, reed and sleying must be suitable for the finished use as stated in the requirements, or by the candidate.

*Warp tension:* Poor weaving can be done on an evenly wound warp, but good weaving cannot be done on a poorly wound warp. Warp tension should be even across the entire width of the warp.

*Edges:* Selvages shall be even and visible, without weft loops or weft drawn in too tightly. Double-threaded edges are not acceptable (except in rugs).

*Knots, weft joins, turn-ins:* All weft joins should be neatly lapped or turned in to lie just inside the selvedge. Knots in either warp or weft are not acceptable.

*Beat:* The beat should be consistent and suitable for the stated finished use. A balanced or 50/50 cloth should have the same number of weft threads per centimetre as there are warp threads per centimetre. Unless stated otherwise, plain weave should be woven as a 50/50 weave.

*Colour and Design:* While the criteria for good colour and design are a personal choice, there are certain principles that should be observed on which judging may be based. Candidates should consider the elements and principles of design and colour theory, harmonies and interaction.

*Finishing:* Finishing means all processes used to bring the cloth to its final useable state:

1. washing, steam pressing, stretching as for tapestries, etc
2. hemming, knotting, hemstitching, braided warp ends, etc. All pieces should be carefully hand finished in keeping with the intended purpose. Visible machine stitching is not permitted, except if machine stitching of garments is appropriate.

*Record Sheets:* Record sheets should contain all pertinent information. Pertinent information means all the information necessary for another weaver to reproduce that particular textile. A sample of the record sheet is included. Full details covering each sample must be legibly entered on the record sheet. Record sheet and accompanying notes should be typed if possible but may be neatly printed. Each sample must be marked with the candidate's number and sample number.

*Complete Draft:* The complete draft must contain all the pertinent information and must show:

1. threading: at least two repeats of threading draft for small draft, or at least one and one quarter repeats of threading draft for long draft
2. tie-up

3. treadling/lifting sequence: at least two repeats of treadling/lifting draft for small draft, or at least one and one quarter repeats of treadling/lifting draft for long draft
4. drawdown of the interlacing threads

Basic drawdowns must be drawn by hand using black ink on squared paper. Legible computer drafts and drawdowns may be used only at Advanced and Master levels. Where tabby (plain weave) is used with a weave structure (eg overshot), tabby areas do not need to be included in the drawdown but must be indicated by stating "use tabby". However, the drawdown must include one of the tabby rows before the first pattern weft to indicate the order of the tabby.

*Accessory Weaving Equipment:* No computer or mechanically assisted looms, such as an automatic treadling device (dobby), a fly shuttle, an automatic advance, an automatic beater or a power loom may be used at the Basic level.

*Presentation:* Presentation is important. The samples and notes should arrive in the best condition. Typing is preferred. Record cards should be typed if possible but may be neatly printed. All samples and paperwork must be labeled with the candidates number.

*Terminology:* While every effort has been made to ensure these terms are understandable to all candidates, it is expected that candidates will research unfamiliar terms and techniques.

*Shipment of entry:* The entry should be packed in a sturdy container, as it may be mailed several times before being returned to the candidate. Put your name and address on a removable tag to mail materials to the Guild on the outside wrapper. Parcels must not be oversize.

NOTE: Entries will be accepted before May 31. Insure your parcel if you care to do so. Please notify the registrar at least one month before sending your parcel to allow time to arrange examiners. If you would like general advice as to whether your work is at the expected standard, contact the registrar to arrange a consultation before May.

Fees (as of January 2016) are as follows: Basic, \$75

Fees should be sent with the entry. Do not enclose cash. Make cheque or money order payable to "Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of NSW Inc" or pay by direct deposit to Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of NSW Inc, St George bank, BSB 112 879, Account 043707452. Include your family name and "assessment CHW basic".

## Suggested Reading

Black, Mary	<i>New Key to Weaving</i>
Chandler, Deborah	<i>Learning to Weave</i>
Davison, Marguerite Porter	<i>A Handweavers Pattern Book</i>
Dixon, Anne	<i>The Handweavers Pattern Directory</i>
Field, Anne	<i>The Ashford Book of Weaving Foundations of Weaving</i>
Field, Anne	<i>An Introduction to Weaving: the Four Shaft Table Loom</i>
Halsey, M and Youngmark, L	<i>Foundations of Weaving</i>
Tidball, Harriet	<i>The Weaver's Book</i>
Tod, Osma Gallinger	<i>The Joy of Handweaving</i>
Van der Hoogt, Madelyn	<i>The Complete Book of Drafting for Handweavers</i>
Handwoven magazines	

## **BASIC CERTIFICATE IN HAND WEAVING**

The purpose of this level is to understand basic weave structures on 4-shafts and to demonstrate good weaving skills. Originality is not required.

### **1. Plain Weave Colour Gamp**

- (a) Weave a colour gamp using the primary and secondary colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet. Make each colour 6.5cm in the reed, and weave the colours squared in the order in which they are threaded. This should be an exact 50/50 plain weave. Show the yarn colours by finishing with a fringe.

Fill in full details on record card.

### **2. Twill Gamp**

- (a) Weave a twill gamp using at least four different 4-shaft threadings listed below, each a minimum of 8cm wide (in the reed):

(i) Straight twill (ii) Point twill (iii) Broken twill (iv) Own choice

Use one colour for the warp and a different colour for the weft. Separate each section with four warp ends in a contrasting colour, threaded straight twill. Gamp should show each of the threadings woven as-drawn-in and four more treadlings/lifts of the candidate's choice. Each section should be a minimum 8cm long, separated with four shots of straight twill in the same contrasting colour used in the warp. For this balanced twill, the same smooth yarn must be used in the warp and weft, differing only by colour.

- (b) Make a complete draft (threading, tie-up, treadling/lift and thread-by thread drawdown) of the structure of the twill threadings when woven as-drawn-in.

Fill in full details on record card.

### **3. Double Weave**

- (a) Weave a 4-shaft double weave piece using smooth yarn in two colours, one colour for each layer, at least 20cm by 30cm. Demonstrate the following techniques:

(i) open two sides, exchanging top colours (ii) closed two sides (tubular)

(iii) open one side (double width)

- (b) Include threading, tie-up, and treadling/lifts.

Fill in full details on record card.

### **4. M's and O's or Rosepath**

- (a) Weave a baby blanket, baby shawl, scarf or stole, using a 4-shaft draft of M's and O's or Rosepath and include a decorative border. Use yarns in keeping with the design and function of the article being woven. State purpose of the article.

- (b) Include threading, tie-up, and treadling/lift drafts.

Fill in full details on record card.

### **5. Finger Manipulated Weaves**

- (a) Weave two samples using a cotton warp sett at 7 - 8 ends per cm. Aim for a 50/50 weave in the foundation. Slightly less will be acceptable, if an even beat is maintained throughout. Demonstrate the following techniques:

(i) Sample 1 to demonstrate each of these embroidery techniques: dukagång or half dukagång, boutoné and soumak.

(ii) Sample 2 to demonstrate each of these lace techniques: Leno weave, Brook's bouquet, Spanish lace and Danish medallion. With these weaves, the background areas may have to be built up to maintain an even beat. Show at least two variations of each lace technique.

(b) Fill in full details on record card. State source of technical information.

## **6. Overshot, as-drawn-in**

(a) Weave a 4-shaft overshot piece (i) **or** a sampler (ii).

(i) Using smooth yarns weave an overshot piece. Warp setting must be within 7 to 16 ends per cm. Weaving will be judged on correct choice of yarns, sleying, beating, and on candidate's ability to produce correct diagonals, to square all squares, and to weave circles neither elongated nor flattened. Weaving must show the same number of pattern shots to the block as are shown on the drawdown.

**OR**

(ii) Weave one sample of six treading variations on one overshot pattern threading. Possibilities include: polychrome, honeycomb, lain-in pattern, on-opposites, swivel, rose, star. Show the complete threading, tie-up and treading.

The drawdown is not required.

(b) Make a complete draft (threading, tie-up, treading and thread-by thread drawdown). Fill in full details on record card.

7. **Written work** may be either typewritten or handwritten.

(a) Describe in fair detail the following fibres: wool, silk, cotton, linen and a synthetic of your choice. For each fibre, include source, composition, characteristics (for example, absorbency, elasticity, luster, strength, shrinkage, affinity for dyes, etc), uses and count/size systems. (Written material not to exceed one page per fibre. Paragraph or point form is acceptable.)

(b) Describe plain weave, twill and two variations or derivatives of each.

RECORD SHEET

Candidate's # \_\_\_\_\_ Level \_\_\_\_\_ Sample # \_\_\_\_\_

Type of loom used \_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_

Weave structure \_\_\_\_\_ References/notes \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, show special arrangements of colour, novelty threads, denting, etc on separate sheet.

**Warp:** (attach a sample of each yarn used)

	Fibre	Count	Colour	Source
Samples	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

Width in reed: \_\_\_\_\_ Ends per in/cm \_\_\_\_\_ Total warp ends \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_  
Warp required \_\_\_\_\_ (yds/m) \_\_\_\_\_ (lbs/kg) Cost of warp materials used \_\_\_\_\_

**Sett:** \_\_\_\_\_ dents per inch/10cm \_\_\_\_\_ Ends per dent \_\_\_\_\_ Ends per heddle \_\_\_\_\_

**Threading:**

**Weft:** (attach a sample of each yarn used)

	Fibre	Count	Colour	Source
Samples	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
(tabby)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Picks per in/cm: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weft required \_\_\_\_\_ (yds/m) \_\_\_\_\_ (lbs/kg) Cost of weft materials used \_\_\_\_\_

**Beat:** Aim: 50/50 \_\_\_\_\_ Weft-faced \_\_\_\_\_ Warp-faced \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Treading/Lift:**

<b>Woven:</b>	On Loom	Off loom	After finishing	% Take-up and Shrinkage
Length	_____	_____	_____	_____
Width	_____	_____	_____	_____

**Finishing method:**

**Drawdown:**

**Comments/Analysis:**

(What worked well, what did not work as expected, what you use this weave for, etc)