

Creative Fibre Education

National Tutor: PK Maracin

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Biography

I have lived in beautiful Central Otago for over 15 years. I have been surrounded by and drawn to textiles my whole life – learning to sew at a very young age, then learning to knit as a young adult, and learning to weave as an older one. Compared to many others though, my previous life had very little to do with fibre arts. Although I sewed during all those years, my focus and adult corporate life were spent in the European film industry. In mid-2021 I decided to retire and refocus my life. It was time to broaden my textile horizon.

Many weavers frown on plain weave (PW) for beginner weavers. True, when learning to weave you often start with simple PW structures, especially if working with a rigid heddle loom. It is very exciting to perhaps move on to four shafts (and more) and start designing with twill structures as they give cloth the most wonderful feel and composition. But I truly enjoy PW and sometimes prefer it. To be able to master PW would be a true feat as it is about achieving a balanced cloth with aligned selvages. It has been written that only the best weavers were allowed to weave plain weave cloth in the studios of Old Europe.

I was honoured to have been awarded the Creative Fibre New Weaver Award in 2024, and the Mason Charitable Trust Scholarship in 2025. At the end of 2025 I travelled to West Bengal India to study with master artisans the complex art of Jamdani weaving. Jamdani is composed on a fine PW background with hand placed, non-continuous supplementary weft threads.



Workshops

| Page | Title | Level | Duration |
|------|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| P2 | Learn to Weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom | Beginner | 2 days (6 hours each) |
| P3 | Colour and Weave Gamp on a Rigid Heddle Loom | Intermediate | 7 hours |
| P4 | Using Pick-up Sticks on a Rigid Heddle Loom | Intermediate | 6 hours |



Creative Fibre Workshop

Learn to Weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom

Tutor: PK Maracin



Description

On the first day the students will be taught the fundamentals and prepare the rigid heddle loom for weaving, and the beginning of the scarf. The second day will be devoted to weaving and exploring some simple designs, as well as finishing techniques. A thorough instruction manual is included, and the tutor will guide through each step.

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| Available for | National, local/area, travelling tutor |
| Level | Beginner |
| Minimum No. of Participants | 4 |
| Maximum No. of Participants | 8 |
| Duration | Two days, 6 hours each On the first day the students will be taught the fundamentals and prepare the rigid heddle loom for weaving, and the begin of the scarf. The second day will be devoted to weaving and exploring some simple designs, as well as finishing techniques. A thorough instruction manual is included, and the tutor will guide through each step. |
| Learning Outcomes | The foundation of weaving, about different looms, the parts of the loom, differences in yarns, how to calculate project stats, how to warp, sley and prepare the loom for weaving, how to prepare the shuttle with wool, how to weave, how to control selvages, finishing both ends of the piece, simple design elements. At the end of the day each student will leave with a completed ca. 10" wide scarf from 100% New Zealand wool, ideas on the purchase of looms, books and online courses to further their journey. Thorough instruction manual included. |
| Materials Required by Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rigid heddle loom at least 12" wide, stand is preferable• 8 (7.5) dent reed• Two shuttles; warping peg; warp separators; sleying hook; darning needle; tape measure; small and large scissors |
| Materials Provided by Tutor | Looms, stands, weaving hardware can be supplied for up to six students if the class is being held in a drivable area from the tutor. |
| Materials Fee | ca. \$25 = all New Zealand wool will be supplied by the tutor |
| Advance Preparation | NA |
| Classroom Facilities | Each student will need a comfortable chair and table access (if not using a stand). A white board would be handy. |



Creative Fibre Workshop

Colour & Weave Gamp on a Rigid Heddle Loom

Tutor: PK Maracin



Description

Gamps are great for getting a lot of information out of one warp. Colour & Weave is pure magic. Weaving different sequences of dark and light and seeing the different patterns they create. A gamp is something you can fall back on for design inspiration any time in your weaving journey – and with any yarns desired.

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| Available for | National, local/area, travelling tutor |
| Level | Must understand the basics of rigid heddle loom weaving, warp and sley the loom, and read a draft. |
| Minimum No. of Participants | 5 |
| Maximum No. of Participants | 10 |
| Duration | 7 hours. In the morning the loom will be sleyed and prepared for weaving. Then weaving will begin on the gamp. After lunch, the gamp will be finished with a final hem stitch. |
| Learning Outcomes | <p>How to sley for colour and weave, hem stitching, weaving patterns, working with two shuttles, burying threads, creating a balanced weave, how to control selvages.</p> <p>At the end of the day each student will leave with a completed colour and weave gamp. Thorough instruction manual included.</p> |
| Materials Required by Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three cones of 8/4 Brassard cotton. This can be purchased in New Zealand or from overseas (online shop infos will be sent out). There will be ample left over for other projects, or for their fibre stash.• Three Shuttles• Tools needed for weaving: scissors, tapestry needle, measuring tape, sleying hook |
| Materials Provided by Tutor | The warping draft will be sent out prior to the workshop. If given enough time, cotton can be organised and pre-ordered by the tutor and sent to the students at cost. |
| Materials Fee | An explicit workshop manual will be handed out at the workshop for future study (\$5 cost). |
| Advance Preparation | Warped only RHL following the warp sequence draft (sleying will be done in the workshop). 10 dent reed. Minimum 16" weaving width. |
| Classroom Facilities | Each student will need a comfortable chair and table access (if not using a stand). A white board would be handy. |

As each student will be working with their own loom, and a long warp, after the finished gamp they can play at home if desired.



Creative Fibre Workshop

Using Pick-up Sticks on a Rigid Heddle Loom

Tutor: PK Maracin



Description

Pick-up sticks can be a game-changer for RHL weaving. These simple tools expand your loom's capabilities, allowing you to create intricate patterns beyond plain weave. Whether you're a beginner or looking to elevate your skills, this workshop will help you understand how to use pick-up sticks effectively.

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| Available for | National, local/area, travelling tutor |
| Level | Must understand the basics of rigid heddle loom weaving, warp and sley the loom, and read a draft. |
| Minimum No. of Participants | 5 |
| Maximum No. of Participants | 10 |
| Duration | 6 hours. Weaving will begin by hem stitching followed by a series of pick up patterns using one and two sticks. This is an open end workshop, so the students can continue at home. |
| Learning Outcomes | <p>Hem stitching, how to design for pick up stick patterns, how to place pick up sticks, working with 2 shuttles, burying threads, creating a balanced weave, how to control selvages</p> <p>At the end of the day each student will leave with a gamp of different pick up stick patterns. Thorough instruction manual included.</p> |
| Materials Required by Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two Pick Up sticks in the width suitable for the loom. The pick-up sticks need to be longer than the width of the project, or they won't hold the picked up threads. I can supply these if I know two weeks beforehand the size needed and the students can pay the tutor directly• Two+ Shuttles (if using more than 1 colour in the weft)• All other tools needed to weave eg. scissors, tapestry needle, measuring tape, etc |
| Materials Provided by Tutor | |
| Materials Fee | \$5 copying charge for info manual. |
| Advance Preparation | Dressed RHL in any fibre desired - preferably wool. Best is one colour in the warp, another in the weft (or a two-tone half and half situation). Weaving width is not important, though should be at least 10". |
| Classroom Facilities | Each student will need a comfortable chair and table access (if not using a stand). A white board would be handy. |

Note: If any of the same students are also attending the colour and weave gamp course (if so booked), they will either need 1) another warped loom, or 2) cut the gamp off their loom and redress their loom for this course. I do not think it would be suitable to use the gamp warp for the pick-up stick exercises as it will be too busy and not effective. Also, this course uses yarn for best definition of the pick-up patterns, and the C&W gamp uses cotton.