

WGGB Weaving Ratings Program

Objective

The Weaving Ratings Program is designed to encourage members to increase their knowledge of weaving as well as to show proficiency in basic, intermediate and advanced techniques. The program provides members with a structured study guide and sets standards for measuring progress as weaver and craftsman.

Program

The Program consists of four levels: Apprentice, Journeyman, Advanced Journeyman and Master. You are required to successfully complete **ALL requirements** of the prior level before applying for the next level. Work submitted for one level may not be submitted for the next level.

All work submitted must be done independently, and not under any kind of supervision such as in workshops, classes, or study groups. You are encouraged to study with others and take classes and workshops to learn and expand your skills, but the work done for these certifications **MUST** be done independently.

Evaluators will be selected by the Weaving Ratings Chair with the approval of the Board of the Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore. The Ratings Chair is responsible for making sure that items submitted meet the stated specifications, that they are correctly labeled, and that they are forwarded to the evaluators.

For Anyone Who Has Completed Prior Certification Levels

Guild members who have completed prior certification levels are encouraged to continue their study under the new system. All previous certifications are valid.

If you completed the Journeyman level before 2024, and wish to proceed to the Advanced Journeyman level, please speak with the Weaving Ratings Chair and note the steps described in the footnote below.¹

Eligibility Requirements

Members who desire to participate in the Weaving Ratings Program must notify the Weaving Ratings Chairman, in writing by email no later than the January 15 for submission of work by the first Tuesday in March. The email is certification@wggb.org.

¹ If you completed the Journeyman level before 2024, and wish to proceed to the Advanced Journeyman level, please speak with the Weaving Ratings Chair and note the following steps:

- Assemble your completed work under the pre-2024 Journeyman level.
- Compare woven items under the old J9 with the new Journeyman J-9 and Advanced Journeyman AJ-5 requirements. On the new requirements for both levels, cross off all items already completed under your pre-2024 Journeyman submission.
- As part of the Advanced Journeyman level, you must complete all the remaining uncrossed items, except for Shadow Weave. The Shadow Weave requirement is now AJ-6 in the new program. You will be required to complete AJ-6 even if you wove a Shadow Weave under the old J-9.
- Please consult with the WGGB Weaving Ratings Coordinator to confirm.

A non-refundable application fee of \$50 for each rating level is due upon submission of work.

Every requirement needs to be completed and submitted. An applicant, whose work is scored below points needed to pass, or whose work is not accepted, will be given the opportunity to resubmit their work within 60 days after receiving the evaluation. Alternatively, the applicant may reapply the following year with a new application and application fee.

Record sheets will be provided by the Weaving Ratings Chair.

Evaluation Guidelines

All work submitted will be evaluated based on the following:

- Mastery of technique
- Suitability of fiber to the technique
- Good design
- Effective use of color
- Even beating
- Even selvages
- Skill in finishing
- Intended use of fabric
- Specified minimum size (after finishing)
- Complete notes and drafts

General Information—Presentation of Written Work and Woven Items

1. Each candidate will be given an identification number. This number and the requirement letter and/or number are to be written on the top right-hand side of all written materials. No name is to appear on any written work or woven item.
2. All written work must be in ink unless otherwise specified. Word processing is encouraged. All work should be placed in folders (11 ¾ " x 9 5/8", or standard letter size file folder).
3. The FIRST folder will be included for the Evaluator's comments and evaluation of your work. Your number should appear on this folder. (You will submit this folder empty.)
4. A SECOND folder should contain the following in order:
 - a) Copy of the WGGB Weaving Ratings Program (pages 1-3, this document).
 - b) Copy of the Requirements pertaining to the Level being pursued
 - c) Copy of Suggested Resources
 - d) Blank copy of Record SheetAll items are found on the WGGB website: <https://wggb.org/certifications/>
 - f) Table of Contents – List of Folders, (listed by the requirement letter and number) of written work and the inventory of woven items with their corresponding record sheet and written material.
5. Each woven item, corresponding record sheet(s) and written work should be put in a separate file folder.

6. Each folder should be labeled both on the tab and the outside upper right corner with applicant number and item number and letter. The draft should be attached on the inside left and any written material attached on the right. Place sample inside folder, or if large, folded behind the folder.
7. All woven submissions should be labeled securely with your identification number and the corresponding item number and letter.
8. All references should be properly documented. References should show complete information: publication date, publisher, ISBN (if available).
9. Note the pattern source on the record sheet or designate if it is an original draft.
10. Present material in a suitable container for mailing.

Additional Specifics for Woven Items

1. All woven items must be at least 7" x 11" unless otherwise specified and must be properly finished. Larger items are acceptable if two selvages are visible. Measurement must not include fringe.
2. All visible stitching must be done by hand.
3. Knots in warp or weft will not be accepted.
4. Pillows are to be left unstuffed; zippers are not required.
5. Wall hangings must include their hanging devices.
6. Each woven item should have an appropriate hand for the intended use.
7. Weaving software may be used except where specified as not allowed.

Apprentice Weaver Requirements

See *General Information—Presentation of Written Work and Woven Items*, above, for additional specifications. Include a completed record sheet with each item.

In addition to the written work, 17 woven items are required. Weaving software may be used except for 3a, 4d, and 6a.

Written Work

A-1 Equipment

A-1.a. Describe briefly the function of the following parts of a floor loom: warp beam, cloth beam, breast beam, back beam, shafts, heddles, treadles, lamms, beater, reed, and brake.

A-1.b. Describe each of the following types of shedding mechanisms: rising shed, counterbalance, and countermarch.

A-2 Fibers

A-2.a. Describe the two classes of natural fibers.

A-2.b. Name and describe the characteristics and uses of three natural fibers for each of the two classes in A2.a.

A-3 Weave Structures

A-3.a. Using pen and graph paper, make a drawdown of each of the following: plain weave, twill, and two structural variations or derivatives of each, other than color and weave.

A-3.b. Describe a procedure for determining the approximate sett for balanced plain weave and for balanced twill.

A-4 Color and Design

A-4.a. Color Wheel: Create a 12 hue color wheel using yarn or fabric using the red, yellow, blue color system.

A-4.b. Explain why knowing about the color wheel is helpful in weaving, and how you would use a color wheel in your work.

A-4.c. Define the following: hue, value, chroma, primary color, secondary color, and tertiary color.

A-4.d. Create a draft using 2 hues other than black and white. Show the hues in both the threading and treadling. Do not use weaving software.

A-5 Project Planning

Determine the total weight of yarn required to weave 2 yards of balanced 2/2 twill fabric, with sett of 15 epi, using a yarn that measures 2100 yds/lb. The finished fabric should measure 36" wide. Assume 15% shrinkage. Show how you arrived at the weight of the yarn needed.

Woven Items

A-6 Handwoven Items

Create items that meet the requirements listed below.

A-6.a. Cotton warp threaded as overshot; pattern weft may be wool. Draft must be hand-drawn.

A-6.b. Linen warp and weft threaded in your choice of pattern.

A-6.c. Warp and weft of any fiber using color as the primary design element.

A-6.d. Warp and weft of any fiber in which structure is the primary design element.

A-7 Comparison of Unwashed and Finished Woolen Samples:

Using a woolen yarn that measures approximately 2000 yards/lb, prepare a 12 inch wide warp, with sett of 8 epi. Be sure to have sufficient length to weave 12 “hemstitched” samples. Threading is a straight draw. One of each pair will remain unwashed. Finish remaining samples by washing in warm water with mild soap. Agitate gently. Line dry and press. Compare and comment on differences between washed and unwashed samples as well as the changes in sett. Also, include in your comments a description of possible uses of fabric for each sample.

A-7.a. At 8 epi, weave 2 samples of 6 inches in plain weave and 2 samples of 6 inches in twill.

A-7.b. Resley to 12 epi, weave 2 samples of 6 inches in plain weave and 2 samples of 6 inches in twill.

A-7.c. Resley to 16 epi, weave 2 samples of 6 inches in plain weave and 2 samples of 6 inches in twill.

A-8 Balanced Plain Weave

Submit a one-yard length of a balanced plain weave in the fiber and width of your choice. Focus on even beating, even selvages and proper finishing. Include a complete record sheet.

Journeyman Weaver Requirements

See *General Information—Presentation of Written Work and Woven Items*, above, for additional specifications. Include a completed record sheet with each item. In addition to the written work, 13 woven items are required.

Written Work

J-1 Describe 3 basic classes of weaves.

J-2 Name and describe 4 different block weave structures.

J-3 Draw a profile draft for 8 shafts. Develop into a long threading draft.

J-4 Present a short explanation of the following color harmonies: monochromatic, analogous, complementary, split complementary and triad.

J-5 Describe at least 5 different ELEMENTS of DESIGN.

Woven Items

J-6 Submit a 2-yard length of wool fabric with a finished width of 24” to 28”.

J-7 Submit a pair of identical linen items with a minimum size of 12”x12”.

J-8 Design and weave one item with a loom-controlled pattern border, using the same pattern on all four sides.

J-9 Submit one item of each of the nine weave structures/techniques listed below. All items must be woven on 4 or more shafts.

J-9.a. Warp faced - no weft showing

J-9.f. Honeycomb

J-9.b. Weft faced - no warp showing

J-9.g. Overshot

J-9.c. Point twill or extended point twill

J-9.h. M's and O's

J-9.d. Bronson-lace or spot Bronson

J-9.i. Huck or huck lace

J-9.e. Summer and Winter

Advanced Journeyman Weaver Requirements²

See *General Information—Presentation of Written Work and Woven Items*, above, for additional specifications. Include a completed record sheet with each item. In addition to the written work, 10 woven items are required.

Written Work

AJ-1 Describe inkle weaving, card weaving, sprang, twining, netting and plaiting.

AJ-2 Select a well-known weaver and describe his/her work and the significance of his/her contribution to the craft of handweaving.

AJ-3 Analyze a piece of commercial fabric selected by the Ratings Program Chairman. Make a draw-down showing threading, treadling and tie-up.

AJ-4 Color Interaction

Using any medium, give examples of how colors affect each other.

AJ-4.a. Value Change: Take 2 squares having a medium value and identical hue. Place one square on a very light value background and the other square on a very dark value background. Compare and explain what happens visually to the identical squares against the different backgrounds.

AJ-4.b. Take a square of a secondary hue and place it on three different primary backgrounds. Explain what happens to the hue of the secondary in terms of brighter, duller, lighter, darker, warmer and cooler.

Woven Items

AJ-5 Submit one item in each of the 5 following weave structures/techniques.

AJ-5.a. Crackle

AJ-5.b. Damask or false damask

AJ-5.c. Beiderwand

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- Compare woven items under the old J9 with the new Journeyman J-9 and Advanced Journeyman AJ-5 requirements. On the new requirements for both levels, cross off all items already completed under your pre-2024 Journeyman submission.
- In order to proceed with the Advanced Journeyman level, you must complete all the remaining uncrossed items, except for Shadow weave, in the new Journeyman and Advanced Journeyman levels. Shadow weave in the old J-9.j is not woven until AJ-6 in the new program. You will be required to complete AJ-6 even if you wove a shadow weave item under the old J-9.
- Please consult with the WGGB Weaving Ratings Coordinator to confirm.

AJ-5.d. Hand manipulated lace weaves (include at least 2 different lace weaves in your item)

AJ-5.e. Embroidery weaves such as laid in, brocade, loopweave (include at least 2 different embroidery weaves in your items).

AJ-6 Shadow Weave

AJ-6a. Research and show/describe the two different drafting methods of Shadow Weave

AJ-6b. Weave a gamp with 5 different shadow weave threadings placed side by side in one warp. Separate the different threadings with a two-thread stripe, in warp and weft. Each threading should be a minimum of 4 inches wide. Weave each threading as drawn in. Provide a complete draft for one of the treadlings, showing the effect on all threadings. This woven item should be at least 20 x 20 inches.

AJ-7 Original Textiles

Design and weave 4 original items using a different size yarn for each item. Three must be woven on more than four shafts. Select a different fiber or fibers for each item from the list below.

AJ-7.a. All silk

AJ-7.b. All singles yarn

AJ-7.c. Novelty yarn as the dominant yarn (more than 50%)

AJ-7.d. A combination of yarns

Master Weaver Requirements

See *General Information—Presentation of Written Work and Woven Items*, above, for additional specifications. Include a completed record sheet with each item. In addition to the written work, 7 woven items are required.

M-1 Tapestry Techniques

Design and weave a tapestry that incorporates hand-manipulated tapestry techniques. Include in your design: curves, diagonals, hatching and straight lines. You may also include cross stripes, spots, soumak and loops based on Ghiordes knots. Submit your cartoon/drawing/sketch with your tapestry. The cartoon woven part of your tapestry should measure 12 x 12 inches. Use proper rug finishing on warp ends. Overhand knots alone will not be accepted.

M-2 Rug – Loom-controlled

Design and weave a rug of at least 6 square feet on three or more shafts using loom-controlled techniques. Weaving structure and fibers chosen by the weaver. Use proper rug finishing on warp ends, different from those used in M-1. Overhand knots alone will not be accepted..

M-3 Echo or Jin (also known as Turned Taqueté)

Design and weave a scarf that uses parallel threading and echo or jin techniques. The scarf should be minimum 8 inches wide by 60 inches long and may be finished using any end-finishing techniques selected by the weaver.

M-4 Multiple Layers

Design and weave 3 items using:

M-4.a. Double-width fabric in wool, any color or texture. Finished width should be at least 40 inches wide by 1 yard in length.

M-4.b. Pick-up Double Weave technique

M-4.c. Loom-controlled stitched double cloth (layers attached at intervals).

M-5 MAJOR WORK

Create an original woven textile that shows mastery of design and execution. This major work should reflect what you have learned over the course of your studies. It should be the best work you can accomplish and should demonstrate expertise in weaving technique, design, use of color, and finishing. In addition to your record sheet, additional written work should accompany the weaving and should include at least the following:

- The research you did in designing and planning this textile.
- What inspired this textile, including choice of structure, color, and design.
- Which design elements and principles you applied.
- What you learned during the course of designing and executing this weaving.

The written work, the photographed textile, and the actual woven item should be ready to present to the guild during one of our programs and/or to submit to a weaving journal for publication.

WEAVING RATINGS PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

1. **DRAFT** - A draft represents a weaving plan shown on graph paper. It includes a threading, tie-up, treadling and drawdown. Drafts should employ standard symbols. The draft should show two repeats of threading and treadling.
2. **DRAWDOWN** - A graphic representation of the cloth (interlacement of warp and weft). The interlacement will be shown as a warp drawdown where black squares will represent the warp passing over the weft and white squares will represent the weft passing over the warp.
3. **ELEMENTS OF DESIGN** - Examples of Elements of design include line, space, shape, form, texture, and color.
4. **FINISHED ITEM** - the woven piece that has been hemmed, washed, pressed, and/or submitted to any other procedures necessary to make it complete and have a function, such as a scarf.
5. **GAMP**: A series of weaving variations resulting from equal sections threaded in different arrangements and each of these sections then woven as drawn in.
6. **HAND** - The feel of the cloth as it relates to the function for which it was woven.
7. **ORIGINALITY** - Your interpretation of a weave. For example, in a Summer and Winter project, your choice of material, color, sett, number of repeats per block, and function make the work original. Copying exactly the instructions in a book, workshop or other source is not original.
8. **PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN** - Examples include proportion, emphasis, rhythm, balance and harmony.
9. **PROFILE DRAFT** - A short form of a draft where black squares in the profile threading and treadling represent groups of warp ends and groups of weft picks.