

Cloth to Cloth(2) Workshop

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Quilt Weaving Introduction



Quilt weaving has no particular history. I have spotted it here and there in the past and never really thought much of it until a few years ago. I guess it is my knowledge of weaving combined with my feel for fabric that attracted me to the potential of the process. I just felt it could become more. I wanted to put some spirit into the thing.



One of my first large spirit cloths was constructed using this process. The cloth was a gift for my son's friend who had hired him to design and build a tree house (later [featured in Domino magazine](#)). Impressed with the project, I was inspired to make a housewarming gift. Something earthy and primitive in style. A story about getting back to the forest. In order to coordinate with the completion date, I needed to put together a quick a "canvas" to work the story on. And so I asked myself, **what if i weave it ?**



This woven piece was really an experiment and quite a challenge. The quilt was a huge project in all hand over-dyed linen, and was actually constructed on the floor and painstakingly table basted.



It literally took weeks just to stitch the base together. There are some more photos [here](#)... if you haven't already seen them. The result was astonishing in texture and appearance. The feel of the quilt was really quite different from anything I had ever done. Yet, it was functional and pleasing as a blanket. It was ragged yet sturdy, layered and warm. It was machine (or stream, ha!) washable. And a perfect canvas for story cloth.

Since then I have focused my efforts toward expanding the construction techniques for weaving cloth strips, working with a component method based on block design. By working smaller it is easier to innovate as well as handle the woven construction. The components can be handled much like ordinary patchwork blocks and can be used as small quilt bases or combined into larger works.



My concept was officially released in an article for Art Quilting Studio earlier this year after I had mentioned it in Quilting Arts Magazine a while back. Although I have used the technique here and there in my work, it is only recently that I have concentrated on it almost exclusively. The article (available as a separate pdf) generally expresses my initial delight in the technique.



In general, I like quilt weaving because:

- it is a quick and easy way to recycle scrap fabric
- it is a quick method to create a quilt base
- it can be done by hand or machine or a combination
- the resulting cloth has a wonderful softness and drape
- the weaving patterns are very much reminiscent of patchwork
- the method has many applications, from artistic to functional
- the texture is out of this world

and more specifically...

- it is an expression of the nature of fabric on many levels and it speaks to me like no other technique
- it is a nice base cloth for artistic embellishment which fits perfectly into the basic premise of my style, the quilt as a canvas

This course will simply document what i know about this technique based on my experience so far. I will discuss and demonstrate the different basic ways I use to create and embellish cloth using this method. Some of you have already experimented on your own. Feel free to add comments about your own experience... and ask questions about mine. I hope this will simply be an interactive forum and we might all learn something new by getting together. Let's do it.



Note: There is a new article currently running in the latest issue of Quilting Arts Magazine, discussing this technique. ...