

My Precious

MEMORY WALL HANGER TUTORIAL

WORDS AND PICTURES BY **INEKE DE BROUWER** OF TRICKY THREAD

In the Netherlands spring will soon arrive. The air is full of hopeful expectations, initiatives and the urge to tidy up! This 'how-to' gives directions for making a wall hanger on which small valuables and mementos can be exhibited. The purpose of this wall hanger is that your sweet little things are no longer lying around in drawers and boxes, but can be displayed in a beautiful spot in sight.

In my example piece, these are precious things like souvenirs of unforgettable journeys, a drop spindle from Peru, porcupine quill from Africa, my grandfather's house key and the spinning top that my father used to play with 80 years ago.

The wall hanger is made with a combination of rigid heddle-and backstrap weaving. The wall hanger gets an extra personal touch by weaving pieces of lace of a baptism or wedding dress, upholstery of a crib or other strips of textile in the project. The 'My precious' wall hanger can be woven with all kinds of yarns and colours. In this design, lots of leftovers and experimental yarns can be used.

While creating this wall hanger you can let your creativity flow and immerse yourself in reflections on your precious past moments.

YOU WILL NEED:

The thickness of the yarn you use as your warp depends on the dpi (dent size - the width of the gaps) of the heddle you choose. There are different heddles for sale. It is also possible to make a heddle yourself from separate segments.

This composition is in plain weave, meaning the threads interlace in an alternating order of 1 up and 1 down. The wall hanger can also be made without a heddle, with the help of weaving needle and a coarsely toothed comb or fork.

The requirements and quantities in this instruction are based on a wall hanger of 110 cm x 14 cm (43x5.5 inch). Using a 20/10 (5 dent) heddle





You should have:

- Heddle 5 dpi 20/10
- Warping peg and clamp or just a standard clamp
- Wooden beam with two holes 45 cm/17 inch
- Cord to attach lath to the body
- Shuttle(s)
- Warp 12 threads of 3 meters/118 inch in length. Bulky yarn (7/8 wpi)
- Optional: pick up stick

Start making this wall hanging by collecting yarns, lace, and memorabilia. Search for a nicely shaped twig in the forest, garden or beach to attach the object to the wall.

Arrange everything together and see if this assortment of yarns, items, colours and textures form an attractive collection.



Take time for this step in the process it will benefit the end result!

Settle down with a cup of tea and oversee your collection of yarns and beloved objects. Do they fit together? Do you like the colour scheme? If not, change, add and remove, until you are satisfied.

Attach the threads folded double with a loop around the beam .One by one. So you get 24 warp threads.

Pull the threads through the heddle. By letting them alternate through a hole and a slot all the way across. Grab all threads together and make slipknot at the loose end. Finger crochet a chain of the warp, about 5 to 6 loops

Attach the peg via clamp to a table.

Slide the slipknot over the peg.

There must be tension on the warp during weaving. The tension is put on the yarn with the help of your body. Attach the cord to the beam. Push the beam against your stomach and tie the cord behind your back.

By leaning back a little, you create tension on the warp ready to weave.



In plain weave, the warp and weft are aligned so they form a simple criss-cross pattern. (Image 1). Each weft (cross horizontal thread) crosses the warp (vertical threads) by going over one, then under the next, and so on. (Under/over repeats) When you make your next 'row' you need to be sure to go over the weft you went under on the previous row, and under the one you went over.



Use the shuttle to weave the weft under and over the warp. Choose the colour you want to have at the top of the wall hanger and wind about 250 cm (2 yards) around the shuttle, depending on the thickness of your yarn.

Start weaving by lifting the heddle and passing the shuttle left to right through the shed (the gap between the top and bottom warp threads that is created when you raise or lower the heddle: Image 2). Take your warp thread all the way across.



Do not pull the weft thread too tight, leave it on an angle, (image 3) then gently push the thread into place with the heddle so it is sitting straight and horizontal. (Image 4)

Change the heddle to the down position by pushing the heddle downwards. Pass the shuttle through the shed from right to left. Gently push the thread into place with the heddle. Keep repeating this movement until the yarn runs out.



You can **change colour** by weaving the end of your previous yarn into the warp. Load up your shuttle with colour 2 and start that about 2.5cm (1inch) before your last colour ended and then keep weaving, Your ends are already woven into the cloth this way. If you do not want a mid-row colour change you can finish and start at the side, leaving a tail of yarn out to weave in at the end.

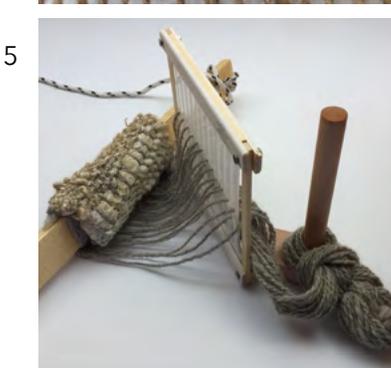
Weave until the project is too long to be able to work comfortably. Loosen the cord on your back. Roll your weaving around the beam. And tie the cord behind your back again. (Image 5)



Continue weaving this way, adding in your different yarns and materials at any point. By using multiple yarns spun in different ways, colour and texture can be added.

Cut strips of fabric of 2 cm/ 0.78 inch width and weave them as yarn. Lace can be woven with some extra loops, so that it can be shaped after weaving.

Adding beads is not complicated. Thread the beads and pull the thread under the warp. Divide the beads and secure them by pulling the thread the warp between the beads. (Image 6)



During weaving it is possible to create extra texture by making loops in the yarn, using a pick up stick up or a pencil to pull up the weft yarn up between the spaces in the warp. These loops also come in handy to attach objects to your weaving. (Image 7)

Weave until you are almost at the end of your warp. The creation may now be removed from the peg. Finish off the threads with knots, hemstitch or fringe.

It is also beautiful to needle felt some curls along the bottom edge. The Lincoln curls are fixed with a felt needle. Pushing down the curls with a shuttle helps to keep your fingers intact! (Image 8)

The beam can now be replaced with a beautiful tree branch. The easiest way is to simply cut off the thread from the beam and tie it to the branch.

Finally, the collected treasures can be attached. Use glue, thread, staples old-fashioned paperclips etc, you can use whatever is available for the object you want to attach. Take care that your beloved little things are stuck to both the warp and the weft. This is important to prevent the weaving from sagging.

In my house my hanging has found a space in the hallway. I walk past it a few times a day. Every time I pass by, my eyes catch a beloved gem, which automatically takes me to a cherished memory.

"Things we lose have a way of coming back to us in the end, if not always in the way we expect." (JK Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*)



6



7



8

INSTRUCTION FOR MAKING YOUR OWN HEDDLE.

Supplies and tools:

Reed segments (3 x 4DPI Majacraft)

Wood pieces - rounded edge: 80 cm (31.4in) long, 2 cm (0.78in) wide, 0.3 cm (0.11in) thick. 4 pieces of 20 cm (7.8in)

Wood pieces straight edges: 66 cm (25.9in) long, 1 cm (0.39in) wide, 0.3 cm (0.11in) thick. 2 pieces of 17 cm (6.6in) and 2 piece of 16 cm (6.2in)

4 screws with nuts 2,5 x 0,3 cm (0.98x0.09in)

Wood glue, Drill 0,3 cm, Clamps, Screwdriver, Wrench, Saw, Sandpaper.

Glue the 17 cm wood pieces with the right corners on the pieces with rounded

corners. Stay 1.5 away from the edge. Make sure that the edges are even on the glued side.

Glue the other slat on in the same way, leaving room for the segments to slide in.

Do the same with the remaining pieces. Clamp both holders with a glue clamp. Pay attention! do not glue together. Let it dry.

Slide the reed segments between the holders.

Drill a hole at all four corners. Attach the screws and bolts Do not tighten too tightly. Open one side again and slide the segments into the holders. Tighten the screws and bolts securely.

