

MAKERS MANUAL #54

Studio Nicky Vollebregt

HANDWOVEN WELCOME MAT



BIO OF THE DESIGNER

Nicky Vollebregt is a hands-on textile, object and product designer fascinated by technique, material and texture. Her exploration of crafts and textile techniques guides her in finding new shapes and surfaces. While challenging the possibilities and limits of different making techniques, she explores structure, colour and pattern. Studio Nicky Vollebregt is based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

LIST OF THINGS

MATERIALS

– Sheets of scrap material (e.g. fabric, vinyl flooring, yoga mats, paper, etc)

NOTE: Your material should be flexible, not too thick (max 3mm), and not fray much when cutting it.

Keep in mind that to make a tapestry, you will need double the area of material.

TOOLS

- Pair of sharp scissors
- Pencil/pen/fabric chalk
- Ruler
- Something to connect materials together (e.g. needle & thread, sewing machine, tape, etc)

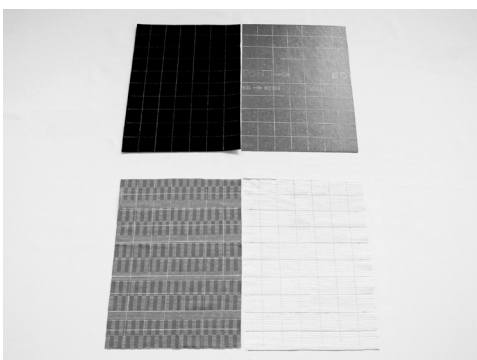
INTRODUCTION

In this manual you will explore a fun and simple technique of weaving together scrap sheet materials, creating unique patterns and textures. Following the steps, you will design your own weaving strips and use these to create a one-of-a-kind woven structure. In this manual, we use a welcome mat as an example. However, you can use the same technique to create tapestries, carpets or artworks to hang from a wall.

In this manual, we have used scrap vinyl flooring, an old woven placemat, an old tea towel and a scrap sheet of felt.

STEP 1

Arrange four sheets as pictured below. The top half of the sheets will be the weft (the horizontal strips in our tapestry) and the bottom half will be our warp (the vertical strips in our tapestry).



2

STEP 2

Flip your sheets over. Using the ruler and something to draw with, create a grid of 4x4 cm squares on all of your sheets. On every sheet, you should have an even amount of squares, both vertically and horizontally. If you have an odd number and/or some extra centimetres on the side of your sheet, cut these off.

STEP 3

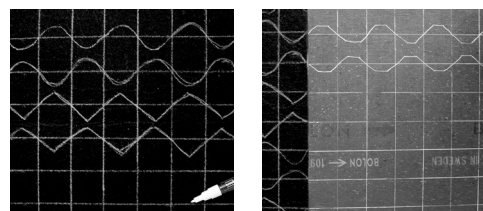
Using the grid as your guideline, design your strips. Place your drawing tool at the top left horizontal line on your first weft sheet. Following this horizontal line, draw your first squiggle line, going down first and then up, making sure you cross the horizontal line at every grid intersection.

For the second horizontal line, draw the same line as above, but make this line a mirror of the line above. It is important that your squiggle lines never touch or cross each other (try keep at least 1cm distance).

For the third line, draw a squiggle in

the same direction as the first line. For the fourth, follow the direction of the second line. Repeat this until you are at the bottom of your sheet.

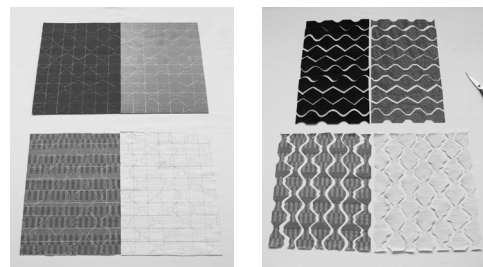
Taking your second weft sheet, continue the squiggles from the first sheet onto this second sheet.



3

STEP 4

For the warp sheets, repeat the steps you did for the weft, but draw your squiggly lines vertically instead. Start at the top of the first line, going left first and then right, crossing the vertical line at every grid intersection. Repeat this for both of your warp sheets.



4

5

STEP 5

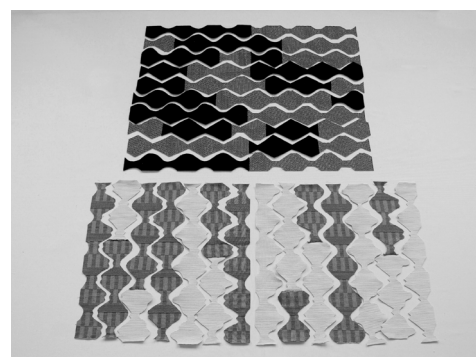
After you have finished all sheets, cut the strips along your squiggly lines. You should end up with strips that are wide-narrow-wide-narrow-wide-narrow, and so on. While cutting, keep your sections organised and lay them out as shown in the image above, with the front facing up.

STEP 6

You will now need to connect the weft strips together (the top two sheets) in order to make them long enough to weave with. You

can connect these to each other as they are laid out, or you can also choose to mix it up, cutting and matching strips to each other that aren't laid out next to each other. Make sure any cuts you make are along the gridlines. All strips should still end up wide-narrow-wide-narrow-wide-narrow etc, and the same lengths.

For the weft strips (bottom), we do not need to connect strips together to make them longer, but you can mix it up and cut and combine some if you want (as we've shown).

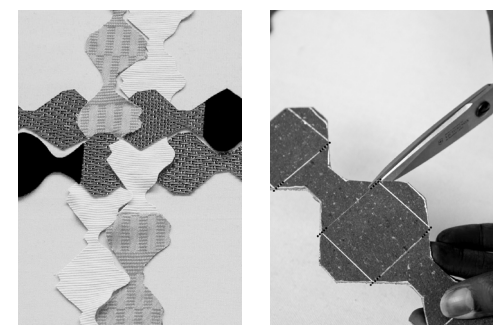


6

NOTE: Connecting the strips together might require different techniques depending on the material you use. Textiles are best mended with needle and thread and a zig-zag stitch. Paper can be taped on the back.

STEP 7

Now it's time to start weaving your tapestry! Create a cross of two strips as shown in image 7, with each strip overlapping another. The narrow part of the strip should always be covered by the wide part of the crossing strip.



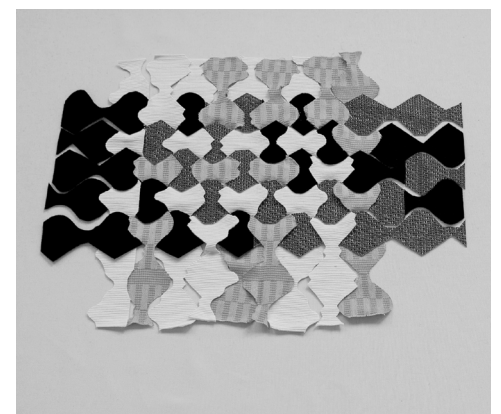
7

NOTE: If you are using a stiffer material like vinyl, add a little cut on each side of the grid lines to make the weaving process easier.

STEP 8

Working around the cross, keep weaving in new strips until you have woven them all in. Make sure the horizontal and vertical strips remain parallel to each other in order to maintain straight edges.

NOTE: If you've chosen to mix up your strips, you might need to flip them to make them fit.



8

STEP 9

Depending on your material and shapes, you may need to fix the edges of your tapestry. Add cross stitches to the corners and edges of the tapestry, or apply tape to the back of the outer strips.

