

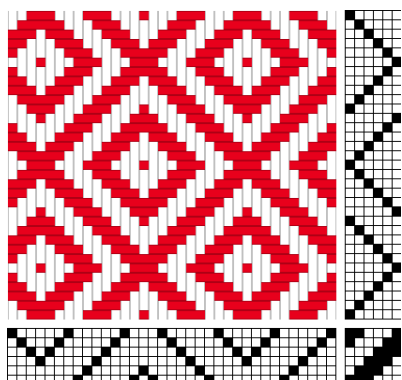
## A table cloth for the Stormansgården's chamber

It is very common to find white linen cloths in pictures from the Middle ages. They may be positioned at the dinner table, on the altar, as towels besides washing utensils, or across a servant's shoulder. Some have ornaments only at the ends and some have narrow stripes across the middle. On all pictures where the design or the structure can be distinguished, you often find a diagonal pattern, woven in a lozenge twill.

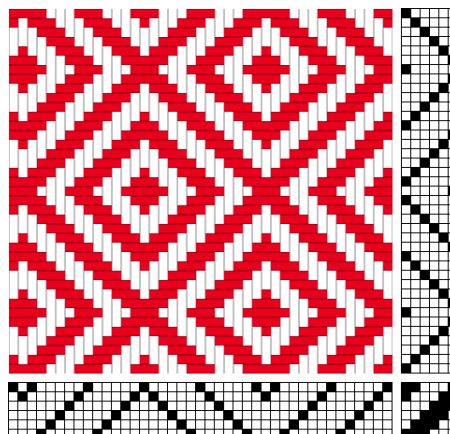
This year's weaving for Stormansgården's chamber at the Bornholm Middle Age Centre is a long linen cloth, aimed for the large chest which is 60 cm wide. On pictures, it is common that the cloth does not cover the whole table or chest. My cloth is 50 cm wide and for the cloth to reach all way down to the floor it had to be made 3 m long.



My design took as a starting point the picture of *St Martin at the Altar* in Capella di San Martino in the church of San Francesco in Assisi. (Simone Martini, c 1280 - 1344.)



Skælsør's church



My weave

The cloth is woven in a goose-eye pattern, a lozenge twill. To emphasize the diagonal lines I chose a twill based on six shafts. In the church in Skælsør there is a preserved linen textile with a six shafts twill. The textile is glued to the backside of the altarpiece, and is dated to the 15th century. I have chosen to make the repeats a few threads wider to obtain agreement with what I can see from my picture of the cloth in Assisi.

The cloth has the same broad stripes as in the picture, with five narrow stripes in the middle part.

I decided to use linen 16/1 and tested both 16,5 ends/cm and 18 ends/cm, of which the later worked best for the project.

All cloths and towels on pictures have fringes, so these as well, made from 5 + 5 threads. After weaving, the cloth is washed and smoothed.

A smoothing stone was used to flat the cloth and make it shining. Several of these stones have been preserved from the Viking era and used up until today. My stone is made from modern glass after a Viking age stone at the museum of Gotland. Scandinavian Weaving Magazine 3/2007 contains several articles on how to flat iron linen cloth with smoothing stones. Today's practice is to use a very heavy iron, which I also used for my cloth.



In addition to the large linen cloth I also made a shorter table cloth at 1.5 m with broad stripes but without fringes. And a set of napkins with narrow individual stripes – facilitating finding ones-own napkin.