



Striped blankets from manuscripts.

In my yarn shelves there was a lot of grey yarn suitable for blankets – light, middle and dark grey, woollen 6/2 from a project never fulfilled. And also 500 g yarn of different colours left from another project. Something must be done with all this! I decided to weave large striped blankets from paintings in medieval manuscripts.

The challenge was: Any yarn should not be bought for this project.

With stripes in the weft you can weave different blankets in the same warp. That's the point. You can find many of this kind in the manuscripts. Thanks to Annie for gathering all the pictures for your own first weaving project.

The yarn I had would be efficient for four large blankets in 2/2 kipper. For the warp I used the middle grey yarn. In many pictures you can see decoration lines of dots. When threading on 8 shafts I could lay in dots going over 4 and under 4 threads. It is also possible to weave a chevron twill and lozenge twill, as I did in the fourth blanket.

There was a lot of calculating for the coloured yarn amount to last. I had a good help from WeavePoint and adjusted the proportions to the manuscript paintings and the yarn supply.

I wanted to weave big blankets, and after wet finishing, tumbling and treated with steam they are ca 135 x 215 cm

Blanket 1



Death of Mary Tempera painting wood ; Furniture sacral ; Winged Altar ; by "Habsburgischer Hofmaler" ; Vienna ; 1370 ; 1372 ; Innsbruck ; Austria ; Tyrolia ; "Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum Leihgabe Stift Wilten.

First I thought the bottom to be light gray, but in the yarn shelf there was 500 g of rose-coloured yarn. More alike the picture and as much I needed for the bottom parts.

The white narrow stripes are small dots.



Blanket 2



Left: Paris, Bibl. Sainte-Geneviève, ms. 0022, f. 165V



Right: Fauvel's wedding, Roman de Fauvel (BNF Fr. 146, fol. 34), c. 1320.

I have found several pictures where the blankets have broad stripes in two colours. All of them have narrow white stripes.



First my plan was to weave in grey and blue. Then I found some purple yarn – and the stripes on the picture to the right are slight purple! And the white stripes I weaved dotted.



Blanket 3

The third blanket is a very plain one. There are many pictures of blankets with narrow stripes, all in the same colour or in various colours.

I had a lot of dark grey yarn and small skeins in different colours so this is a blanket in uncoloured yarn with narrow stripes in different colours.

For the stripes I had this textile fragment as a model. An early textile, but stripes are timeless.



*Blanket or cloak from Guddal, Norway. Museum : Universitetsmuseet i Bergen,
InventoryNo : 030999, BRM 31/3. C-14: 1035-1165 CE.*



Blanket 4



I had in mind this picture and planned to weave chevron twill in the white parts. But it did not went out so well with the grey warp.

Grande Bible historiale complétée. Auteur : Maître du livre d'heures de Johannette Ravenelle. Enlumineur Date d'édition : 1395-1401 Type : manuscrit Langue : Latin



So I used another picture instead.

From a Flemish book of hours known to have been in Suffolk from the early 15th century.

Here is a white chequered patten between the doubled stripes in red. And another pattern in the broader parts. The chequered I could weave as lozenge twill, the other pattern was to be woven as chevron twill.

I had no yarn in green and not enough yarn in the same blue, so I used two blue instead.

