Suggested materials

Design Solutions for the Artist/Weaver, Season 1

Everyone will use a different set of materials for design. I do have exercises or that use materials you may or may not have at home. You do not need to purchase these things before the course starts unless you're certain you'll use them and you want to make sure you have them when that month's content is available.

Sometimes I will change content based on the feedback I'm getting as the course progresses, so purchase ahead of time at your own discretion. It is possible that I'll move a piece of content to next season if something else comes up that seems more important.

Throughout this season and future seasons of the course we'll talk about ways to design. There are unending art materials you could use. Some of them you probably already have. If you don't know what you like, don't buy anything until you see the content that talks about them.

I frequently use these basic supplies:

- pencil and eraser
- drawing pens (a fine Sharpie is enough or you can get some black Pigma Micron pens)
- colored pencils (a small to medium set of Prismacolors is nice but it could just be kid-grade pencils if that is what you can get)
- sketchbook
- tracing paper
- plain copy paper
- window for lightbox (if you have a real one, great!)
- blue tape, masking tape, rubber cement, clear tape, scissors for paper

Optional supplies:
- occasionally I mess with art journaling materials which can get pretty out of hand: acrylic paint, watercolors, brushes, paint trays, glues, various sorts of pens. The list could go on forever. I am unlikely to present a specific activity requiring these sorts of materials, but there may be activities you would want to extend to use with them.

Weaving supplies:

- You will be weaving. I'm just expecting you to have basic tapestry weaving tools that you like to use. It is quite possible that you'll have ideas for which you'll want different yarns or tools, but you won't know that until you get there. To start with you'll just need a tapestry loom (could be a small untensioned loom, something like a Mirrix, or a floor loom), some warp, and some yarn you like.

Potential materials by module

Core curriculum and Module 1

- Color wheel. I prefer the 12-color color wheel of Johannes Itten but finding the Color Star tool for a reasonable price (about $40 USD) is almost impossible because it is long out of print. A book like *ColorWorks* by Deb Menz contains a wheel and a lot of great content. I'll be referring to this book throughout the color lectures. There are many other color wheels available and one in a book you already own or even one you download from the internet is just fine.

Module 2

- I will recommend a small notebook to carry around with you to make notes about ideas. I'll also recommend a couple other possible kinds of journals during this month. Perhaps waiting until you see the content before deciding what you want is the best. And of course you can make your own out of some folded copy paper and a little string.

Module 3

- Color theory: a camera or cell phone with black and white option (or free online software to convert from digital image). I'll also give you a few older-school methods for looking at value.
- I'll suggest at multiple times during this course experimenting with paper to look at color theory (see also Module 5). I like to use a sketchbook with a spiral binding to paste color exercises in. You could just paste them on regular paper but it will be harder to refer to them later. We'll do more of these in Module 5, so scissors for paper, rubber cement or tape, and paper or sketchbook to put the exercises in is excellent.
- You'll want some tracing paper if possible for this month's design exercise. Otherwise copy paper and a window or lightbox will work but it will be harder to see. Most craft stores and even stores like Target have this paper.
  Like this: https://www.dickblick.com/items/10609-3003/

Module 4

- I will talk a bit about using computers for design. If you have an iPad or computer with a drawing program, that will come in handy. This particular video will not be helpful for people who don't want to design on computers. (The iPad app Procreate is fantastic. On desktop, Photoshop or Photoshop Elements are good programs. But don't buy any expensive equipment or programs until you see the module! Computer design may not be for you nor is it in any way a necessary component of designing for tapestry.)

Module 5

- Color aid paper or paint chips (free from a friendly hardware store). We'll be doing some color theory paper exercises and color aid paper gives you lots of options of clear colors to work with. I like this pack: https://www.dickblick.com/items/12934-9000/

- I will talk about different kinds of yarn. Depending on what kind of tapestry yarn you usually use, you may want to purchase a small amount of something else to feel and see the differences I'll talk about. I'll give you options in the module.

Module 6

- A few design materials I've already mentioned above! Mostly paper and pencil.