

February Program by Dottie Weir

Many of us have admired the beautiful shibori scarves and fabric Dottie Weir has been weaving the last few years. Now is our chance to get a better understanding of this fabulous and stunningly visual technique with Dottie's program this month. Midori Ori is entirely unique approach to designing on the loom. By weaving a fabric-either plain weave or an elaborate 16H twill-you can create a fabric that will include variations in texture, design, and color. Her presentation will familiarize you with the different steps needed to create this type of fabric with real-life samples and finished pieces of this technique.

Dottie studied at the University of Hartford, Connecticut, the Hartford Museum of Art, and the California Institute of Arts in Valencia, California. Like most of us she has taken a variety of textile classes from well know fiber teachers and artists. Dottie's love of weaving, spinning, and dyeing resulted in her abandoning a successful interior design business so she could weave, teach, and study. Always willing to help and mentor others, Dottie has been on the board of several guilds, judged numerous shows, taught classes at all levels, and is always there to help her weaving compatriots.

Dottie brought her great taste, style, and pizzazz, as well as color sense from her interior design background to her textile arts. She is not limited to garments as she does all kinds of weaving, dyeing, and spinning. Dottie believes fashion ideally is a form of personal expression and helps provide others with a glimpse of who we are. Her goal as a weaver is to integrate the ancient art of weaving, dyeing, and spinning with our contemporary needs. It is her hope that both fabric and wearer become a statement of hand and spirit. Her most recent work with shibori techniques is a reflection of these sentiments.

February Spinning Sample by Peggy Doney

The tussah silk top was pre-mordanted with 2% alum and dyed at Luisa Gelenter's dye studio in Taos, New Mexico, at one of the Earth's Palette Natural Dye classes. The silk was dyed with dried Kota (also spelled Cota) at a 1:1 weight ratio and accidentally left in the dye pot for an hour instead of 20 minutes. I am still trying to track down the Latin name to try and find it locally as Luisa told me the largest patch of Kota she has ever seen was in the green median of I-25 through Colorado Springs.

It was my desire to spin a thicker silk yarn instead of a lace weight. I stripped thin lengths of the silk and pre-drafted before spinning. Using my Majacraft Little Gem II, I spun a worsted single at 14 twists per inch and then plied at 8 twists per inch. The copper colored yarn measures 15 wraps per inch which falls between a sport/ DK and fingering weight yarn. I still have several ounces of the fiber but haven't decided what the final yarn or project will be.

