

Lila Nelson

Dear Danskbrogd Study Group Members,

Danskbrogd on two harnesses has continued to interest me, especially when combined with other techniques. Since I will be teaching the inlay Vestfoldteknikk in October at Vesterheim (they seem to be calling it "Vestfoldsmett" now), I decided to try those two types of weaving in a pillow-sized sampler.

Warp is 12/9 fiskegarn sett 10 epi, close enough to require fork beating throughout. Weft is thin Kunstvevgarn and Rauma prydvevgarn, used singly for the foundation and doubled for the Vestfoldsmett patterns. Threading was four-harness straight twill.

To do the grid at the top without pickup, I tied up 1, 2, and 4 and 2, 3, and 4 (rising shed) to get the vertical brown grid lines on 1 and 3 without pickup; then I treadled the 2/4 tabby. I guess you'd call this a two-harness danskbrogd variant. The other borders were done on two harnesses, picking up the blue patterns as needed in standard two-harness danskbrogd.

Because I decided last minute to do the blue pattern across the bottom (which was woven last), I had to fudge a little to get the corners to meet. Lesson: Plan ahead!

The body of the sampler plays with Vestfoldsmett. The half-diamonds next to the grid have doubled wool floating over three warps and then under three (like Swedish krabbasnar patterns), which is good to keep the pattern areas from building up too much. But the plain weave background shots between patterns are only three, not enough to keep down the build-up. The diamonds in the bottom section have four between-shots, which worked better. The build-up problem was even more evident in the diamond patterns on top, and still existed in the patterns below, where four foundation shots were used. Lesson: solid patterns are better executed in tapestry or some other technique.

The central pattern is much like traditional Vestfoldteknikk patterns, and the results are far more satisfactory. They are planned to cover an area but with fewer repeats in just one section.

This is not supposed to be a study of Vestfoldsmett, but it shows that two-harness danskbrogd works well with other techniques. Joining where the areas met with shared warp interlock was necessary because of my different ground colors.

*Lila*

full size 14x14

