

## **Ikat dyeing for a warp**

Instructions from Gwyn for the March 2017 Weaving Study Group

### *Summary:*

Preparing a narrow warp for an ikat braid and dyeing with Procion MX dyes, using a cold water process.

### **Preparation before the workshop:**

1. **Wind a warp** of undyed yarn (cotton best although, linen or silk if you like) or you can experiment with overdyeing coloured yarn. Width: 5cms is a good width for a braid, but wider if you want to do something else), length up to you, sett of your choosing: it can be warp or weft faced. You can prepare more than 1 warp or wind your warp in separate sections and dye each section a different colour, or have the outer sections plain with an ikat pattern in the middle.
2. Tie in the crosses etc. and **bring the warp on its board**. If you use pegs and clamps, secure the warp for travel on the pegs and bring the clamps.
3. I will bring pegs, clamps and 2 warping boards for use on the day.

### **In the workshop:**

1. Stretch your warp and secure with clamps on table if using pegs.
2. Tie the resist into the warp. For the resist, you can wrap the warp with bin bag or plastic bag strips cut about 2cms wide, or mask larger areas with cling film and bind that. Alternatively, tape, twines and string all work well, but bring what you have available that works for you to try.
3. You can tie across the whole warp, or wrap in sections.
4. Soak the prepared warp in water
5. Dye your warp(s). This will be a cold dye process. I will bring dye, assistants, stirrers and spare vessels. There will be dye solutions of several colours for you to try. Bring plastic bags to carry home wet warps.
6. Bring **rubber gloves, an apron, newspaper** and if you have them available, **vessels for mixing dye, a bucket and plastic sheeting**. I will bring a spin dryer.

### **After the workshop;**

7. Untie your warp and beam it for weave
8. Put sections together in order if you have different colours.
9. To **stagger** the warp colour and create a pattern, use 2 (or more) warp sticks, one behind the other, to hold the warp when beaming. Divide the warp between them, and set one stick behind the other on the warp beam as you wind on.
10. **Random ikat:** Tie a skein at intervals; dye and unwrap then put the skein on a swift and make your warp. Different warp lengths will produce different patterns.