

Woven Tempestry Project

Modified by Sheila Atwater

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This project was inspired by The Tempestry Project in Anacortes, WA. It was designed for knitting or crocheting to make a visual record of temperatures. It provides a color graph of daily temperature changes over the period of one year. Picking more than one year, several years apart, would show changes in climate.

Being a weaver and not a knitter, I have modified the plan in a few ways to utilize my loom and tapestry yarns to their best advantage. Daily temperatures would create a weaving too long for my loom or such a mash up of colors that they would not accurately show changes from month to month. The “project” also showed temps. From Dec through Jan, so I flipped it around to follow the calendar more closely and went from Jan to Dec, top to bottom.

Step 1: Pick a year and location: Since I grew up in Minnesota, I chose 1966, the year that I graduated from High School and 1971, the year prior to moving to Washington. I picked a location that was near the center of the state as temperature vary quite a bit from North to South.

Step 2: Go to the NOAA website for temperature records. <https://www.noaa.gov/weather>. Search for historical records of the location you desire. (Currently this site is not available until the current gov’t shutdown reopens this federal service).

Step 3: Go to the Tempestry website: www.tempestryproject.com where you can print out the color charts for either Fahrenheit or Celsius. The colors each represent 5 degrees of change. There is also a yarn color chart there. You can order a kit with the range of colors that you need or match what yarn colors you already have. I chose to match my colors of tapestry yarns to the chart.

Step 4: I averaged the daily recorded high temp. for each week. For 1966 panel, I used the average temp for *each two* weeks and wove 1” for each 2 weeks. It gave wider bands of color but not the variations that occur from week to week. So for 1971 panel, I wove ½”, for *each week*, this gave the same length of tapestry but a wider range of colors which I found this more appealing.

I used my rigid heddle loom with a 10 dent reed and warped at 10” wide. The warp is cotton rug warp and I used two ply wool tapestry yarn that is quite stiff. The reed could not be used as a beater, as it is not heavy enough, so I used a heavy Navajo beater to pack each row. This made it dense and heavy like a rug.

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There is an option to add beads to indicate precipitation records. One white bead = 1" of snow and one clear or blue bead = 1" of rain. Since there were months in Minn. that had up to 10" of snow, I opted not to add beads. Ten beads would cover the color band.

I plan to use these as wall hangings or as runners for my coffee table and dresser. It was a fun project and quite interesting to see the finished pieces.



Minnesota 1966



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Minnesota 1971

