

A length of cloth

Created by Mylisant Grey

I hereby present a length of woven cloth. The pattern is a broken-diamond twill. This is a pattern that is documented in many sources as having been used throughout Northern Europe in the 9th Century through the remainder of the Medieval Era¹.

The pattern draft, for those who are familiar with such things, looks like this:

		4		4		4		4		0		0
		3		3		3		3		0		0
		2		2		2		2		0		0
		1		1		1		1		0		0
												3
												2
												1
												4
												3
												2
												4
												3
												4
												2
												1
												2

For those of you unfamiliar with weaving pattern drafts, this notation describes how to thread the loom (top row of numbers) and how to tie the harnesses to the pedals (upper right corner) and in what order to press the pedals (also known as treadles - right-hand column) to produce the desired pattern (center).

The yarn used in the weaving is a 2/20 silk-wool blend. 2/20 is yarn notation that describes the yarn. The 2 denotes 2-ply yarn, and the 20 describes how many times thinner than standard this yarn has been spun. The higher the number, the thinner the yarn. The choice to use a blended yarn was made based on the available yarns at the shop where this project was executed (since it was executed on a borrowed loom at the shop). Silk-wool blends were not commonly used in Northern Europe in the early 10th Century which is the target date range for the final product being made from this fabric. Yarns would typically have been either all-wool or all silk. The weight of this yarn does give the appropriate density of threads (27 per inch) based on archaeological evidence².

This fabric was woven on a 4-harness Scandinavian-style floor loom. This is a type of horizontal frame loom. This type of loom was first developed in Asia during the Bronze Age. The horizontal frame loom is first documented in Europe in the 13th Century³. This does not mean, however that it was not in use in Europe before then. Just that there's no proof of it.

1 Jorgensen, Lise Bender North European Textiles Until 1000 AD , Geijer, Agnes Die Textilfunde aus den Gräbern, Birka: Untersuchungen und Studien III Crowfoot et al Textiles and Clothing, c.1150-1450 (Medieval Finds from Excavations in London)

2 Pritchard, Frances "Late Saxon Textiles from the City of London." Medieval Archaeology vol 28 (1984)

3 "textile." Encyclopædia Britannica. 2010. Encyclopædia Britannica Online. 19 Feb. 2010 <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/589392/textile>>