

**Brocade Tablet Weaving Basics:  
If I Can Do This, So Can You  
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About me: my name is Magnifica Arabella De Mere, mka Sara Jackson. I'm a member of the Shire of Old Stonebridges in the East Kingdom and I've been involved with the Society for over 20 years. I've spent many years learning a variety of weaving techniques from simple inkle bands up through complicated metallic brocades, and have taught many how to do brocade as well. There's always something new to learn!

What works for me may not be what works best for you, of course, so I encourage everyone to try various techniques and do your own research into this wonderful and rewarding craft.

My first entry into an A&S display was at my shire's King and Queen's Bardic Championships in A.S. XLIX (2015) where I was awarded the Golden Lyre for a Baltic pickup inkle-woven piece. My first entry into an A&S competition was in March 2016 at Mudthaw in the Barony of Settmour Swamp where I won the populace vote for my first ever attempt at brocade, which was a multi-colored tablet weaving depicting a swallow with bird footprints, following the event's mud theme. Since then I've entered several A&S displays at various events, contributed to largesse and gifts for foreign royalty, as well as creating trim and accessories for outfits for EK Royalty and Peerage ceremonies as well.

I received my Laurel for tablet weaving at 100 Minutes War in November of 2021, and currently have one student, Svana Vefari, who is doing her own amazing work in tablet weaving.

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**Brocade Basics**

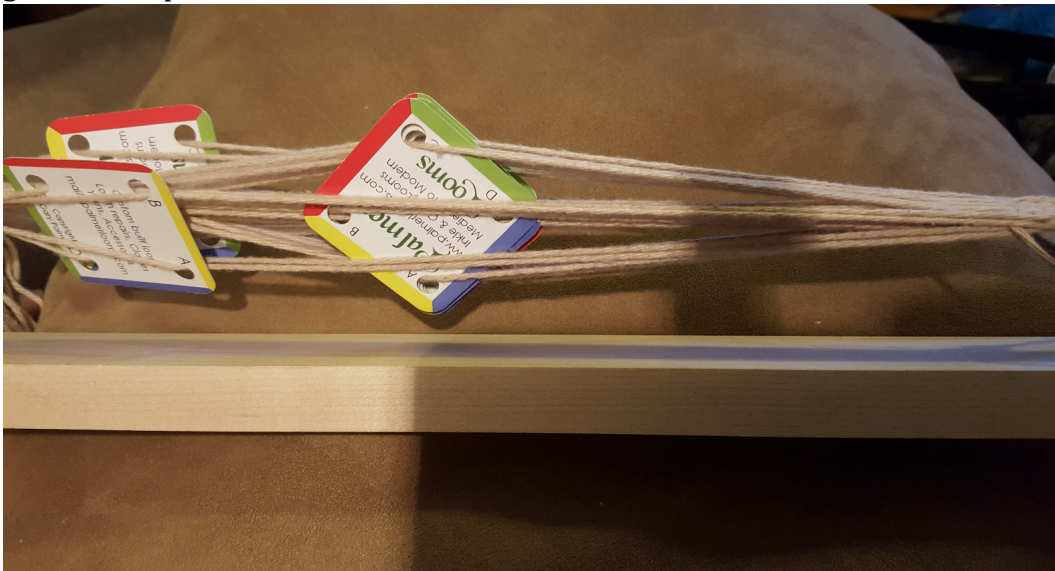
This class is assuming you know the basics of tablet weaving already.

Brocade is uses a supplementary weft on a ground weave.

All brocade patterns are graphed, and cross-stitch patterns could be used for inspiration.

Use a thicker thread for brocade, preferably something that can spread out (example: embroidery floss, nothing too tightly spun)

1. Create your ground weave using alternating cards in the S/Z pattern (differentiate the middle card/cards). Weave some ground weave using a single ground weft.
2. When ready to start the pattern, introduce the brocade weft at least one line before the pattern will begin. When weaving the brocade weft, leave one or two cards as a border and come up inside the border card(s), and pass the weft through the brocade shed and bring your brocade weft all the way down before the other border card.
3. Turn all your cards, and beat down the new shed.
4. Pass the ground weft. Leave a small loop of ground weft that you will tighten later.
5. Select the pattern cards and border cards and slide them away from you.
6. Angle the non-pattern cards to create the brocade shed.



*Illustration 1: Creating the brocade shed. Turn your non-pattern cards slightly forward if turning all cards forward, or turn slightly backward if turning all cards backward.*

7. Bring the brocade weft up on the inside of the border card(s), then pass the brocade weft and bring it down on the inside of the opposite sides border card(s). Pull taut.



*Illustration 2: Bringing brocade weft up inside of border*



*Illustration 3: Pass brocade weft through brocade shed*



*Illustration 4: Bring brocade weft down inside border cards.*

8. Turn all cards so that they are all on the same side, and bring the full pack together, beat the new shed, and pull the ground weft loop taut.
9. Repeat from step 4 (pass ground shed)

Lets try a practice pattern! (start at the bottom and work your way up)

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35									
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1									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**Congrats!** You did it. Now go make something wonderful!

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Empty graph paper for your own designs!

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36										36										
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33										33										
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