

Gail Rafferty - Burlington, VT

Vermont Weavers Guild member for two years

I have a 36 inch 4 shaft LeClerc "Fanny" loom which I purchased used this past fall in southern Vermont. I also have a 24 inch Glimakra table loom that I have not yet used. I am a very beginner weaver and am just embarking on my fifth project on the floor loom.

My "studio" is a small finished basement in our Burlington home. In the fall of 2019, I attended a week-long weaving workshop at the Marshfield School of Weaving and was reintroduced to the basics of weaving, after a forty year break! I had intended to jump in to more workshops/classes in Vermont and other parts of New England in 2020 to further my learning, but the pandemic hit.

The Vermont Weaver's Guild has supported my learning by putting me in touch with people who had looms for sale in Vermont. Deidre Goulding met me twice at the craft center in Randolph and very generously showed me around – I purchased the table loom there. I also participated in Dena Moses's online rag weaving workshop that the VWG sponsored in the fall of 2020. I had been connected to Dena previously over the summer as well, and she put together/refurbished the LeClerc loom I ended up purchasing from her last fall. As a beginner weaver the Guild has helped me get over initial jitters about buying equipment and jumping in!

While the pandemic has prohibited in person contact with weaving teachers and others with weaving experience, it has also afforded me the time to dive in to weaving regardless. I realized that while I will (and do!) make a lot of mistakes as I stumble forward without the guidance of some in-person learning, it is all ok. I am learning so much patience, and am loving the quiet of it. I lose track of time when weaving, which seems like a bit of a blessing right now. Whether in 2021 or beyond, I am very much looking forward to meeting other Vermont weavers in person. The pictures I am enclosing are of small rag placemats and chenille scarves that were my first projects on the loom, and the very beginnings of a Krokbragd rug started this week.









