

## Study Group Guidelines

Welcome to the wide world of CNCH Study Groups! You're bound to find others who want to learn the same things you do, among the hundreds of guild members belonging to CNCH.

Your CNCH Coordinator is here to help you along the way. But there is complete freedom for you as well. Your group will decide on all parameters of your chosen field of study. These are some guidelines to help you with the details. Have fun learning together!

### #1: Choose a topic

You can just pick a general topic like a weave structure, or you can choose a book to follow, or you can be very focused on just one particular threading, it's up to you.

#2: Choose a "Captain." This person will distribute swatches and oversee the group's communication, membership, & progress, and stay in touch with the CNCH Coordinator.

#3: Decide on a membership maximum. Too many members makes swatch-making cumbersome. A 20-person max is suggested but this depends on the topic.

#4: Decide on a means of communication. This should be something every member is comfortable with. It can be by email, or by social media like Facebook or Yahoo, Google Groups or even Ravelry. Try to be sensitive to all the members. For instance, some people don't "do" Facebook, or have computers not compatible with Google Groups. A good fallback is email because everyone has that. Of course, swatch-sharing will be by mail and everyone should realize at the start that there will be a cost for this.

#5: Choose a format. Will you be working from one particular publication? (This is the moment to mention, be careful about copyright & don't distribute published materials. Everyone should purchase their own.) Is this a "hands-on" study, where you'll all be sampling on a loom? Or is everyone just using a notebook/computer for studying something like design? Is a 4 shaft loom adequate? Should everyone use the same weight of thread for comparison's sake?

#6: Choose a timeline. This is important because otherwise, study group members lose focus. Of course, no one has to "police" the group, but having a timeline with

some deadlines is suggested. Many successful study groups have a one-year life, with swatches due for distribution every 3, 4 or 6 months in that time period.

#7: Think about recording your progress. If people take pictures as they go (and share them with the group of course!), it's fairly easy to put together an article for CNCH-Net about the experience. It would be so appreciated by others! Also consider a presentation to your guild, or a display at the next CNCH Conference.