

## TAPESTRY HANGING METHODS

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### **Reasons for lining a tapestry**

A tapestry benefits from having a lining, it keeps dust off the back and the front (inadequate linings allow dust filtration to the front); it can also deter pests from finding harbourage in the wool weft ends at the back of a tapestry.

The lining fabric, to be an effective dust barrier, should be finely woven and reasonably light so as not to add unnecessary weight. Any stitching should be distributed in such a way as not to add stress points.

*Problems* with inappropriate linings are: distortions - because the lining is too tight, dirt filtered to the front of the tapestry - because the lining fabric has not been an effective dust barrier, pest activity behind the lining - because insects have found easy access.

### **Hanging from Velcro**

Velcro is a very effective way of hanging large flat textiles in a room setting because it distributes the weight of the textile evenly and securely but in the event of an emergency can be disengaged if a `rip cord` is sewn into the mechanism.

Normally a single strip of Velcro is attached to the top – soft side applied to the textiles and hard side stapled to a wooden batten that is firmly fixed into the wall. A specialist should advise on the best method of application, which includes careful stitching so as not to break warps.

In addition to a single strip along the top of the tapestry it might be appropriate to apply Velcro in sections down the sides – this helps to minimize draught movement if the tapestry is to be hung in a passage or stairwell.

The Velcro down the sides is best sewn in sections for two reasons:

- so that some air can circulate freely behind the tapestry – stagnant air encourages micro climates that may be unfavourable; a situation more likely to happen on an outside wall than an internal wall.

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- to prevent sagging which can occur if all sides of the tapestry are rigidly hemmed in with little or no facility to adjust the dropping tapestry. Sagging occurs because forces are pulling the tapestry down the wall. By fixing the tapestry in sections down the left and right sides makes adjustments easier.

Applying single strip of Velcro along the top

Method

- apply prepared soft Velcro strip to the top of the tapestry
- attach `rip cord` from the Velcro strip
- specify position and batten type to be firmly fixed into the wall
- cover the batten face with the hard side of the Velcro

Applying Velcro on three sides of a tapestry

Method

- as above plus:
- applying prepared soft Velcro strip down each side of the tapestry
- specify the length and position of short batten lengths to be fixed into the wall down the left and right hand sides.
- make up webbing strips, the height of the tapestry, with hard side Velcro sewn intermittently to match up with the position of battens
- Fix webbing/Velcro strip into the top batten and then stretch, fixing with staples into the intermittent battens down the whole length

### General description of the methods:

for the first method, the weight of the tapestry is taken by the top strip of Velcro; for the second method, some of the weight will also be held and therefore distributed down the sides. The tapestry is as far away from the wall as the battens are thick and the intermittent positioning of the wall battens allows for air movement behind - but when in a passage or thoroughfare wholesale movement of the tapestry is restricted.

Please understand that tapestries are often not square objects and do not hang as neatly as pictures, adjustments can easily be made to a hanging tapestry when the Velcro system is being used but they do not always hang to a plumb line!

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