



Going to the end of the world: transferring craft knowledge from Japan to Estonia

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Terms

Ikat – yarns are resist dyed prior to weaving

Double ikat – weft and warp yarns are resist dyed and resists form patterns

Kasuri – Japanese term for ikat

Niduma, neotud lõngad or *neolõngad* – to tie, resist-dyed yarns („tied yarns“)

Lapilised seelikud – double ikat skirts („chequered skirts“)



Pärnumaa Traditional Costume School

First day in April 2017

Photo by Eveli Ilvest

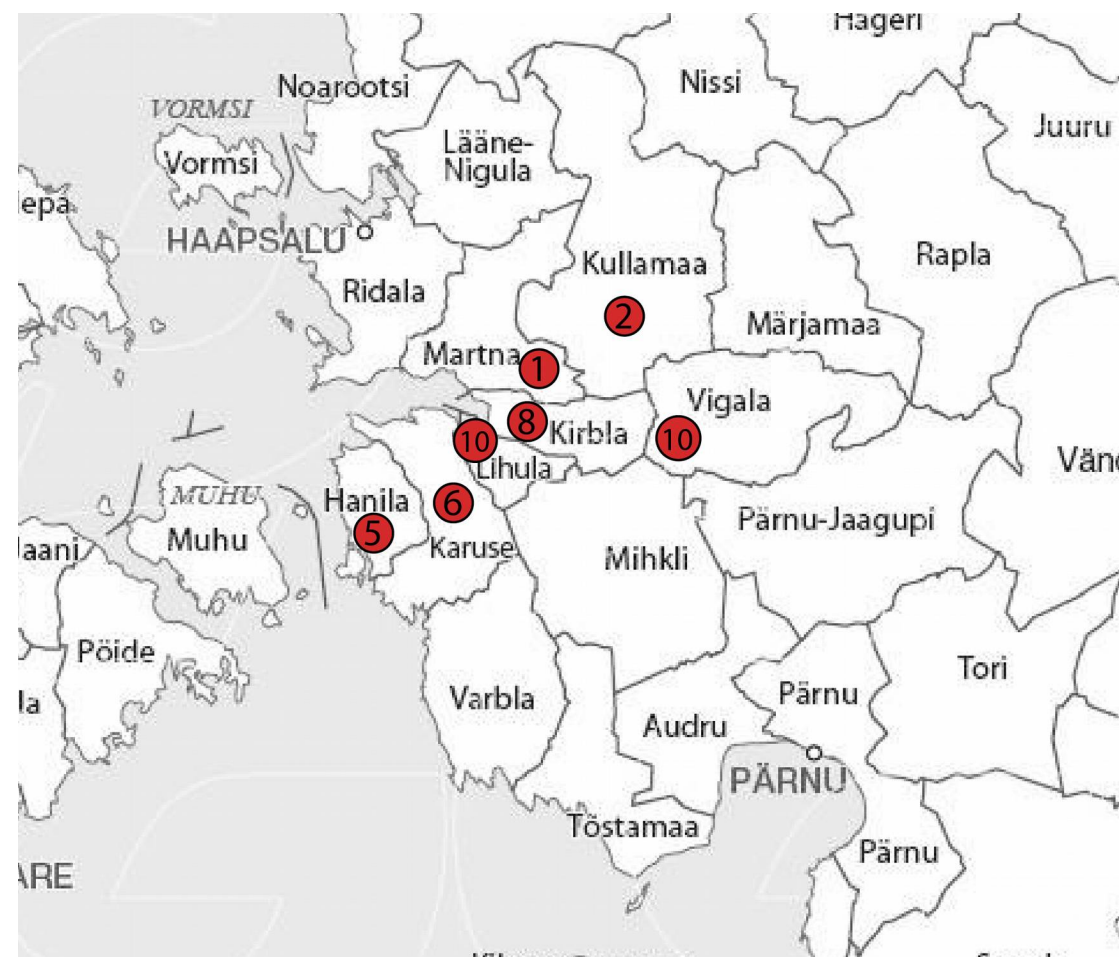


Estonian Dance Celebration 2019

Photos R. Leib



Pärnumaa Traditional Costume School
Graduation in February 2019
Photo by Sandra Urvak



Estonian parishes at the end of 19th century
regio.ee



Photo by Friedrich Kochtitsky 1913, Lihula.
ERM Fk 185:8



Double ikat skirt from Estonian Open Air Museum.
EVM E 96:62, Lihula parish.



Photo by Karl Tähe ca 1930. Virtsu Village Museum.



Double ikat skirt from Estonian Open Air Museum.
EVM E 96:62, Martna parish.



Skirts woven by Anni Võrgu, Vigala parish, 1930.
Erm Fk 1347:5



Double ikat skirt, Estonian Open Air Museum.
EVM E 250:1, Vigala parish.



Why Japan?

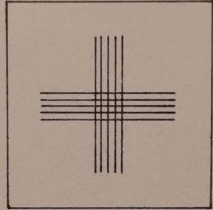
Why Japan?

- One of the few countries where double ikat has been traditionally used.
- Strong and unbroken ikat dyeing and weaving traditions.
- Similarities between Japanese and Estonian ikat motifs.
- Well-established workshops for international students.

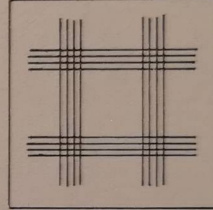
Those introduced here are the most popular Kasuri patterns in Japan.



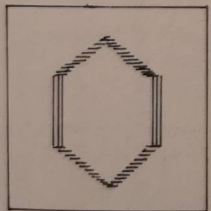
Ya gasuri
(arrow)



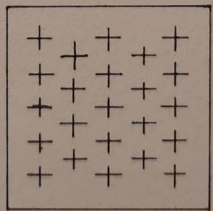
Jūji gasuri
(cross)



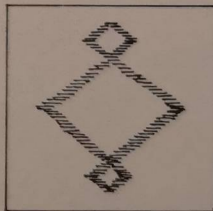
Igeta gasuri
(Japanese well)



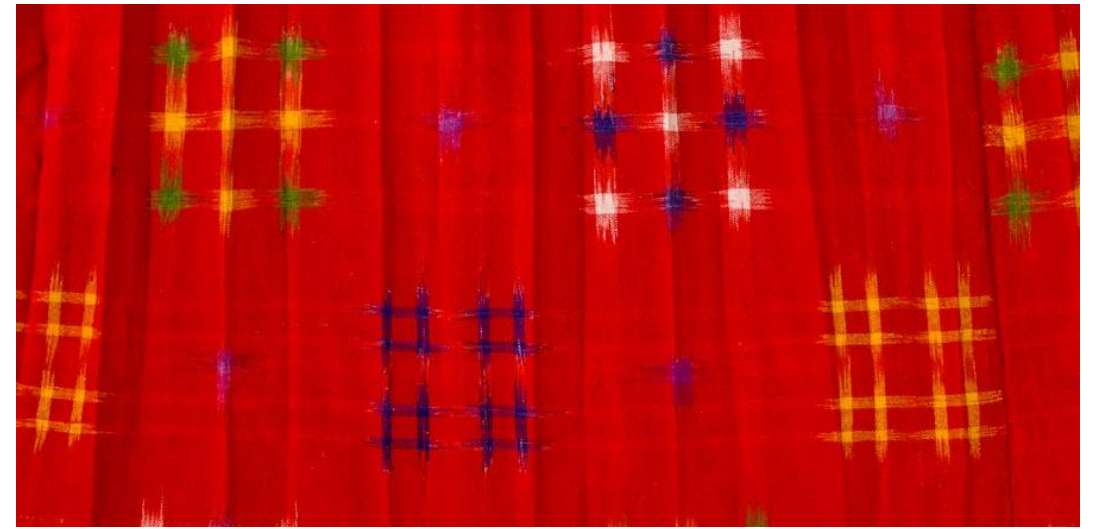
Kikkō gasuri
(tortoiseshell)



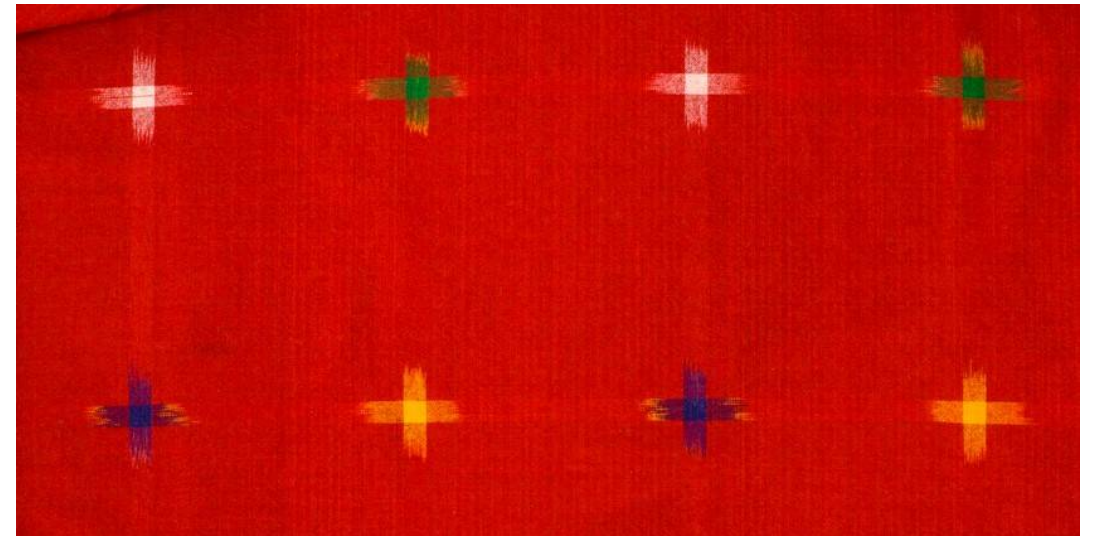
Ka gasuri
(mosquito)



Chyōchin gasuri
(lantern)



Skirt from Karuse parish, private collection.



Skirt from Karuse parish, private collection.
Photos by Sandra Urvak

J. And N. Tomita (1987) „Japanese ikat weaving“

KAWASHIMA TEXTILE SCHOOL

川島テキスタイルスクール

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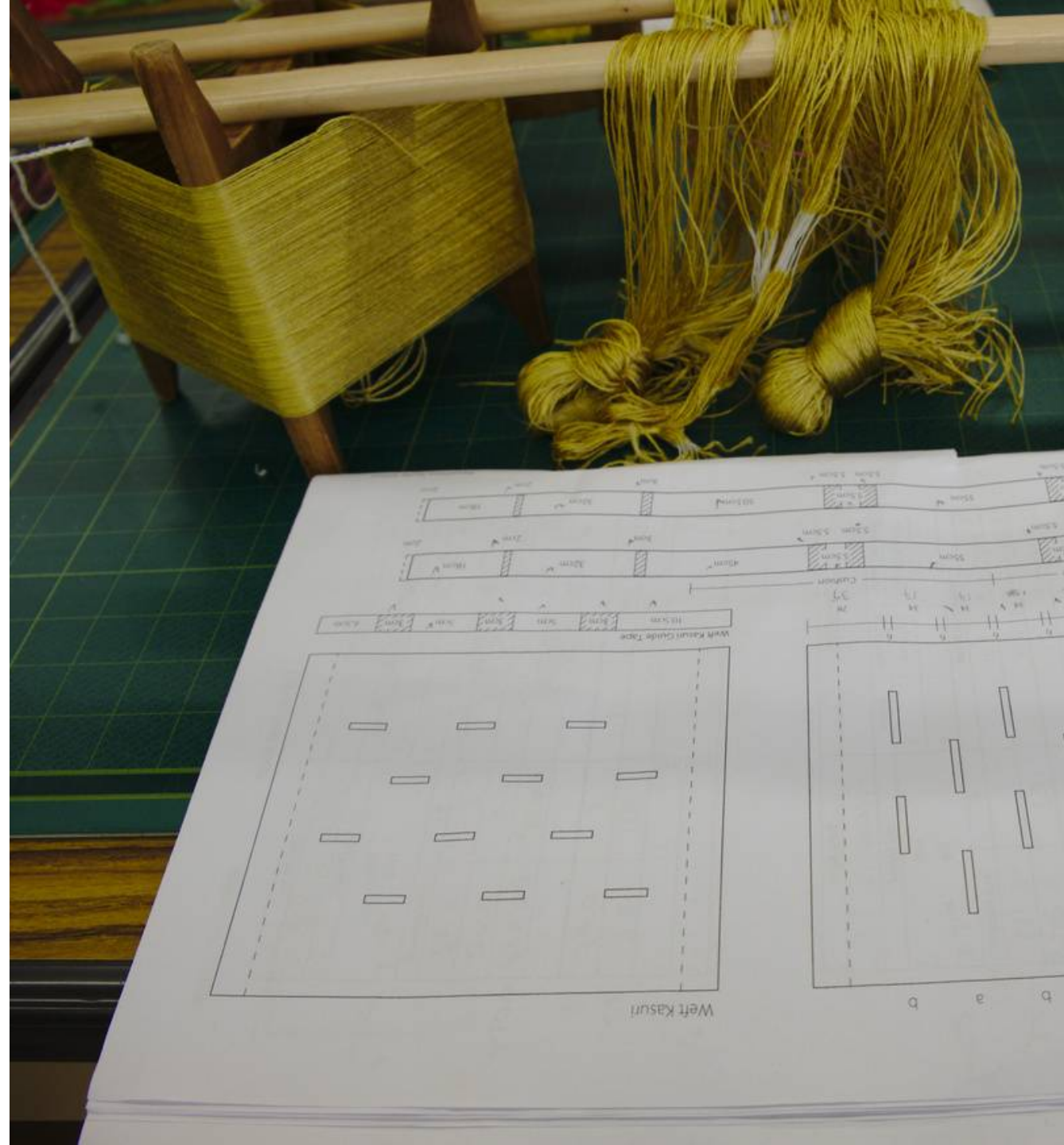




What did I learn?
What did I bring back?

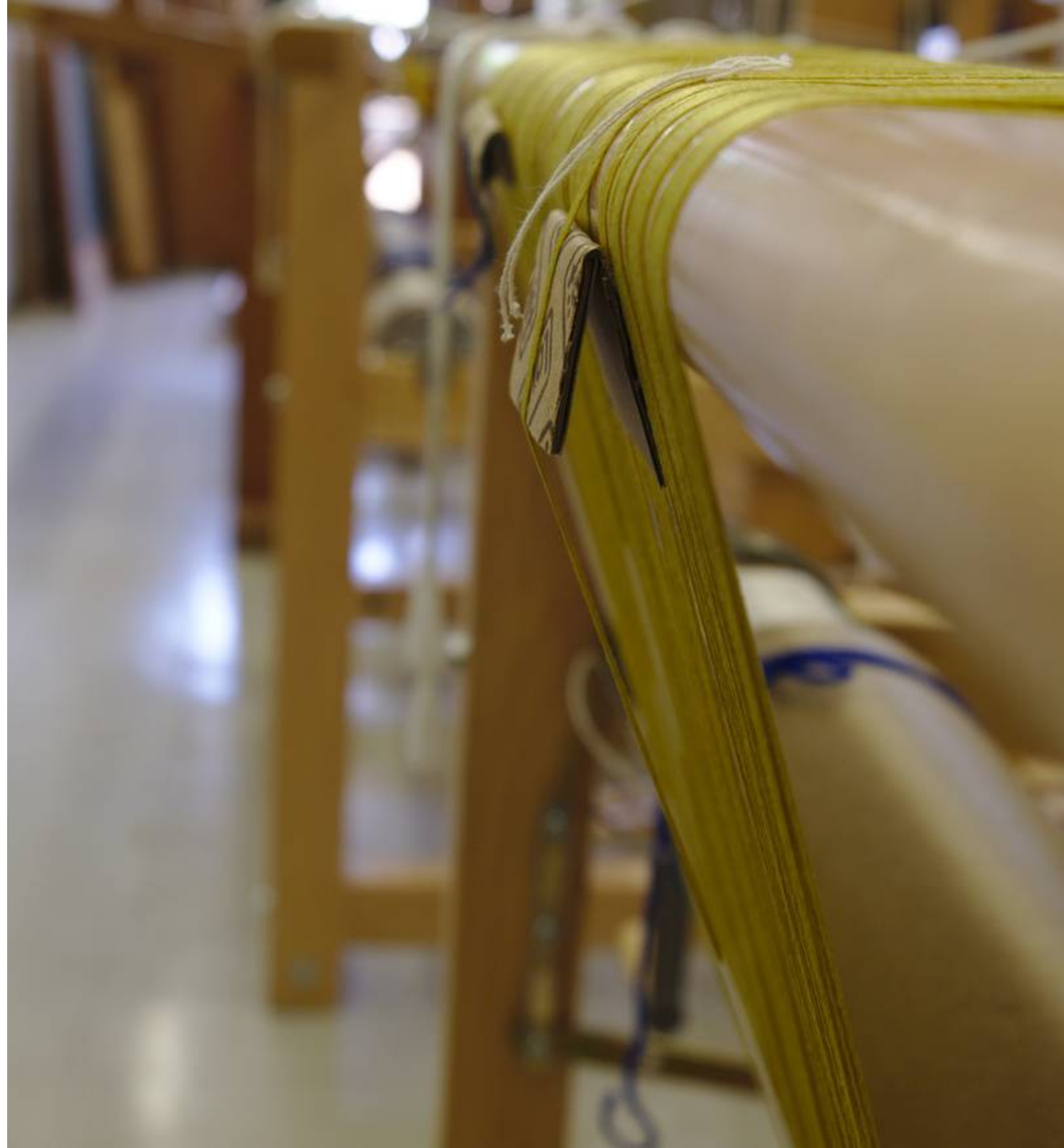
Research

- Good general understanding of a specific craft
- What to look for when doing visual analysis
- Filling gaps in archival materials
- Evaluation of skill level
- Rewriting narratives

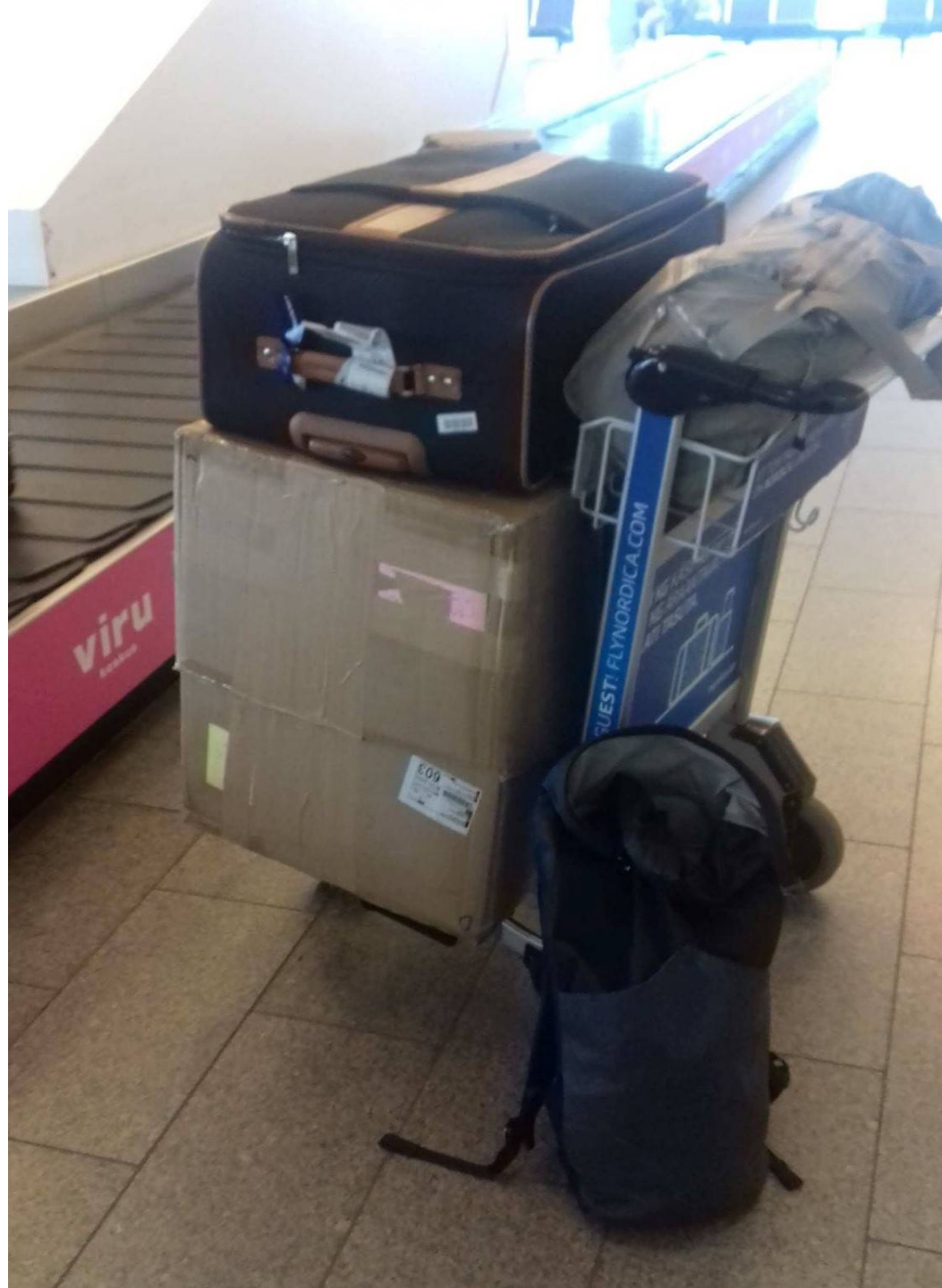


Transfer of craft knowledge

Tools, materials, methods, tricks.

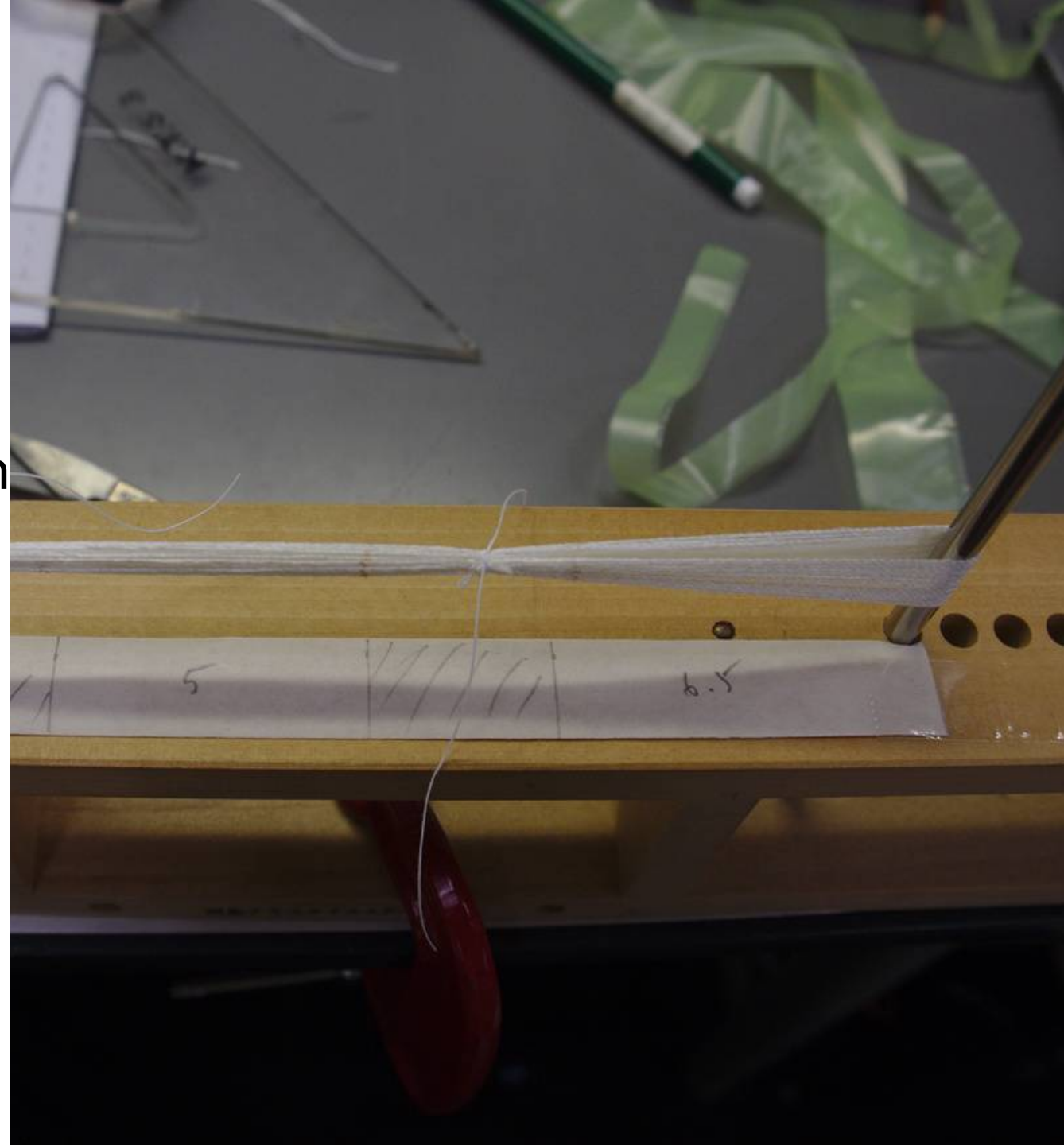






Transfer of craft knowledge - challenges

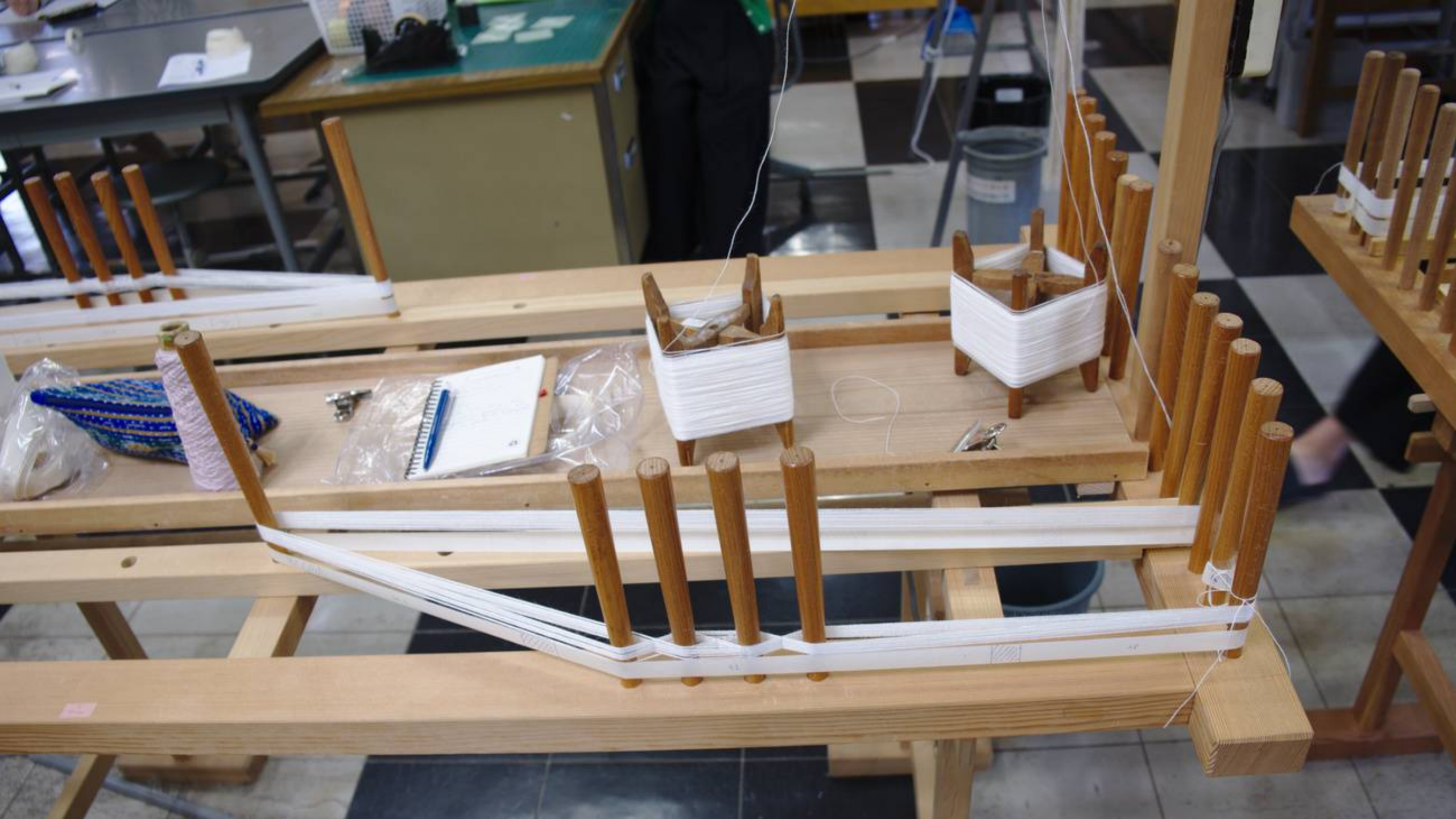
Specific materials only sold in Japan



Transfer of craft knowledge - challenges

Differences in weaving tools and
weaving methods









Kangas Käärimine
Hörjumaal

285

Photo by H. Tiidermann, ca 1900
AM 13741:342 F 11684:285





Photo by J. Simson 1938

HM 8641:8 ArPk

Läänemaa (Kirbla kih.) naised ja nende kaunis rahvarõivastused
Estonian virgins and maidens in their colorful national costumes