

Guidelines for Fiber Articles at MSWG Events

Welcome! We're glad you decided to participate in a Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild sale. Below are some guidelines to help you thread your way through this knotty subject.

All acceptable articles for the sale must be handmade, creative, original, durable, and have good workmanship, reflecting the aims and purposes of the Guild. The sale is a public display of the quality in design and craftsmanship that is representative of the Guild.

All Guild shows are a collection of the unique work of its members. Customers appreciate and expect the highest quality of handcrafted, artistically superior products. To maintain this reputation, the focus is on excellence of work in terms of both artistic expression and craftsmanship. Attention to detail is essential.

Suitability of Materials and Design

Fibers and yarns, weave pattern and sett, hems, linings and finishing techniques used must be appropriate for the intended use of the item, e.g., wool would not be suitable for a hand towel, or rough, scratchy yarns used to knit a scarf.

Any part of an item that is not woven, spun (or knitted, crocheted, etc.) must constitute only a small part of the item.

Child-safe fibers **only** may be used in children's garments, blankets and toys. Fibers that melt are **not** acceptable. Baby blankets with floats large enough for children's toes/fingers to be caught are not acceptable.

Jewelry must be woven, knitted, crocheted, tatted, stitched, or felted, but not simply strung.

Workmanship

The item should be pleasing overall.

- Selvedges must be even.
- There must be no knots in the warp, weft, knitted fabric, or handspun yarn.
- There must be no obvious mistakes in the fabric.
- Woven items must have a consistent beat unless the pattern requires variation.
- Fringe must be appropriate for the use of the item and must be finished neatly and attractively.
- Handspun yarn must be balanced, strong and compatible with the fiber used.

Finishing

All items must be finished according to the following standards.

- Hems, fastenings, and accessories must be secured.

- Bindings, linings and other finishes must be of high quality suited to the woven or knitted work.
- All items must be washed, fulled, or otherwise appropriately finished.
- All items must be clean and free of odors, such as smoke or mothballs.
- Knitted items must be finished neatly, blocked and be well constructed.

Tagging

- The two-part MSWG sales tag is required on all sale items. The bottom half of the tag is snipped off and attached to the sales receipt to record the sale. Small tags should be used only on small items, such as jewelry.
- Every item must be tagged with the member's inventory three-letter initial, the inventory number for the item and the price. Price changes during the sale are not permitted.
- The tag must be securely knotted to the item without long strings that tangle easily.
- Tags may not have crossed out prices with new prices added and prices may not be changed during a Guild sale.
- Artists may include their own business tags.
- Fiber content and care instructions must be included either on a MSWG tag or on the artist's own tag. Fiber content should be listed in descending order (such as: 85% wool, 15% cotton).
- Additional information, such as suggestions as how to use a homespun yarn, is encouraged to improve sales.

The Inventory List and Pricing

- The official MSWG inventory form must be used.
- The inventory is a record of all the items each weaver has in the sale. It includes a number for each item, a description of each item (e.g. red woolen scarf, plaid plain weave towel) as well as the price of each item. It also includes the participant's three-letter initial. Members need two copies of the inventory sheet—one to submit at take-in and one to use at the check-out table at the end of the sale.
- Payment: The Guild collects a 15% commission from each sale so items should be priced with that in mind. Members receive a hand-delivered check at the November Guild meeting. The treasurer mails checks only if members are unable to attend the meeting.
- Pricing suggestions are available on the Guild website on the *Members* page. Pricing must be an even dollar amount, for example \$20, not \$19.95.
- Tax is added to all items by the cashiers at the sales table.

Any questions not answered in this document should be directed to the sale chairperson or a board member.