



Hilltop Cloud

## *Time Travellers Club*

Dugood Bach  
Mallwyd  
Machynlleth  
Powys  
SY20 9HR

August-16

[www.hilltopcloud.co.uk](http://www.hilltopcloud.co.uk)

Dear Club Member,

We're back to the textile world for this months colour inspiration. When I say the word Paisley, most people will instantly know what sort of fabric I'm referring to. The design however is much much older than the fabric famously produced in the Scottish town of Paisley.

Roll back to the 18th and 19th centuries, and as we've touched on before in the club inspirations, things from the East were fashionable. If you had money, you showed it by filling your home with exotic treasures shipped from half way round the world. This of course led to cheaper copies being made in Europe. Just as happened with the Willow Pattern China, the same happened with the fabric we now call Paisley.

The motif itself, that bent teardrop shape, originated in Persia, but its a motif that is seen all over South and Central Asia. American Quiltmakers call it a Persian Pickle, and in Welsh Textiles (Wales has a strong quilt making tradition) it's often called a Welsh Pear. Kashmir Shawls using the motif were imported by the East India Company, and in the early 17th century demand outstripped supply. Initially copies were made using printing techniques, and at one point this threatened to put weavers of traditional local motifs out of business, and the printed versions were banned. By the 19th century copies were being woven, and the trade now focused around the Scottish town of Paisley. Weavers there adapted their Jacquard looms to allow them to work in 5 colours, at a time when most Paisley copies used 2. It's at this point the motif starts to become known as Paisley. The originals (still being imported from Kashmir) contained up to 15 colours, so the shawls woven in Paisley were a much better replica, and instead of a Kashmir Shawl, they became known as Paisley shawls.

Choosing a colour palette to pick was tricky, because Paisley comes in so many versions, however back then all the pigments would have been plant based, so I've picked combinations that echo the shades of Indigo, Madder and Weld (or any other plant based yellow really). This will spin in to a complex yarn, rich in tones, not dissimilar to the Strawberry Thief colourway of last year.

Happy Spinning,

Katie