

Anahata Pulse

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## Design Statement

The purpose of this design was to create digitally textile printed woven fabric strips by exploring curved lines and color gradients that visually represent the Sanskrit concept of the 4<sup>th</sup> Chakra, Anahata. Chakras correspond to nerve centers in the body often visualized as a swirling wheel of energy where matter and consciousness meet (Fondin, 2016). Anahata is 4<sup>th</sup> of 7 Chakras in our bodies that is located in the center of our chest and serves as a bridge between our body, mind, emotions and spirit and is the source of love (Fondin, 2016).

Several other designs have been created by the designers combining traditional hand weaving craft and contemporary digital printing technology to create the unique textile woven surface design through inter-weaving parallel graduations of two or three contrasting colors to develop optical illusions of depth and volume. Through this process, the designer has created interesting optical patterns and three-dimensional patch-like illusions with rectangular strips. In addition, the designer has in the past, incorporated spiraling strips with widths of gradually decreasing size toward the center with a digitally printed textile pattern by digitally pre-determining each color gradient and pattern shape location. This is the second time curved strips were incorporated in developing a digitally printed woven pattern; however instead of making all of the stripes curved, only the weft strips were curved. The warp strips was straight for this design.

By digitizing the garment patterns, the designers have been able to pre-visualize how the finished woven pattern would appear for last several design projects. This is different from previous designs where the final color patterns of the woven surface was not able to be visualized until the whole weaving process had been completed. By weaving curved strips with different colored gradients straight strips, the designers were able to create pattern that presents an optical illusion of volume and depth with color gradients and a radiating checkerboard-like pattern.

First, a flat pattern and draping methods were used to create a sheath dress pattern eliminating armhole seams. Then, those patterns were digitized and modified using a 2D pattern making program called Optitex. Those files were then exported into Adobe Illustrator to develop an engineered textile pattern. Concentric circles were then created with each circle by incrementally increasing each radius such that every subsequent circle was exactly 0.5 inches farther than the previous.

This design is unique and original using both engineered digital textile printing and hand weaving techniques. Furthermore, the designers were challenged to weave curved semi-circular strips with straight strips to create a distinctive radiating woven pattern. This collaborative design project was able to integrate technology and hand craft techniques creating a sophisticated wearable art piece that was inspired by the 4<sup>th</sup> Chakra, Anahata, a swirling wheel of energy that is thought by some to be the source of love (Fondin, 2016).

References:

Fondin, M. (2016). What is a Chakra? Retrieved on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 from <http://www.chopra.com/articles/what-is-a-chakra#sm.00635lsj1boudsl114p2kewgl7crf>.

