

Learn How to Weave

What You Need

Included in Kit

Cardboard loom
White string (for warp)
Yarn (for weft)
Large plastic needle

Additional Materials

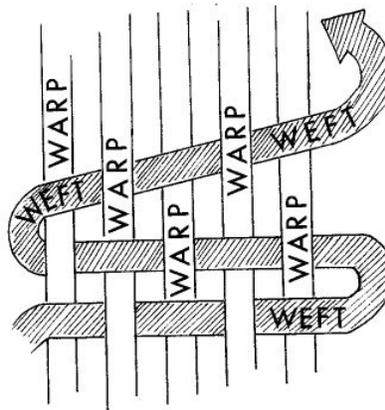
Scissors
Ruler
Tape
Flat screwdriver



Key Terms

Warp: The vertical threads on a loom

Weft: The threads that are passed over and under the warp



Directions



Set up your loom

- Thread the string through the first notch on the upper left side of the loom.
- Leave a tail a few inches long on the back side of your loom and tape this down.
- Carry the string down to the bottom left notch and pull it into that notch.
- Bring the string back over to the front by bringing it up through the notch directly to the right of the bottom left notch.
- Carry the string up the loom to the next notch on the top. Just as you did at the bottom, take the string behind the notch and carry it to the opposite end of the loom. Continue threading the string through the top and bottom notches all the way across the loom.
- Tape the tail at the end of the string to the back of the loom.
- The front side of the loom will have string going from notches on the bottom to notches on the top. The back side of the loom will just be small segments of string looped around the notches, plus the taped-down tails.

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Begin weaving

- Cut a length of yarn (no more than about 2 feet) and thread it through the needle.
- Use the needle to guide the yarn through the warp strings in an under/over pattern: go under the first string, over the second, under the next, and so on.
- Once the needle has passed through all of the strings, gently pull the yarn through. Leave a couple inches of yarn at the end where you started.
- Push the yarn up on the loom until it's about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away from the notches.
- Bring the needle and yarn back through the loom from the side you just exited using an over/under pattern that's the opposite of your first row. (If your first line of yarn exited *under* the last string, then it needs to go *over* the string to begin the second row in the opposite direction.)
- Push the second line of woven yarn up to meet the first.
- Continue each row, alternating the under/over pattern and pulling the yarn very gently through at the end.
- Every few rows, use your thumbs to push the yarn up the warp strings so your weaving looks nice and uniform.

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Add yarn

- When you get close to the end of the yarn in your needle, weave it to the end of the loom and leave a tail a few inches long hanging off the side.
- Cut a new length of yarn and thread it through the needle.
- Insert the yarn into the same end where the tail of your previous yarn is.
- Follow the same under/over rule as before; if the tail of the previous yarn ended going *under* the last string, you'll start your new yarn going *over* it.
- Pull your yarn through gently and continue weaving.

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Hide ends

- Thread the needle with one of the yarn ends and pull it through the "tunnel" you've created at the edge of the weaving.
- Pull it through firmly and then cut off the end.
- Repeat for each of the loose ends.



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Finish the weaving

- Remove the tape from the tail on the back of the loom and bring it over the top of the loom. Thread the tail through as many of the loops along the top as you can. This will secure that string.
- Using a flat screwdriver or similar tool, push each loop up and over the notch it is around.
- Repeat these steps on the bottom of the loom with the second string taped to the back.
- Once the loops are all released, hold the weaving near the top and pull up the top loops one by one so that they gain extra length. Pull the loops through the weaving until the bottom loops are flush with the bottom of the weaving.
- Once the bottom loops are flush with the weaving, you can cut the top loops in the middle and tie them off to one another.

Tips

If you find that the yarn has a tendency to pull out of the needle while you're weaving, you might want to tie a knot so the yarn stays in the needle.

Be sure not to pull too hard on the yarn at the end of each row – you want nice straight sides. If you pull too hard, your weaving will start to look like an hourglass.

You are the fiber artist and can make this as colorful and interesting as you want! Use one solid color or try several different colors to make stripes and designs.

Make one long woven piece or create two separate weavings divided in the middle by a space.

- Weave from the top for a few inches and then turn the loom around and weave from the “new” top.
- Be sure to leave two inches of space between the two weavings.
- Un-tape the tails from the back of your loom and secure them as previously explained.
- Cut the strings in the space between the two weavings.
- Release the loops from the loom at the top and bottom as previously explained.
- Pull the ends that you cut in the center to bring the loops flush with each woven piece.
- Tie the ends so your yarn won't pull out.

