

How to weave on anything!

Preparations

Choosing yarns

Warping your loom

TangleCrafts

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simple crafts in a complex world

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Before you begin

(If you have a TangleCrafts business card/D.I.Y. loom, skip straight to the 'choose a warp yarn' heading.)

First, find something to weave onto – ideally rectangular (for your first attempt, at least!) and fairly rigid: try card cut from a cereal packet, discarded packaging, or playing cards (glue 2 pieces together if it doesn't feel strong enough), or even a mousemat!

Start with a fairly small size, just while you get used to the techniques – then go crazy!

Preparations

You will need a needle, but a hair clip works perfectly!



Mark your loom at approx. 0.5cm intervals along the top and bottom edges.

Use a ruler or the measure as a guide, if you like, but don't worry too much about precision- it doesn't have to be perfect!

Use a pair of scissors to snip notches along the marked edges. Now you are ready to warp your loom!

Choose a warp yarn

This will be entirely hidden by your weaving, except for top & bottom loops.

Warp yarn needs to be strong (so it won't snap while you weave), and fairly non-elastic.

Try a perle cotton, or linen thread, thin string etc. Avoid plied yarns, which have a tendency to separate.

Ideally your warp should be thinner than the weft yarns you choose for the weaving.

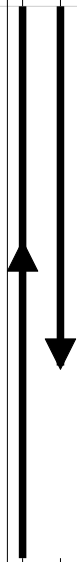
Warping your loom

Slot warp yarn through the first corner notch of loom, from back to front (you can start at any corner), leaving a tail of approx 3".

Slot yarn back through to reverse of card, in the parallel notch at opposite end of card to first corner.

Bring the warp back through to the front of the card in the adjacent notch.

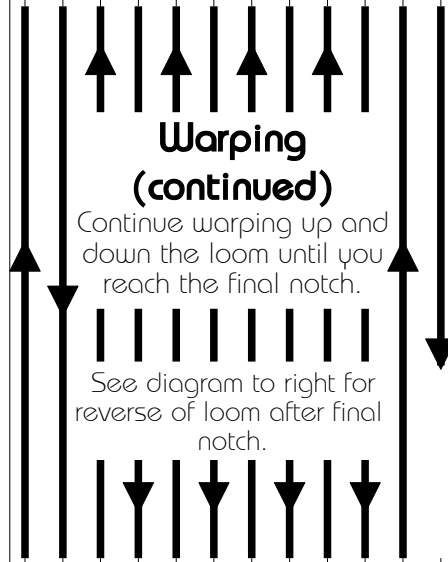
See diagram in top right for reverse of loom at this stage.



Warping (continued)

Continue warping up and down the loom until you reach the final notch.

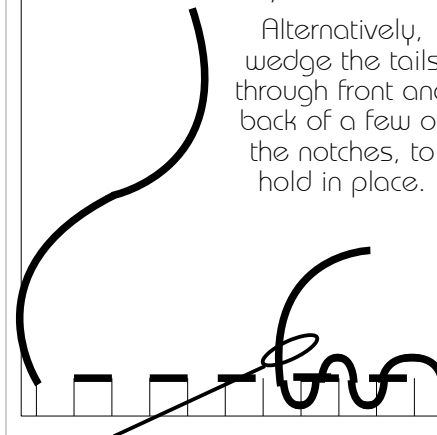
See diagram to right for reverse of loom after final notch.



Securing the Warp

Use a needle to secure both loose ends of warp through loops around notches on reverse of loom, as shown.

Alternatively, wedge the tails through front and back of a few of the notches, to hold in place.



Choose your weft yarn

You can weave with almost anything (even grass, or leaves!) so just use whatever is to hand.

*Thick yarns weave up more quickly. Double up a thinner yarn in your needle, if you like.

*Look for interesting colours or textures but avoid 'bobbly' yarns – they will snag on the warp.

*'Furry' yarns may lose their furriness as they are drawn through the warp.

*Make an economic and original yarn by cutting plastic carrier bags or old clothes into 0.5cm strips.

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The 'shed' Weaving Changing yarns

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The 'shed'

The TangleCrafts ATC kit includes 2 cocktail sticks to use as 'shed sticks'. You may find it easier to use one, both, or none at all.

Sometimes it can be tricky passing the needle through the warp when they are lying flat against the loom.

Shed sticks raise the alternate warp threads for you. The space that needle and yarn pass through is called 'the shed'.

However, it is fine to manipulate the warp manually, if you prefer.

The 'shed' (continued)

Option 1:

Insert a cocktail stick beneath the warp and push up to top of loom.

All warps are raised, making it easier to push them down manually to pass yarn through.

See photo below left showing a TangleCrafts DIY Play Your Cards Right Pouch Loom with shed stick inserted.

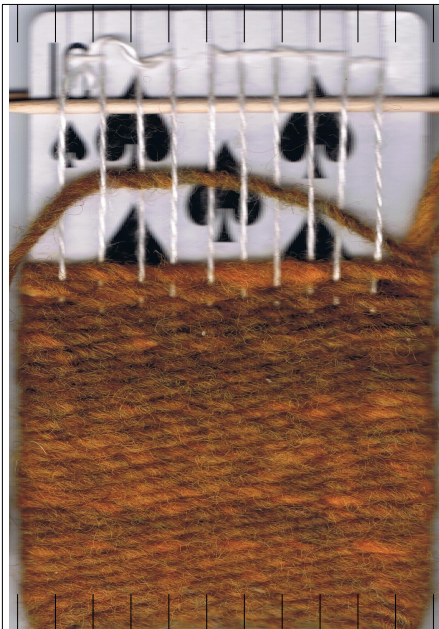
The 'shed' (continued)

Option 2:

Weave a cocktail stick over and under alternate warps, and push down to bottom of loom.

Weave second cocktail stick under and over alternate warps (so that the opposite warps are raised), and push up to top of loom.

This opens 2 different sheds, one at each end of the loom. The lower shed will close as you weave, but will help maintain an even warp tension.



Time to Weave!

Insert shed sticks, if desired. It doesn't matter whether you weave from right to left or left to right: do whatever feels natural.

Thread needle with approx. 24" weft. Weave the needle over and under alternate warps. Pull the yarn through to the opposite side, leaving a tail of approx. 1-2" in starting corner.

The weft should form an arc as it is pulled through (see photo left). Use your fingertips to push the weft down into a straight line at the end of each row.

The sides

At the end of your first row, simply reverse direction. Weave needle under and over the opposite warp threads, and draw weft through to other side.

Always remember to arc the weft rather than pulling straight across. This will help maintain an even tension, which in turn will help prevent drawing in (the fabric becoming narrower at the top than the bottom).

Try to leave a-little-but-not-too-much slack at end of each row.

Changing weft yarns

When you have run out of weft in your needle, or if you want to change yarns to suit your design:

Stop weaving partway across a row, leaving a tail of weft on reverse side of the weaving. Re-thread needle, and continue weaving in the same direction, across the same row, in the same shed of warps as if you had continued with the original weft yarn.

Leave a tail of approx. 1" of the new weft on reverse of weaving. Both tails will be held secure by subsequent rows of weaving.

How to weave on anything!

Finishing DIY Weaving Resources

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Finishing!

Keep weaving until you literally can't fit the needle back through the warp. Remove shed stick/s, if you have used them, and weave right up to the top loops.

You've finished!

What next?

1. Frame your weaving, exactly as it is, still attached to the loom.

In fact, for your next project, why not weave directly onto the board backing of the frame of your choice!

Or what next?

2. Gently ease the warp loops from the notches.
Your weaving is released!

If you wish, use a needle to darn tails into reverse of weaving, rather than leave them loose (but they will not unravel, if you don't!).

Frame in a small picture frame, make a dolls house rug, or slot sticks through warp loops for a miniature wall-hanging!

The loom can now be re-used.



D.I.Y. Weaving Resources

A TangleCrafts D.I.Y. Weaving Kit will teach you 3 more different ways to weave with everyday objects.

Individual kits are also available for each technique:

Mark My Words Bookmark

Comb Loom

RagBag Comb & Board Loom

Coasting Canvas & Needle Loom

Play Your Cards Right Pouch

Loom

D.I.Y. Weaving Resources

Recommended books:

- Weaving Without a loom
by Veronica Burningham
Small Loom & Freeform Weaving
by Barbara Matthiessen
You Can Weave!
by Kathleen Monaghan
Weaving Without a Loom
by Sarita Rainey (US title)
Kids Weaving by Sarah Swett

Recommended website:

<http://www.montessoriworld.org/Handwork/weave/weaving3.html>

Weaving Resources & Inspiration

Recommended books:

Tapestry Weaving
by Kirsten Glasbrook

Recommended websites:

Sue Lawty
http://www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/1395_lawty/wordpress/
Trisha Gow:
<http://www.dyeingtoweave.co.uk>
Joanna Gleason:
<http://www.gfwsheep.com/tapestry/tapestries.html>