

Advanced Ideas

DIFFERENT PATTERNS

You can create your own patterns by guiding the **weft** thread over two **warp** threads and then under the next two **warp** threads. This is called the Basket Weave--over and under every two warp threads.

DIFFERENT TEXTURES

Wind the **weft** thread around the **warp** threads to create various textures. If you want to have more texture, combine two or three different yarn colors as your **weft**, and weave the combined yarns together.

& NEW EXPERIMENTS TO TRY!

- Try different sizes and colors of **weft** yarn.
- Experiment weaving different **weft** materials, such as grass, rags cut into strips, wire, etc.
- To make horizontal stripes, weave as many rows with one **weft** color as you like, then change to another color.
- To make vertical stripes, alternate weaving two different colors of **weft** row by row. The two colors must interlock at the edges, or selvages.
- To make checks, use the same technique as for vertical stripes, but weave the same number of rows for each set of colors. Then switch them.

Make a Cloth Bag

APPLY YOUR NEW SKILL!

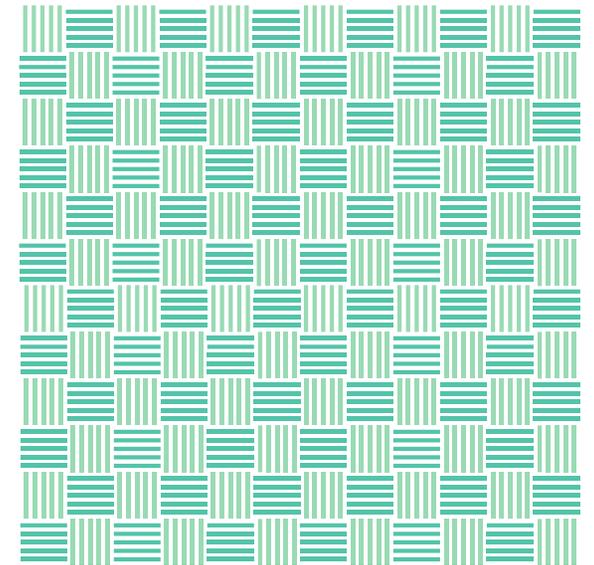
- After you finish on one side of the loom, turn the loom over and keep weaving on the other side. Squeeze the **weft** yarns very close together--this works best with an odd number of **warp** threads, so you might need to add an extra **warp** thread to one side of the loom to make an odd number.
- The top of the weaving is left open, so the bag can be slipped off the loom. To do this, simply cut the **warp** threads at the top, and tie them two together in an overhand knot. Cut the extra yarn after the knot is tied, tuck the ends back into the weaving, or use the long ends for fringe. Maybe add beads to them! Then fashion a strap by making a braid and sew it to your bag.



Warps, Wefts, and Handheld Weaving

Welcome to Weaving! Weaving starts with **warp** threads stretched tightly on a loom. The **weft** yarns are woven under and over the **warp** threads.

Let's get started!

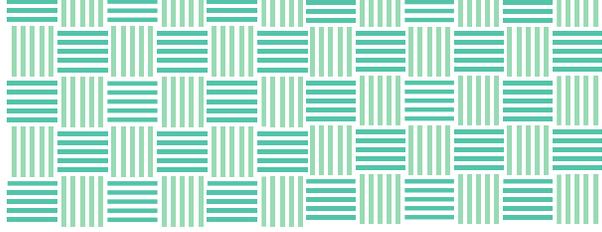


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Let's Weave!

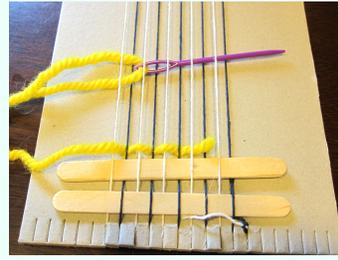
TIPS BEFORE STARTING

- Weave with manageable lengths of yarn, no more than one yard (36 in.) long.
- Slant your **weft** yarn at a 45° angle before pressing the yarn down.
- Both your cardboard loom and the plastic needle are flexible. Use this flexibility to make your weaving easier and faster. When your **weft** yarn gets too short, you might need to weave the needle in first, then thread the yarn through the eye in the needle, then pull it through the **warp**.

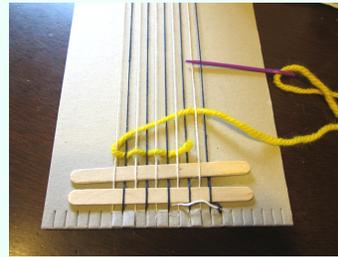
HELPFUL HINTS AS YOU GO

- Don't pull too tightly, or your weaving will get narrower with each row. Instead, try to keep the edges looser, so that the sides of your weaving will be nice and straight.
- Don't put a knot in your **weft** yarn. Instead, hold the yarn below the eye of the needle with your thumb and index finger (pinch), then pull. The yarn won't slip out if you remember to **pinch, then pull**. Any tails can be trimmed off after a few rows.
- Try to keep your edges straight. If you create an hourglass shape, it will be impossible to keep weaving.

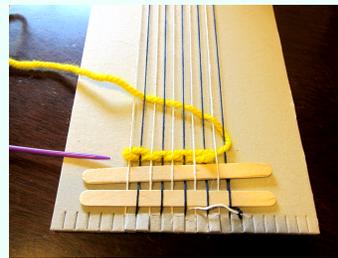
PLAIN WEAVE INSTRUCTIONS



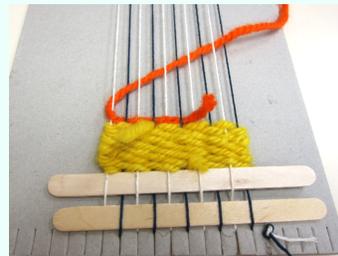
1. Start from the inside, leaving the tail as shown. Use the needle to weave the weft thread under one and over the next warp thread.



2. For the second row, weave your weft thread over the first warp thread, and under the next. (Do the opposite of Step 1.)



3. Use your fingers as a comb to press the weft threads tightly together as you go.



4. To begin a new color, overlap the new yarn with the old yarn for about 2 or 3 warp threads, bringing the tails of both threads out in front of your weaving. Clip tails flush with weaving.

How to Remove

REMOVING YOUR PROJECT

1. Turn your cardboard loom over so that the back of the loom is facing you.
2. Carefully cut across the **warp** threads in the middle of the loom.
3. Working with only two **warp** threads at a time--don't pull them all out at once!, loop these two threads together (like starting to tie shoelaces) and tie a knot neatly and close to the woven edge. Then double-knot it for safety.
4. Add beads, braid the ends, or whatever you like. Get creative!

READY TO START ANOTHER?

- Choose a strong smooth thread, yarn, or twine for your **warp**.
- Make a big knot in the end and secure it in a notch on the loom.
- Wrap yarn around and around both sides of the loom. The yarn should be straight up and down on the front side and slanted on the back side.
- Make sure the yarn lies flat.
- Craft or popsicle sticks can be woven in to tighten the **warp**.
- When the **warp** is as wide as you want, finish with another big knot fastened in one of the notches. You're all set!

