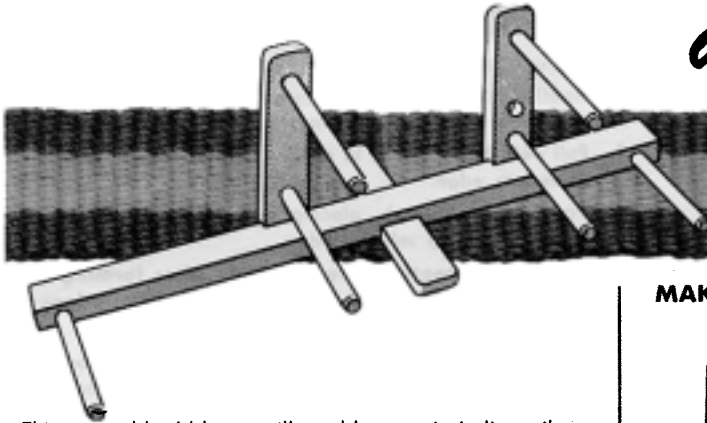


weaving

with the inkle loom

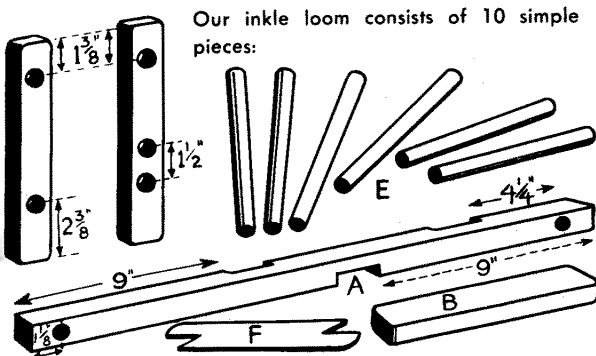


This is an old, old loom, still used by certain Indian tribes. It is of very simple construction. You can buy it, but it can be made in your school shop. "Inkle" means a woven strip; on the loom shown here it can be made up to 3" wide and about 38" long. (This length plus 16" represents the warping length of this loom, which will have to be fully warped even for shorter pieces.)

For **materials** you may choose strong, firm SPEED-CRO-SHEEN cotton, or softer RED HEART Yarns, such as Knitting Worsted or finer Super Fingering Yarn. When warping with wool yarn, you wind your shuttle (for weft of weave) with a soft cotton, such as KNIT-CRO-SHEEN or Bedspread Cotton.

The **amount of material** you need will depend on width of strip and thickness of thread. It will help you to know that there are 100 yards in a ball of SPEED-CRO-SHEEN, 60 yards in a 1-oz. skein of Knitting Worsted, 158 yards in a 1-oz. skein of Super Fingering Yarn.

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE THE LOOM



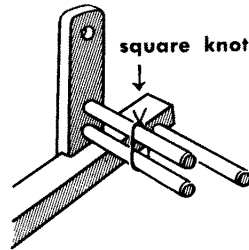
Our inkle loom consists of 10 simple pieces:

- A — 1 base piece $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 24''$ with one hole at each end and 3 cut-outs to fit posts and foot piece
 - B — 1 foot piece $\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 9''$
 - C — 1 post $\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 9''$ with two holes as shown
 - D — 1 post $\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 9''$ with three holes as shown
 - E — 6 dowels $\frac{3}{4}''$ in diameter and 7" long, fitting tightly into the holes in post and base piece
- All pieces have slightly rounded corners and are well sanded.
- F — Fashion shuttle out of a tongue depressor, as shown.

ASSEMBLING THE LOOM:

Foot piece is fitted and screwed at right angles to base piece as shown above. The two posts are fitted and screwed to the base piece as shown. Dowel pegs are placed as shown.

MAKING HEDDLES:



Even if your loom comes supplied with heddles, it is better to make your own.

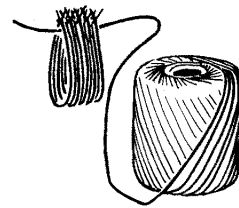
Place peg D into lower hole. Tie a string around pegs E and D as shown, making a tight square knot; clip ends to about $\frac{1}{2}''$. Slip heddle off the pegs.

The number of heddles needed depends on the width of woven band. For practice, make a 40-warp belt (see photograph above) for which you'll need 20 heddles.

SETTING UP THE WARP

Band is prettier in more than one color. Arrange your colors in stripes on the loom. Our **sample belt** was made in tan and ecru in the following proportions: Tan—12 threads; Ecru—16 threads; Tan—12 threads.

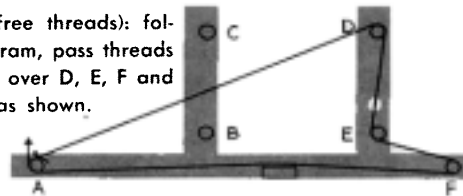
Always count threads on peg D.



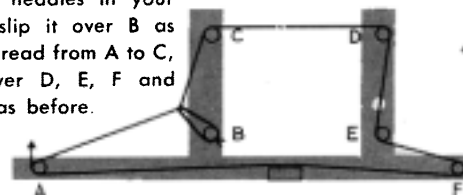
Pass end of first color thread through **all** heddles and tie in a bow knot to peg A. Slip a finger through heddles and hold them in your hand while hand travels around loom, placing thread on pegs.

The loom is warped in two alternating cycles of **free threads** and **heddle threads**.

1st cycle (free threads): following diagram, pass threads from peg A over D, E, F and back to A as shown.



2nd cycle (heddle threads): following diagram, release one of the heddles in your hand and slip it over B as you carry thread from A to C, continue over D, E, F and back to A as before.



Continue in this manner, alternating the two cycles, laying one thread carefully next to the other. **Keep threads rather loose.** Bring all heddle knots to under side.



CHANGING COLOR

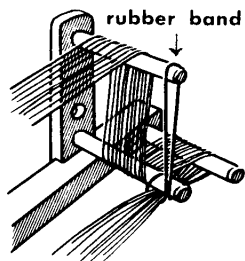
Cut off thread near peg A; untie beginning of thread and tie ends together in a square knot. **No thread must stay attached to A.** Start next color by passing end of thread through heddles and attaching temporarily to A as at the beginning. Continue as before and finish thread ends of each color as explained.

When tying threads leave long thread ends if you intend to finish band with a fringe.

Another way of warping is to tie each new color thread to the end of the preceding one and finally tying beginning and end together so as to make one continuous warp thread.

TENSION

Since warp is rather loosely wound around loom, tension must be tightened for weaving. Hang two heavy rubber bands over peg E, pass band under warp between pegs F and A, loop other ends over D, as shown.



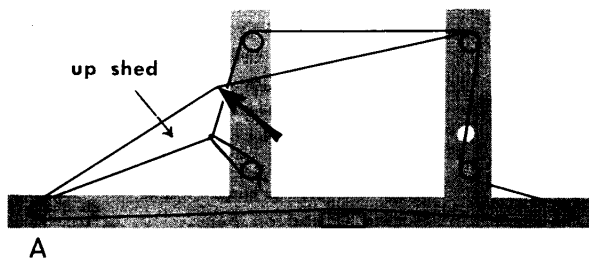
As warp tightens through weaving, release tension by looping both rubber band ends over peg E, and later remove rubber bands entirely. When it becomes necessary to release tension further, move peg E to the hole above and put on rubber bands as before.

WINDING SHUTTLE

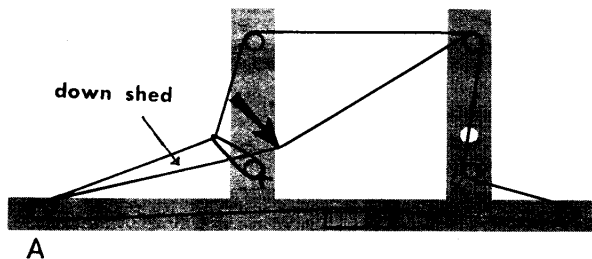
Shuttle is generally wound with the same color as the edges of band. This is called the **weft thread**.

STARTING TO WEAVE

Instead of the first two weft threads, you insert two strips of cardboard about 1/2" wide to give a good, firm weaving surface.



Sit in front of loom with peg A toward you. Now place left hand under strip of free warp threads (without heddles) directly in back of heddles; press threads **up** until there is a distinct opening between the two strips of threads. This is called a **shed** (up shed). Insert cardboard into shed close to peg A.



Now take shuttle in left hand. With right hand press free warp **down** until threads lie between heddles. A new shed is formed (down shed).

Insert shuttle and beat threads sharply against cardboard with shuttle edge. Insert second cardboard strip; form new shed.

Now start inserting shuttle thread, forming alternately an up shed and a down shed and beating firmly against previous thread before inserting a new weft thread.

For **firm and even selvages**, work as follows:

1. Leave a loop at selvage edge after placing weft thread in shed.
2. Make alternate shed.
3. Insert shuttle and beat firmly against previous thread; stand shuttle on its edges to keep shed open.
4. Pull weft thread gently to remove loop at selvage and make a smooth edge.
5. Pass shuttle through, placing next weft thread in shed; leave a loop at selvage edge.

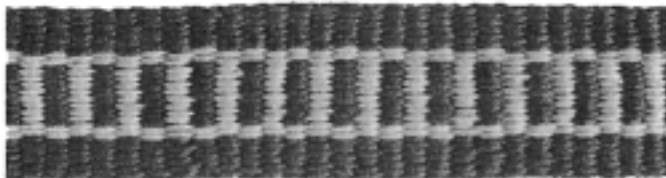
Continue like this, beating threads firmly after forming new sheds, and before passing shuttle through; control edges as explained.

When woven piece comes too near to heddles to leave a good shed, the warp position must be shifted. Remove any rubber bands and remove peg B (with heddles). It is now easy to pull the woven band forward until end of weaving is just above peg A. Replace peg B and tension control.

Weaving may be continued until it reaches peg D, but can be stopped at any point. To remove weaving from loom, unwoven threads are cut half way between ends of woven band and drawn out from heddles.

DIFFERENT PATTERNS

Different patterns are achieved through different warping. The easiest are stripes, but by experimenting you can find many interesting variations.



Here is one example of a different pattern. It is a belt, on a 49-thread warp (24 heddles), in blue and red.

Start blue, wind 12 times; cut thread, tie end to beginning.

Start red, wind 4 times, don't cut thread.

Start blue, alternate red and blue 17 times (all heddles stay on red); cut blue, tie to beginning.

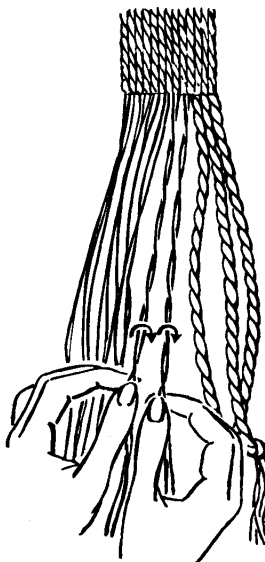
Continue with red, wind 4 times, cut threads, tie to beginning.

Start blue, wind 12 times, cut thread, tie to beginning.

FINISHING ENDS

For a plain end, stitch closely back and forth across end and trim threads off, either close to stitching, or leaving a short fringe.

Long Fringe: Attach piece somewhere so ends can be held taut. Separate the first four thread-ends; take two ends in each hand and twist the two together, both hands working in the same direction. When twist is tight, knot the two twist-ends (4 threads) together; roll lightly in opposite direction.



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