

Weaving

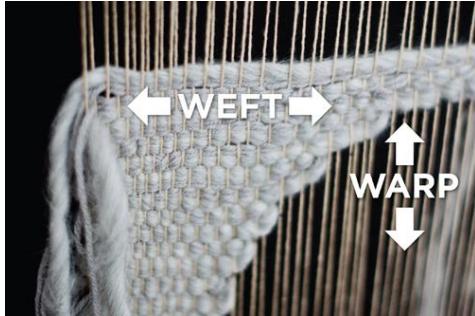
Weaving was an activity that involved the entire family. The father and older children would sheer the sheep once or twice a year. Younger children helped clean the wool with a carder. The wool could be dyed using plants and bugs the family collected. The children would help the mother and older girls spin the clean, dyed wool. Some children used a drop spindle but it was much faster to use the spinning wheel, if the family owned one. Once enough yarn or thread was spun, a loom would be set up and the cloth would be woven.

The skill of weaving was also used to weave baskets out of found materials such as vines, branches, twigs, reeds, and flat oak strips. Whether weaving with yarn, vines, or paper the same techniques are used.

"A **Loom** is the structure that you use to give your weave support and tension as you work. There are many kinds of looms from one small enough to fit in your hand to one that is the size of a room. Some have many parts but others are comprised of a piece of cardboard and some yarn. All of the looms do the same thing, even the large looms in factories that weave cloth for our clothes, curtains, and rugs.



Different Kinds of Looms



The **warp** thread is the thread that is strung over the loom vertically, and holds the tension while you weave. This is the backbone of your weave.

The **weft** thread is the thread that you weave between, around, and all over the warp threads. It creates your patterns and design in the weave."

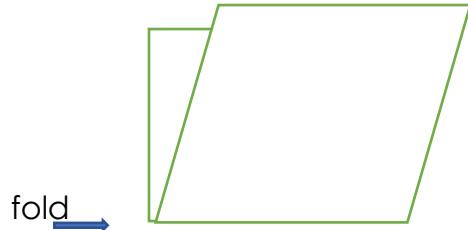
Weavers use many kinds of materials. Usually the warp thread is string or yarn but the weft can be wool tufts, yarn, string, branches, vines, leaves or paper. Use your imagination and see what you can weave into your creation!

<https://www.theweavingloom.com/beginners-guide-to-weaving/>

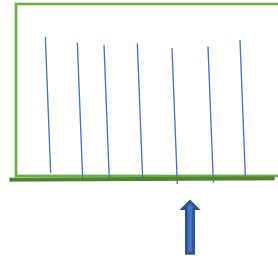
Let's weave a paper mat:

You will need:

- 2-3 sheets of colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick or tape



1. Fold one sheet of paper in half the hamburger way.
2. With scissor cut a straight line from the fold up to the top of the page. Stop cutting about one inch from the top. Repeat cutting the straight line several times. Each time move your scissors over about one inch before your cut.



Cut where the blue lines are drawn on the sample. Make the cut the lines about one inch apart. I have seven cut lines, but you don't need seven lines. Cut at least four lines. It is up to you to choose the number of lines.

Fold

3. Cut the other sheets of colored paper into strips that are about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1 inch wide and the length of the paper.
4. Open up your folded paper. Be careful not to rip the paper. This is the **warp** of your loom.
5. Begin to weave your colored strips through the unfolded paper. The colored strips are the **weft** in your weaving.
6. **Start at the bottom of the paper** with the slits. **Go over the first slit, under the next one**, over the third one, under the next one. Repeat until you have woven the entire strip of paper across your warp.
7. Pick up the next strip of paper. **You will weave it in the same manner but this time you will begin by weaving under the first slit, then over the next one**. The pattern is reversed. This method holds each strip in place.
8. Continue weaving until you reach the top of the warp on your paper loom.

Here is a short video that demonstrates the process.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOmYCURzd7Y>

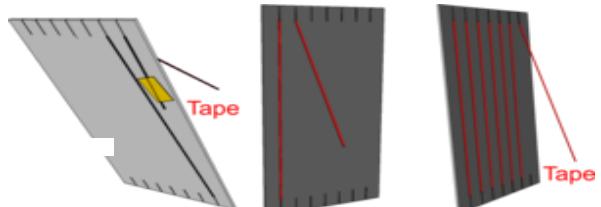
Let's weave a small mat!

You will need:

- A Sheet of cardboard about 4 inches longer than your finished piece
- Scissors
- A ruler to measure where the notches should be cut on the cardboard loom. The ruler helps but is not absolutely necessary.
- Yarn, string, or some other materials.
- Two strips of paper the width of the loom
- Tape

Weaving a mat with yarn follows the same process as described for the paper mat. Set up your loom but measuring and marking the top edge of the cardboard every half inch. Do the same at the bottom edge. With scissors, cut a small slice into the edge of the cardboard at each of your marked lines. Do the same at the bottom edge of the loom.

Next you will warp your loom. Tape the end of your yarn on the back of the cardboard. Wrap the yarn to the front of the cardboard and hook it through the first notch you cut. Stretch the yarn straight up to the first notch at the top of the cardboard. Take the yarn behind the cardboard to the next notch and pull the yarn to the front of the loom. Take the yarn straight down to the bottom of the loom and latch the yarn around the notch. Repeat until the entire loom has been warped. Tape the end of the yarn on the back of the cardboard. It should look like this;



Cut a strip of paper about one inch wide. Start at the bottom of the loom and weave the paper through the weft: Over and under, over and under. Next you will weave your yarn under and over the strings of your warp. Tape the end of the weft yarn on the back of the cardboard. Begin weaving over and under the yarn of the warp directly above the paper strip. Change colors as you like. Leave a bit of a tail loose that can be woven into the design or taped on the back when you are done. Weave up the loom until you are done.

To finish the weaving, carefully pull two neighboring warp strings off of the loom. Cut the ends and tie them together. Repeat this step with the next two strings. Once one edge is removed and tied, turn the loom and do the same process with the strings on other end.

Voila! Enjoy your beautiful weaving!

Video Weaving on a cardboard loom with multiple colors and fringe.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbtKnvc_9No