

CRICKET LOOM

ASSEMBLY AND WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS



10" Weaving Width



15" Weaving Width



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CRICKET LOOM

ASSEMBLY AND WEAVING INSTRUCTIONS

PARTS

2 – side pieces, one with inserts and ratchet dogs attached
2 – warp and cloth beams with ratchet gears attached
2 – front and rear beams
2 – apron dowels
1 – 8-dent rigid heddle reed
1 – warping peg
2 – clamps
2 – stick shuttles
1 – threading hook
2 – 50 gram balls of worsted weight 100% wool yarn

Small parts in plastic bag:
2 – wooden dowel handles
2 – 1" screws
4 – 1½" screws
2 – 3/8" screws
2 – fender washers
6 – white Texsolv cords

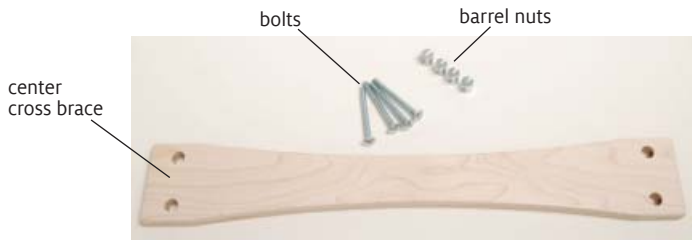
TOOLS

Phillips screwdriver (electric if available)
hammer
ruler or tape measure
paper clip



ADDITIONAL PARTS FOR 15" CRICKET LOOMS

- 1 – center cross brace
- 4 – barrel nuts
- 4 – 2" trusshead bolts



ASSEMBLING YOUR CRICKET LOOM

1. Line up the loom sides parallel and with the ratchet dogs on the right and outside of the loom. Place the front and back beams between the sides and secure with the 1½" screws. (Photo 2)

the holes in the brace. Insert a 2" bolt through the loom side and screw into the barrel nut. Repeat for the remaining holes in the cross brace. (Photo 2a)



15" Looms: Line up the center cross brace with the pairs of holes in the loom sides. With the slot on top and parallel to the long sides of the cross brace, place a barrel nut into one of

2. Working from the outside, insert the non-gear ends of the warp and cloth beams through the holes in the right side of the loom, then into the holes in the left side of the loom. Place a fender washer on each 1" screw and

secure the warp and cloth beams on the left side of the loom. (Photo 3)



Flip the ratchet dogs over so they sit on top of the gears.

3. Insert and center the handles into the holes in the ends of the warp and cloth beams. If the dowels are a tight fit, use a hammer to gently tap them into place. Use the 3/8" screws to secure the handles. You can rub a bit of bar soap or paste wax on the screw threads to make them easier to turn, or use an electric screwdriver if you have one. (Photos 4-5)



4. Attach the apron cords. Be sure to attach them all in the same way so that they end up the same length.

- Insert one end of each cord into each hole in the warp and cloth beams. Use a straightened paper clip to push the cords through. (Photo 6a)



- Place the other end of the cord through the last hole in the cord and pull it tight around the beam. (Photos 6b-c)



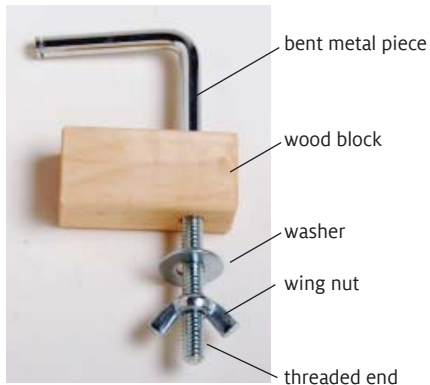
- After all of the cords have been attached to the beams, install the apron bars. First make a loop in the cord (Photo 6d) and then put the loop

through the last hole in the cord.
(Photo 6e) Slide the apron rod into the loop and pull tight. (Photo 6f) Continue with the rest of the cords.



ASSEMBLING THE CLAMPS

1. Insert the long threaded end of the bent metal piece into the wood block.
2. Place a washer and wing nut on the threaded end.
3. Repeat for the other clamp.



Your loom is now ready to warp.

WEAVING WORDS

Like any craft, weaving has its own vocabulary. Learning these words will help you as you read the instructions.

The Cricket Loom is for weaving fabric. Fabric is made by crossing vertical and horizontal threads. The vertical threads that are held by the loom are called the warp threads or ends. To put the threads on the loom is called warping. The horizontal threads that cross the warp from side to side are called weft threads or picks. The tool that carries the weft back and forth is called the shuttle. The opening through which the shuttle passes is called the shed. The shed is made by the rigid heddle reed (or just heddle) which is also used to beat or pack the weft threads into place.

For definitions and additional information, see the glossary on page 12.

WARPING YOUR CRICKET LOOM

The first step to weaving is to put the warp on the loom. This is called “warping the loom.” The method below is what we call the direct warping method* — it is very fast and easy to do.

Before you begin, you’ll need a pair of scissors, a ruler or tape measure, and heavy paper about 10" wide and 90" long (we cut strips from paper grocery bags). You can use multiple pieces of 10" wide paper.

1. To begin, place the clamps into the end holes at the back of the loom and clamp the loom to a table. (Photo 7)



2. For the scarf project supplied with this loom, place the warping peg 72" away from the front of the loom (90" from the back apron rod).

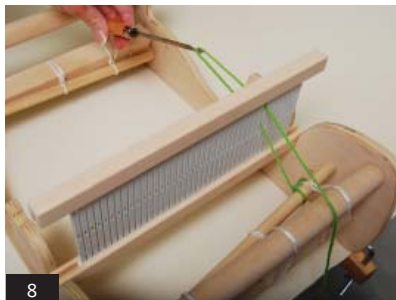
3. Place one ball of yarn on the floor below the back beam of your loom.

4. Place the heddle in the neutral position. (Photo 7)

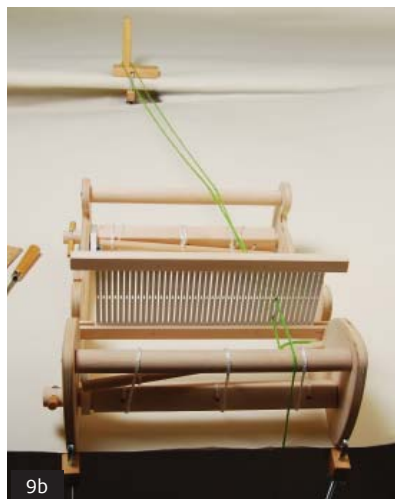
5. Bring the apron rod up over the back beam toward the heddle. Tie the end of the yarn to the apron rod approximately 2" from the end of the

* The single peg warping method was first developed by Rowena Hart.

rod (work right to left or left to right, whichever is most comfortable for you). (Photo 8)



6. Using the heddle hook, pull a loop of yarn through a slot in the heddle beginning 2" from the edge of the heddle. Place the loop of yarn over the warping peg. Note: there are two warp ends in the slots. (Photos 9a–b)



7. Measure the next two warp ends by pulling another loop of yarn *under* the apron rod and through the next slot in the rigid heddle. Place the loop over the warping peg. Alternate pulling loops over then under the apron rod until you have 6" (48 ends—threaded in 24 slots) measured. (Photo 10)



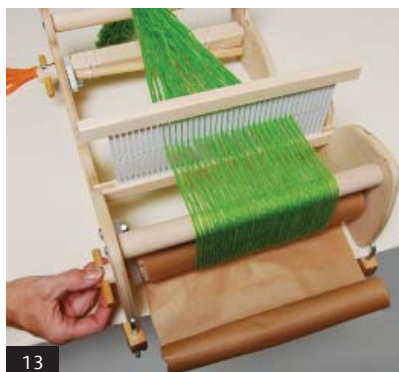
8. After all warp ends have been measured, cut off the yarn from the ball and tie the end to the apron rod. (Photo 11)



9. Remove the yarn from the warping peg. Hold it tightly in your hand and with a pair of scissors cut the end of the loop. Tie the bundle into an overhand knot. (Photos 12a - b)



10. Wind the warp onto the warp beam by turning the warp beam crank handle clockwise. When the warp has been rolled around the beam once, insert heavy paper between the layers to separate them. (Photo 13)



11. Continue rolling the warp and paper onto the warp beam. Stop every so often and pull firmly on the warp to tighten the warp and paper on the beam.

12. Stop winding when the front end of the warp is about 8" from the heddle. Undo the knot in the end of the warp.

13. Unclamp the loom from the table and turn it around to face you and work from the front. You have two warp ends in each slot. Take one end out of each slot and thread it through the next hole using the threading hook. Work from one edge of the weaving to the other until all holes have been threaded. (Photos 14a–b)



14. Bring the apron rod around and over the top of the front beam so that it is about 6" from the heddle.

15. Select a 1" group of threads at the center of the warp and bring them over the top of the apron rod, dividing them in half. Tie them together around the apron rod using a surgeon's knot. It's like starting to tie your shoes, except you go around twice. Complete tying 1" groups. You should have 6 groups. (Photos 15a–c)



16. Work back and forth across the warp, tightening all the groups. Pat across the warp to make sure the tension is even. (Photo 16)



17. Tie the ends of each group in a bow tie. You are now ready to weave.

WEAVING ON YOUR CRICKET LOOM

WINDING A SHUTTLE

Wind the weft yarn around the shuttle in a figure-eight pattern. You can wind along one edge or both edges of the shuttle. (Photos 17a–b)



SETTING UP THE LOOM

There are two ways to weave on your loom. You can clamp the front of the loom to the table top and weave standing up, or you can weave sitting down by hooking the back notch on the edge of a table.

Check your loom for heddle placement. The up position is shown in photo 18a, the neutral position used for threading is shown in photo 18b, and the down position is illustrated in photo 18c. (Photos 18a–c)

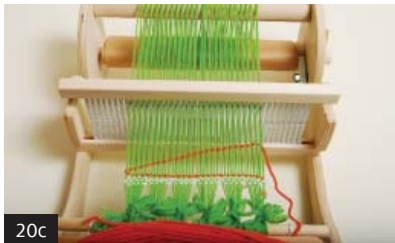
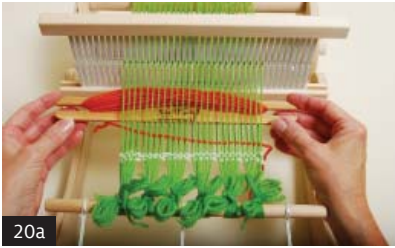
Before beginning to weave your project, it is a good idea to weave a “header” with scrap yarn. The purpose of the header is to spread the

warp out evenly so that your weaving project can begin on an even, uniform warp. Use scrap yarn about the same size as your project yarn. Weave about three rows without beating and then press these in place with the heddle. Your warp should be evenly spread; if not, repeat. (Photo 19)



WEAVING

Place your heddle in the up position. Insert your shuttle into the opening between the raised and lowered threads (called the shed). Take the shuttle out the other side. Press, or beat, the weft into place with the heddle. Now place the heddle in the down position. Insert the shuttle into the shed and return the shuttle to the other side. Beat the weft into place. Repeat. That's all there is to it! Pretty soon you'll be doing all of the steps automatically. (Photos 20a–c)



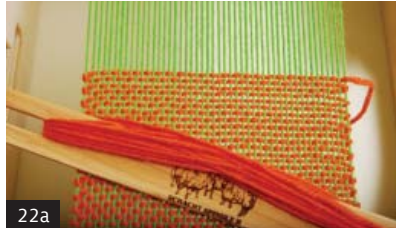
When inserting the weft into the shed, place it at about a 45 degree angle to prevent the weaving from pulling in at the edges (draw-in). (Photo 20c)

To secure the tail of the weaving you can leave it hanging and sew it in after you have finished weaving or you can fold it back into the weaving for a 1/2" or so. (Photo 21)



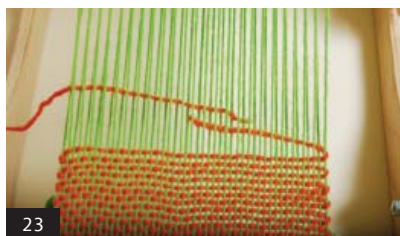
ADVANCING THE WARP

After a few inches of weaving, you will need to advance your warp. Release the tension on the warp by turning the front crank handle counterclockwise just enough to that you can release the front ratchet dog with your finger. Lift the rear ratchet dog and turn the front crank handle counterclockwise to wind a few inches of warp, then re-engage the ratchet dogs. Adjust the warp by turning the front crank handle counterclockwise until the warp is taut. (Photos 22a–b)



ADDING NEW WEFT

When your shuttle runs out of weft, leave the yarn in the shed where it ends. Wind more yarn onto your shuttle, insert the shuttle into the same shed, overlapping the new end with the old end for about an 1/2". You can also start and stop your old and new ends at the selvedge (edge) and weave them into the shed as you did in the beginning. (Photo 23)



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REMOVING YOUR PROJECT FROM THE LOOM

When you can't weave any farther or have finished your project, weave a few rows with waste yarn, and cut the warp off from the back of the loom. Unwind the fabric from around the cloth beam and untie or cut off the warp from the front apron rod. Be careful not to cut the apron cords. (Photo 24)



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To prevent the weft from raveling, tie groups of overhand knots along the edge. Finally, handwash, dry and press your finished fabric!

CHANGING YARNS WHILE WARPING

Sometimes you want to have stripes or to use a variety of yarns in your warp. When you are using the direct warping method, you have a couple of choices for how to change yarns while you are warping:

Method 1 - Drop and Pick Up

- drop the first yarn at the back apron rod
- tie the second yarn to the back apron rod
- measure warp ends with the second yarn

This method works best if you are changing back & forth between yarns, with only a few ends (an inch or less of warp) between changes. Once your second yarn is tied onto the back apron rod, you can change between yarns by dropping one and picking up the other.

Method 2 - Cut and Tie

- cut the first yarn at the apron rod, leaving a tail a few inches long
- tie the first and second yarns together with the knot at the back apron rod (trim the tails on the knot if needed)
- continue warping with the second yarn

This method is best if you will be winding many ends (more than an inch) before changing yarns again. If you need an odd number of ends, you can use this method to change yarns at the warping peg instead of the back apron rod.

GLOSSARY OF WEAVING TERMS

Balanced weave: Fabric in which the number of warp ends per inch (see e.p.i.) equals the number of weft ends, or picks, per inch (see p.p.i.).

Beat: Push the weft threads into place with the rigid heddle.

Draw-in: The tendency of the weft to pull the warp in during weaving.

End: One warp yarn or thread.

E.p.i.: Ends per inch. The number of warp threads, or ends, per inch, determined by the number of slots and holes per inch on the rigid heddle.

Heddle block: The notched area on the inner face of the loom sides. Holds the heddle in the upper position (on top of the block) or the lower position (under the block). When the heddle is in the notch it is in the neutral position.

Loom waste: The ends of the warp threads which are not usable because they are knotted onto the loom, or remain unwoven.

Pick-up stick: A narrow stick used to pick up patterns.

P.p.i.: Picks per inch. The number of shots, or picks, of weft per inch.

Plain weave: The most basic weave in which the weft is woven over and under the warp threads. Also called tabby.

Rigid heddle: The device that creates the sheds in weaving and is made up of alternate slots and holes. It is also used to beat the weft.

Selvedge: The very outside warp edge of the woven fabric.

Sett: The number of warp ends per inch.

Shed: The space between raised and lowered warp threads through which the weft passes.

Shuttle: A tool for holding and carrying weft.

Tabby: See plain weave.

Take-up: The amount of warp length “lost” during weaving. The warp, instead of going in a straight line, actually curves over and under the weft, and therefore extra warp yarn is required.

Warp: *Noun:* the set of threads held taut by the loom. *Verb:* the process of threading the warp onto the loom.

Weaving: Crossing one set of threads with another.

Weft: The threads or yarn which is passed across the warp threads.

RESOURCES

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