

Class Teaching Notes – Weave a Scarf in a Day

Goal: To introduce the student to the joys of handweaving. By the end of the class the students will have acquired the weaving vocabulary, learned how to warp, and will have woven a scarf.

Class duration: 6 hours, with a 45 minute lunch break.



Introductions (10 minutes)

I try to establish a relaxed learning environment. Most of my students are adults, some of whom have very little confidence in their learning abilities. I always say that I want them to ask questions because someone else probably has the same problem. I also tell them not to worry about the fact that some people are going to be faster than others. I have each student introduce themselves and tell why they are taking the class.

Introduction to weaving and warping demonstration (30 minutes)

I give an overview of what weaving is, as well as the terminology. Students seem to have a hard time at the beginning remembering what is warp and what is weft. To help them remember, I say, "You have to be warped to weave."

I use the single peg warping method because it is very quick to get a warp on the loom. I demonstrate warping, making a 1-inch wide warp.

Warping (1.25 hour)

I have the class warp in pairs. This way they will do the process two times. The students help each other. It also takes up less space. Give the students a Cricket Club booklet which has everything they need to know about warping and weaving, as well as all of the vocabulary. When they are finished warping, we take a lunch break. I allow about 45 minutes for lunch.

Weaving

Spend the afternoon weaving. Every hour or so I have them take a 5-10 minute break so they will get up and stretch. During this time I give them a mini-lesson. These generally present themselves because someone is having a question or problem: broken warp thread, selvages pulling in, uneven beat, starting and stopping wefts. At the end I talk about end finishes. For this project, they need to do the finishing at home (instructions are attached).

I show samples of other projects woven on a rigid heddle loom for inspiration. Each student should receive a Cricket Club booklet, Schacht catalog, and class evaluation form.

My local yarn store where I teach gives a 10% discount on yarn and equipment on the day of the class. This way, students are motivated to purchase a loom that day.