

THE SCHOOL LOOM

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



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SCHOOL LOOM PARTS

- 2 – sides with legs
- 1 – dowel
- 2 – beams with teeth
- 1 – nylon cord 16"
- 4 – 1½" flat head screws
- 2 – 1¼" screws

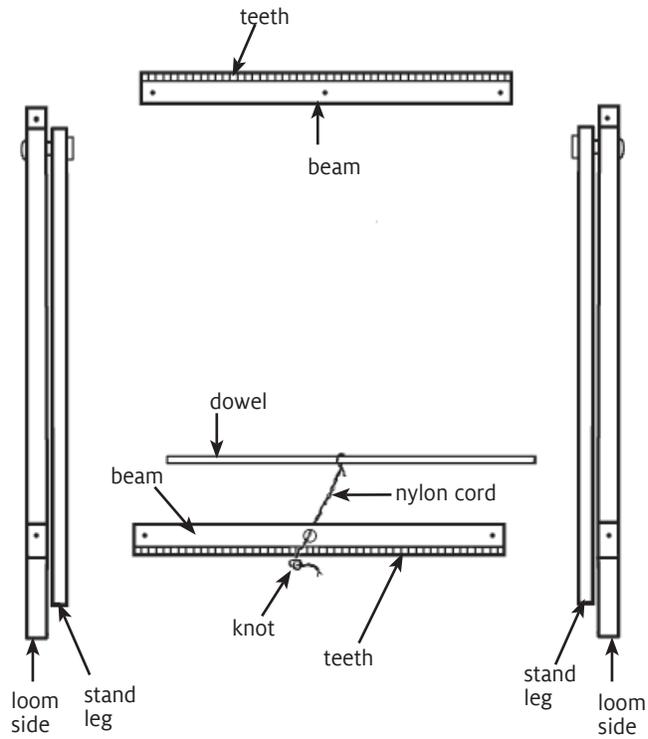


FIGURE 1: ASSEMBLING THE SCHOOL LOOM

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Lay the loom side pieces on a table or the floor parallel to each other and about 15" apart. The attached stand legs should be on the insides of the loom legs (see Figure 1).

2. Insert the dowel into the holes on the inside of each stand leg. Leave the dowel in place without fastening until step 5.

3. Place the top beam into the cut grooves in the tops of the loom sides (with the beam teeth facing up and out). Line up the holes and fasten the beam to each side with a 1½" screw.

Hint: Putting a small amount of bar soap or paste wax on the screw threads will make them easier to screw in.

4. Place the other beam into the bottom cut grooves of the loom sides (with the beam teeth facing down and out). Line up the holes and fasten the beam to each side with a 1½" screw.

5. Turn the loom on its side and pull the stand legs backward. Fasten each stand leg to its end of the cross dowel with the 1¼" screws.

6. Loop the nylon cord around the center of the dowel as shown in Figure 2.

7. Thread the end of the nylon cord from back to front, through the hole in the center of the bottom beam. Tie an overhand knot in the end of the cord, and pull the cord until the knot settles into the front of the hole.

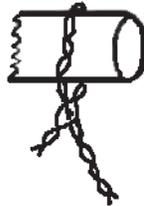


FIGURE 2: ATTACHING THE NYLON CORD

WEAVING ON THE SCHOOL LOOM

Weaving is the process of interlacing two sets of threads to make a fabric. One set, the warp, is held taut by the loom; the other set, the weft, is woven across the warp threads. There is no limit to the possibilities that can be explored by changing colors, sizes, and textures of the weaving materials.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- The School Loom with 2 pick-up sticks and 1 weaving needle, included
- Cotton yarn or string for warp
- Several soft, thick yarns in lots of colors for weft
- Scissors
- Fork or tapestry beater

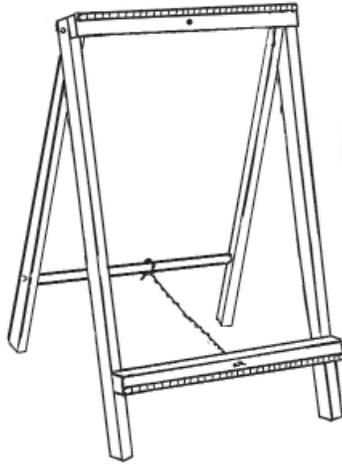


FIGURE 3: THE SCHOOL LOOM

WEAVING TERMS

beam teeth: the plastic “combs” attached to the top and bottom beams

beam: the top and bottom cross pieces of the loom frame

plain weave: the most basic weave, in which the threads interlace alternating over and under

shed: the space between raised and lowered warp threads through which the weft passes

shuttle: a tool for holding and carrying weft

warp: the weaving threads which are held taut on the loom

warping the loom: putting the warp threads on the loom

weft: the weaving threads which are woven crosswise through the warp threads

WARPING THE LOOM

1. Tie the warp string onto a tooth of the bottom beam near the side of the loom. (Figure 4)
2. Bring the string from this point straight to the top beam and place it around a tooth on the top beam. Now bring the string back to the bottom beam, skip one tooth and go around the next.
3. Repeat step two until the entire width of your warp is placed onto the loom, and end by tying the warp string onto the bottom beam.

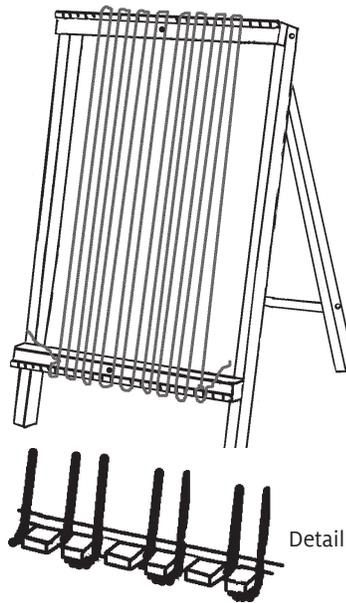


FIGURE 4: WARPING THE LOOM

BEGINNING TO WEAVE

Cut a length of weft yarn about 2 to 3 yards long, and thread it through the weaving needle.

Row 1 (Figure 5)

1. Weave one of the pick-up sticks under every other warp thread as follows: place the stick over the first warp thread, under the second warp thread, over the third, under the fourth, and so on, across the loom.
2. Turn the stick on its side to create an opening (called the shed).
3. Place the threaded needle through this open shed and pull the thread through until only a 2" tail of yarn remains.
4. Turn the pick-up stick back to its flat position and slide it up to the top of the loom. Leave this stick in place while you work Row 2. You will need it again for Row 3.

Row 2 (Figure 6)

Weave the other pick-up stick under every other warp thread as follows: beginning at the edge, place the stick under the first warp thread,

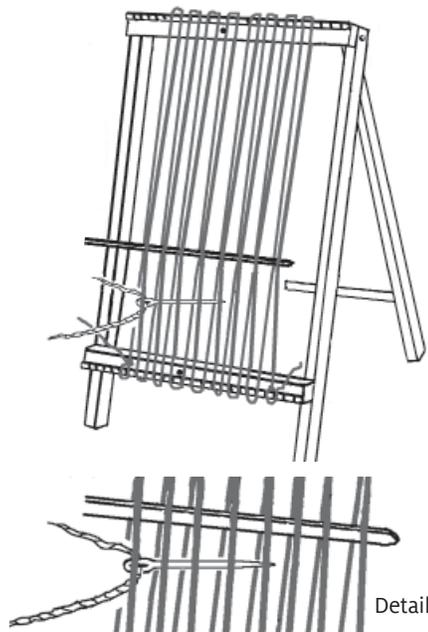


FIGURE 5: WEAVING ROW 1

over the second warp thread, under the third, over the fourth, etc., across the loom.

It's a good idea to check at this point that both pick-up sticks are correctly woven. Simply slide the second stick up to the first stick at the top of the loom, and check to see if the sticks hold alternate threads, all across the warp.

5. Turn the second stick on its side to create the new shed. Tuck the 2" tail from Row 1 into this shed.

6. Run the threaded needle back through this open shed and pull the thread until it turns and fits close to the edge warp thread. Do not pull the weft thread so tight at the edge that it forces the outer warps to pull in toward the center.

7. Use your fingers, a fork or a tapers-try beater to push the second row of weaving down next to the first row.

8. Remove the second pick-up stick from the loom, but leave the first pick-up stick in place at the top of the loom for Row 3.

Row 3

Slide the first pick-up stick down and repeat Row 1, steps 2 - 4. Pull the weft thread through the shed until it turns and fits close to the edge warp thread, remembering not to pull in too much, and use a beater or a fork to push this row next to the previous row.

Row 4

Repeat Row 2, steps 1-5.

Continue to weave, repeating Rows 3 and 4 until your weaving is done.

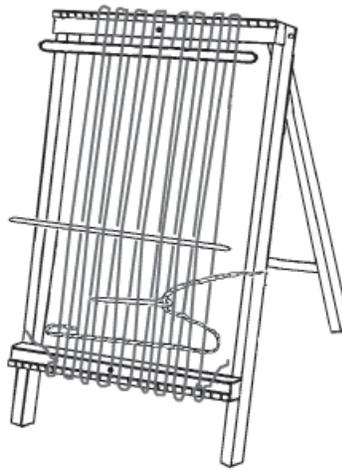


FIGURE 6: WEAVING ROW 2

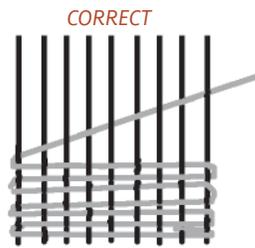
REMOVE THE WEAVING FROM THE LOOM

Cut the warp ends at the top of the weaving as close to the top of the loom as possible. Lift the warp loops from the bottom beam teeth. Tie small groups of warp ends with an overhand knot along the top edge of the weaving to prevent the weaving from loosening. If the bottom edge of the weaving is close to the loops, you may leave it as is, or if there is enough warp yarn to tie overhand knots at the bottom, tie knots there as well.

HELPFUL HINTS

- To keep the edges of your weaving from pulling in, allow for extra weft by placing the weft at an angle and not straight across. Pull the weft up to the edge of the warp, but do not pull it tight (figure 7).

- To change to a new length of yarn when the first yarn runs out, or when you want to change colors: leave the tail of the first length of yarn in the shed. Thread a new yarn onto your needle and weave the new yarn into the same shed as the old yarn. Overlap the new and old yarns where they meet (figure 8).



- To weave with two colors at once:
 - Horizontal stripes: Weave several rows of color A, then switch to color B for several rows.
 - Thin wavy stripes: Weave 2 rows of color A, then 2 rows of color B; repeat.
 - Vertical stripes: Weave 1 row of color A, then 1 row of color B; repeat. Push each row firmly down to the previous row for the best effect.
 - Spots of color B: Weave several rows of color A, then 1 row B; then several rows of color A.



FIGURE 7

- To weave two colors side by side (known as tapestry weaving), have one length of each color ready. Begin color A on the right side, and color B on the left side. Weave the two colors into the same shed until they meet. Close the shed and push the two yarns in place. Open the next shed and weave each color back to its edge. At the point where the yarns meet at the center you can choose to have them link around each other or not (figure 9). You can expand on this technique and weave three, four, or more colors beside each other at once. You will need a separate length of yarn for each color area. ■

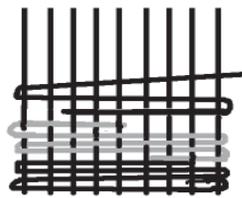


FIGURE 8

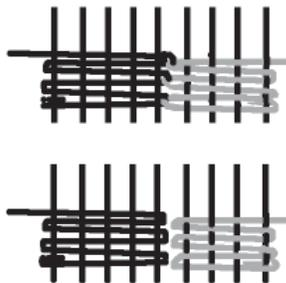


FIGURE 9

WEAVING ACCESSORIES FOR THE SCHOOL LOOM



Weighted Tapestry Beater

Single-End Tapestry Beater

Double-End Tapestry Beater



Pick-up Sticks
from 8" to 30" long



Stick Shuttles
from 9" to 30" long