

# How to Weave on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Little Loom

*The mission of the Guild is to promote the art of hand weaving, spinning, felting, and all fiber arts. We warmly welcome newcomers at all levels of proficiency and areas of interest in the fiber arts.*

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The Weavers Guild of Greater Kansas City would like you to experience the joy of weaving. The Little Loom provides a way to have fun while learning about plain weave to create a colorful fabric.

## Weaving Terms to Know

- ❖ **Warp:** a set of parallel yarns that provide the base for weaving; the lengthwise element in a woven fabric. The warp for this project is the white string that is included in the kit.
- ❖ **Weft:** a yarn that is drawn crosswise over and under the warp to create fabric. The weft for this project is the colorful yarn included in the kit.
- ❖ **Plain weave:** a basic weave structure created by interlacing one warp yarn with one weft yarn in an over-one, under-one sequence.

## Included in the Little Loom Kit

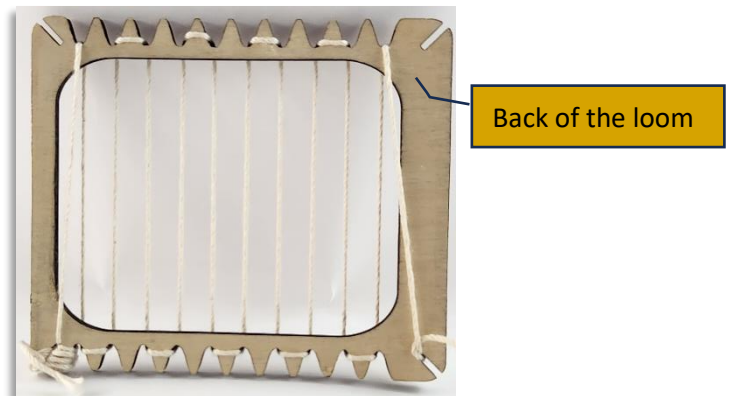
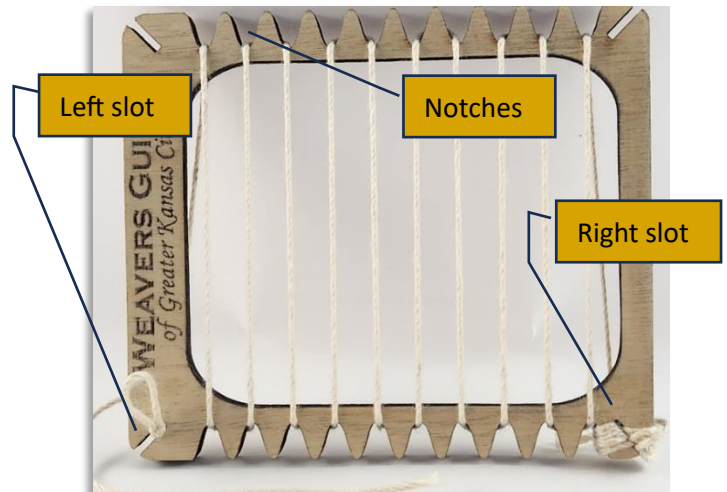
Wood loom, plastic needle, 50" cotton string (8/4 carpet warp),  
6 yards Loops & Threads Everyday cotton weft

## Threading the Loom

1. Using all of the included string, make a slipknot with a 3" tail and catch it in the bottom left slot. The long string is in back. Do not cut off the tail.
2. Hold the loom with "Weavers Guild" printing facing you, take the long string up and over the first top notch and down around the first bottom notch. Warp should be taut.
3. Continue going up and down across the loom until you reach the other side. Try to maintain consistent warp tension.
4. Take the warp over the top of the last notch in back and bring to the bottom and wrap it around the bottom right slot. Do not tie a knot or cut it off.

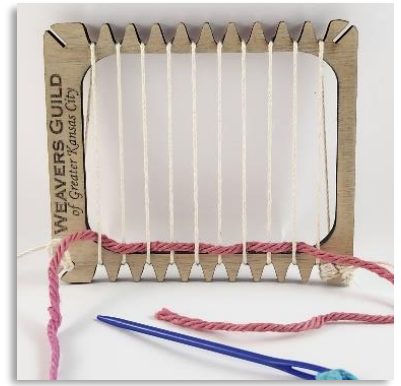


Notice that the first and last warp threads are in back of the loom. You will not weave on them.

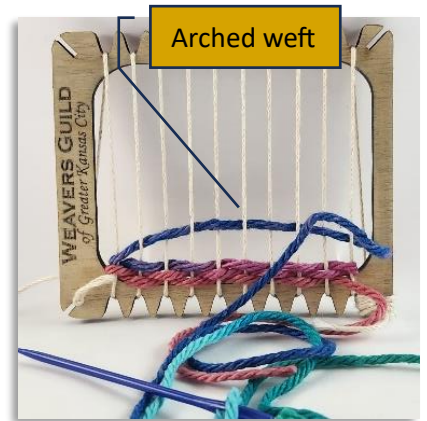


## Begin Weaving

1. Thread the needle with approximately one yard of weft yarn. It may be easier to thread the needle if you fold the yarn over and pinch the fold before inserting it into the eye of the needle. In this project, you will use all (or nearly all) of the provided cotton weft.
2. Begin weaving the first row by inserting threaded needle over the first warp yarn on the right and under the second, over the third, under the fourth, etc. until you reach the left side. Pull the yarn through leaving a 3-4" tail on the right side. Do not cut it off.
3. The second row of plain weave is created by weaving the yarn from left to right by going under and over the warp opposite to the first row until you reach the right side. Push the weft down with your fingers to meet the first row.



As you weave each row, be sure that the edges are parallel to the side of the loom. When weaving, the weft yarn travels over and under the warp threads and thereby increases in length. If the weft is too short it will cause the fabric to draw in and produce wavy edges. To get the correct length of weft yarn, make an arch as shown in the picture to the right. When you pack the yarn down, start by pushing down at the top of the arch. This will help to distribute the yarn evenly across the row.



4. Continue weaving the over-one, under-one sequence for each row until you fill the loom to the top. After every 4-6 rows, push the weft down so that it is firmly packed toward the bottom. This will make the fabric more dense and easier to handle when it is off the loom.



As you continue weaving, you will need to rethread the needle with more yarn. Remember to leave a 3-4" tail and begin and end on the right side of the loom. This will make it easier to finish the fabric.

5. After you have finished weaving, cut the weft leaving a 3-4" tail and remove the needle. Push the weft threads to the back. Do not cut them off.

## Suggested Finishing Techniques

- Display the weaving on the loom "as is" to show the process.
- Leave the weaving on the loom and tie an overhand knot in the two warp threads to form a loop on top. Tie the weft ends together in the back.



Follow these steps to finish the fabric and remove it from the loom.

1. Pull out the slip knot in the left side weft and thread it in the needle. Bury the needle vertically in the weaving. Repeat for the right side. This will leave two tails in front. For now, do not cut. Tie the weft ends together in the back.



2. Slip the weaving off the notches on the top and bottom of the loom. Stretch the weaving diagonally on the bias. This will allow the weft to fill up to the top of the loops. Lay it on a flat surface and smooth it out. Thread the weft end from the first row of weaving in the needle and bury it in the weaving. Repeat with the weft end from the last row of weaving. You can now cut off the tails of the warp and weft yarns.



3. You have finished your Little Loom weaving. Congratulations!

