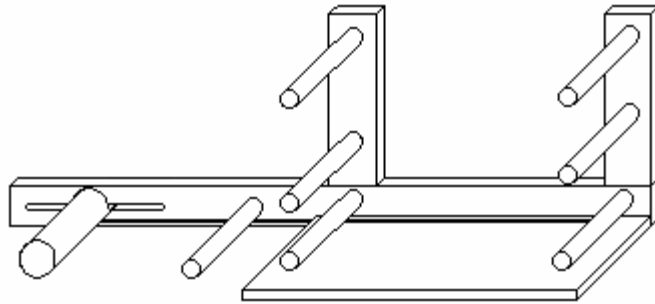


INKLE LOOM





864-525-7984
864-7879193

Psaltery Dreams

Renaissance Craft Shop

www.psalterydreams.com

psaltery_dreams@yahoo.com

This booklet is offered to our fiber arts customers for basic information on our mini and standard inkle loom. It offers basic instruction and patterns only.

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Caring for your Inkle loom

Inkle looms require very little maintenance. Using a good past wax will help to maintain a soft luster and protect the finish. If the tension bar no longer moves (slides) easily, apply a little past wax in the slot. This will fix the problem. As with any wood item, try to avoid exposing your inkle loom to excess moisture.

Psalterly Dreams would like to extend a grateful thanks to Tracy DeGarmo, without her knowledge and others like her this booklet could not have been prepared. For more information on inkle weaving patterns, go to her web site at <http://www.inkleweaving.com/notes/index.html> .

Happy weaving

Psalterly Dreams

How to Make Heddles

Heddles are loops of thread through which every other strand of warp is passed. The purpose of the heddles is to keep half of the warp threads stationary while the other half is free to be shifted either up or down in the creation of sheds. You can make your heddles out of just about any thread or string. However, if you wish to make fairly permanent heddles, make the heddles from fiber that will not stretch.

Measure the distance from the bottom of the heddle bar to the top of the top front warp peg. Divide this length in half and add about one-half to three-quarters of an inch. This is the "heddle loop measurement". Take a piece of stiff cardboard and make it that same length. The next step is to cut lengths of your fiber (string yarn etc.) That is twice the length of the heddle loop measurement plus a couple of inches. The number of heddles cut is determined by your design. Using 4/2 cotton and creating a band about two inches wide will require about 40 heddles. Once you have the necessary number of heddle strands cut, one-by-one tie the heddle strands into loops using the piece of cardboard as a guide so that each heddle loop is the exact same size. Tie the strands using a square knot and using the same tension and pressure on each one. Making heddles should be a one-time adventure in weaving. Heddles are meant to be used time and time again. The stronger the material out of which they are made of the longer they will last.

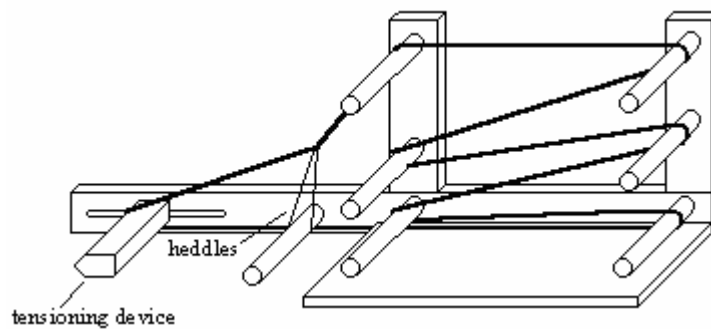
There are other techniques for making heddles as described in various books.

Warping the Inkle Loom

Both our mini and standard size inkle loom are warped in the same manner.

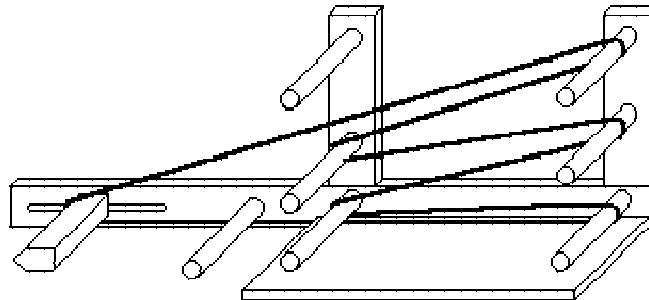
Warping is the process of wrapping the warp threads around the pegs of the loom. The first step is to make sure that your tensioning device is fully extended. If this is not done, you may not be able to adjust the tension as the band shortens. Then, Using a slipknot, create a loop in the string and slide that loop over the front bar. Now, slide one of the heddles separate from the others and hook it to the heddle bar. Take the warp and wrap it up and over the top front peg, over the top peg at the back, down to the second peg at the front, back to the second peg at the back, and continue down in a zigzag motion until all the pegs have been warped and finally bringing the warp back under the front bar (the one onto which you tied the thread to begin).

1.



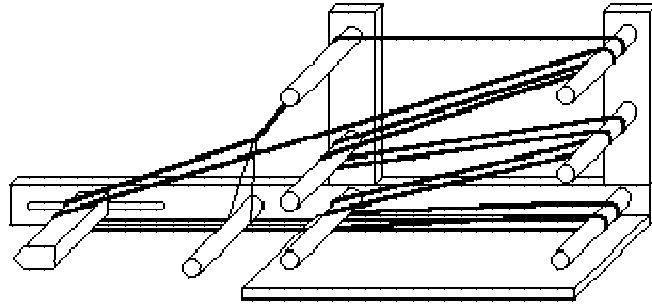
Continue to wrap. This time, do not slide a heddle down, and pass the thread under the top front peg. The rest of the warping for this wrap continues in the same manner as the previous wrap.

2.



For the third wrap, use a heddle again and wrap over the top front peg again. This warping continues in like manner until warping is completed.

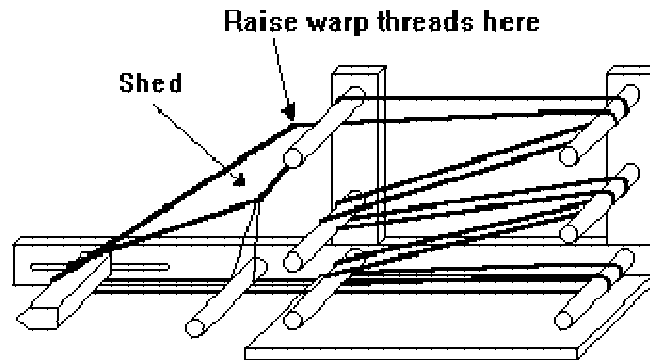
3.



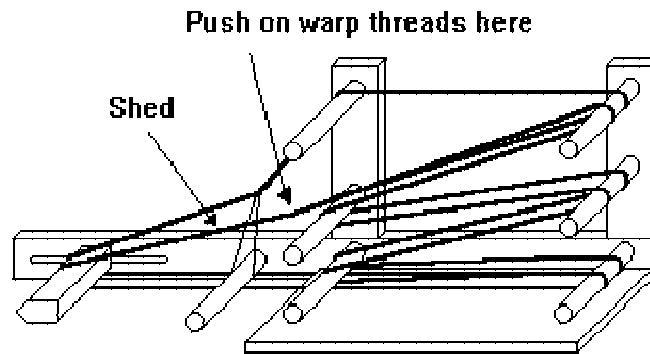
To switch colors, get your second color ready, sliding heddles onto the thread if necessary. While holding the first color, cut the warp at a position that is between the front bar and the heddles (but close to or at that front bar). Keep a hold on that warp so that the tension is maintained. Tie on the new warp color. It is easier just hold the two threads and tie a simple overhand knot. For the type of threads I usually use, this is sufficient. With the new warp tied on, continue with the warping. You may notice that this is creating one long strand of warp. This is known as a continuous warp. When you have come to the end of the warping process, take the warp thread and secure it in some way to maintain the tension. It is recommended that you wind it a few times around one of the pegs. With your hands now free, you need to untie the slipknot that you used to secure the warp initially. Make sure that this beginning end of the warp thread passes over the front bar. While holding the starting end of the warp with one hand, free the ending part of the warp with the other hand. Bring the ending warp under the front bar and cross it over to the side of the loom where your starting warp is located. Now, tie these two ends together. This completes the "continuous warp". You are almost ready to weave!

Weaving

The loom is warped, and shuttle is wound. But, don't start weaving just yet. Get familiar with the warp threads and how to create a shed. Using your **right** hand, pass your hand behind the heddles and under the warp. Raise your hand. Your hand will lift every other thread. The other threads will be captured by the heddles and will not be able to move up. You have just created your first **shed**. That is the open space in the warp that is in front of the heddles. It is through this type of shed that the weft will be passed from left to right. Direction is important.



Now, remove your hand and, using your **left** hand, pass your hand behind the heddles again but this time put it between the upper and lower part of the warp (so your hand is between the warp just like the top front peg). This time, push the threads down. The threads that pass through the heddles remain up because they pass over that top front peg. You have now opened another shed. It is this type of shed through which your shuttle will be passed from right to left.



Play with your sheds a bit using the correct hands and lifting or lowering correctly. You are now ready to weave!

It's up to you to decide from which direction to start. It really doesn't matter. Open a shed. Pass your shuttle through the shed. Leave a tail of weft a few inches in length (about six to eight inches). Make sure the weft is straight and change sheds. This time, as you pass the shuttle through the shed, lightly push the previous row with the edge of the shuttle (or whatever you are using for beating the threads), just to straighten the weft. Continue to pass the shuttle the rest of the way out through the shed. Before you change sheds, you need to pull the two strands of weft that you now have hanging from the same side of the project. Pull both at the same time until you no longer see the weft in the weaving. For your first project don't get it too tight. Now change sheds again. As you pass the shuttle, again use it to pack down the threads to get them straight and tight. Finish the pass and pull this one a little tight to secure the other edge. With these three passes of your weft, you should

have the warp threads pulled together at both edges and you should not be seeing the weft encased in the warp. Getting this right just takes practice. From this point, you can just keep changing sheds, passing the shuttle and packing the threads.

When you run out of weft, weave until you have enough to make one more pass that will travel about three-quarters of the way through the shed. Without changing sheds, re-wind your shuttle and continue weaving in the same direction by starting in the same shed, overlapping the end of the previous weft and the new weft. Just be a little careful for the first couple of passes with the new weft until it becomes secure. Do not tie weft threads together.

If you break your warp don't panic. Just stop what you are doing. If your shuttle is in the shed, remove it and set it aside. Cut just about an inch off each of the broken ends of the warp (cut more if the ends are severely deteriorated). Cut a new section of warp and tie, using a square knot) to each of these ends, trying your best to maintain the tension. Clip these ties close to the knot and push them down so that they, and the knot, get buried in the warp with the weft as much as possible. This is the only way to fix a broken warp. Depending on the material used, it may or may not show.

When your weaving gets close to the heddles, you will not be able to open a shed large enough through which to pass the shuttle. When this happens, loosen the tension on your tensioning device. Then, using both hands (one on the top set of warp and one on the bottom set of warp), carefully slide the woven section toward you, passing it over the top of the front bar. It will then pass under the front bar and away from you following the path of the warp. After you have moved it, reset the tension and continue weaving.

When the weaving is completed to the point where the starting part of the weaving has traveled the full warp path and is at the top front peg, you have to stop. You will not be able to progress further. It is now time to remove and finish the strip.

Patterns

Patterns are determined in the warping process. Basically you can produce stripes, chains, bars, and solids.

Solids all warp threads the same color.

Strips adjacent warp threads the same color.

Bars alternate warp threads alternate colors

Chains Two to five same color warp threads; a single alternate color followed by an equal number of the initial color threads.

Stripes

	Heddle	w w b b w w w w w b b w w	
	no heddle	w w b b w w w w w b b w w	
white		18 ends	9 heddles
blue		18 ends	9 heddles

Checks

	heddle	c c c c c p p p c c c p p p c c c p p p c c	
	no heddle	c c p p p c c c p p p c c c p p p c c c c c	
cream		26 ends	13 heddles
purple		18 ends	9 heddles

Chains

	heddle	w b s b w b b w b s b w	
	no heddle	w b b w b s b w b b w	
white		8 ends	4 heddles
blue		12 ends	6 heddles
silver		3 ends	2 heddles

Egyptian Key

	heddle	m m g g g g g b b b m m	
	no heddle	m m g g g b b b b b m m	
maroon		8 ends	4 heddles
green		9 ends	6 heddles
blue		9 ends	3 heddles

Extended Egyptian Key

Heddle R R R R R R R R R R R R R R G G G G G G B B B R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

No heddle R R R R R R R R R R R R R R G G G B B B B B B R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

NOTE: You can substitute colors as needed/wanted.