

PILLOW LOOM HOW

Most of the writing below the double line is in the text that appears to the right of the pictures on the web site. The text between this Paragraph and the double lines is new.
Feb. 2nd 2008

SHRINKING A LOOSE WEAVING BY WASHING MACHINE FELTING

With 1/2 " spacing your finished piece will be loose enough for tucking in feathers, dried flowers,, a piece of Grandpa's tie, a photograph; generally a great decorative project. If you'd like to turn the woven squares into quilt pieces or bags etc. you can make the woven fabric more dense by "felting" it. Don't use this method with pieces that have feathers and such in them. Use it with plainer pieces and add your bits and pieces after it's dry.

Soak your, simple, piece in hot water with a mild soap such as Natural Foods store shampoo. Never use the heavily advertised wool washing products; they're very harsh. Soak weaving for 30 minutes. This causes the central core of the wool fiber to swell which pops open the scales of the fiber. Then agitate in your washing machine for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Spin dry. Soak in warm water 5 minutes – spin – soak again with the addition of a little white vinegar. The vinegar helps get rid of soap residue and changes the PH of the yarn in a way that helps it repel dirt. You can follow with another clear rinse or a rinse with a little diluted hair conditioner in it. Spin dry then gently press and pull into shape.

Your piece will shrink some, get puffier, and you fringe will look like a troll doll stuck its' finger in an electric socket.

GENTLE WASHING TO STABILIZE THE WEAVE.

Soak your piece in warm water with a little mild soap for 30 minutes. Spin or, gently, drain and squeeze (d&s). Soak for 5 min. in clear water with a little vinegar, (d&s). Clear rinse (d&s). Gently smooth into shape and dry in the shade. You can use a fan to speed the drying.

PROJECT IDEAS:

Memory weavings: Include a piece of Grandpas' tie, tuck in a favorite picture, tuck ,in or use big eyed needles, curly fleece to make clouds, sheep, and big moons.

Embroider or shapes of animals and stars

Add pine cones, dried flowers, herbs, etc..

Turn the squares into bags; fill the bags with colorful seeds for a grandchild far away to plant then share pictures back and forth.

Solo or working with other weaving friends make felted squares and rectangles that can be sewn together to make very warm quilts.

I haven't tried making hats yet but, please someone try and let us all know how you do.

Doll blankets and rugs

Try weaving in rainbow or tiger stripes then wrapping the square around fleece to form a tube animal. Add embroidered eyes or wings etc..

In addition to the pictures and instruction presented here there are some very good books and websites listed in the SUPPLY section. Some of these web sites have excellent drawings etc. that will greatly assist your understanding.

WARP – The up and down strands of yarn or string.

WEFT - The cross wise strands of yarn.

LOOM ASSEMBLY

Lay out two 14” stretcher strips; one each top and bottom and the 16” strips on either side. Have the manufacturer’s labels all on the same side. Starting with the top or bottom work the notches of the side pieces into the notched space to the top one at a time. Squirting a little wood or craft glue into the joints will help the frame hold it’s shape. Wipe away excess with a damp cloth. Be careful of splinters; you may want to wear gloves. The pieces will be notched ends will join together with some resistance so you may need a hammer or a rubber mallet to get them to fit. Line the ends up as flush as possible. Then maneuver the bottom piece into place. You’ll need a hammer for the last piece. You may need to spread the side pieces out a bit to get the bottom notches to line up at first. Get the corners as true as possible. There will always be rough bits at the corners. If that’s an issue go ahead and wrap them with cloth or tape.

Go over the entire frame to tap and readjust the corners as needed.

Using glue is fine if you’re sure that you’ll be working with this size frame. If you think you’ll be taking the pieces apart and reusing them with other size strips then don’t glue. The notches will break if you take the strips apart too often so be careful.

CARPENTER’S APRON FOR HOLDING TOOLS

WARPING THE LOOM (Putting on the longwise strands of yarn)

This is for 1/2 “ spacing which is best for beginners, and those with stiff fingers etc..

Certainly go for 1/4” spacing if you want.

We’ll use two colors of string or yarn for the warp. They needn’t be very different from each other. It all depends on you or your friend’s visual needs. The first color will be wrapped in odd numbers so that both sides of your piece will be the same color. With both colors wrap several times around the bottom of the loom to allow for fringe. At the end of your weaving by untying this extra warp your ending strands can have as long of a fringe as the rest of your piece.

In the photograph you’ll see that I started weaving at the bottom of the frame next to the extra, wound, warp. That extra is in the way. Rotate your frame 180 degrees so that the extra warp is now on top. Add your second twisted hem (for holding the spacing of the warp strands) at the new bottom and start to weave.

If you’re using cotton string for warp

WEAVING A SECOND PIECE ON THE BACK

Note: (see last picture #13) The warp on the back will be at a slant. When you have finished your piece on the front if you want to use the warp on the back for weaving a second piece it's easy. Just slide the warp on top of the frame to one side until the warp strands become straight up and down. You can also move the strands at the bottom until you are happy with the alignment. Your woven piece on the front will be slanted until you cut both free at the end. Slanting won't hurt it. Just smooth it back into shape when you're done.

TWISTED HEM FOR WARP SPACING

This method also gives you a nice surface against which to tie fringe knots. Since the 1/2" spacing is so loose you'll need to tie the fringe when done.

Several inches above the inside of the frame,, depending on how much fringe you want put in your hem.

Pull strands of yarn, two of each warp color, across the length of your weaving frame. Leaving 3" of tail tie an overhand loop. Lay the hem yarn to the left of your warp and separate the four strands into either two strands of each color or two strands of one color each . Work the groups of two one from below up and the one on top down. Give them two or three twists to fill in the space between each warp strand. The thickness of your yarn will determine how many twists you need. Continue weaving over and under and twisting until you reach the right side of the warp and secure the ends with another overhand loop. Do the same at the top . This top hem you can push up to the top of the frame. This gets it out of the way yet help hold the spacing between warp strands. When you're done with the top portion of your weaving just work the twisted hem down to meet the body of the piece and tie of the fringe of sew the weaving to the hem with yarn. More on that as we progress.

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