

Pillow Loom Why (The following explains WHY these materials or methods were chosen) Likely, a lot of this information will go next to the photographs.

1. Making frames from stretcher strips (sources & (how)
Standard sizing good for group/school projects
Soft and rough wood good grip for warp (definitions) yarn. No need to cut notches.
Inexpensive – 14”X16” frame \$5 range 2006
Note: Can pick up used painted frames at thrift shops. If warp slips wrap top and bottom with rough wash cloths and tie with twine
2. Frames size 14”X16”
Interior width $10\frac{3}{4}$ “so 12” long wooden paint paddles (or rulers) can be used as shed (definitions) sticks. True Value Hardware stores have 14” paint stir sticks: this length is preferable.
The 14” X 16” size works nicely with a standard sized pillow folded over.
A standard $8\frac{1}{2}$ X 11 sheet of paper can be clipped to a second/front canvas panel for writing.
Good interior size to prop most books.
(Note: Paint stores often will give you paddles for free however paddles do cost the store so please support store or offer to pay.)
Paint paddles are rough so give them a sanding with fine sand paper and paint or brush nail polish on the front edge.
3. Canvas panels (2) 11”X14” \$1.50 (range 2006) each (see SUPPLIES)
Visual clarity for weaving: With any kind of brain damage vision is often impaired. A common problem is difficulty with “depth of field”. An example would be that the person could not “see” a white towel on a white bedspread; it disappears.
The warp is either wrapped around the frame with the panel already tied in place or the panel is worked between the back warp strands and the back of the frame to make the front warp strands easier to see. Even for those with good vision it can be difficult to weave while seeing the back strands and ones legs etc. as in the case of a frame loom propped up against a table.

The first/back panel also makes the frame usable as a book rest. Just prop the book inside the frame with the panel behind it and the pillow props the frame and book on the lap or the side of a bed or on a table.
Second panel can be tied on front of frame, with smooth side facing worker, for a craft surface or writing surface.

4. Tying the back panel to the frame with shoelaces is optional. The grip of the warp and the pressure of the pillow will usually hold the panel in place. If you use a second panel as a writing surface that will need to be tied.

First panel is laid across back of frame (white side in/smooth back with label touches pillow) and tied with shoelaces poled through holes in the panel to top of frame so that when warped frame is tied to folded in half pillow the pillow will not push through the weaving or other craft project.

5. Felt panel. Optional

Provides a color back drop option in case white doesn't work as a back drop for someone's vision needs or just preference depending on the colors of yarn of yarn being used. The felt can be flipped over the back of the canvas for when a white backdrop is preferred.

Or if you don't want to make those holes and add the extra shoestring ties you could attach the felt, or colored paper, with clips, clothespins or large paper clips. If your friend is in hospice or long term bedridden consider if they have fragile skin. In that case the paper clips or other clips might get lost in the bed clothes and scratch. So, the poking holes and tie method would be best. Given the pressure of the canvas panel and the warp the felt might just stay in place on its' own. We're not doing rocket science here.

Of course you could just paint the back/smooth side a different color and flip the sides as needed.

6. Shoelaces (instead of string)

Shoelaces are designed to tie and untie easily; string is much harder to deal with. 54" are economical because you can cut them in half and have 4 lengths . By lightly touching the cut ends into a flame (Adults Only) the ends will seal. BE CAREFUL the melted ends will be very hot and sticky for a time; DO NOT TOUCH!

6. Wrapping the warp around the frame instead of making pegs with nails and looping up and down on the front.

Nailing takes a long time and could split the wood

With Hospice friends you want to avoid anything that could scratch their skin as those who have been very ill may have fragile skin.

The spacing of the nails limits how wide you space your warp yarn; with the wrapping method you can change your spacing based on your project.

The wrapping around the back gives you plenty of fringe if you want it or, after doing a piece on one side of the loom you can slip the pillow out from behind the frame and flip the loom over, move the back panel and do a second piece. (how) (see photo)

7.. Alternating Warp Colors

White Cotton String or white yarn for warp? Dye half with tea
Good for any kind of vision problem, kids, or any beginner. Goal is to make weaving or any craft doable, fun, and relaxing from the start.

Alternating colors makes concepts like “odd and even” or “over and under” easier for teaching kids or anyone needing to regain skills.

8. Fat or double, tripled or more yarns for warp and weft.

Half inch warp spacing is very loose, so using fat strands makes the work go faster, is easier to handle, and will pack down nicely. If you go to ¼” inch warp spacing you can use finer width yarns. For example 190 yards for a four ounce skein is a medium weight yarn. With ½” spacing try using 3 strands lightly twisted for your warp and weft.

9.Round tipped scissors and blunt tipped needles etc. Safety for kids or those ill with fragile skin.. With those who are bedridden items can get lost in the sheets and poke or scratch.

10.Twisting yarn to create warp spacing. Use two strands of each of your warp colors or more. Measure out hem yarns well beyond the width of your planned weaving. Tie an overhand knot at the left edge of your warp (up and down strands) weaving plenty of tail. Twist the yarn once or twice or more depending on how thick your hem yarns are and how much space you need to fill between the warp strands to hold them in position. When you reach the right edge make another overhand knot. Do the same at the top of the warp. You can push the hems up or down as you need to for your weaving. Just bring them back to touch your finished piece.

11.Sixteen penny nail/ 16 D

Makes the right sized hole in the hard canvas panel for a fat/athletic type shoe string to fit snugly.

10. ½” warp spacing

This wide spacing makes it easier for stiff or unskilled fingers to work the weft/crosswise yarn over, under or, around the warp threads. It also makes it easier for tucking in grasses or other natural items. If you want a more dense finished product but your friend’s fingers need ½ inch warp spacing you can “felt” the piece after weaving and then add buttons, charms or other items. Of course if someone is more skilled you can start with ¼’ spacing.

11. Yarn Bundles

Standard Butterfly shaped yarn bundles are tiring to make, too small for our purposes and, I find that I tangle my yarn. These fat looped bundles are faster to make (nice soothing task for you or your student/patient friend) and I find that the fat head on one end makes them easy to pass.

12. Some people have trouble passing a yarn bundle from one hand to another so a cardboard shuttle may work best.
13. Fishing shuttles are another way to go.
14. When done you can tie off the bottom strands of warp.