

Make a Hand Loom

Instructions:

Warp threads are the foundation of a woven fabric that run the length of the bolt. As the fabric is weaved, weft threads are passed at 90° across the warp to fill in the fabric using a shuttle or by hand. The pattern of a given fabric is dependent on the sequence of over and under warp threads that run through the weft.

Acquire a piece of cardboard about 8" inches square. Mark a line across the two sides of the cardboard ½" from the edge. On the ends, you see the zig-zags of the corrugated core. Starting at ¼" from the left corners make marks on the line 1/2" apart as cutting guides then snip in to the line from the edge. This is your loom for weaving.

Using two colors of yarn and starting with the lighter one, tape one end to the back of the loom. Wrap this thread through the first snip over the top of the board down the front and through the same snip on the bottom of the cardboard. Wrap it behind the tab to the next snip and come back up the front of the board to the identical snip on top. Continue doing this until you have 12 or more threads, but make sure you end with an even number. Cut off the yarn and tape this end to the back of the loom. You have laid the warp.

Next take a similar length of the other color of yarn and, starting in the lower right corner, thread the yarn under-over-under across the warp. As you pass over the last warp, draw the yarn under the thread and continue the over-under pattern in the opposite direction back to the right end. Repeat the same pattern at least nine times. This weft builds the body of the fabric. Be careful not to pull too tightly while making each turn.

