

## WEAVING

There are many different types of loom that can be woven on from a piece of sturdy card up to a large floor loom to weave rugs.

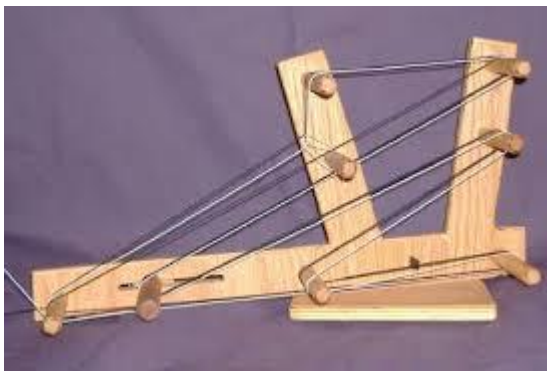
Here are pictures of a few different looms.



A simple wooden ring



A small rigid heddle loom



An Inkle loom for making braids

A table loom with 8 shafts for making intricate patterns



A large floor loom for heavy duty weaving.

## THIS SHOWS THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF A WEAVING LOOM

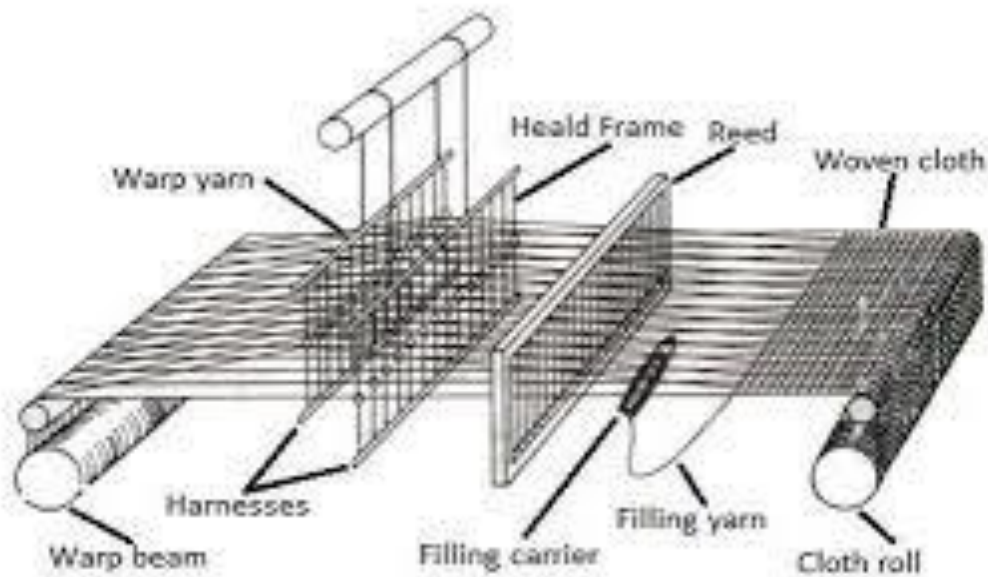


Figure: Basic structure of a loom

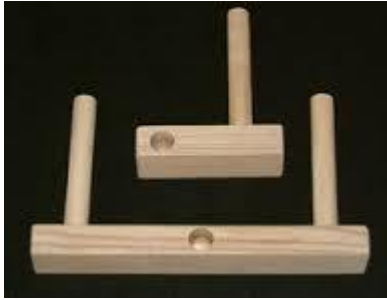
The structure of weaving is a long fixed set of threads called a warp which is held on the loom under tension.

The weft thread then crosses backwards and forwards through a shed made by lifting the heddles, creating a space for the warp threads to pass through, giving an interlocked piece of fabric,

Making patterns depends on which heddles (threads) are lifted in between each pass of the weft thread.

The first thing a weaver has to do after they have chosen their yarn and decided what width of cloth they will make and the pattern is to wind the warp.

There are several ways in which this can be done, here are some pictures of tools to help them get an even warp length



Warping posts are the most simple, these are set and clamped at each end of the length of the warp required and the weaver walks up and down between them winding the warp around the pegs.



A warping board is the same idea as the pegs but they are set on a frame which means the weaver can stand in one position to warp up instead of walking up and down.



A warping mill is used for very long warps, this turns while the warp is wound.

Setting up the loom, when the warp is wound a cross is made at the end of the warp and tied in five places to keep the warp in order ready to go on the loom.



There are 2 basic methods of warping up, the first is to wind the warp onto the back warp beam and then the threads would go through the heddles first and then through the reed before being tied on to the front beam.

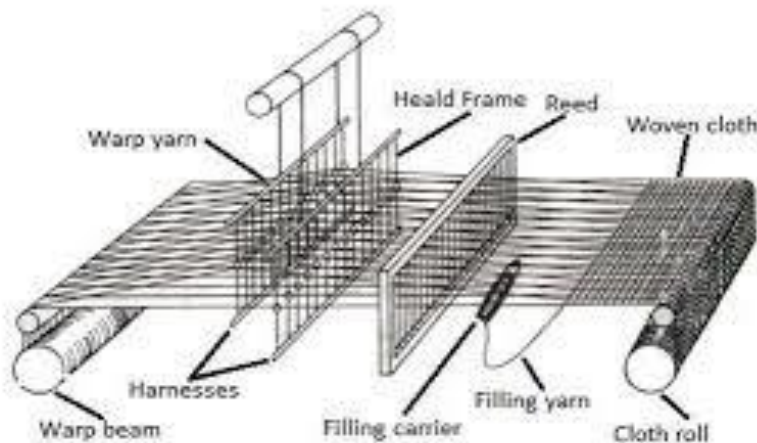


Figure: Basic structure of a loom

The second way is to start by putting the warp through the reed first and then the heddles and it is then tied to the back beam and the warp is wound on.

An even tension must be maintained throughout the warping, to ensure an evenly woven cloth, to do this the weaver pulls hard on the warps after winding on a couple of turns.

Once the threads are all in place and the tension is correct weaving can begin.

Before weaving with the chosen weft thread a header is woven which gets the threads spaced evenly across the loom and pulls it out to the correct width.

This is usually done with a thicker thread than is used for the main weaving.



This is the header in place

To start weaving the heddles are raised to make the shed which the shuttles carrying the yarn can be put through.



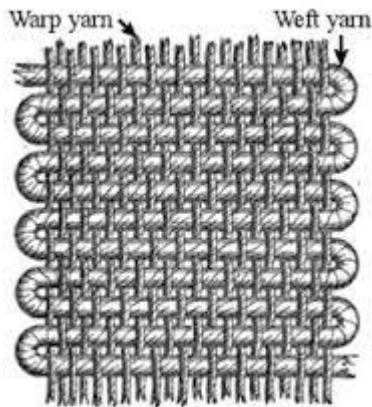
There are two main types of shuttles used in weaving.



Stick shuttles



Boat shuttles where the yarn is wound on a bobbin which fits inside the shuttle. The weaver changes the shaft using the heddles after each pass of the weft yarn and it is then beaten down firmly using the reed.



A slight curve is left in the weft yarn before it is beaten down as this has to pass over and under the warp to give the proper look to the weaving and not distort the tension or width of the weaving.

When the weaving is finished the end has to be hemmed to stop it unravelling



It is then cut off the loom



The ends can be left as a fringe or they can be tied to create a knotted border.





The final process is to full the fabric which means slightly shrinking the weaving to set the threads in place.

This can be done by handwashing the cloth or putting it in the washing machine on a short cycle depending upon the yarn used in the weaving.

With larger items some people put their weaving in a bath of water and tread it with their feet until they get the required amount of fulling to the cloth.

After fulling the fabric is dried sometimes around a roller to keep it flat and then pressed.

The cloth is then ready for wearing if it is something like a scarf or ready to be made into a garment if it is a long length of cloth.

