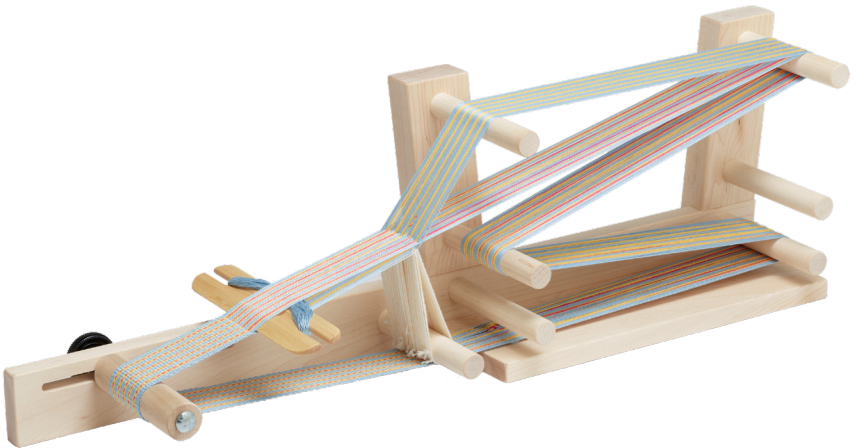


SL2502

SCHACHT INKLE LOOM

ASSEMBLY, WARPING & WEAVING



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LOOM ASSEMBLY

PARTS

- 1X inkle loom
- 1X tension peg

ASSEMBLY

Remove the plastic knob and fender washer from the end of the tension peg A. Insert the bolt on the peg through the slot in the loom, orienting the peg to match the other dowels. Place the fender washer on the end of the bolt and re-attach the plastic knob to hold the tension peg in place.

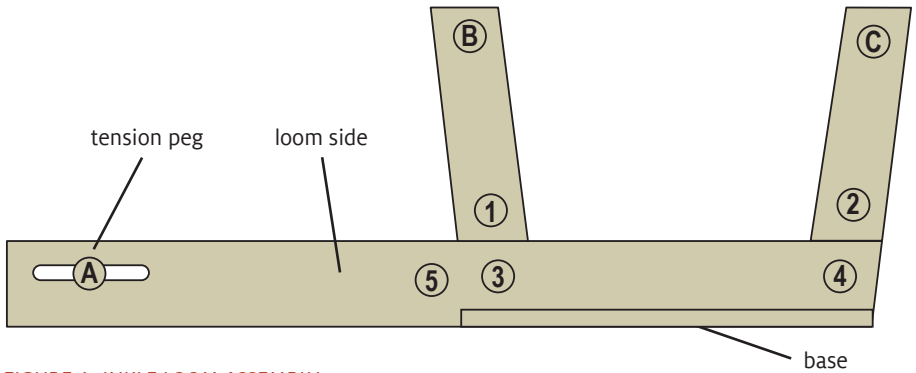


FIGURE 1: INKLE LOOM ASSEMBLY

WEAVING TERMS

Beat: packing the weft threads into place with the tapered edge of a belt shuttle.

Belt shuttle: a flat stick that carries the weft, notched at both ends. It has one tapered edge for beating the weft.

Header: weft, not part of the main weaving, worked at each end of the band and removed when the weaving is complete.

Heddles: string loops that are used to control the warp threads.

Pattern draft: a graphic description of the warp threading, showing different colors of yarns used for the warp pattern.

Pick-up stick: a smooth stick with a pointed end, also called a shed stick.

Shed: the space through which the shuttle passes.

Warp: (noun) the lengthwise threads that are stretched on the loom and lifted or lowered for weaving; (verb) the process of putting warp thread on the loom for weaving.

Weft: the crosswise threads that are woven through the warp yarns.

INKLE WEAVING

BY NAOMI BINSFELD

heddle:	d d x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x d d	(20 ends)
open (no heddle):	d d x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x d d	(19 ends)
heddles required =	20	
total ends =	39	
total dark ends (d) =	8	
total light ends (x) =	31	

FIGURE 2: SAMPLE PATTERN DRAFT

SELECTING YARNS

The best yarns for weaving are smooth, strong, and relatively inelastic. Perle cotton (also known as mercerized cotton) in size 3/2 or size 5/2, embroidery floss, cotton rug warp, linen, or firmly twisted wools are all suitable.

INKLE WEAVING PATTERN DRAFT

Before you warp your loom, choose a pattern draft to follow. This manual uses the sample pattern draft in Figure 2. There are additional drafts on page 8.

The top row of a pattern draft shows the warp threads that will be strung through heddles. The bottom row shows the warp threads that will not pass through heddles. Read the draft starting at the left of the top row, as follows:

- Warp the first thread in the top row. Warp first thread in the bottom row.
- Warp the second thread in the top row and the second thread in the bottom row.

Follow the draft, alternating between the top row and the bottom row until the pattern is complete.

USING HEDDLES

You will need a heddle for each warp end listed on the top row of your pattern draft. The pattern draft in Figure 2 requires 20 heddles. String heddles should be made of a sturdy cotton string such as cotton rug warp or seine twine. You can also use 8-5/8" Texsolvy heddles. Both kinds of heddles are reusable and are installed during the warping process.

Measure a string heddle by tying the string around pegs B, 1, and 5 (Figure 3). Tie the string with a square knot and trim the ends to 1/2" long. Remove the heddle and set it aside. Repeat until you have made enough string heddles for your pattern draft.

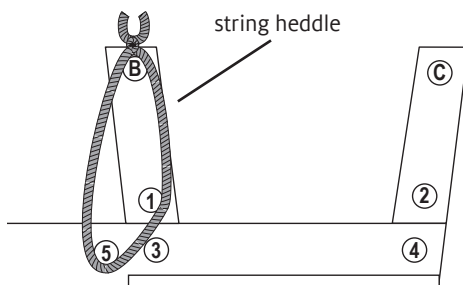


FIGURE 3: MAKING STRING HEDDLES

WARPING THE LOOM

Place the loom on a table with the pegs facing you. Move the tension peg A to the middle of the slot and tighten its plastic knob (Figure 5).

1. Make a slipped square knot with the first warp color (dark for the sample draft; shown in white for clarity in Figure 4). With the cut end of the warp yarn at the right, make an overhand knot and tighten it around tension peg A (Figure 4A). Form a 4" loop with the cut end of the warp yarn; pass it over, then under the end coming from your yarn supply (a skein or cone), as shown in Figure 4B. Tighten the knot by pulling on the yarn supply end. When you finish weaving, undo the knot by pulling on the cut end.

2. The first warp thread is wound with a heddle. Pass the warp thread over pegs B and C, and then down to 4, under peg 5, and back to peg A (Figure 5).

3. Fold a heddle over the first warp thread between peg A and peg B. Loop both ends of the heddle onto peg 5. Push the warp thread and heddle towards the loom side so they do not fall off the pegs.

4. The second warp thread is wound without a heddle. Pass it under peg B, over peg C, and then around peg 4, under peg 5, and back to A (Figure 5). Push the warp thread towards the loom side so it does not fall off the pegs.

Repeat steps 2 to 4 until you have finished with the first warp color—the sample draft uses four dark warp threads.

Cut off the warp yarn about 2" beyond peg A and tie this end to the cut end of the next color required by the draft (light for the sample draft). Check that the knotted ends go around the outside of peg A, and be careful not to wind either end all the way around peg A. Keep the tension even and continue warping by repeating steps 2 to 4, tying each new warp color to the previous color.

When all of the warp threads have been wound onto the loom, untie the beginning slip knot and tie the first (dark) thread to the end of the last (dark) thread. Be sure the knotted threads pass around the outside of peg A.

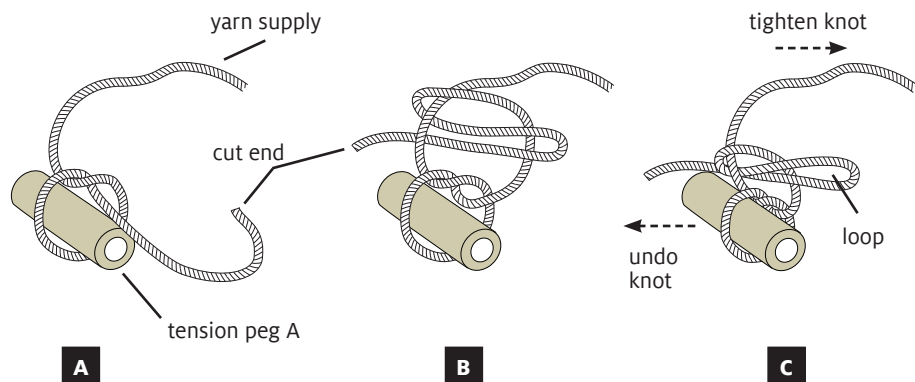


FIGURE 4: MAKING A SLIP KNOT

Tighten the tension of the entire warp by loosening peg A and moving it toward the front of the loom. Tighten peg A firmly in place.

CHOOSING WEFT YARN

Inkle weaving is a warp-faced weave, which means you will see the weft only at the edges of the woven band. If you use the same color for the weft that you used for the outer warp ends, the weft will run invisibly along the outside. If you use a contrasting color weft, it will show as small dots on the edge of the band. Use a yarn of the same size and type as the warp, or use a thicker yarn if you prefer a heavier woven band.

WINDING A SHUTTLE

Wind your weft yarn in a figure 8 onto the thick side of a belt shuttle (Figure 6). Leave the tapered side of the belt shuttle free of yarn—you will beat the weft into place with this edge.

In addition to your weft yarn, you will need a 6" length of yarn or a few small craft sticks to weave a header. If you use yarn, wind it onto the shuttle over the regular weft.

You are now ready to weave!

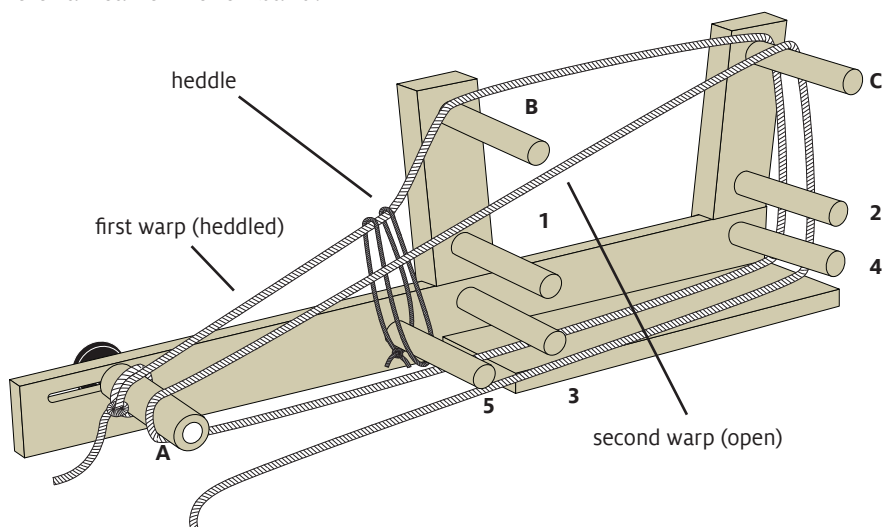


FIGURE 5: WARPING THE LOOM

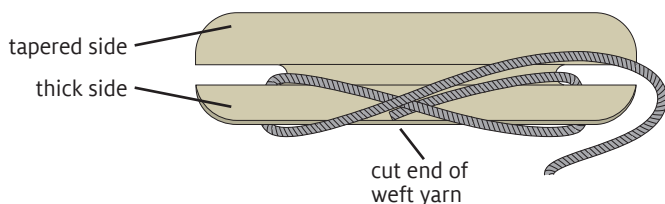


FIGURE 6: WINDING THE BELT SHUTTLE

BEGINNING TO WEAVE

The inkle loom is capable of creating two sheds, or openings, between the warp ends. To weave, you will pass the weft yarn through first one and then the other of these two sheds. Weave a header first to practice making the sheds and to prepare the warp for weaving the actual inkle band.

WEAVING A HEADER

Make the first shed: place your hand just behind the heddles and push down firmly on the open warp ends (Figure 7A). Pushing down will make an opening below the heddled warp ends. Pass the shuttle through this shed to weave in the header yarn or insert one craft stick. Beat header yarn with the tapered end of the belt shuttle, or force the craft stick as far forward as possible.

Make the second shed: just behind the heddles, push up on the open threads. Pushing up will create a space above the heddled warp ends

(Figure 7B). Insert the header yarn or a second craft stick, beating it into place. Work two more header rows in this manner. Cut off the header yarn, leaving a short tail. Remove any remaining header weft from the shuttle.

WEAVING THE INKLE BAND

Weave the first row: push down the open threads to create the first shed. Pass the shuttle with your weft yarn halfway through the warp so that it extends on both sides of the warp, keeping the shed open. (You can let go of the shed.) Use both hands to pull the shuttle firmly toward you. Now pass the shuttle the rest of the way through the warp, leaving a 2" tail of weft on the starting side.

Weave the second row: push up the open threads to create the second shed. Tuck the tail of weft from the first row into the shed, then insert

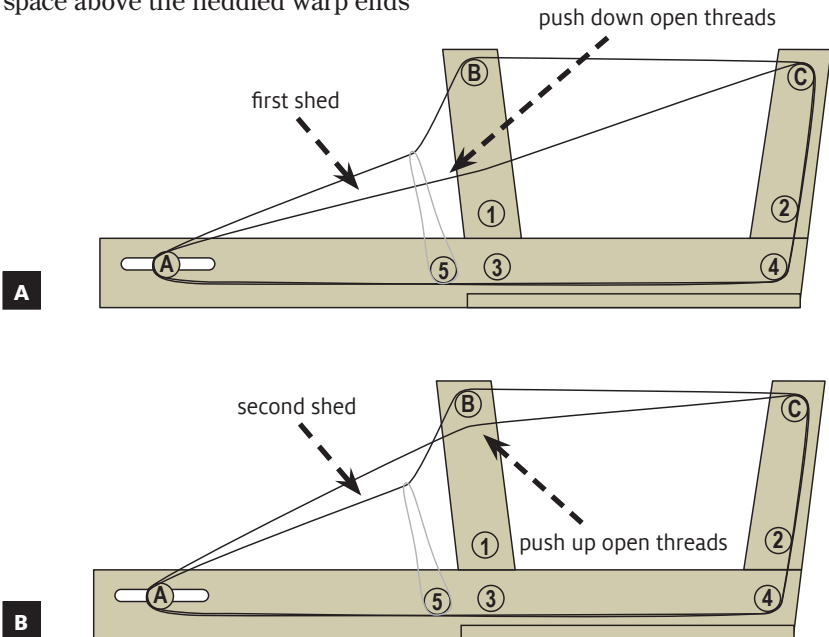


FIGURE 7: INKLE LOOM SHEDS

the shuttle halfway through the warp and use both hands to pull the shuttle firmly toward you. This action will beat in the previous row and the tail of weft, creating a neat opening for the current row. Pass the shuttle all the way through and tug the weft firmly to the edge of the inkle band. The warp ends should be pulled closely together so as to cover the weft. The weft should turn from one row to the next without leaving loops at the edges.

Continue to weave in this manner, alternating between the first and second sheds: open a shed, beat with the shuttle, and pass the weft through the shed.

ADVANCING THE WARP

After a few inches of weaving, you will run out of space to weave. Advance the warp by loosening the tension peg. Firmly grasp the warp in two places and pull the woven band toward you. Be careful to move all the threads the same distance in order to avoid a shift in the warp. Retighten the tension peg and resume weaving.

JOINING A NEW WEFT

The clasped weft technique makes a seamless join when you begin a new weft. Make a loop with the end of the new weft. Lay in the next shed with the loop sticking out the same side as the short weft from the previous shed. Make sure that both ends of the loop extend beyond the band on the other side. Thread the old weft through the loop so that you have formed interlocking loops. Pull on both ends until the join is hidden inside the band. Resume weaving with the new weft. Trim off the excess ends when the band is finished.

FINISHING THE INKLE BAND

When the band is as long as you want or when there is no more room to

advance the warp, use a small piece of weft thread to create an invisible finish: weave a loop of the extra weft thread into the next-to-last shed, so that the two ends of the loop are on the same side as the shuttle, and the loop is on the opposite side from the shuttle. Weave the last shed and cut the weft, leaving a 6" tail. Then weave a header to hold the last few rows of your band in place. Remove the band from the loom by cutting through the warp in the center of the unwoven section. Tuck the 6" tail of weft yarn into the loop you created in the next-to-last shed, pull the tail into the band, and trim the loose ends.

Remove the heading yarns at either end and then add a finishing touch to your weaving by tying, braiding, or twisting groups of warp together.

WEAVING VARIATIONS

The width of a band is determined by the number and size of the warp threads used. A 1" band would require approximately 50 warp threads in the yarns recommended in these instructions. This loom can weave bands up to 4" wide.

Longer bands can be made by winding your warp back and forth on the pegs between 1 and 4. You can choose the length of your warp by selecting one of the warp paths described in the table below. Start at peg A and proceed to peg C, then from peg C go to the next peg on the list for the warp length you want. For example, the warp shown in Figure 7 follows the path for a 5-foot warp (A-C-4-5). ■

Peg Sequence	Warp Length
A-C-1-2-3-4-5	8-1/2 feet
A-C-1-4-5	6-1/2 feet
A-C-4-5	5 feet

BLUE STRIPES

heddle: w w b b w w w w w w b b w w (14 ends)
open: w w b b w w w w w w b b w w (13 ends)

heddles required = 14
total blue ends (b) = 8
total white ends (w) = 19

CHECKS

heddle: r r r r r p p p r r r p p p r r r p p p r r (22 ends)
open: r r p p p r r r r p p p r r r p p p r r r r r (22 ends)

heddles required = 22
total red ends (r) = 26
total purple ends (p) = 18

CHAINS

heddle: w b x b w b b w b x b w (12 ends)
open: w b b w b x b w b b w (11 ends)

heddles required = 12
total blue ends (b) = 12
total white ends (w) = 8
total yellow ends (x) = 3

EGYPTIAN KEY

heddle: m m g g g g g g b b b m m (13 ends)
open: m m g g g b b b b b m m (13 ends)

heddles required = 13
total blue ends (b) = 9
total maroon ends (m) = 8
total green ends (g) = 9

RESOURCES

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