



## Basic Instructions for the *Weavette*® Loom:

Whether you're using the square or rectangular *Weavette*®, the following instructions are easy to follow for a basic plain weave pattern.

## THREADING THE LOOM

There are two methods to begin threading. One way is to secure your yarn with a knot at the beginning and ending of your weaving. The second method holds the yarn in a slip knot at the beginning, until the yarn tail can be woven into the side of the piece when finished.

*figure 1:* Hold the Weavette so that # 1 is at the lower left corner and the arrow is pointing up away from you. Hint: Hold the loom in your left hand, winding yarn onto the loom with your right hand. Use your left thumb and forefinger to keep the yarn in place around the pins. If you are left-handed, hold the loom with #1 in the upper right corner.

**Method 1:** Hold 2" of yarn with your thumb at the arrow and draw yarn straight across the loom to the

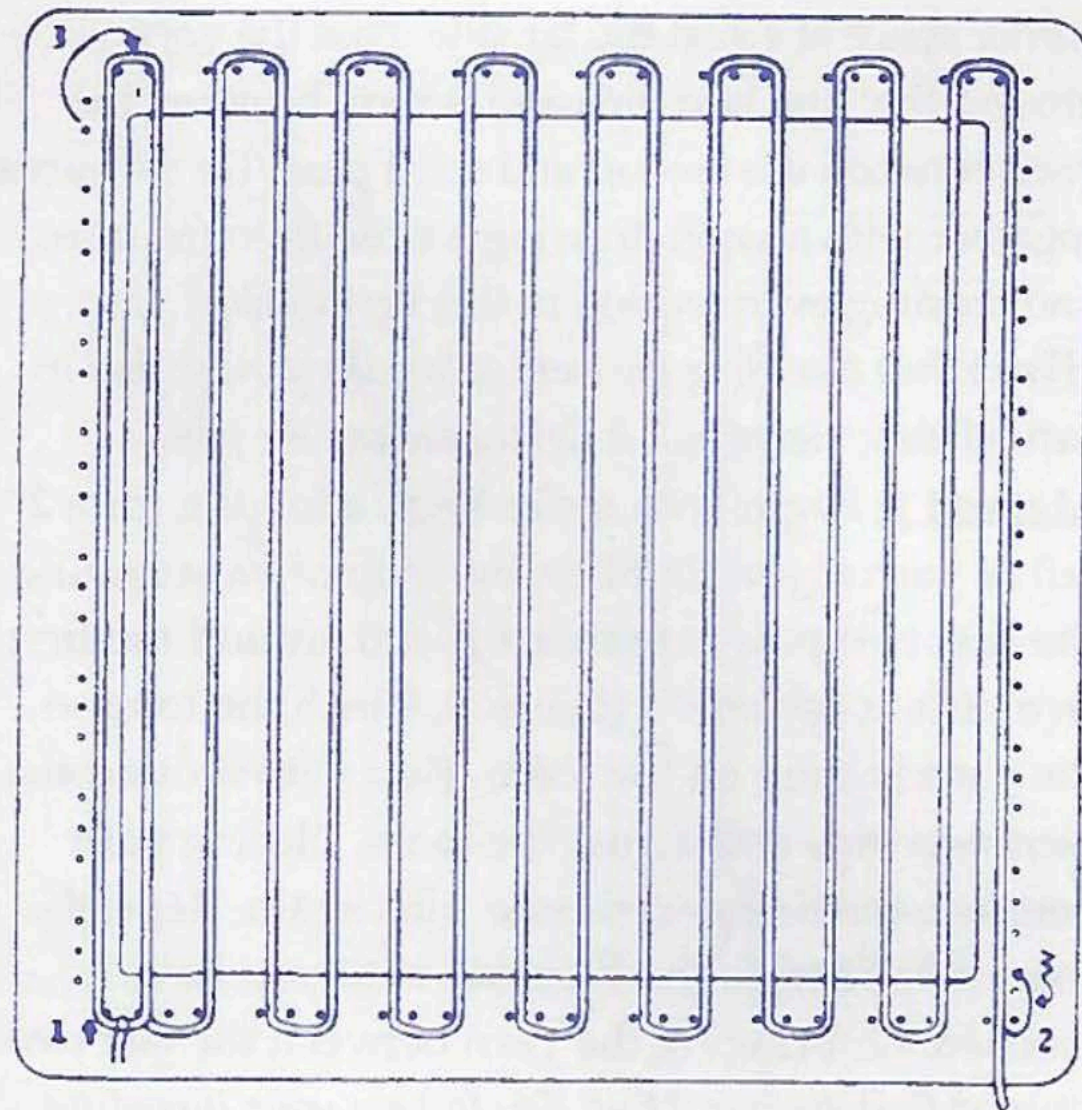
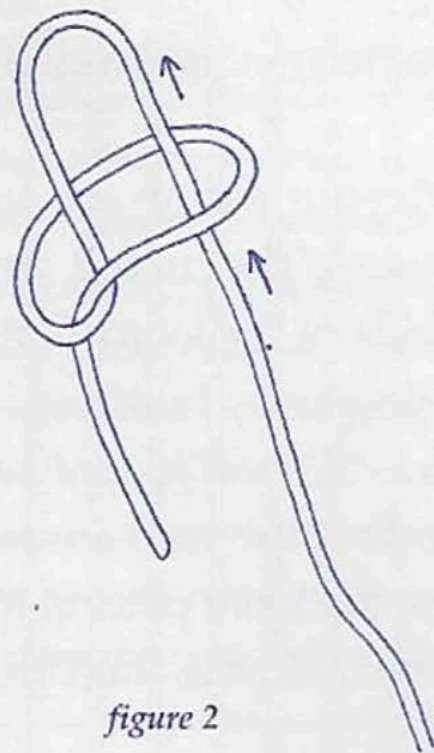


figure 1

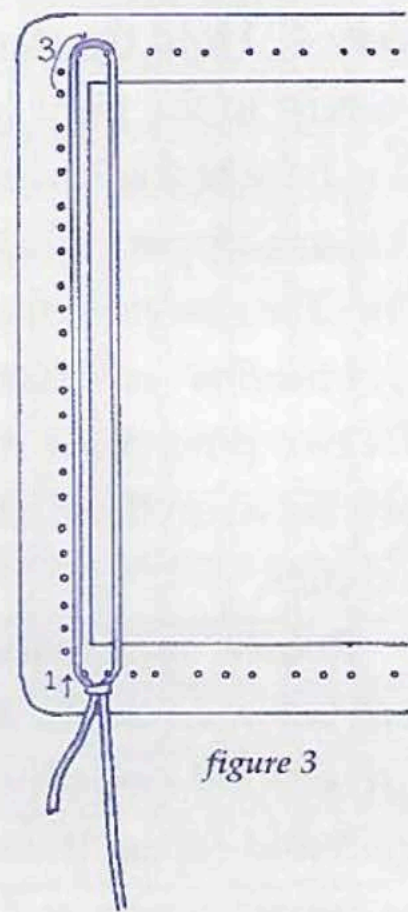
corner space at #3 on the far side. Pass the yarn around the first two pins and return, bringing the yarn between the second and third pins. Tie the yarns together with a knot, drawing a close fit to the pins, and creating even tension in this first loop of yarn.

*Hint: When threading the loom, allow the yarn to find its natural slack; never pull it tightly around the pins.*

**Method 2:** Begin with a slip knot, allowing for a 2" tail of yarn (*figure 2*). Slide the loop of yarn around the first two pins at corner #1, and around the first two pins at corner #3 (*figure 3*). Cinch the loop so the yarn is snug on the loom. Pass yarn around the next two pins and across the loom, placing yarn between the first and second pins again. Repeat these steps across the *Weavette* until you have reached #2, bringing the yarn between the last two pins at that corner. *Hint: Try to keep your threading*



*figure 2*



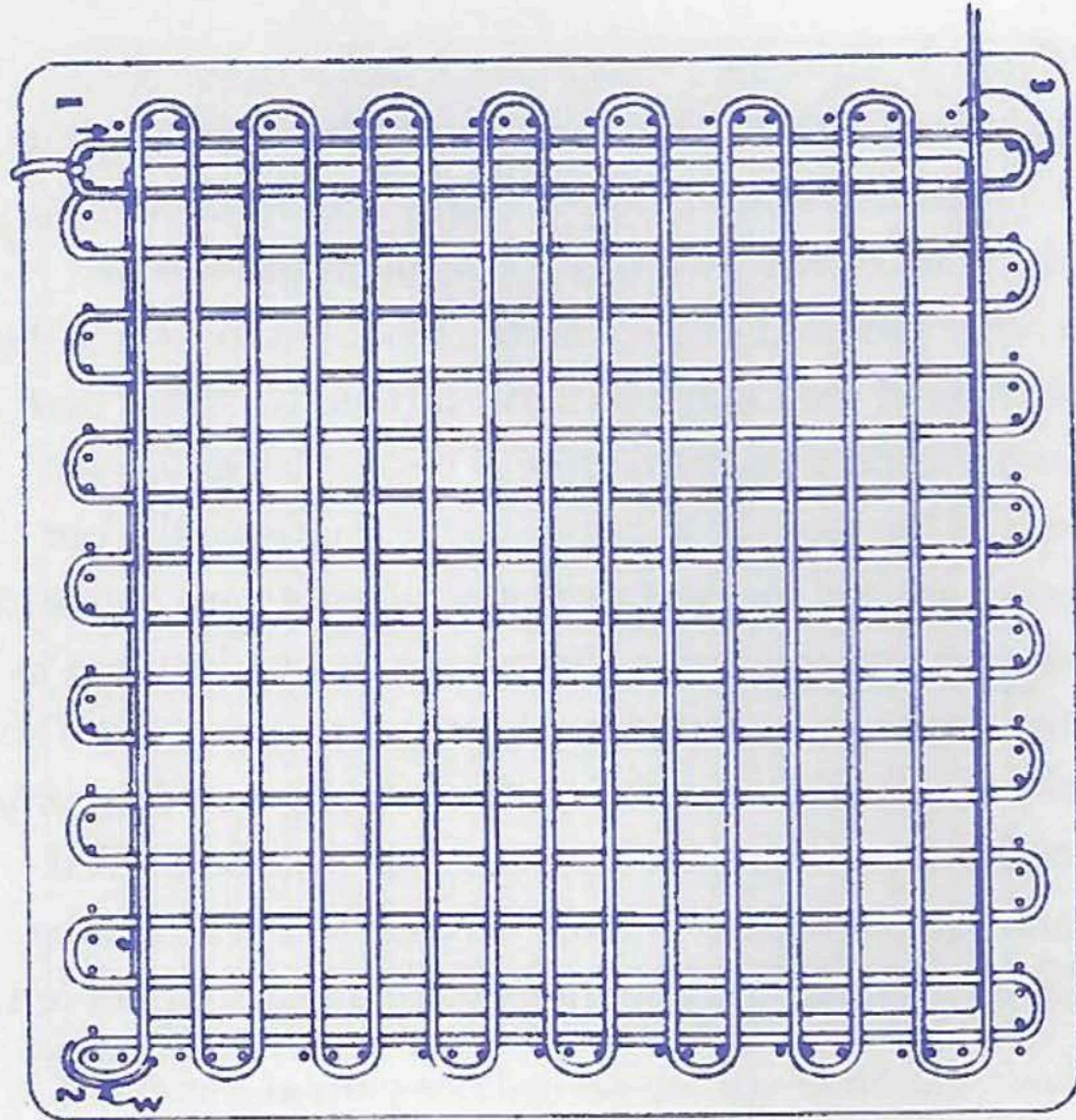
*figure 3*

*under even, modest tension using your thumb and forefinger on each side of the loom to keep the yarns in place.*

**figure 4:** Hold the yarn with your thumb and turn the Weavette to the right (clockwise). The curved arrow at #2 is now at the lower left side of the loom, (left-handed users: upper right) pointing away from you.

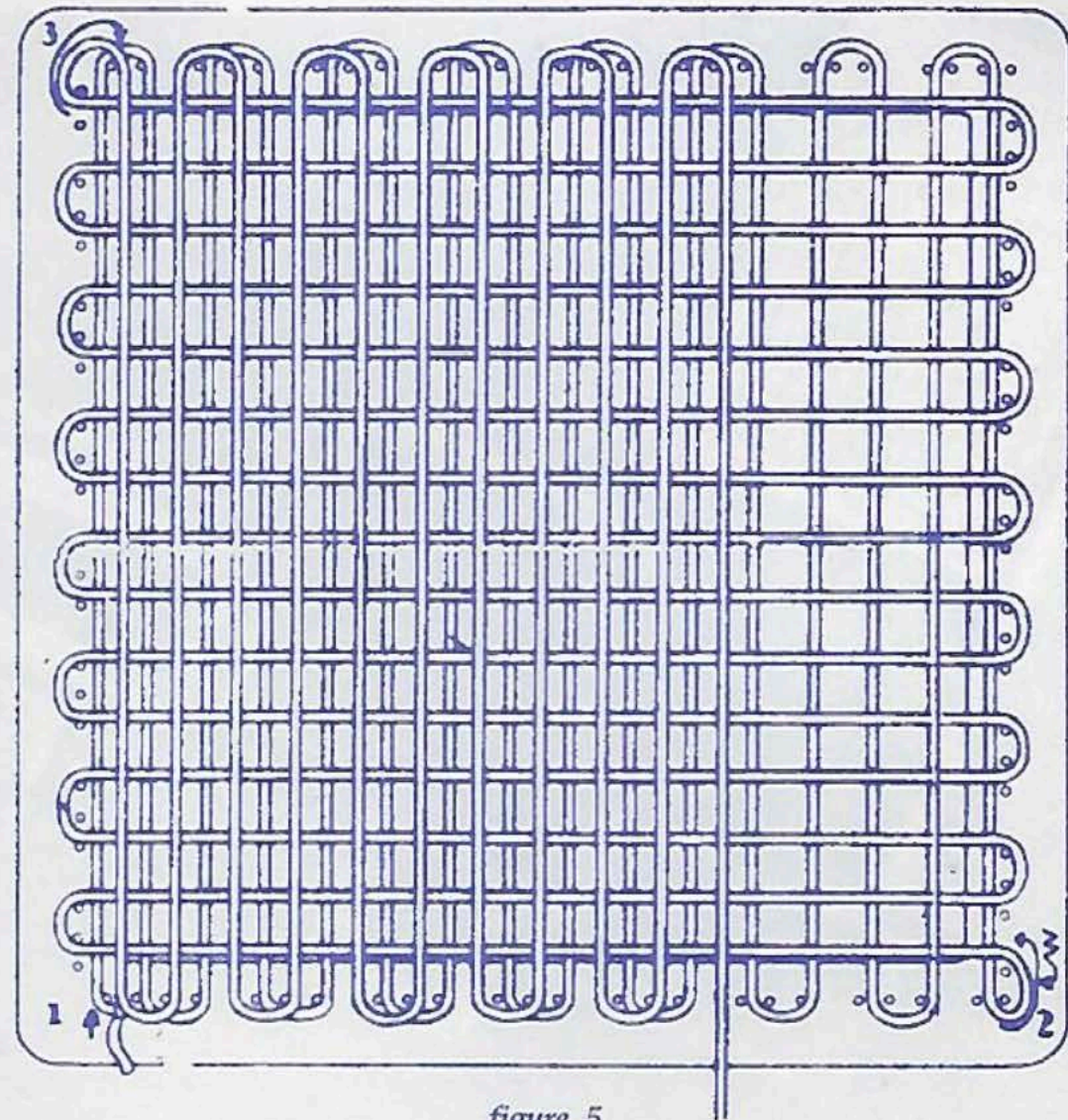
*Hint: The straight arrow with a "W" will be used later to begin the first row of weaving.* Pass the yarn around the first two pins, draw it across the loom placing the yarn between the first and second pins, then around two pins.

Return yarn to the side with the "W," placing yarn between the first and second pins, bringing the yarn around two pins. Draw yarn across the Weavette again and repeat these steps until you have reached the curved arrow at #3 on the loom.

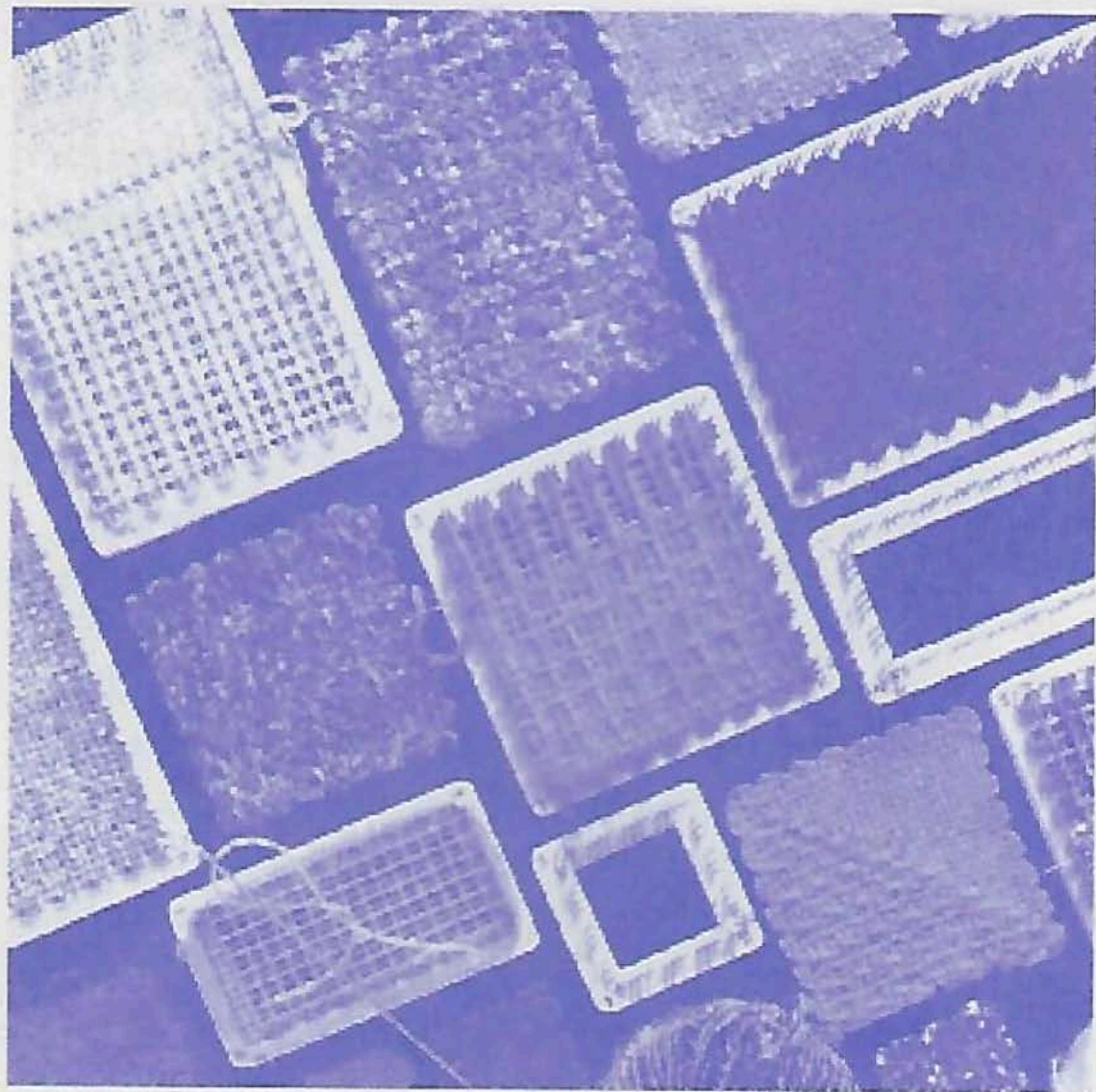


*figure 4*

*figure 5:* Turn the *Weavette* back to the original position (with Arrow #1 at lower left corner; for left-handed users, at the upper right) and, following the direction of Arrow #3, bring yarn around the two corner pins and draw it across the loom to #1. On the #1 side of the loom, place the yarn between the first and second pins, then around two pins. Draw yarn across the loom to the open space (between the pin sets), around the next two pins, placing yarn between second and third pins. Draw yarn across the loom to the open space, and around two more pins. *Hint: This threading is shifted, allowing all layers of yarn to be clearly visible.* Continue this step until the *Weavette* is filled and you've reached Arrow #2 with your yarn at the lower righthand corner (left-handed users: upper left).  
*Note:* Do NOT cut, tie-off or knot yarn at this point.



*figure 5*



## WEAVING THE CLOTH

To measure the correct amount of weft yarn needed to weave, wind yarn loosely around the (pin) sides of the *Weavette* in the following lengths:

2" square = 3 times

4" square = 4½ times

6" square = 7 times

2" x 4" rectangle = 3½ times

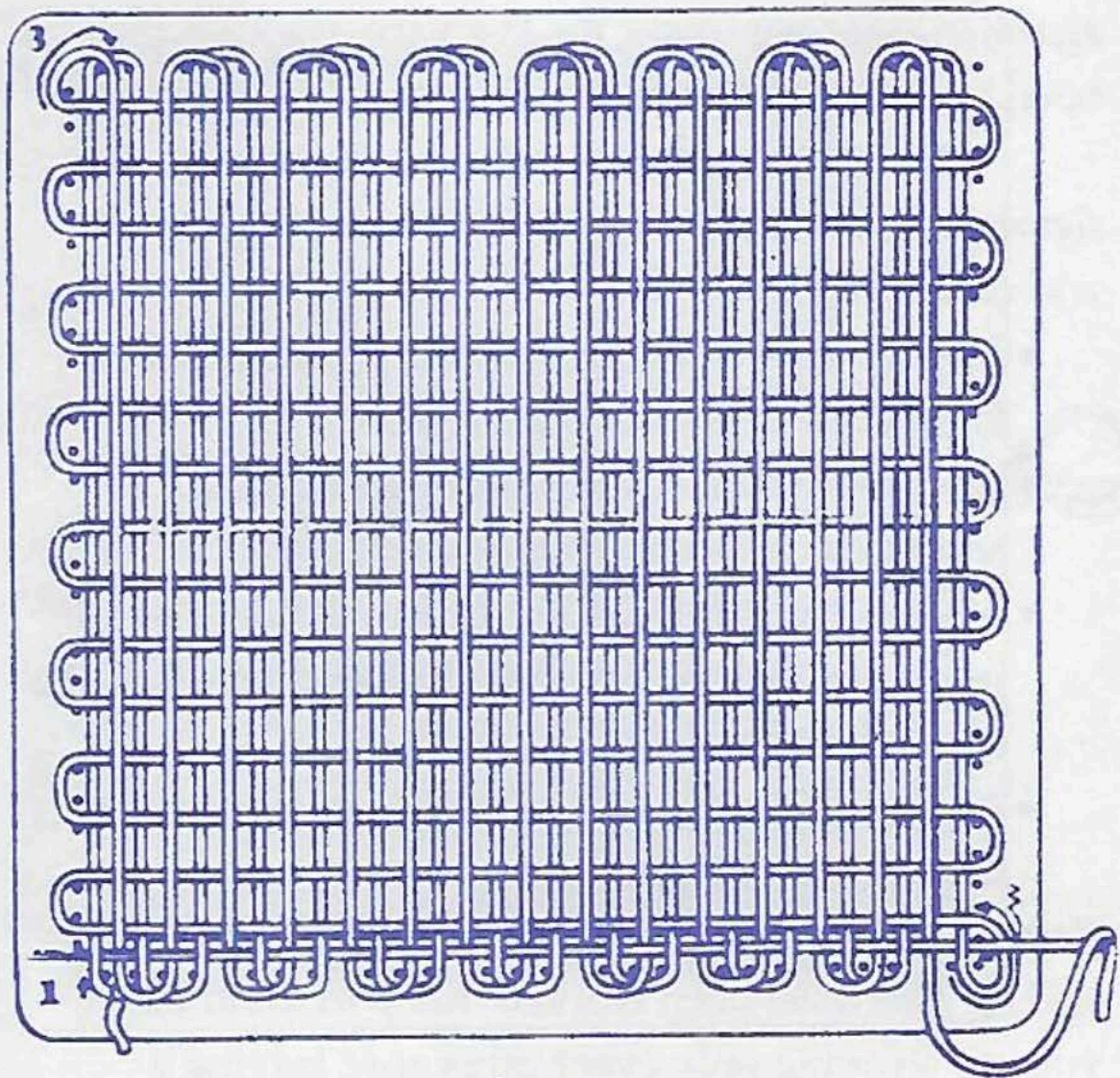
2" x 6" rectangle = 4 times

4" x 6" rectangle = 5½ times

Cut this length, unwind the yarn (being careful not to spring the threaded yarn from the pins), and use the yarn to thread the weaving needle.

## PLAIN WEAVE

*figure 6:* Holding the *Weavette* with the #1 in the lower left-hand corner (left-handed users: upper right), your thumb is on the last threaded space to keep the yarn in place. Begin weaving at the 'W' between the first and second pins in the corner. Following the direction of the straight arrow, Row 1 begins with putting the needle over the outside loop, under the next yarn, over the next, under the next, over, under...across the loom until you come out under the last yarn at the corner space. Draw the yarn through, pulling gently and leaving light tension on the yarn. Turn the *Weavette* so woven-Row 1 is opposite you (left-handed users: near you). On the same side of the loom as the woven row, place needle between second and third pins, over the outside loop, and pass the needle under the next yarn, over the next, under, over...across the *Weavette*



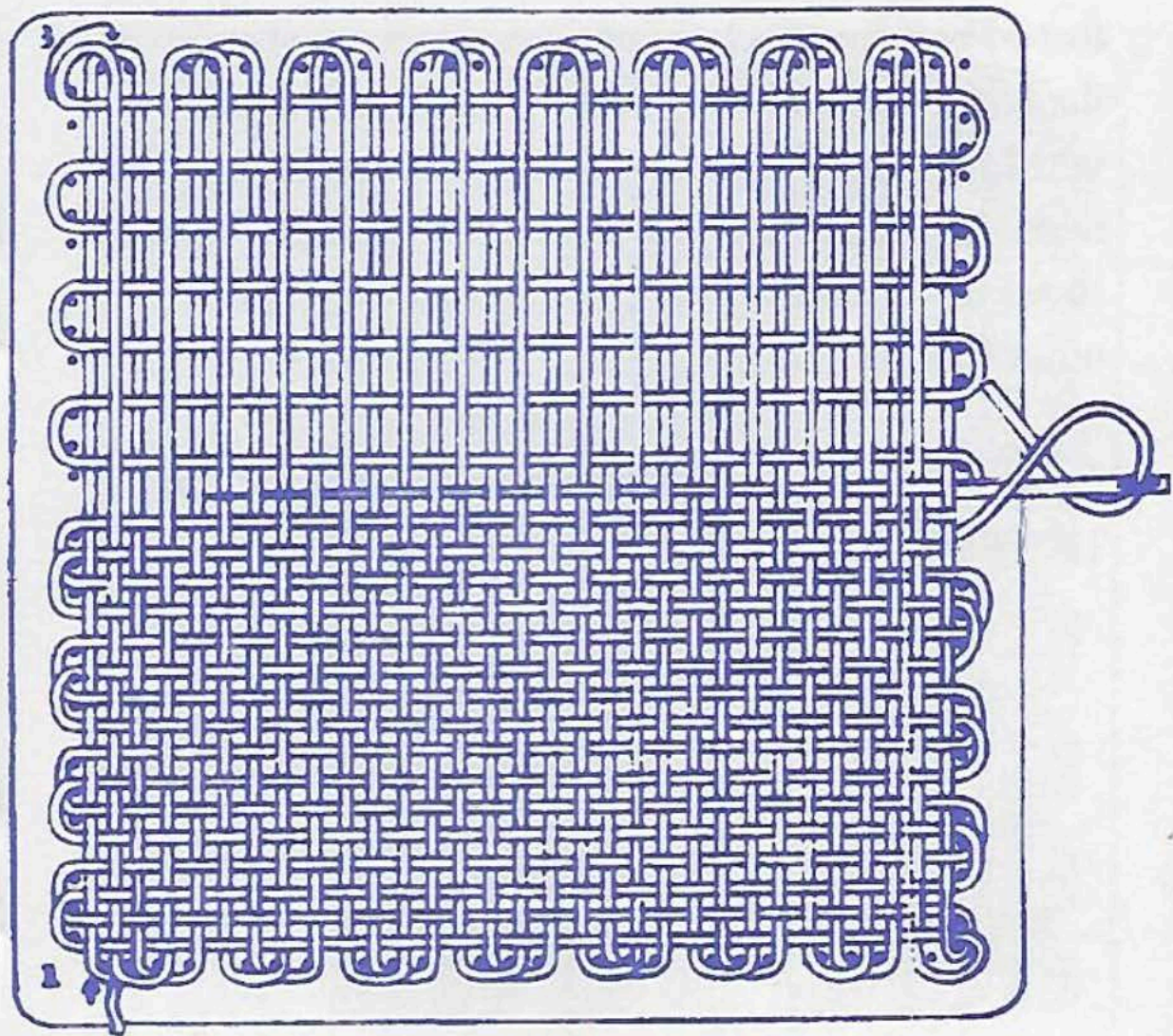
*figure 6*

again, coming out under the last yarn, through the open space between the pin sets.

*figure 7:* Rotate the *Weavette* after each woven row, and remember that you

- Always start weaving from the right side of the loom (left-handed users: left side).
- Always begin the needle over the outside loop and under the first thread.
- Always end a row under the last thread, with the needle coming out in an open space between two triple-clusters of pins.
- Always bring the yarn around two pins to begin the next row of weaving.

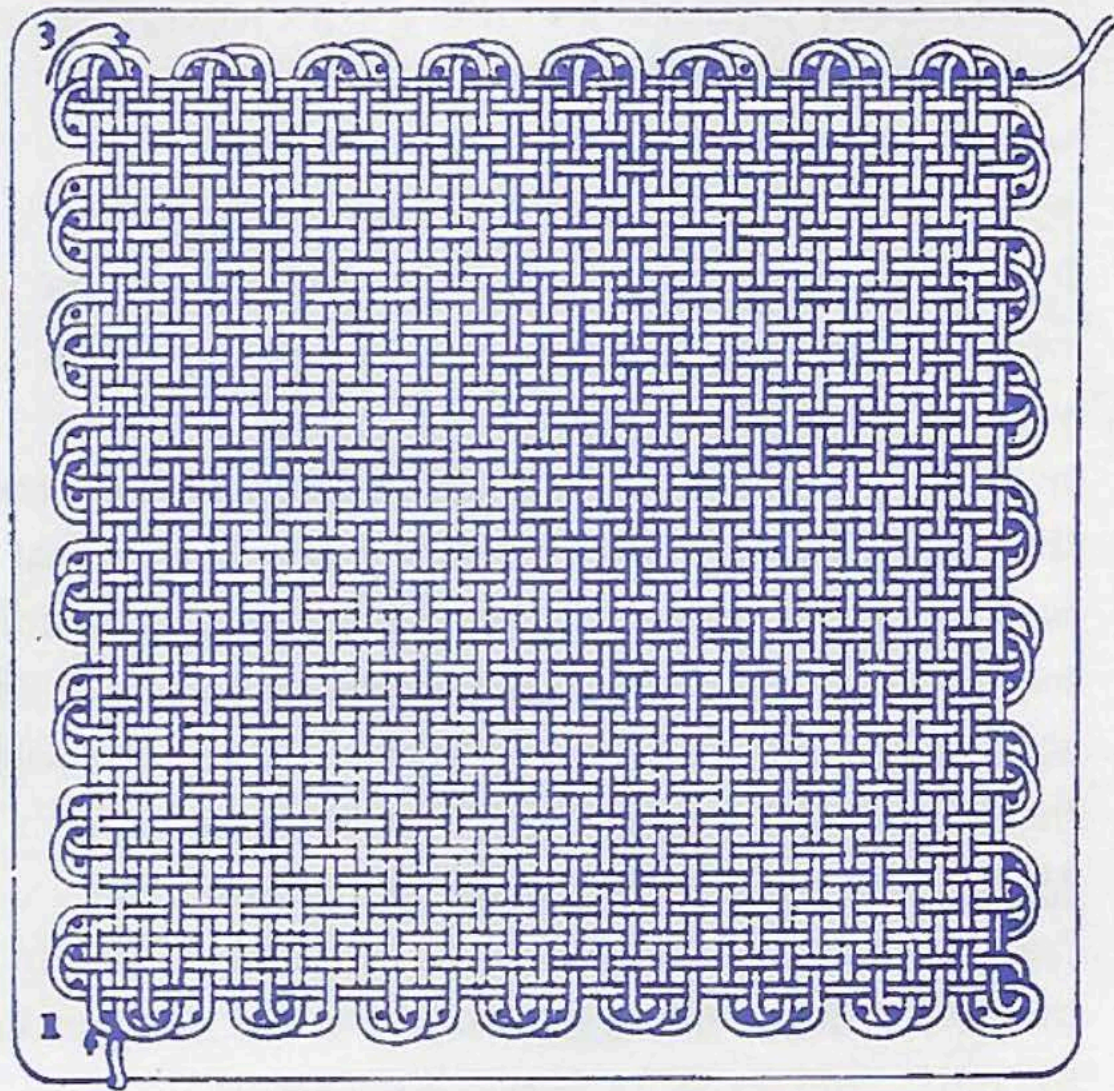
Repeat these weaving steps until the *Weavette* is filled and all pins have been worked. Keep in mind that you are weaving only every other row, leaving a



*figure 7*

thread between each woven row. Because you threaded the loom vertically first, then horizontally, then vertically again – the thread that you weave with the needle, is horizontal also. If you need to go back and count rows to find your place, count only every other thread.

*figure 8:* Your last woven row will be NEXT TO THE PINS.



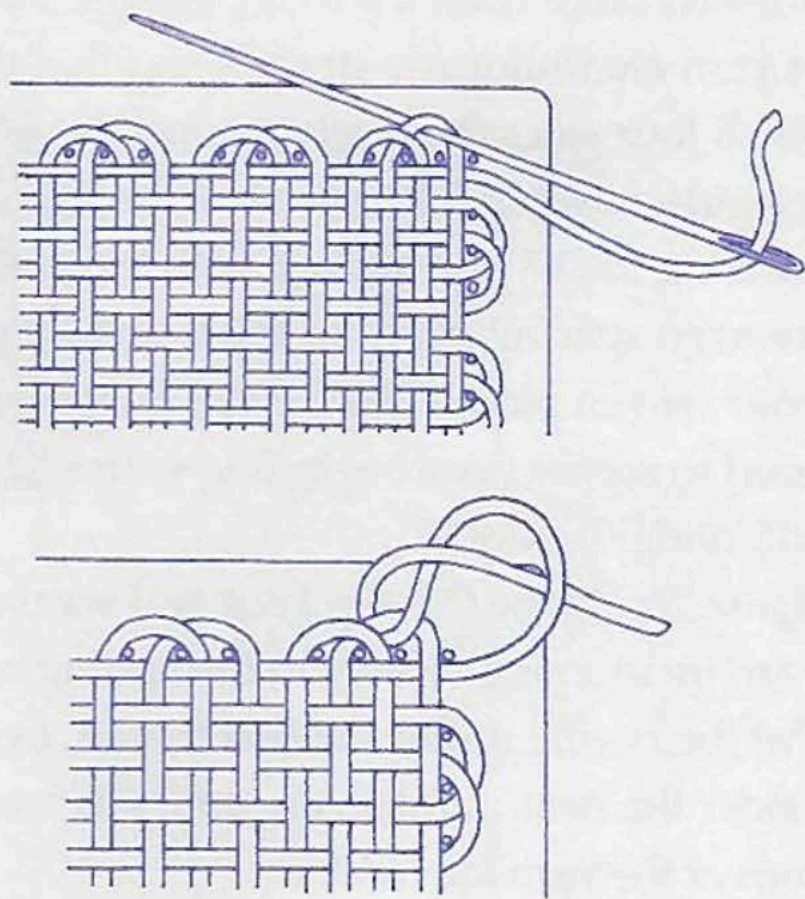
*figure 8*

Here are two methods for ending your woven piece: one with a knot, and one with the end of the yarn woven into the side.

**Method 1:** *figure 9:* To secure your woven piece, bring the yarn around the last bare pin and put the needle through the last corner loop. Don't pull the yarn down tightly yet, but instead, when the yarn makes a loop, thread the needle through *this* loop and then pull it down tightly. It forms a simple knot that isn't too bulky. Leave 2" of yarn, long enough to bind into the seam of the adjoining square or rectangle. Or squares and rectangles may be sewn together through the loops, using longer threads left at the corners.

**Method 2:** *figure 10:* Bring the yarn around the corner pin and put the needle over the last loop. Put the needle under the first thread, over the next, under the next...and so on, until you have about

## METHOD 1



*figure 9*

an inch of the yarn tail hidden. Before removing your finished piece from the loom, be sure that the strands of yarn are uniformly straight and that the first ones on all four sides fit snugly against the row of pins. Irregularities can be easily straightened out by stroking the woven surface with the needle. Strive for even spacing over the entire area. If you began your woven piece with the slip knot method, you need to secure your beginning yarn end while it's still under tension.

**figure 11:** Untie the slip knot and weave the tail of yarn in, in a similar way to the ending corner method. Put the needle under the first thread, over the next, under the next...and so on, until you have about an inch of the yarn tail hidden.

Remove the woven fabric from the pins by pushing up from underneath the *Weavette*.

## METHOD 2

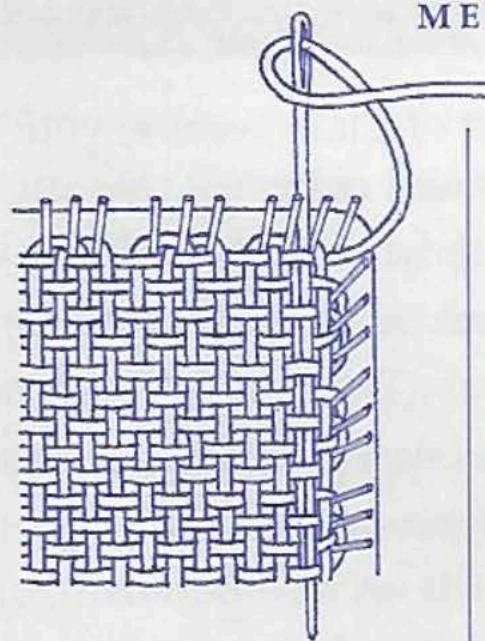


figure 10

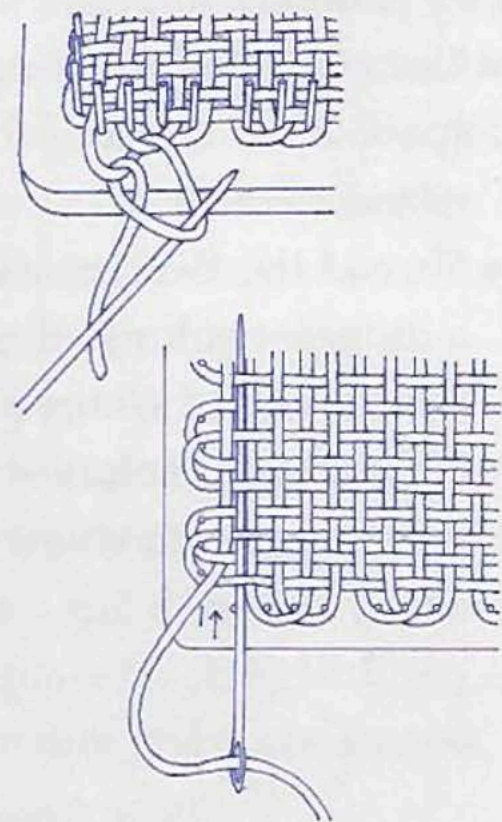


figure 11

## VARYING COLOR IN PLAIN WEAVE

If you'd like to vary the effect of plain weave, you can try different approaches with color:

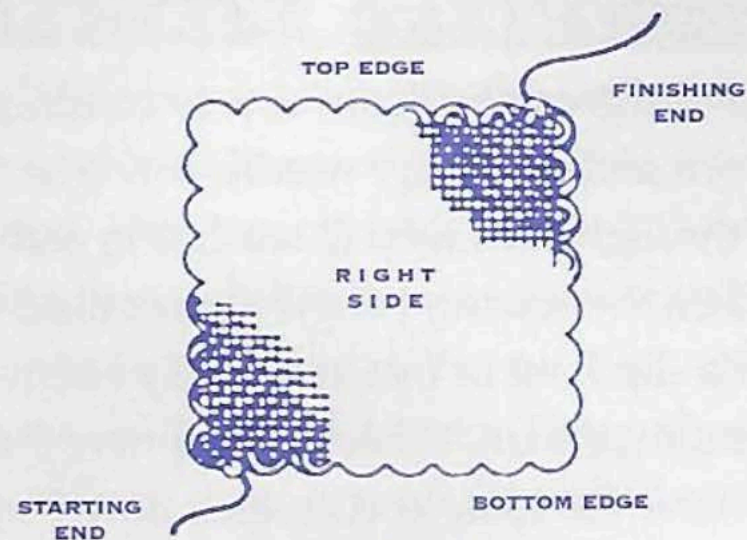
- Use a yarn with variegated colors, so that the space-dyed effect of the yarn creates some visual interest.
- Thread the *Weavette* with one color, then tie on a different color (before you measure for weaving) and complete the woven pattern.
- Change yarn colors with each layer of threading, then weave with a fourth color.

## CONNECTING WOVEN CLOTH TOGETHER

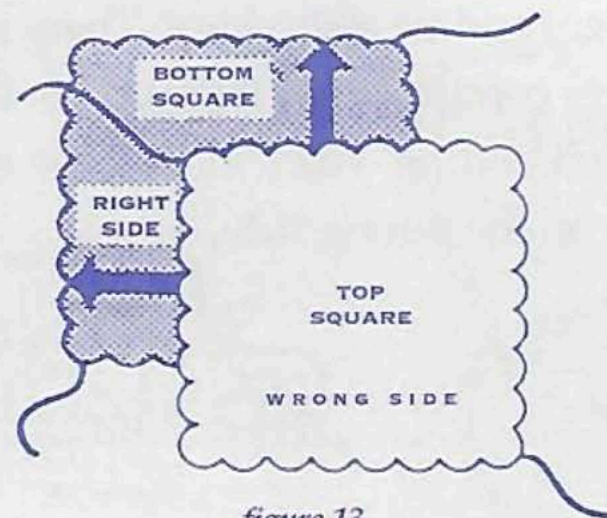
There are several methods of seaming squares or rectangles together. You can align the woven pieces by (a) placing them in the same orientation; that is, right side up with the starting end in the lower left corner (see Figure 12); or by (b) matching similar scalloped loops to one another. The latter is easier for making even seams, but if you have woven a textured pattern on the square or rectangle, and you want that pattern to repeat itself for a particular effect, you must think about – perhaps even redesign and reweave – the direction of the textured pattern on each square/rectangle. For a simpler approach, the following steps are a good beginning to mastering a sewn seam.

*figure 12:* First, be sure you know the right side of the square. To determine the right side, hold the square so that the starting end is in the lower left corner, the finishing end in the upper right corner. The side of the square facing you is the right side.

*figure 13:* Place two squares together, right side up to right side. (The front square with the bottom edge up, the back square with the top edge up.) Line up the edges of the squares so that the double loops of the rear square appear between the loops of the front square.



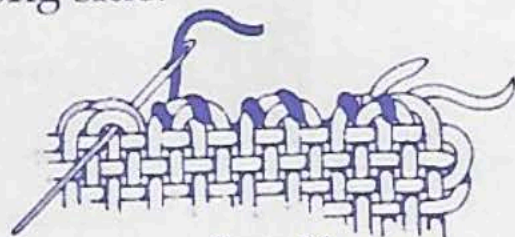
*figure 12*



*figure 13*

## OVERCAST SEAM

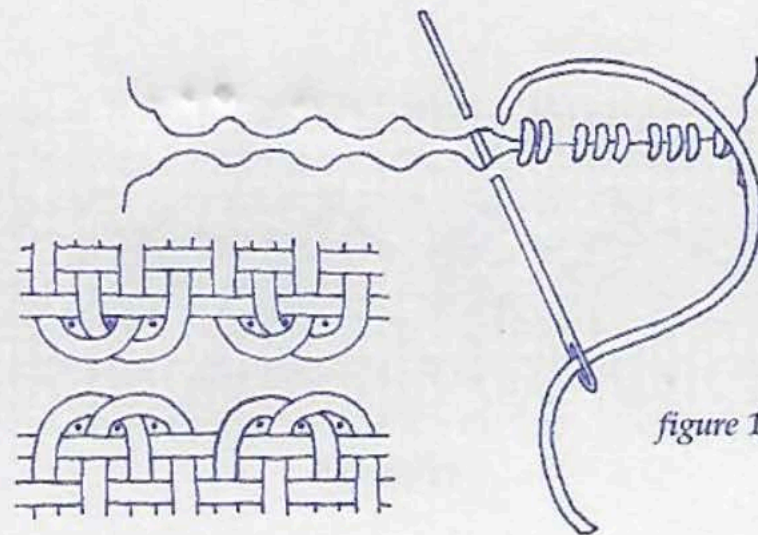
*figure 14:* The Overcast Seam is very common. With a single yarn and a tapestry needle, sew over the top and then through each loop (2 stitches in each pair of loops). When the sewing yarn is almost used up, be sure to tie a slip knot or fasten securely before using another length of yarn. When using a new thread for sewing, weave the loose end an inch down on the wrong side. Draw the needle through the first two loops (at edge) and tie a slip knot. There is no chance of the squares coming apart if you catch them at each beginning and ending. Work in all loose ends from each square on the wrong side.



*figure 14*

## HIDDEN SEAM

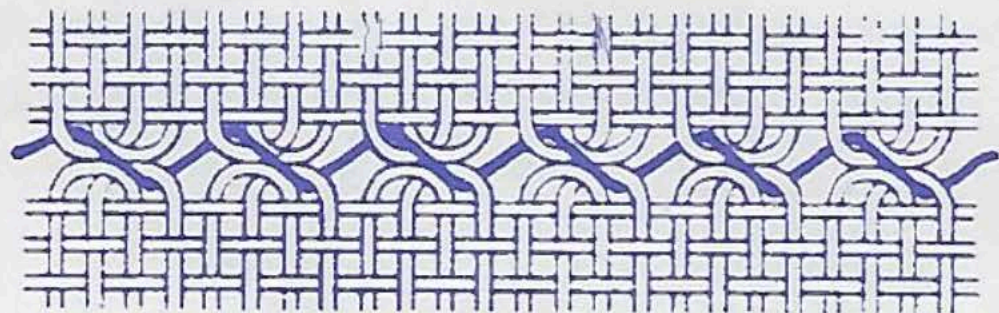
*figure 15:* Here is a seam that is the least noticeable. Align the scalloped loops of your woven pieces together and, with your sewing yarn and tapestry needle, sew three stitches from one set of loops to the opposite set of loops. *Hint: Notice the black dots, indicating where the needle carries the yarn.* Depending on the thickness of your yarn, you might consider sewing this seam with fewer plies of yarn for less bulk.



*figure 15*

## THE LACY SEAM

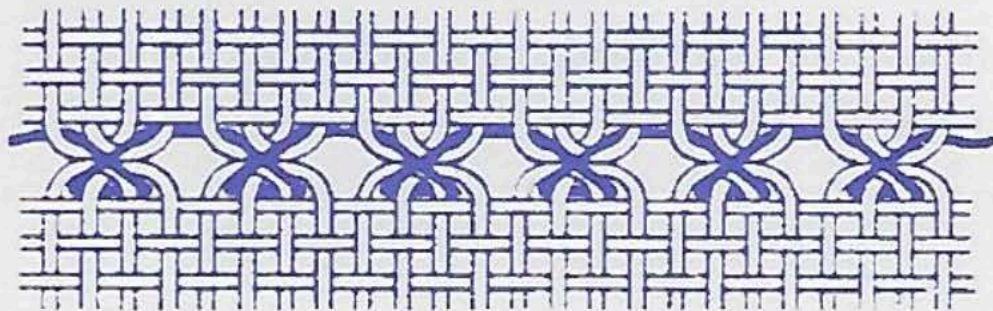
*figure 16:* Match two squares together so that each set of double loops on one square, lines up evenly with the set on the other square. Working from right to left, sew through the first loop on the near side, and through the second loop on the far side, making one stitch in each of the loops. To achieve a lacy effect, be careful not to draw the yarn too tight.



*figure 16*

## THE CROSS SEAM

*figure 17:* Match two squares together, right sides up, so that each set of double loops on one square matches up evenly with a set on the other square. Working from right to left, sew through the first loop on the far side, bring the yarn to the second loop on the near side; but go under the loops (to the right) and bring the yarn out and across diagonally to the next set on the far side. Repeat this stitch through the remaining loops.



*figure 17*

## SUGGESTED YARNS

Cotton, wool, alpaca, mohair, linen, silk, or rayon are all acceptable yarns for the *Weavette*. Yarn size should be equivalent to 8 to 12 ends per inch. Thinner yarns will create a looser, more gauze-like fabric. Variations may be made to create special effects: Thread or weave with yarns of different weights or contrasting colors, wind on two or more strands of yarns together, string beads into your design as you weave, or embellish your finished square/rectangle with embroidery, crochet, or knitting. Try unorthodox materials, like wire or raffia!

## FINISHING TIPS

Before assembling the squares or rectangles together, press each one on the wrong side using steam or dry heat, appropriately set to the temperature of your yarn. Keep the shape of the woven piece. And do not press too firmly, or you may flatten textured patterns.

## YARDAGE REQUIREMENTS

This chart will help you calculate the amount of yarn needed for your projects, depending on the size *Weavette* you are using.

### LOOM YARDAGE REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE LOOM SIZE	YARDAGE PER LOOM
2" square	2 yards
4" square	7½ yards
6" square	16½ yards
2" x 4" rectangle	4 yards
2" x 6" rectangle	6 yards
4" x 6" rectangle	11 yards

In most cases, weaving garments on a hand-held loom takes less yarn than knitting or crocheting. However, if you choose to adapt instructions of a knitted or crocheted garment, it is advisable to buy the amounts called for in those instructions.

When designing a project that uses a variety of woven shapes, draft your ideas on graph paper and calculate your yarn requirements based on the size of the finished product – and the repetition of the shapes.

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