

# LIVING

MARTHA STEWART

Sharing the 'Good Things' for 15 Years

## *Ideas to Love*

FONDUE PARTY GIFTS TO MAKE BY HAND  
COLLECTIBLE COOKBOOKS HEART-HEALTHY RECIPES  
READERS' FAVORITE SWEETS  
PLUS: CHOCOLATE, ROSES & WINE

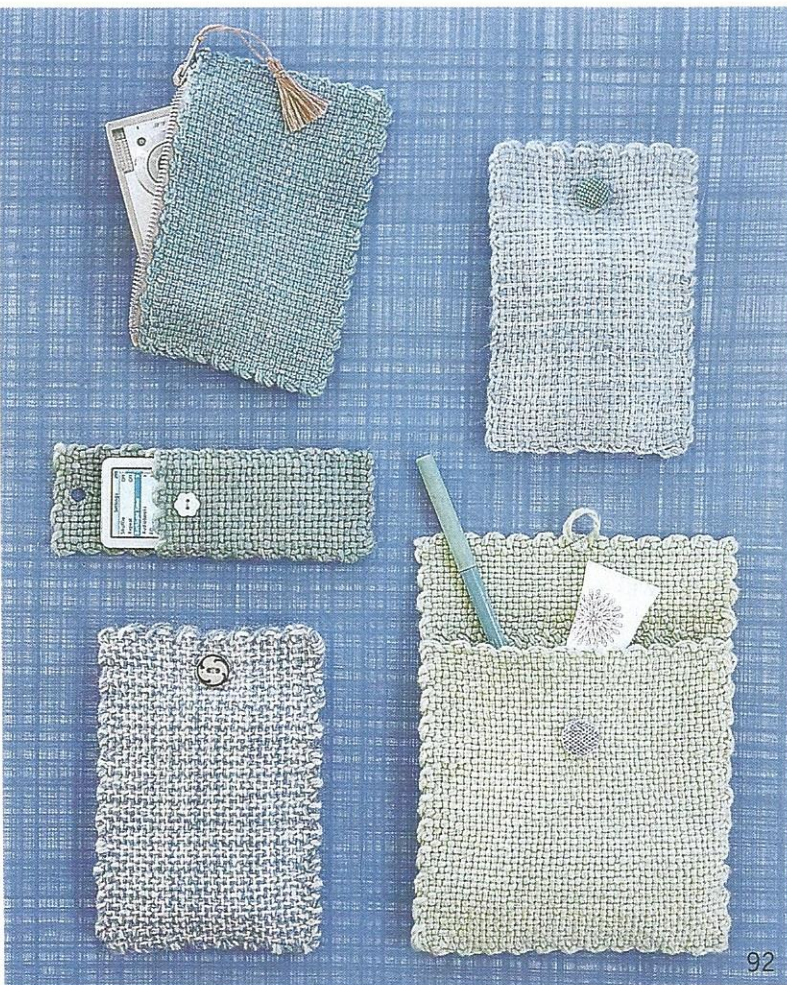


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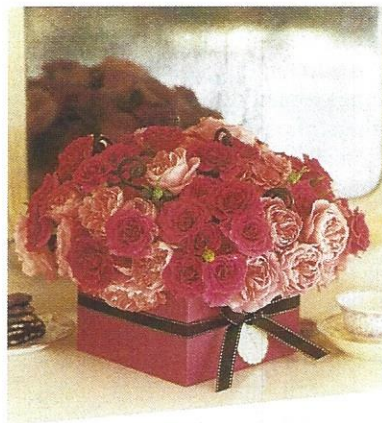
## CRAFTS

### 43 clip art

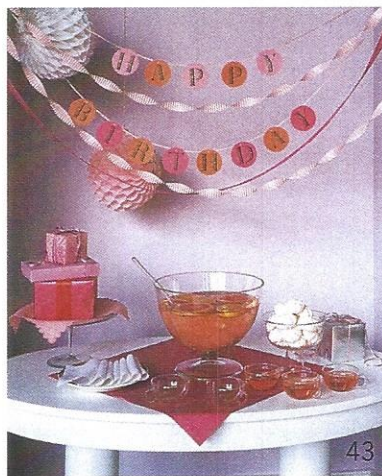
Our downloadable alphabet garlands spell f-u-n party decorations for any occasion.

### 92 weaving ideas, warm and woolly

A loom, a needle, and some yarn are all you need to weave your way to beautiful pillow covers, patchwork scarves, and more.



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## REDISCOVERING

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They're quite literally the nation's taste keepers. Peruse the immensely flavorful history of recipe books in the United States.

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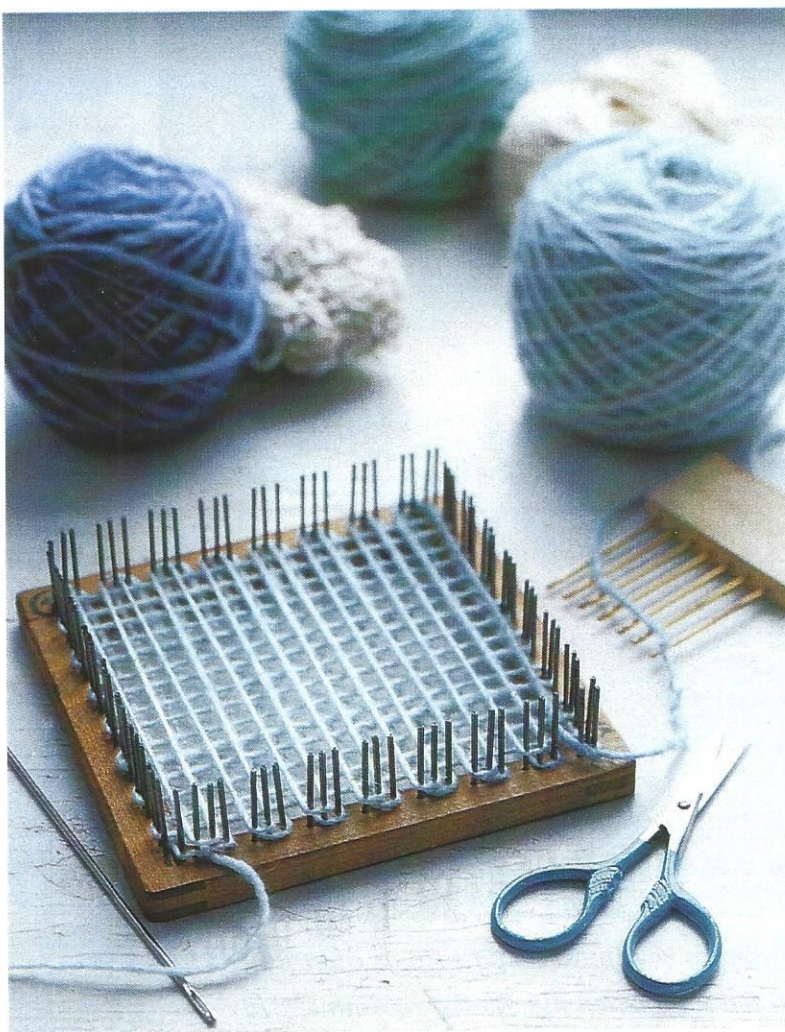
It's no chore to keep your home dust-free and squeaky clean. Our glossary will help you choose the right rag no matter the job.



Crafts projects

# weaving ideas, warm and woolly

TEXT BY HEIDI CHO PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA ROWLEY



EVEN IF YOU'RE not a weaver, you've likely used a loom. Think back to that elementary-school art class, when you fashioned your first woven potholder. As a child it seemed magical that such a simple technique—a rhythmic over and under, over and under, with some thread or yarn—could yield a practical gift with a character all its own, one that made Mom smile brightly. That same basic method can still be used to create handmade gifts. The results,

whether you weave together a patchwork scarf or a plaid pillow, embellish a store-bought bag or a tissue box, are as charming as that made-with-love kid's craft, but with more refinement.

The secret to all the crafts on these pages, including an array of tweedy, solid-colored, and checked designs, is a handheld loom that *Martha Stewart Living* crafts editor Laura Normandin stumbled upon at a flea market. Curious about what she might make with

**APPEALING ACCESSORIES** Ward off winter chills with items you make from squares and rectangles woven on an inexpensive handheld loom (above left); a needle, thread, scissors, and a weaving comb to tamp down rows are the only other materials needed. Embellish a tote (above right) with woven pockets for must-haves such as glasses and a cell phone; the woolen scarf is made up of stitched-together woven swatches created with different combinations of yarn.



the four-inch-square Weave-It, Normandin bought it, took it home, and researched its history. In the early 1930s, she learned, Donald Simonds of Winchester, Massachusetts, invented the small wooden frame fitted with steel pins for threading yarn. Over the next four decades, Weave-Its were sold with a needle and instructions; they were popular for making clothing and household decorations. But in 1975, the product was discontinued.

In 1998—after finding inspiration in her grandmother's original Weave-It—Licia Conforti, a crafter and homemaker, founded Buxton Brook Looms & Designs, which produces looms similar to the originals, called Weavettes. Now Buxton Brook, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, sells a few thousand looms (manufactured in six sizes and two shapes) each year at trade shows and yarn and knitting shops, and via its website ([www.buxtonbrook.com](http://www.buxtonbrook.com)).

On these pages you'll find appealing projects that show off the looms' handiwork. Aside from a loom, the only materials needed are a weaving needle and yarn (or thread) in different colors and weights, an item for embellishing (if you'd like), and basic sewing skills and tools to link one square to another or to attach squares to doll up an item. Weave pieces following the manufacturer's instructions and using that old over-and-under method. In a matter of minutes—about twenty—you'll have a small swatch, and soon another and another. Stitch the pieces together to create a cozy blanket, a warm winter scarf, or a fragrant sachet. There are numerous possibilities—and they all begin in the palm of your hand.

PROJECTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 98



**sweet sachets how-to** *Wool sachets filled with spoonfuls of fragrant dried lavender look right at home among knitted winter garments; the porous woven swatches are ideal for releasing the scent of the herb.* Hold two 4-inch square swatches back-to-back and hand-sew them together around the edges, leaving a 2-inch opening on the fourth side. Fill the sachet with lavender, and hand-sew the opening closed. If you wish, personalize the sachets with a monogram or other fanciful design; we cross-stitched a heart shape to one side of each sachet with a contrasting yarn before sewing the squares together. Use the weave of the fabric as a grid to keep stitches a uniform size.



**pattern plan** *The appearance of your woven swatch will vary depending on how many yarns are used to thread and weave the loom, their thickness, and, in some cases, the order in which the colors are used. Use 1 yarn to thread and weave the loom for a solid-colored swatch (top). To create a fabric with a tweedlike appearance, use 2 different colored yarns simultaneously to thread and weave the loom (middle). A checked pattern results from threading the loom with yarn of 1 color, then weaving with a different yarn (bottom); the base color—the color used first—will be the predominant color of the swatch.*



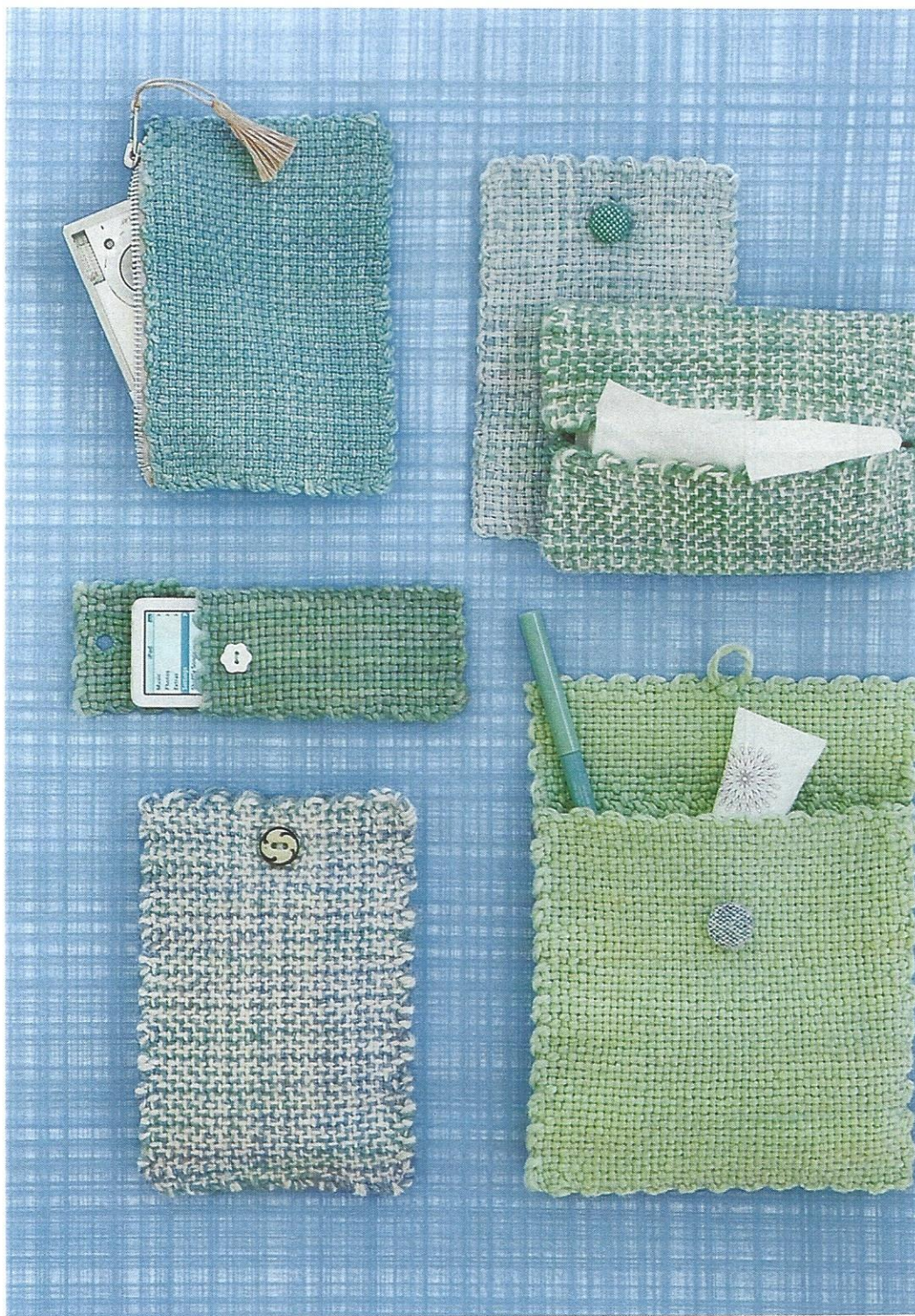
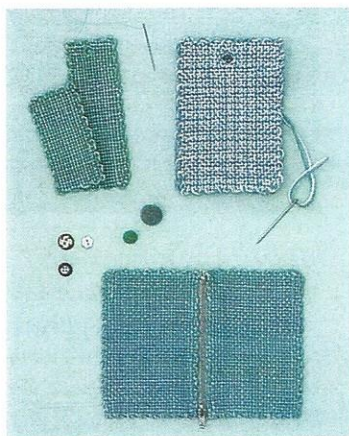
## patchwork pillow how-to

*A cheerful gingham throw pillow (left) adds a cozy feel to any room. We created this cloth-backed removable pillow cover from squares made with two yarns in varying combinations: 4 in solid cream, 9 in solid green, 6 checked with a green base, and 6 checked with a cream base. For an 18-inch-square pillow, you'll need an 18½-inch square made from 5 rows of 5 stitched-together swatches from a 4-inch loom, plus two 18½-by-13-inch rectangles of soft fabric in a coordinating color for the backing. Hem one long side of each fabric piece: Fold edge over by ½ inch two times; machine-sew fold in place. Lay both fabric pieces, wrong sides up, on the square of woven swatches so unhemmed lengths of fabric align with woven material's edges; the fabric pieces should overlap at center (this will form an opening to slip pillow into). Machine-sew perimeter with seams ½ inch in from edge. Snip tips of corners at an angle. Turn right side out, and insert pillow. Follow yarn manufacturer's washing instructions.*



### purse pouches how-to

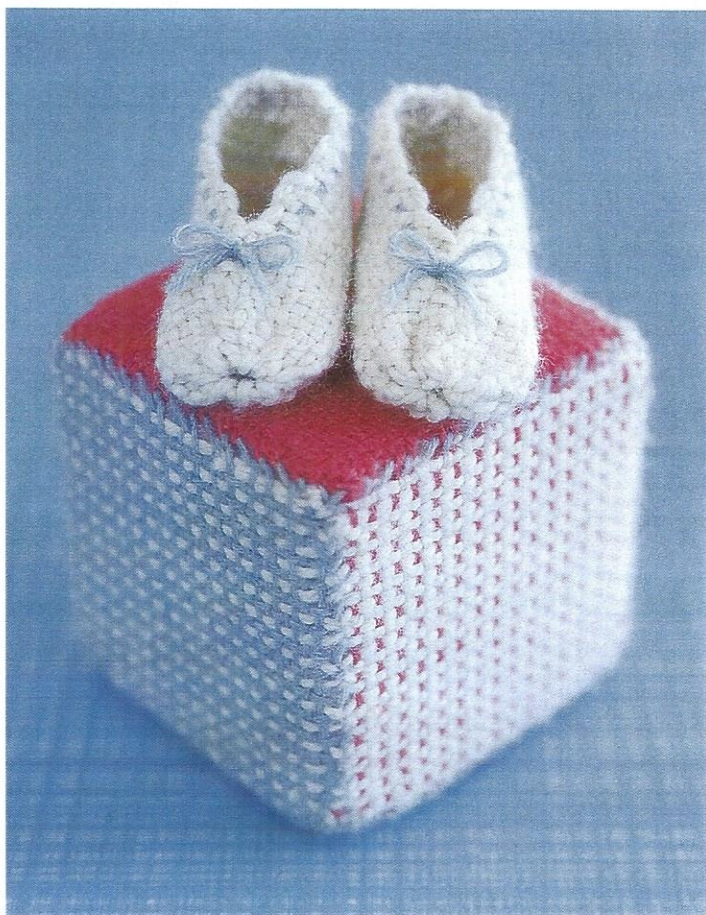
A set of woven pouches can keep electronic devices such as cameras and MP3 players (below) safe inside your bag. Each has an attractive scalloped edge—no finishing required. Each can be made by stitching 2 square or rectangular swatches back-to-back (the makeup case requires a third rectangle for a closing flap). To determine what size loom to use, measure the item the pouch will hold; swatches will be slightly smaller than the dimensions of the looms on which they are woven. For the tissue holder, fold two 6-inch-long rectangles in half. Stitch the ends and back seam. Form a buttonhole by poking a pencil into the woven material to make a gap; sew a whip stitch around the edge of the hole with thread to make it permanent. To add a zipper, sew the zipper to a long side of each swatch; then stitch the remaining sides together with yarn.





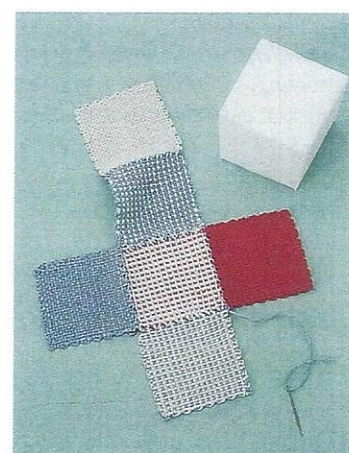


**tissue box and facecloth how-to** *Once you've tried basic projects, add polish to your powder room with a custom tissue box cover, which is a bit more challenging to make. Weave 5 swatches on a 6-inch square loom. On a sewing machine, sew 4 swatches together side-by-side, allowing for a ½-inch seam (use pins to hold swatches in place). Sew 2 end pieces together to form a tube. "Miter" seam allowance at each top corner. Cut remaining square into 2 rectangles; sew a zigzag stitch along cut edges of both. To form top, sew on both rectangles (allow for a ½-inch seam) so edges create a slit for dispensing tissues. Sew six 4-inch swatches of woven twine and cotton bouclé yarn for a textured washcloth.*



### baby booties how-to

Weave two 4-inch squares. Fold 1 in half to form a rectangle. With the same yarn, stitch 1 short side to create heel (above). Stitch up nearly half of length to form an opening. Make a running stitch around front opening, then pull to cinch closed; stitch over several times to secure before ending in a knot (left). With a different yarn, sew a running stitch around top opening, just under scalloped edge; tie ends in a bow. Repeat with second square.



### play block how-to

*When making items for a baby, use soft materials that will be gentle on sensitive skin; we used cashmere and baby-alpaca yarns. Weave 6 swatches from a 4-inch loom, and sew together in a "t" form (above). Place a 4-inch foam block on center square, and continue stitching swatches together, enclosing foam. SEE THE GUIDE FOR SOURCES*