

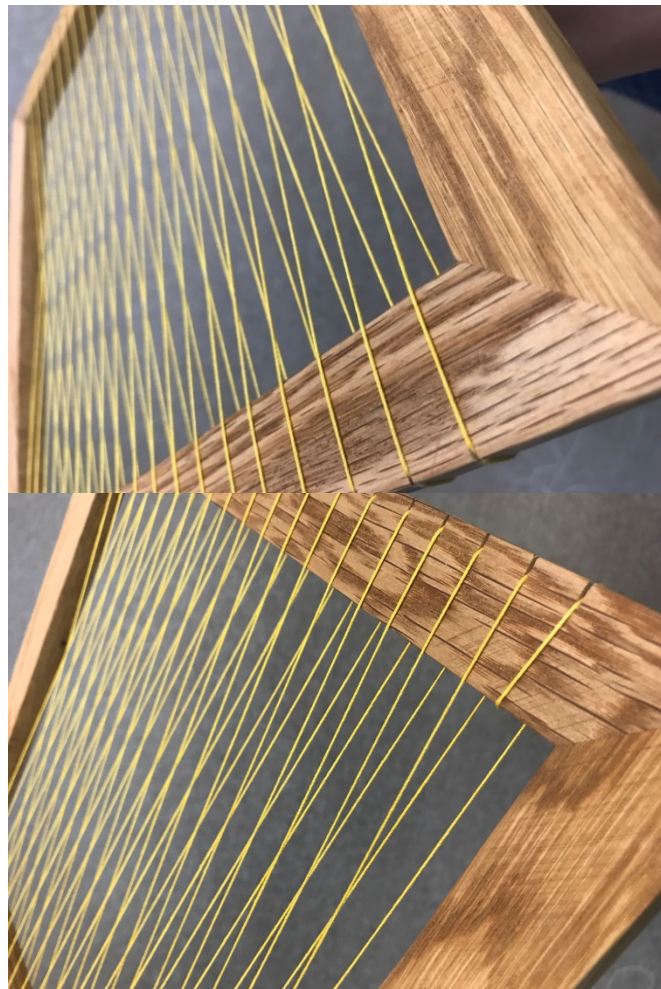
STEP ONE:

WARPING THE FRAME

We have already prepared this frame with the notches needed to get started on threading the frame. However, if you want to start with a basic frame, first remove glass and backing. Create notches on two opposite sides of the frame using a small handsaw. For a simple weaving, place notches every half inch. If you want to work on a more detailed piece, the warp should be denser with threads/notches closer together.

Tie off your warp thread at a notch on the end. Wrap warp thread in a figure 8 style in and out of the frame, catching at each notch. This will create and open “shed” at the top of the frame and threads will cross at the bottom of the frame. Tie off the warp thread in the last notch.

For best results use a strong cotton thread as your warp. If it loosens up as you weave, just pull your knots at the ends tighter.



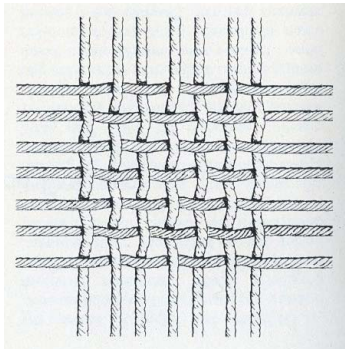
UNDER-OVER: PLAIN WEAVE

You will be starting from the bottom of your design, you will work your way up the frame. Thread your tapestry needle with a long strand of yarn, roughly 3-4 feet. The threads passing opposite of your warp threads, are called the WEFT. Your initial pass of weft yarn will be through the open shed you created at the top your warp. Use your fingers or a fork to press the first pass of yarn to the bottom, about an inch from the actual frame. Tuck in the end of your weft thread leaving a tail of a few inches, you can tie this tail off eventually.

In the second pass you will start using your needle to guide over and under through the yarns. Give yourself a base of a few passes before you add your next element.

Try to tuck in your threads as you go whenever possible by pushing them to the backside of the frame (the backside of your piece is not meant to be pretty!) If you have untucked threads at the end, you can take your needle and weave them into the back of your loom. I like to tie loose ends together to keep them nice and secure.

When adding your next strand of yarn, you can simply tie that new yarn onto the end of your last weft thread and continue weaving, keeping the knot on the back of the loom. If you are introducing a new color or yarn, it will be best to start fresh from one of the ends, and tuck your new tail into your warp.



BRAIDED BEAUTY: SOUMAK TECHNIQUE

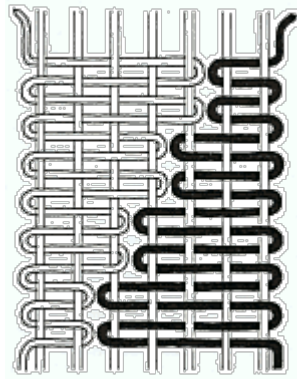
Cut a long strand of yarn or roving. Tuck the end of the yarn 2 warp threads from the end. Wrap the yarn around the first warp thread, back around to the front. Wrap the long end of your yarn around 1 warp thread every 3-4 threads, back to front each time. Keeping spacing consistent will help to create the braid look. At the end of the frame, wrap yarn around last warp thread twice and start back the opposite direction. This time you will wrap around from front to back. When going the opposite direction, wrap your weft thread around a different warp thread than your first pass through.



GETTING GEOMETRICAL:

CREATING SHAPES

Creating angles, waves or shapes is all about dropping and picking up warp threads while you weave. To create a triangle, simply drop off one warp thread on each end of the frame with each pass, until the triangle forms to the shape you want. If you drop of one warp thread from each weft pass, you should create a centered triangle shape. If you want to create an angle just up one side, only drop the warp thread from the same side as you pass your weft threads. If you are looking for rounded shapes/waves, create the shape the same way but work across the entire shape a few times with your weft thread to create a softer edge.



FRINGE TIME:

RYA KNOTS

Cut several lengths of thread at least double the length of how long you want the fringe (you can always trim these down to the right length). Wrap yarn behind 2 warp threads, pull through the middle of the 2 warp threads to create a loop, and pull the ends of the fringe thread down through the loop.



FUN WITH ROVING!

Roving is a bulky yarn that is not twisted or plied into a tight strand like most yarns. Roving has much more texture and can add a lot of fun to your weaving! Here are a few examples of ways to add roving or bulky yarns into your tapestry.

