Learn to weave on the
Tabletop Tapestry Loom
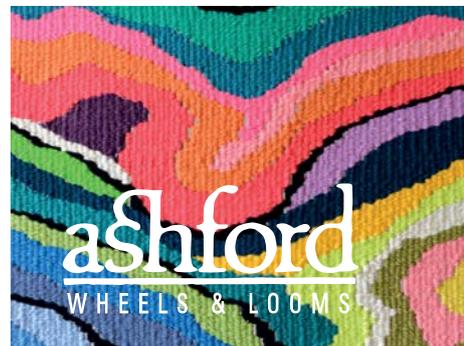
Assembly Instructions

Tabletop Tapestry Loom - 40cm and 60cm (16" and 24") weaving width

handles

pawls

cogs

"L" blocks

star knobs

left leg

left side

warping peg

threading hook

tension knob

cardboard warp sticks

top rail

top tension beam

roller

warp stick

cartoon holder stick

reed

warp stick

leg cross rail

roller

bottom beam

shuttles

tension knob

clicker pin

clamps

left and right reed supports

right side

right leg

clicker pin

Texsolv cord

Before commencing - Please read the instructions completely, identify the parts and note the assembly sequence.
Finish - Your loom has been lacquered prior to assembly. If desired, Ashford Finishing Wax may be applied to further enhance its appearance.
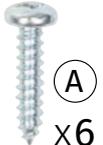
Tools Required

Screwdriver **Hammer** **Candle Wax**
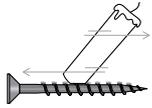
Rub candle wax on all screw threads before inserting to make assembly easier.

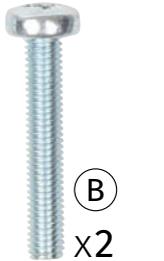## Real Scale Hardware List

x6 — rubber feet

(A) x6 — 16mm (⅝") screws
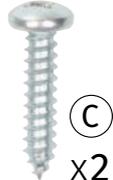
(C) x2 — 19mm (¾") screws

(F) x2 — 25mm (1") screws

x2 — barrel nuts

(B) x2 — 30mm (1¼") machine screws

(I) x2 — 50mm (2") cuphead bolts

(G) x2 — 45mm (1¾") cuphead bolts

(D) x8 — 50mm (2") screws

(H) x4 — 45mm (1¾") screws

(E) x2 — large washers

(J) x6 — small washers

01

Attach the 4 rubber feet to the bottom of both sides with **A** 16mm (⅝") screws.

02

0.5mm (1/32") gap

Attach the 2 pawls to the loom sides with **B** 30mm (1¼") machine screws. **Note:** The "clicker pin" fits into the gap in the pawl. Take care to ensure the "clicker pin" does not damage your table. Leave 0.5mm (1/32") gap under the head of the bolt. DO NOT over tighten, the pawls should move freely.
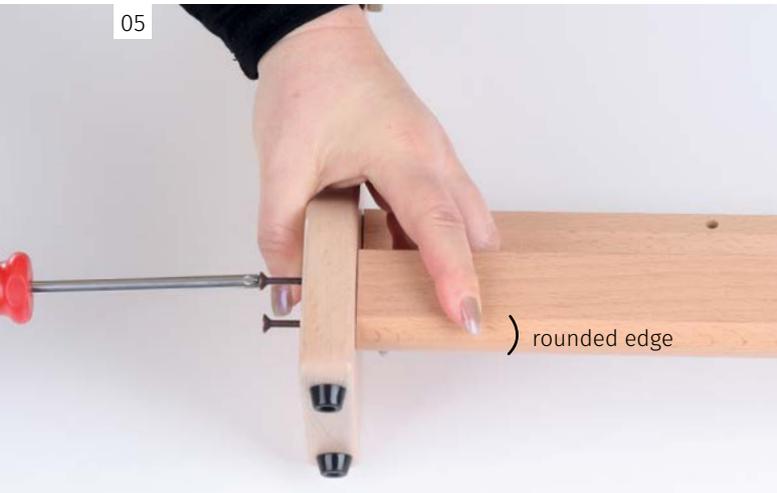
03
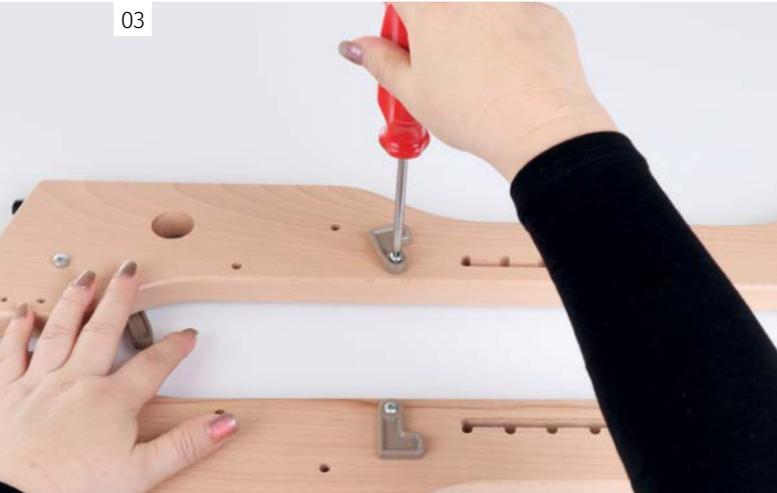
Attach the 2 "L" Blocks to the loom sides as illustrated with **C** 19mm (¾") screws. Do not overtighten, the "L" Blocks should move freely.

04

TOP

Sit the 2 sides on their back edges, with the rubber feet facing down. Rub candlewax onto the ends of the rollers and place them into the holes in the loom sides with the longer end on the right side.

05
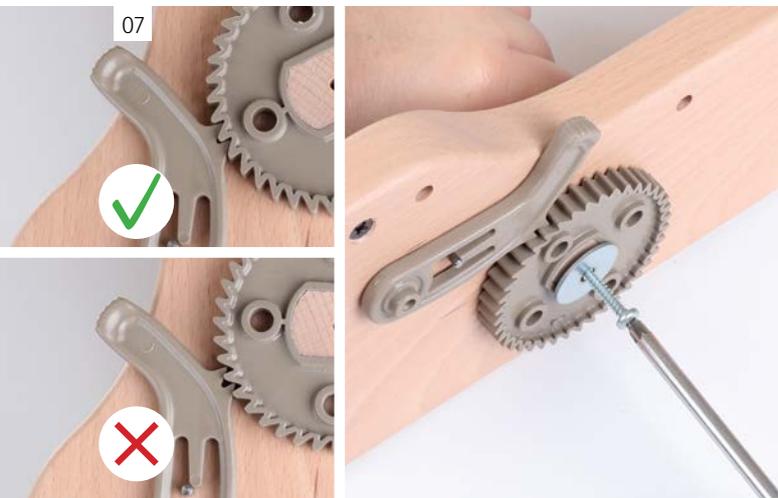
rounded edge

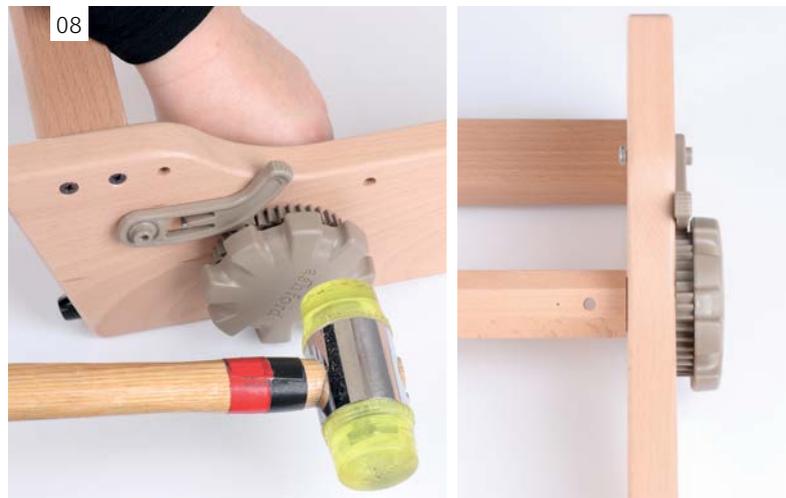Attach the bottom beam, with the rounded edge facing down, to the sides with **D** 50mm (2") screws.


06

Attach the top rail, ensure the clamp holes and Ashford brand are facing up, to the sides with **D** 50mm (2") screws.

Push the cogs onto the ends of the rollers. Check that the teeth engage with the pawl. Then secure with **E** large washers and **F** 25mm (1") screws.

Rub candle wax onto the 4 pins on the handle. Locate the 4 pins into the 4 holes in the cog. Rotate the roller while gently tapping the handle with a hammer until it locks down tightly onto the cog. There should not be a gap between the handle and the cog. Use gentle tapping not excessive force. Repeat for the other handle.
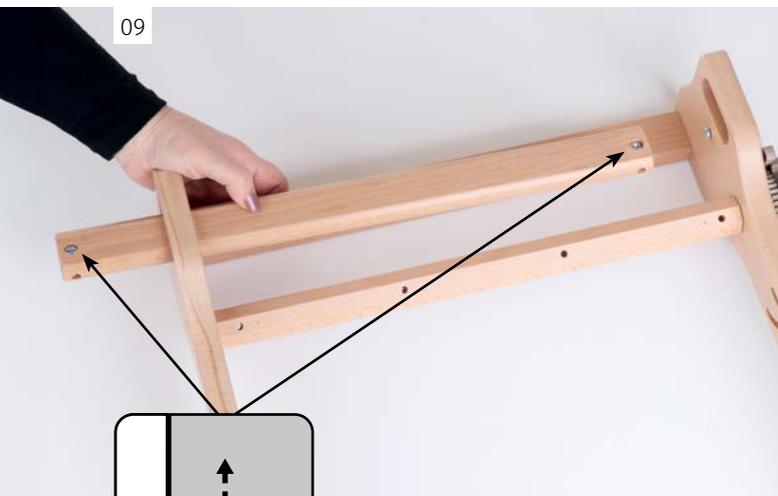

In the top tension beam, insert the barrel nuts, with the long slot facing in the direction of the holes for the tensioner knob, into the 2 holes. Then slide the beam through the slots in the sides.

Place a small washer **J** onto each of the tensioner knobs and thread them through the holes in the top of each side and into the barrel nuts. Continue turning until the tensioner knobs are hard against the top of the side and the tension beam is in the middle of both slots. **Hint:** Turn both knobs together to ensure the tension beam remains parallel.

Attach rubber feet to the bottom of each leg with **A** 16mm (⅝") screws.
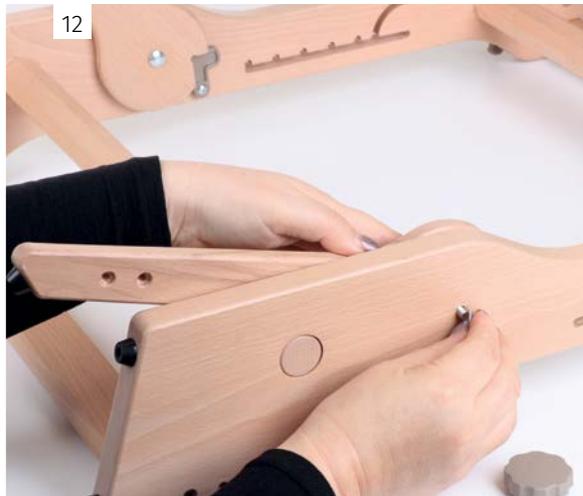
Attach the 2 legs to the sides, with the countersunk holes for the cross rail facing out, with **G** 45mm (1¾") bolts and secure with small washers **J** and knobs. Check the "L" Blocks engage in the notches in the legs. **Hint:** Gently tap the head of the bolt with a hammer as you tighten the knob.

Attach the leg cross rail to the legs with **H** 45mm (1 ¾") screws.

Sit the loom on its rubber feet, extend the legs, engage the "L" Blocks into the notches in the legs and lightly tighten the knobs.

Place the reed support on the table edge and gently tap the head of the **I** 50mm (2") bolt until it is flush with the wood. Repeat for other reed support. Attach the 2 reed supports to the sides with small washers and knobs. **Note:** The bolt and roll pin slide in the grooves in the sides.

When weaving, position the reed supports evenly on both sides and at least 1cm (½") below the top of the slot so they do not fold down.
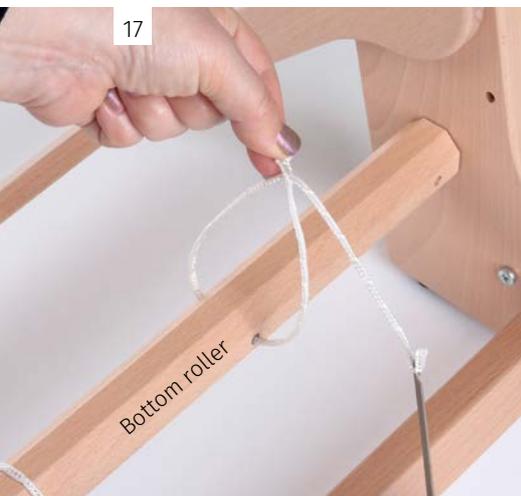
Bottom roller

Use the Texsolv cords to attach the top and bottom warp sticks. Start by threading the Texsolv cord through a hole in the bottom roller, pull one end of the cord through the second to last hole at the opposite end of the cord. Pull tight.
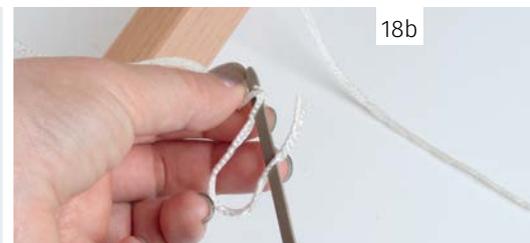
To make the loops for the warp stick to slide into, feed the threading hook through the second to last hole in the cord **18a**, catch the cord about 5cm (2") down the cord **18b**, and pull back though the hole **18c**. Pull this out to form the loop **18d**. Repeat for all cords.

Repeat this for each of the holes on the top roller. Then slide in the warp sticks.

To fold the loom:

1. Lift the reed out of the reed supports and lower.

2. Loosen the reed support knobs, slide the reed supports to the top of the slots and fold down.

3. Loosen the leg knobs, pull the loom slightly forward and lift the "L" blocks out of the notches. Lower the loom down flat.

4. Retighten all the knobs. If required, loosen the top tension knobs.

YOUR FIRST PROJECT – 4 COASTERS

Warping instructions

To learn how to warp and weave on your new loom, start with a simple project. The following warping instructions are for a set of four coasters. You can create your own design using the basic tapestry weaving techniques outlined in this booklet.

You will need:

Loom – Tabletop Tapestry Loom
Reed – 7.5dpi (7.5 ends per 2.5cm)
Tape measure, cardboard warp sticks, threading hook, scissors, weaving needles, shuttles, or tapestry bobbins (optional – you can also use yarn butterflies), piece of cardboard to separate the coasters, wool darning needle.

Warp yarn - Ashford Tapestry Loom Warp Thread
Weft yarn – Ashford Double Knit, 100% wool, 202m (221yds) per 100g ball. 1 ball each colour: Steel Grey 805, Old Navy 810, Cornflower 825, Sky 835.

Here's how:

Sett – 7.5 ends per inch (3 ends per cm)
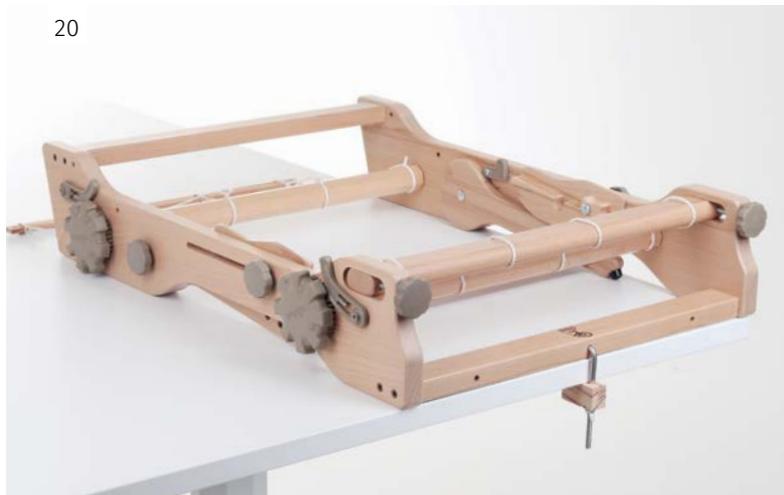No. of ends: 36
Warp length: 1.2m (1.3yds)
Width in reed: 12cm (4½")
Coaster finished size (excluding fringes): 12 x 12cm (4½ x 4½")

Weave each coaster 12cm (4½") high, placing a piece of cardboard between each one as a spacer.

PREPARE YOUR LOOM

Place your folded loom on a long table. Insert a clamp into the hole on the top rail and secure it to the table.

Clamp the warping peg to the opposite end of the table. The distance between the peg and the loom will be your warp length.
For four coasters, allow a minimum of 1.2m (1.3yds), this includes cutting and knotting between each coaster once you have finished.
Engage the pawls into the teeth of the cogs to lock them.

Place the reed in the warping position.

WARPING ———

Place a cone of warp thread on the floor below the loom.
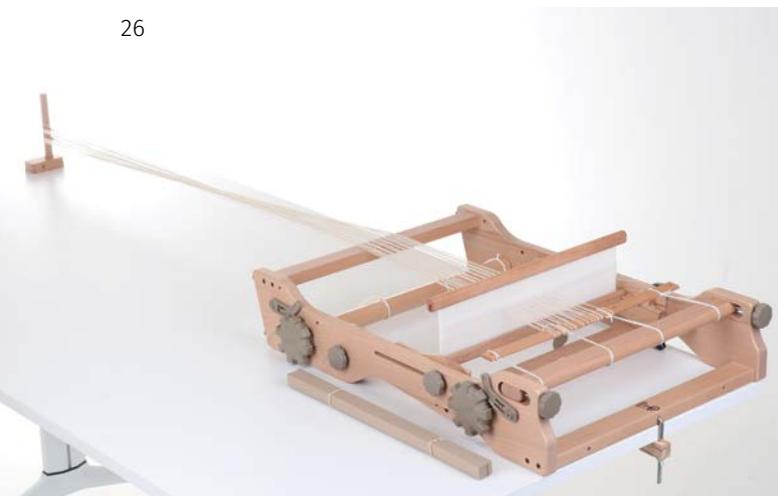Tie the warp thread onto the top warp stick.

WARP THE LOOM
Find the 9th slot from the centre of the reed. Push the threading hook through the slot, catch the yarn, and pull a loop through. Take the yarn to the warping peg and loop it over.

Insert the hook through the next slot (moving toward the centre), take the yarn *over* the warp stick, catch it with the hook, and pull a loop through the slot. Place this loop over the warping peg.

Continue slot by slot, alternating: one thread over the warp stick, next thread under. Keep tension even.
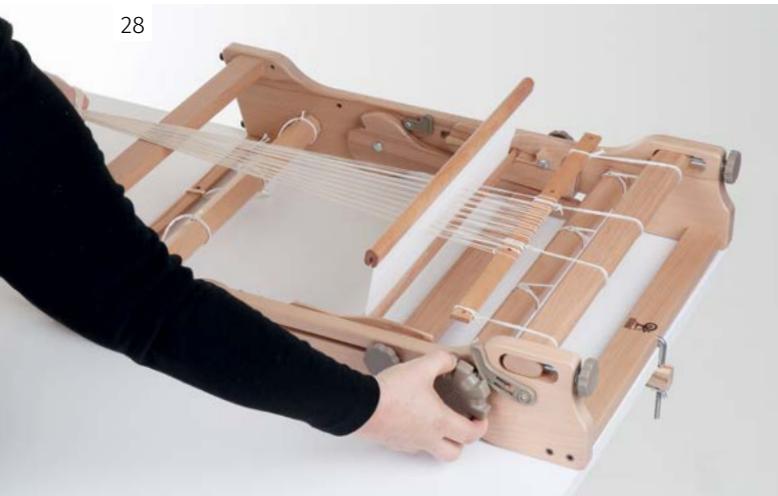When you have threaded 18 slots, cut the yarn and tie it to the top warp stick.

WIND THE WARP ONTO THE LOOM
Remove the loops from the peg and slip them over your hand. With your other hand, pull the warp threads firmly and evenly.

28

Wind the handle away from the loom to roll the warp onto the top roller.

29

Insert a cardboard warp stick each revolution to keep the warp threads separated and the tension even.
Stop when the end of the warp is approx. 50cm (20") from the reed.

30

THREADING THE REED
Cut the loops at the front.

31

Unclamp the loom and place it in front of you.
Take one thread from each pair of threads in a slot and thread it through the eye to the right of the slot.
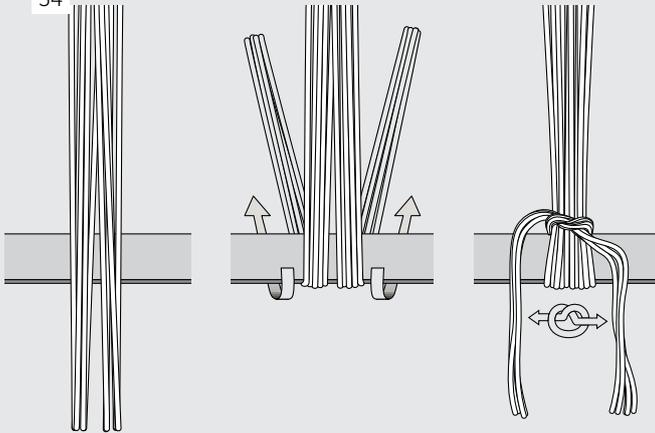
Continue across until every slot and eye has one thread.

TIE ON TO THE BOTTOM WARP STICK
Divide threads into small groups. Take each group over and around the bottom warp stick.

Split the group into two parts and tie a single flat knot.
Repeat across the warp.
Adjust the knots so the tension is even.

Tip: To adjust, hold threads on both sides of a knot, gently pull upward toward the reed, then retighten.

Secure with a half bow for each group, these will be easy to undo when you finish weaving.

Set the loom in the upright position by extending the legs out and moving the reed supports into the weaving position and tighten the knobs.

ADVANCE THE WARP
Release the tension by turning the top handle clockwise slightly and release the top pawl out of the cog, turn the handle anticlockwise about half a turn. Re-engage the top pawl.

Wind the bottom handle anticlockwise until the bottom warp stick reaches the bottom beam.

Re-engage the pawl and re-tension the warp.

For final adjustment to the tension, wind the top tension beam knobs evenly on both sides to set the warp at a firm tension.

TWINING

Twining spaces the warp threads evenly and secures the first weft rows. You will use twining at the start and end of each coaster. Place a piece of cardboard approx. 10cm (4") high in the warp to separate each coaster.

1. Cut two lengths of warp thread, cut each length twice the width of your loom.

2. Tie an overhand knot, lining it up with the left outside warp thread. Leave enough yarn on the left to tie to the loom side.

3. Secure the left ends by threading one through the hole in the side of the loom, tie to the other end with a knot and bow.

4. Working across the warp:

   • Place one twining thread in front of the first warp thread, the other behind.

   • Cross them over each other between each warp thread in a figure-8 motion.

5. At the right-hand edge, tie an overhand knot in line with the warp edge and then secure the ends through the hole in the loom side. Tie with a bow so you can easily undo it later when advancing the warp.

Note: Do not twine the very first and last warp threads — they act as guides to keep your tapestry edges straight.
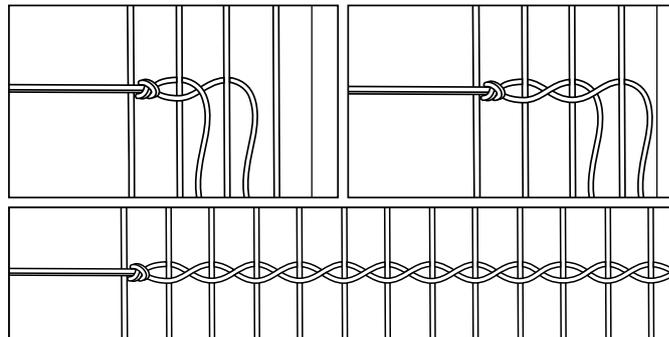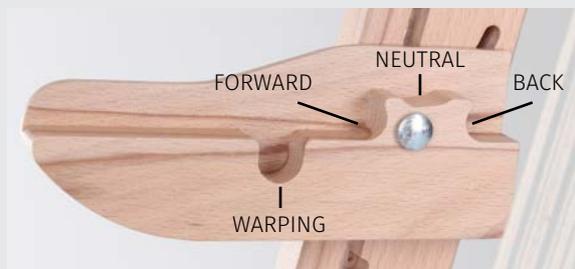

WEAVING BASICS

The reed can be set in three positions:
• Forward
• Neutral
• Back

By moving the reed from forward to back, you open the shed (the space between the upper and lower warp threads) so you can pass the weft through.


FORWARD

NEUTRAL

BACK

WEAVING

1. Place the reed in the forward position.
2. Pass the weft yarn through the shed.
3. Make **small bubbles** in the weft. Curve it gently about 1–2cm high and 2–4cm wide. This prevents the edges from pulling in and keeps your weaving even.
4. Beat lightly with your fingers.
5. Move the reed to the back position and pass the weft yarn back.
6. Repeat, forming bubbles each time.
7. After 3–4 rows, beat more firmly with a fork or tapestry beater. The weft should cover the warp threads completely. If you see small gaps of warp showing ("lice"), beat a little harder.

Tip: Too few bubbles and the edges will pull in. Too many bubbles and the fabric ripples or bulges.
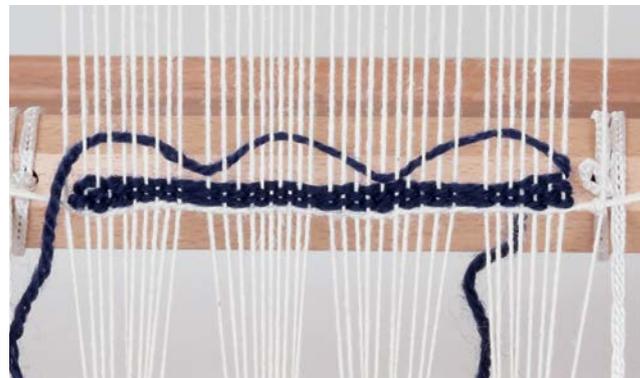
Bubble the weft

Changing colours

Weave a few rows in one colour. At the end, leave a 5–7cm tail. Wrap the tail once around the outside warp thread and push it to the back.

When starting the new colour, wrap the tail of the new colour around the outside warp thread and push it to the back. When the tapestry is finished, weave the tails into the back with a darning needle.
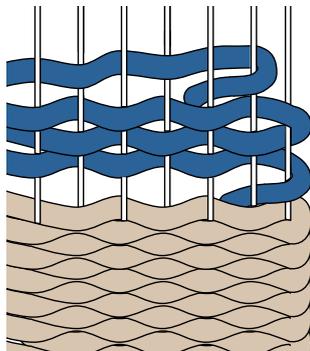
Stripes

To weave stripes, simply alternate two or more colours. Carry unused colours up the edge or wrap them neatly around the outside warp thread before switching.

Blocks of colour

When weaving solid areas of colour side by side, you have two choices: *interlocked* or *leave a slit.*

Interlock the colours for a joined edge: Weave the left colour across until you reach the last warp thread before the colour change.
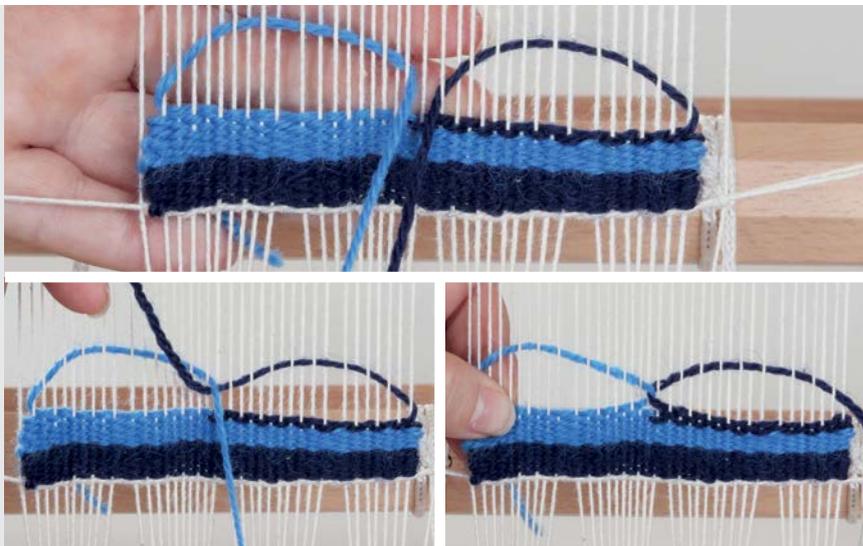
Weave the right colour from the opposite side to the same warp thread. **Change the shed.**

At the meeting point, wrap the right weft around the left weft, interlocking them.

Send each colour back in the opposite direction.

Repeat, always wrapping the same colour in the same direction for consistency.

Tip: Keep even tension at the join so the fabric does not pull to one side.

Leave a slit for a sharp, graphic line. Weave each block up to the same warp thread and leave a slit between them. You can leave the slit open or sew it closed at the back later.

Interlock

Slit
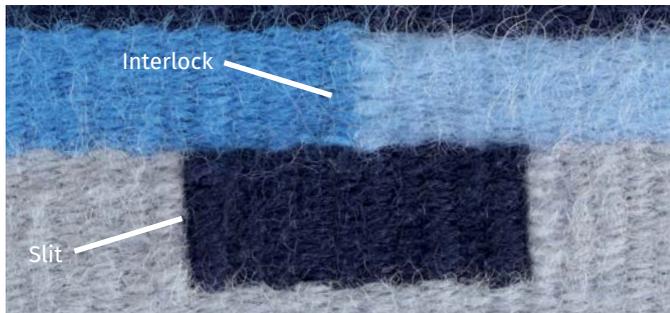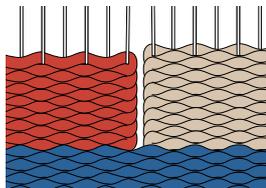
Diagonal lines

You can create diagonal lines or slopes by adjusting how far your weft travels across the warp.

Build a slope: Start weaving across the full width. Reduce the width of the weft by one warp thread each row to create a downward slope.

Reverse slope: To slope upward, increase the width of the weft by one warp thread per row.

Tip: Count the number of rows as you reduce or increase the width. This ensures your slope is symmetrical.

Curves

You can create curves by gradually increasing or decreasing the number of warp threads your weft travels across.

Start with a narrow base, weaving across a small number of warp threads. For each new row, increase the width by one warp thread on each side. Once you reach the widest part, weave straight across the full width for a few rows.

To complete the curve, reverse the process, reducing the width by one warp thread on each side per row until you return to the original width.

Weave the sections in the order as illustrated below.

Tips: For gentle curves, add one warp thread per side every 2–3 rows.
For tighter curves, add one warp thread per side every row.

Always increase and decrease symmetrically on both sides to keep the curve balanced.

Keep count of the number of rows on the bottom half so you can mirror them on the top half.
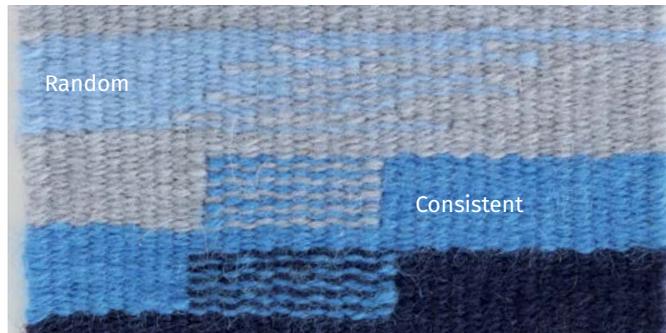
Hatching

Hatching is a technique used to blend colours or create smooth transitions without a hard edge. There are two types of hatching, consistent (regular) or random (irregular) hatching.

Each stripe of colour consists of two rows of weaving.

Weave the left colour across to where you want the colour change. Weave the right colour from the opposite side to come out at the same warp thread (1). **Change the shed** and return each colour to the outside (2).

On the next row change the meeting point and weave each colour towards each other again (3). **Change the shed** and return each colour to the outside (4).

Repeat the process, moving the meeting point as needed (5).

Random (irregular) hatching: Vary the length of each stitch for a more blended, shaded look. This can also be used to create colour transitions.

Consistent (regular) hatching: Keep the lines even and regular for a uniform effect.

**Tip:** Always keep the tension even so the surface of your tapestry stays smooth.

Vertical lines of colour

Create striped patterns running up and down your tapestry.

Weave one colour across the full width of your warp. Change the shed. Use a second colour to weave back across the same width.

Repeat, keeping each colour in its own shed consistently.

Tip: To maintain a clean edge, wrap the outside colour around the outer warp thread twice before starting the next pass.
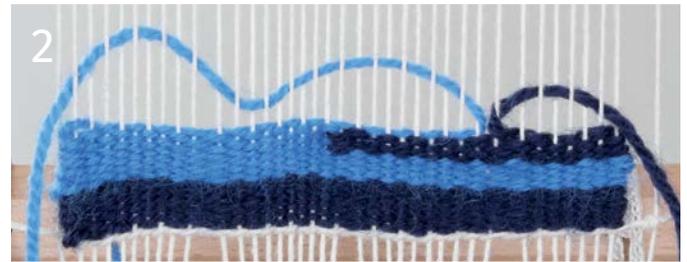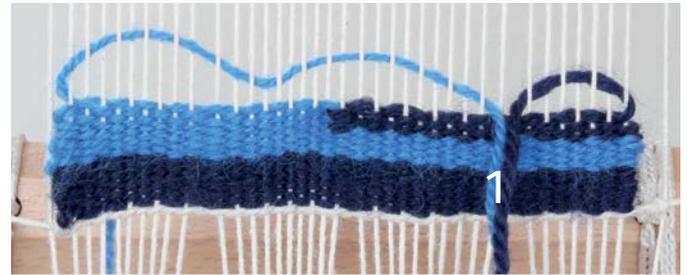
FINISHING

Remove from the loom by cutting the warp threads between each coaster.

Secure the ends by tying pairs of warp threads or groups of 4 with an overhand knot, pushed snuggly against the weaving. Trim the ends evenly.

Use a darning needle to weave tails into the back of the tapestry by passing the tail under a few rows of weft, then trim.

USING A CARTOON

A cartoon is a full-size design that helps you plan and guide your tapestry. Print or draw your picture to the size you want your tapestry. Slide the cartoon holder stick through the slots on the side of the loom. Attach your picture to the cartoon holder stick behind your warp. Bulldog clips, pegs or Blu-tack can be used to secure.

Follow the lines of your design as you weave. Working from a cartoon helps you place shapes, colours, and details accurately, especially for complex designs.

You can also draw outlines directly on to your warp threads with a permanent marker, as the warp will be completely covered by the weft.

ACCESSORIES

weaving needles
A convenient set of 3 wooden needles. Weave hand-manipulated techniques quickly and easily. Large eye for easy threading. Weave fabrics, yarns, fibres and more.

12cm, 17cm, 22cm
(4¾", 6½", 8½")

tapestry beater
Perfect for tapestry weaving, beating rya knots, loop pile and more. A must-have accessory for your tapestry and rigid heddle looms. Lacquered.

tapestry warp thread
Strong 100% cotton.

200gm (7oz),
560m (612yds)

tapestry bobbins
Smooth, lathed solid wood.
Pack of 2. 14cm (5½")

wavy shuttles
3 sizes.

pickup sticks
8 sizes.

stick shuttles
7 sizes.

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WHEELS & LOOMS