

Tying onto the Front

There are two goals when you're tying the warp onto the front rod. One is to attach the loose ends of the warp to the loom, and the other is to evenly tension all of the warp threads. The key to both is learning how to tie a surgeon's knot, which can be tightened down snugly and won't slip free, but that also can be easily loosened if it's too tight. (For surgeon's knot, see page 45.)

The size of the bundles you tie depends on the thickness of the threads. For most warps, I tie

bundles about an inch thick. For finer threads, such as a 10/2 cotton or Tencel, I use bundles about ½ inch thick. The angle of the threads on the edges of each bundle shouldn't be more than 45 degrees. The number of threads in each bundle doesn't need to be exactly the same, but it should be close. Knot all the warp threads in the same way, alternating sides as you work. It can help you maintain even tension if you tighten the front brake by one click before the next one or two knots.

How to Tie On

- 1 Starting at the center of the warp, divide a bundle in half, and take each half over the front rod and up on each side ready to tie a surgeon's knot.
- 2 For the first half of a surgeon's knot, wrap the left bundle of threads over the right, then over it again. The extra friction of this second wrap secures the knot until you complete the knot (step 3). If you get a knot too tight and need to undo it, you can capsize it by pulling down on one leg of the knot, which will loosen and fall apart.
- 3 When the entire warp is tied onto the front rod and the tension is even across all of the warp threads, wrap the right half over the left, as you would finish tying a square knot.

