

INTRODUCTION TO FIBER

WEAVING

Building your Cardboard Loom

Populoh/Intro to Fiber/MICA

You will need the following equipment:

a piece of chipboard
a ruler (clear, gridded rulers are best)
a sharp pencil or ballpoint pen
a pair of sharp (non fabric) scissors or sharp x-acto blade/boxcutter
masking tape
Cotton cable or wool warp yarn (warp thread)

Procedure:

1. Clearly write your name on the back of your loom.
2. Place your piece of cardboard with the long edge running vertically.
3. Mark $3/8$ " horizontal line in from the top and bottom edges
4. Square the sides of your rectangle. Make sure the width is even from top to bottom.
5. Find the center of top edge and bottom edge . Mark these with a tick mark and a 'C'. Connect these with a vertical line from the top to the bottom edge (center).
6. Measure and mark out from center in $1/4$ " increments.
7. Start numbering from top left to top right, and bottom left to bottom right so that numbers mirror each other on top and bottom.
8. Take a spool or ball of warp yarn.
9. Place a knot about one inch from the end of your thread. Feed the thread from the back of the loom towards the front starting at the bottom left slot #1.
10. The knot should serve as a stop. Tape the loose end to the back of the loom for extra support.
11. Go through slot #1 from the back of the loom to the front and up to the #1 slot at the top of the loom.
12. Pull on your thread so that the tension starts to curve your cardboard (There should be a shallow "C" shaped well under the warp yarns once you are done, to allow your hands to pass through unimpeded.) You may have to gently 'massage' the curve into your chipboard, depending on its thickness.
13. TAKE YOUR TIME!
14. Cross diagonally across the back of the loom with your warp yarn, coming to the front of the loom at the last, outermost slot on the bottom right.
15. Run your warp up to the outermost right slot at the top of your loom, making sure the curve on either end of your loom (and thus the tension) is about the same
16. Work your way this last slot, back down to #1.
17. Tape the end to the back of the loom.

Select 2 different colors of yarn to start with, measuring off approximately 1 yard of each to start.
See the accompanying handout "Visual Glossary" to proceed with your weaving.