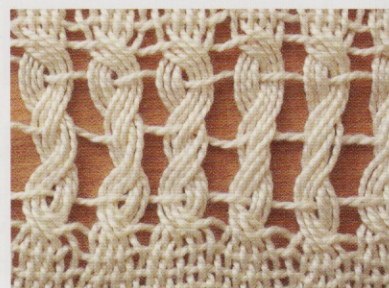
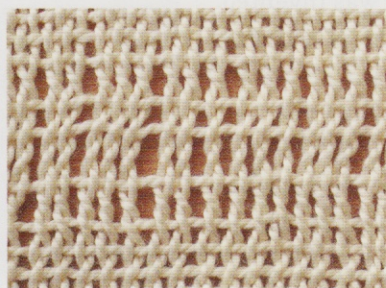
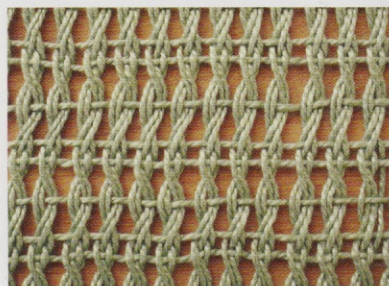
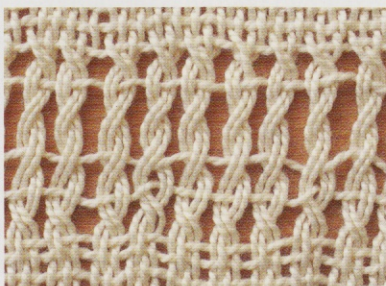
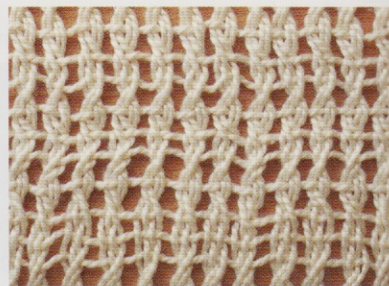
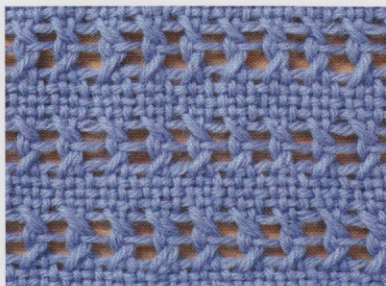


Leno

Leno uses twist to create openness in the threads, resulting in an airy fabric often used for curtains or areas of lace in clothing. It is an ancient weave structure, with examples of its use all over the world. Leno is created by twisting one set of warp threads over an adjacent set of warp threads. You use your fingers to make this twist, store it on a pickup stick, and then turn the pickup stick on edge to create a shed. It takes a bit of dexterity at first, but the motion is easy to master with a bit of practice. It's easier to manipulate the warp threads if you loosen the tension one click of the brake. You can work these twists on an open or a closed shed, with slightly different results depending on which you choose.

If you want to have an even number of leno twists across the width of your warp, make sure that the bundle size multiplies evenly into the number of warp threads on the loom. If you aren't concerned about each leno twist matching exactly, you can sneak any extra threads into the last few bundles on either side of the warp.



STICKS TO PICK UP

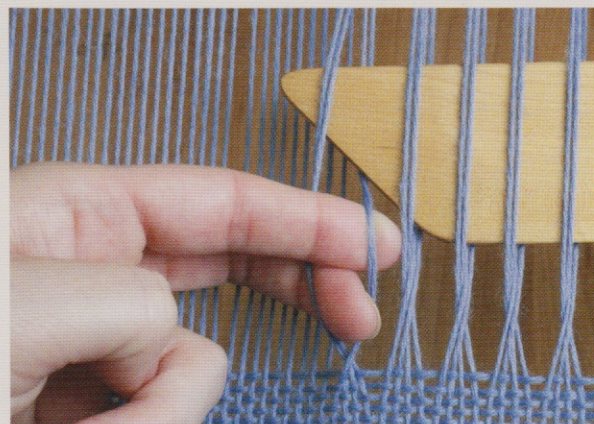
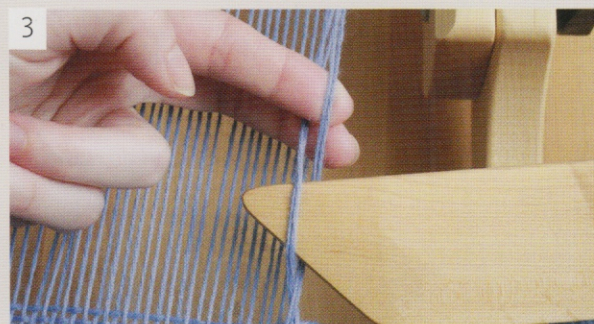
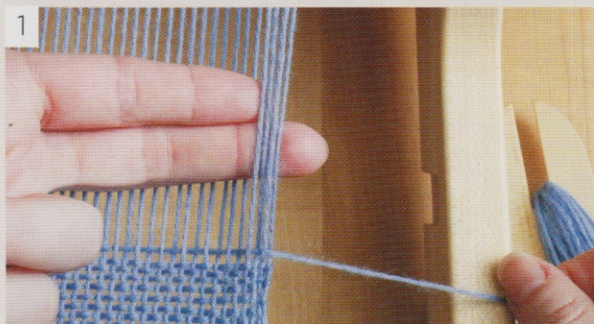
A pickup stick is a wide, flat stick that is at least as long as the warp is wide. They're often pointed on one or both ends to make them easier to slide under and "pick up" threads. You can use them to open a shed in the threads you've picked up by turning them on edge. When purchasing or making a pickup stick, check that it's wide enough to create a good shed when turned on end. I prefer pickup sticks that are between 1" and 2" wide.



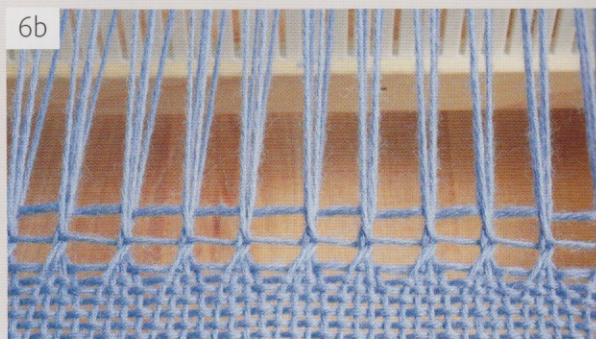
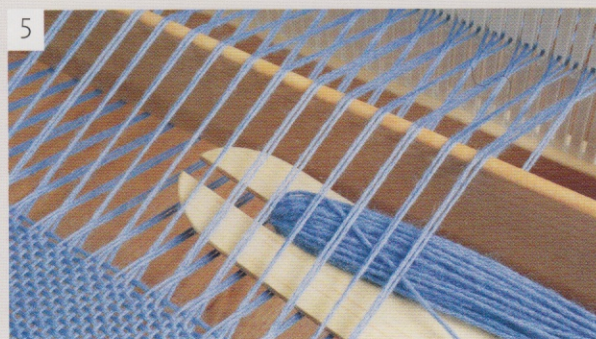
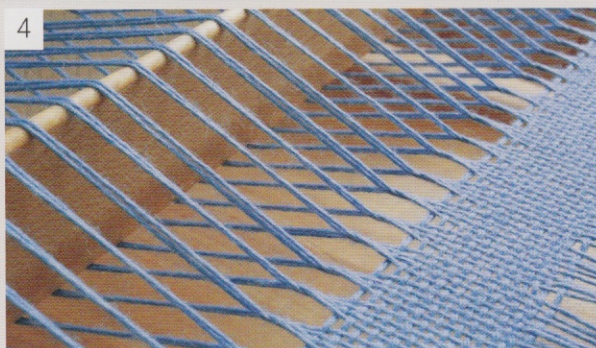
How to Weave Leno

Leno is always woven in pairs of rows: in the first pick you manually insert the twist, and in the second pick the warp releases the twist, giving you a “free” pick of leno. If you kept adding twist each pick without allowing the corresponding untwist row, the warp would eventually become too tight to weave (unless you were weaving on a warp-weighted loom, which is outside the scope of this book).

- ① Place your heddle in neutral. Press down into the warp to pop up the threads you plan to twist. In this example I’m popping up four warp threads in preparation to weave a 2×2 leno.
 - ② Separate the threads you intend to twist over each other onto your index and middle finger. Because I’m weaving a 2×2 leno, I have two threads on each finger. Then, twist one set of threads over the other. I find it most natural to twist the set of threads on the right under the threads on the left.
 - ③ Store the twist on a pickup stick.
- Continue steps 1–3 all the way across the warp.



Continued on next page ▷

How to Weave Leno, *continued*

- ④ Turn the pickup stick on edge to open up the shed.
- ⑤ Pass the shuttle through and beat. This weaves the first pick of leno. Remove the pickup stick.
- ⑥ Change the shed by moving the heddle, throw the shuttle (a), and beat (b). This weaves the second pick of leno.

LENO VARIATIONS

One of the fun things about leno is how many different ways you can weave this simple technique. Here are some variations to play with (study the photos on page 146 for more examples):

- ▶ **DIRECTION OF TWIST.** You can twist some bundles to the left, others to right, to create a subtle undulating effect in your cloth (a).
- ▶ **BUNDLE SIZE.** Experiment with the number of threads in your bundles. A 1×1 leno creates a delicate, refined lace, whereas a 6×6 leno is a bold architectural element in your cloth. The number of threads in your bundles depends on both the size of your yarns (typically you'll want more threads per bundle for finer yarns) and the scale you want for your lace (more threads mean bigger lace holes). You can even mix different-size bundles in the same row (c). If you do this, however, be aware that larger bundles will be taller than bundles with fewer threads, causing some unevenness in your cloth that will either bug or delight you, depending on your goal. Be aware that you'll get a lot of draw-in when you weave leno. If you combine it with plain weave, expect wavy selvages.

- ▶ **UNEVEN GROUPINGS.** There is no rule that says you have to twist the bundles evenly. Experiment with a 1×2 leno, or a 2×3 (b). Having uneven groupings adds texture to leno and highlights the direction of twist.

- ▶ **PICKUP DESIGNS.** You can combine areas of leno with areas of plain weave to create lacy designs in your cloth. This is especially fun for cloth such as curtains or lamp shades that will be backlit, illuminating the open areas as in the candle cover on the next page. *Note:* One caveat to leno pickup designs inside plain weave cloth is that rows of leno are taller than rows of plain weave, so to keep the areas of plain weave solid, you'll have to weave extra rows in the plain-weave areas. As you can see in the photo at the bottom of this page (d), the weft weaves three rows of plain weave on the right, before entering the leno section of the cloth. It then weaves the leno, and then three rows of plain weave on the left before going back to weave the second pick of leno. The number of plain-weave picks needed may vary, depending on the scale of the leno.

