

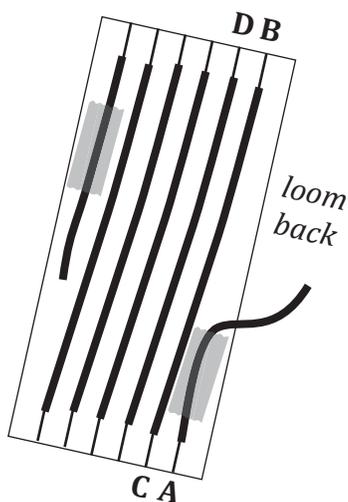
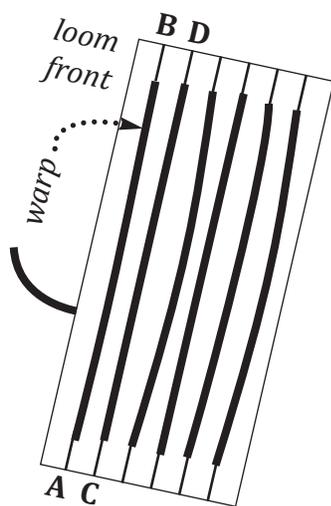
Cardboard Loom

Making fabric by hand is hard work, and weaving is only one step in the process! The most common fibers used for weaving in North Carolina were cotton, wool, and flax.

Supplies: piece of corrugated cardboard (a rectangle about 4" x 8" works well); ruler; pencil; scissors; yarn; wooden skewer, toothpick, or large craft needle; tape



This example of a hand-made floor loom, from the museum collection, is of one type used in the 1800s.



Making and Setting Up the Loom

1. Cut an even number of slits into both short ends of your cardboard rectangle: make the slits 1/4" deep and 1/4" apart and directly opposite each other as shown. When complete, this will serve as your **loom**.

2. To set up the warp for your loom, leave a tail of yarn about 4" long on the back side and tape it down. Then pull the yarn through slit A (as shown) from the loom's back to its front. Stretch the length of yarn across the front of your loom and then guide the yarn through slit B to the back side.

3. Continue winding yarn around the loom: from the back to the front through slit C, then across the front to slit D, and repeat. When you've used all the slits, leave a tail of about 4"—cut the yarn and tape that end to the back of the loom as shown. This yarn is the **warp**.

Loom: a device for weaving strands of yarn at right angles to make cloth

Warp: yarn that is arranged in a stationary position lengthwise on a loom

Weft: strands of yarn that are woven through the warp

Shuttle: a device used for passing weft yarn between strands of warp yarn

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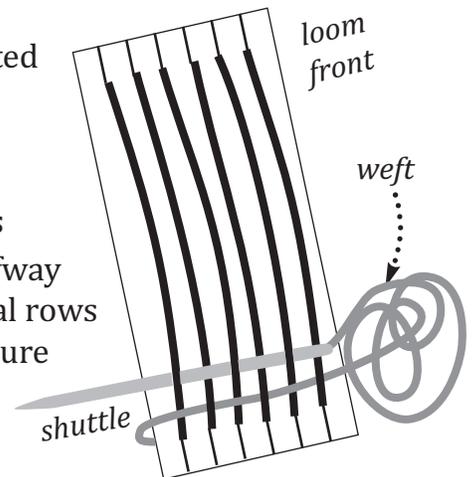
Weaving

1. Tape one end of a 2-foot piece of yarn to the back of the loom. This length of yarn will be your **weft** yarn. Tape the other end of yarn to a skewer or toothpick, or thread it through a craft needle. This will be your **shuttle**.

2. Going across the warp from the left side of the loom to the right, slide your shuttle (and the weft yarn attached to it) over the first row, under the second, over the third, and so on. When you have woven through all the rows of warp yarn, double back, weaving from right to left in the same pattern—over, then under, over, under, and so on.

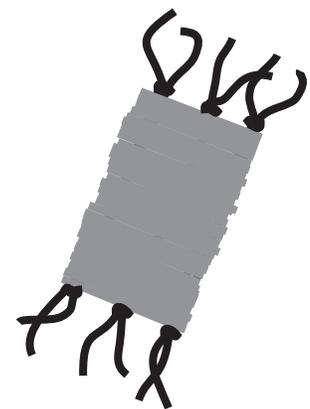
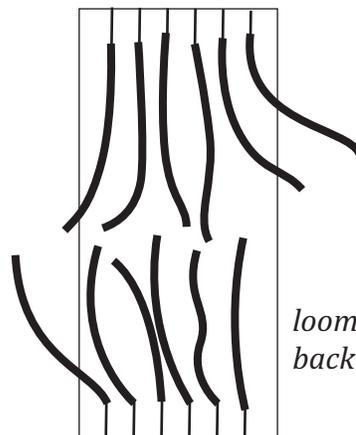
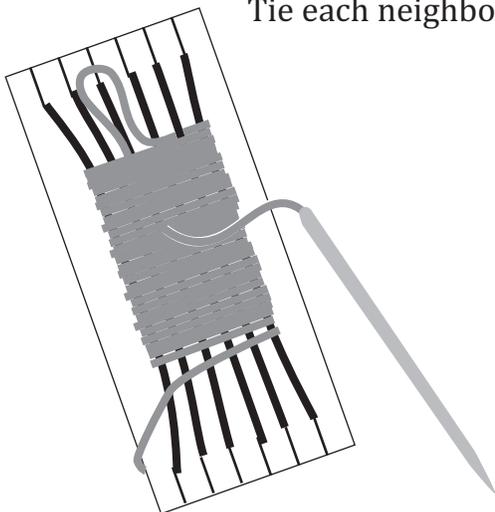
3. As you go, use your shuttle to push the rows you've completed tightly together. If you run out of warp yarn and want to keep weaving, knot on a new piece.

4. When your weaving is the length you want it, push the rows together to tighten them once more. To finish, weave a row halfway across the loom, then, thread your shuttle down through several rows of weaving to secure it, and cut off the yarn and the shuttle. Secure other loose yarn ends—at the beginning of your weft, and in the middle if you added yarn—the same way.



Finishing

When your work is complete, turn over your loom so the back side is up. Cut the long, unwoven warp threads, and remove your weaving from the loom. Tie each neighboring warp thread to the next one, in twos.



Bookmark? Wristband? What will you make with your weaving?

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