

How to Warp a Frame Loom

Introduction

Before you begin, here are some tapestry terms to get to grips with:

LOOM (1) - A loom is a device used to weave tapestries and cloth. The basic purpose of a loom is to hold warp threads under tension in order to be able to weave the weft threads. Looms can vary from simple wooden frames to large purpose-built structures.

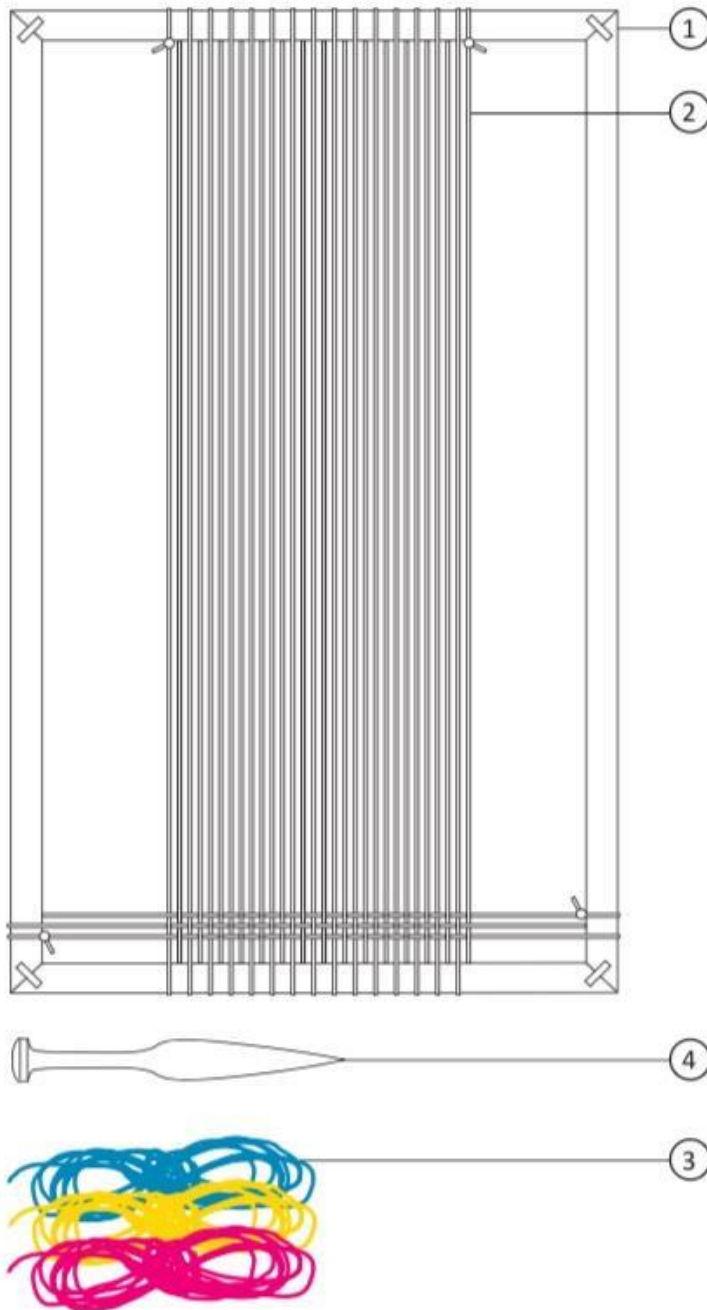
WARP (2) - Warp is a set of vertical threads held under tension on a loom. In tapestry weaving, cotton thread is most commonly used and the most important characteristic of warp is strength. The more warp threads you have per inch the more intricate and detailed you can make your tapestry.

WEFT (3) - Weft is the term used for yarn or thread that is drawn through warp threads in order to create tapestry or cloth. In tapestry weaving weft can be wool, linen, cotton, silk, wire or in fact almost any material. Different materials are often blended together for colour effect or texture.

BOBBIN (4) - Wooden bobbins of varying sizes are used in tapestry weaving mainly for beating down the weft threads. When weaving larger pieces the bobbin is also used to hold bigger quantities of weft tied round the handle.



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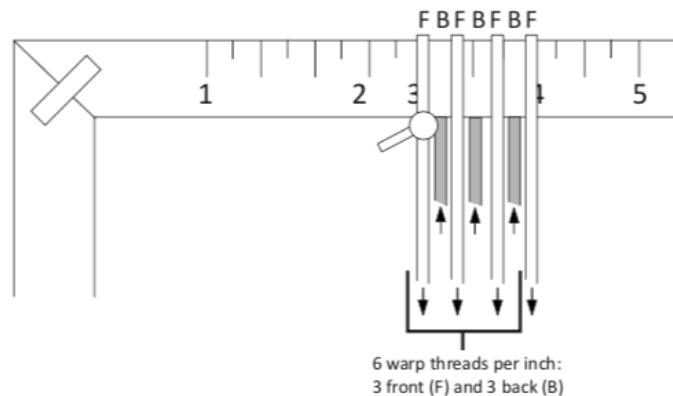


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1. To start, create warp guides along the top edge of your loom. These guides will help ensure your warps are evenly spaced. For beginners, we recommend having six warps evenly spaced within an inch, so you should create a mark approximately every 0.2 inches. Continue this step across a total of five inches.



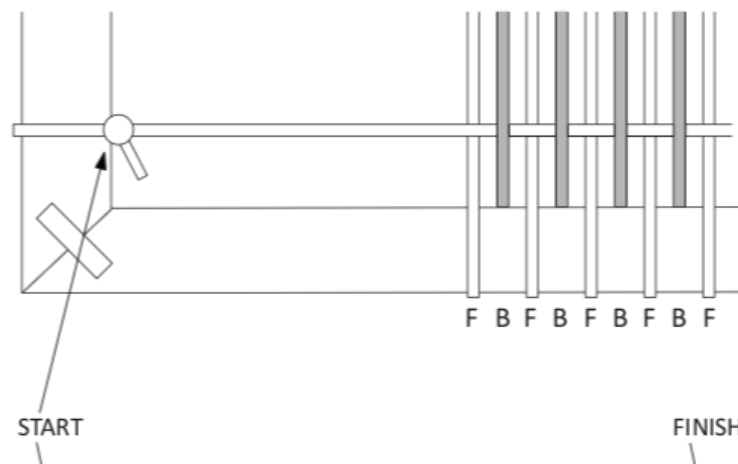
2. Repeat this step along the bottom edge of your loom, making sure your warp guides on the top and bottom edges are parallel to one another, giving you straight vertical warps.
3. Measure enough warp to pass 15 times around the height of your loom, with a little extra length. To begin warping the loom, start with a slip knot on the warp guideline that is 2.5 inches in from the top left side. This gap will make the weaving process easier.
4. Pull the warp thread down, over and around the bottom edge of your loom, making sure your warp is in line with your warp guides. Continue to pull the warp up the back of your loom and over the top edge, again keeping in line with your next warp guide.

Repeat this step until you have warped along all five inches. Make sure you finish and tie off on a back warp, meaning you have a total of 30 warps.

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TOP TIP: Try to keep an even tension on all the warps. To allow weft movement they shouldn't be pulled too tight, but they should be snug enough to keep their position on the warp.

5. Next, double check your spacing, making sure all warps are in line with your guides. The final outcome should be three front warps and three back warps per inch.



6. The final step is to bring the front and back warps together.

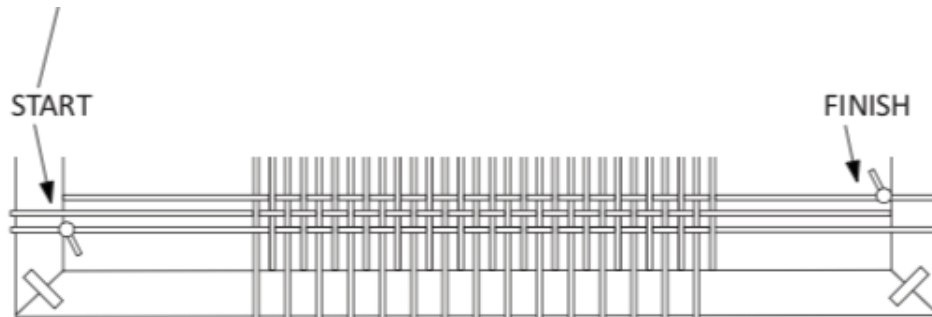
Measure enough warp to pass three times across the width of your loom, with a little extra length.

Tie your warp, approximately an inch above the bottom edge of the loom on the left-hand side. Next, weave the loose end across to the right, going behind all the back warps and in front of all the front warps.

Once you have woven through all your warps and reached the right edge of your loom, you are now ready to weave back to the left side. This time weaving behind all the front warps and in front of the back warps.



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7. Repeat this step once more, over to the right side, again weaving behind the back warps and in front of the front warps.

TOP TIP: Make sure there is an even, fairly tight, tension in the three woven base warps.

8. Finish by tying the loose end to the right edge of the loom.
9. Now you are all warped up and ready to pick out your favourite colours of wool to get weaving!

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