

weaving

on a card loom

A fascinating and inexpensive way of weaving belts, bands of braiding, and other narrow pieces, by a method that's been in use for hundreds of years. You make your own loom, out of cards and a few odds and ends (see below); you pick your own design; you have a choice of materials—strong, firm SPEED-CRO-SHEEN cotton for belts; softer Knitting Worsted for colorful bands of trimming, especially attractive on felt garments.

Filing card dividers, which are usually of thin, strong cardboard that doesn't bend or break easily, make excellent loom cards. The 14 loom cards we indicate below will make a band $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" wide. Fewer cards will make a narrower band. You could use more cards and make a wider band, but we don't recommend it for beginners—the set-up becomes unwieldy and hard to handle. The amount of thread of each color that you will need will depend on the length of your piece and the pattern you select (see "How to Make the Design"). For your information, a ball of SPEED-CRO-SHEEN contains 100 yards of thread, a 1-oz. skein of RED HEART Knitting Worsted 60 yards of yarn. When weaving with wool yarn, you thread the cards with the yarn, but you wind the shuttle with a soft cotton such as KNIT-CRO-SHEEN or Bedspread Cotton.

YOU WILL NEED FOR THE LOOM

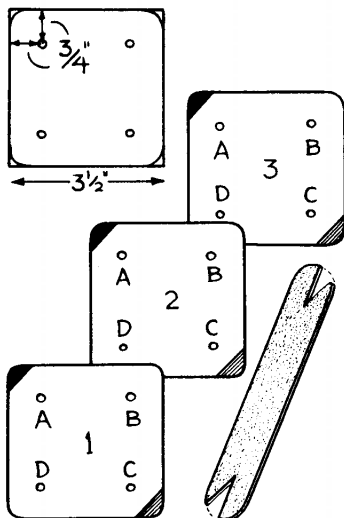
Sufficient filing card dividers (they come in different sizes) to make fourteen $3\frac{1}{2}$ "-square loom cards

One tongue depressor to make a shuttle

Two 40" shoelaces to keep ends tied

Hole puncher

HOW TO MAKE THE LOOM CARDS



1. Draw and cut out one loom card $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Round corners slightly. Mark place of holes as shown. Punch holes.

2. Using this card as a pattern, mark, punch and cut out all 14 cards.

3. Number each card as shown, from 1 to 14. Letter the holes on each card a, b, c and d, always in the order shown. This is very important for the threading. Color two diagonally opposite corners as shown, to make it easy to spot a card that is out of line.

4. Fashion the tongue depressor into a shuttle as shown.

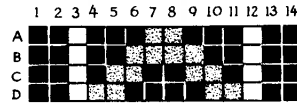
HOW TO MAKE THE DESIGN

On graph paper, mark off 14 squares across, numbered 1 to 14 (one for each card). Mark off 4 squares down, lettered A, B, C and D (one for each hole). Each of these squares represents one thread.

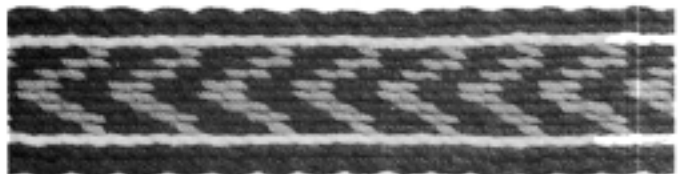
Fill the squares in the marked-off area, using colored pencils corresponding to the colors you are going to use. This represents one "repeat" (this repeat may be reversed in weaving as will be shown later). Keep design simple.

Here are graphs and finished work for sample designs.

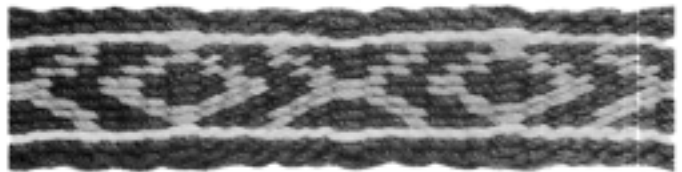
ARROW DESIGN (two variations)



graph



keep rotating cards forward

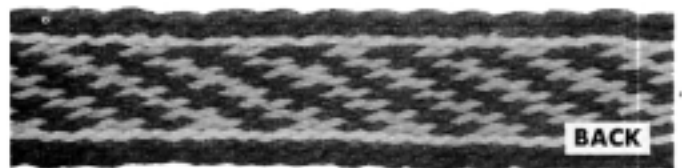
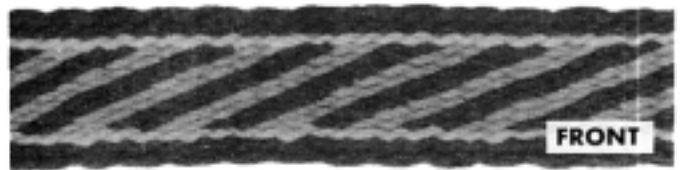


2 complete turns (tip 8 times) forward
2 complete turns backward

DIAGONAL STRIPES

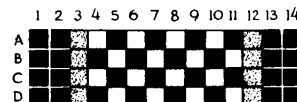


graph

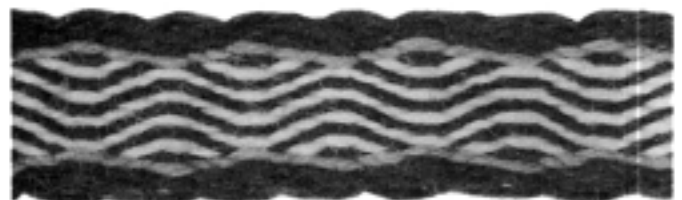


keep rotating cards forward

WAVY LINES



graph



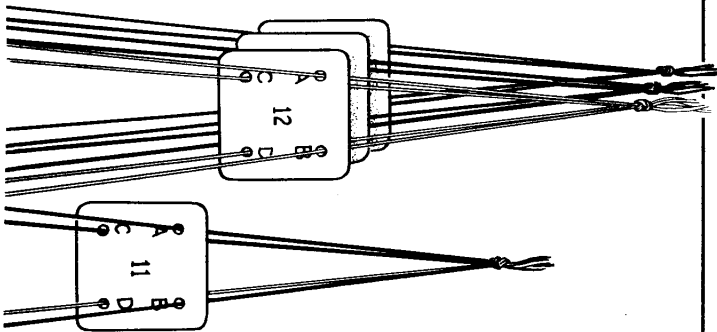
1 complete turn (tip 4 times) forward
1 complete turn backward

HOW TO THREAD THE LOOM CARDS

1. Count the threads in each different color in your graph. Let's take as an example the **Arrow Design**, with forest green for the background, white for the side stripes, and tan for the arrows. Your thread count is as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
A	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	green, 34 threads
B	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	white, 8 threads
C	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	tan, 14 threads
D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	The total is always 56 (4 x 14)

2. Cut threads to the desired finished length plus about two feet.
3. Wind shuttle as full as you can, using the color that forms the edge—in this case, green.
4. Now, with graph before you, thread card No. 14. Put a thread of each square-color in row 14 through each corresponding hole (A, B, C and D) in the card. Lay card down, **face up, numeral lying as shown and thread-ends extending to each side as shown**. Knot the four short ends (about one foot from cards) together, as shown.

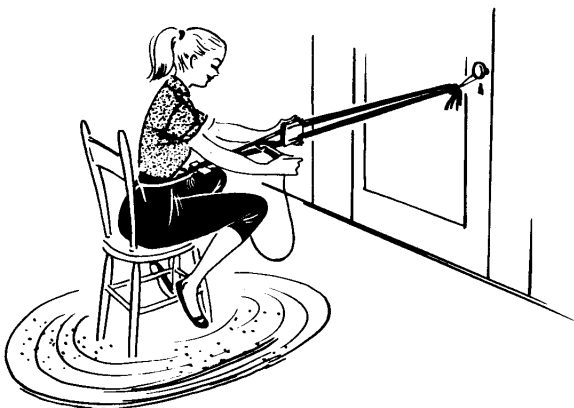


5. Repeat with each card, going down one row in graph for each one. As a card is threaded, lay it carefully on top of preceding one, **exactly in the same manner**.

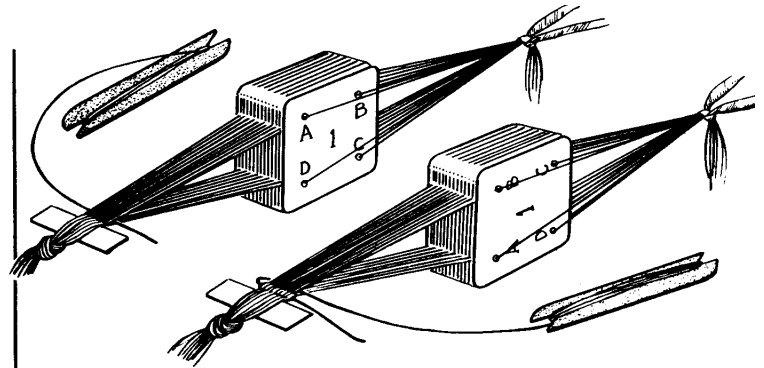
In this pattern, 14 and 13 are all green, 12 all white. 11 is green in A, B, C; tan in D. 10 is green in A and B; tan in C and D, and so on.

6. Place a rubber band over cards, holding them together as a pack.
7. Tie knotted ends of threads into a knot. Straighten out other ends and tie one shoelace around them very tightly (wind around).

AND NOW YOU ARE READY TO WEAVE



Fasten shoelace to a doorknob or hook. Use second shoelace to tie knotted ends to your waist, as shown. By bending slightly backward or forward you control tension. Hold packet of cards in left hand. Remove rubber band (replace when interrupting weaving). Note, however, that cards are always handled as a pack, in one unit.



Threads now run in two layers; the opening between layers is the **shed**, through which shuttle passes. Slip a small strip of cardboard between the layers, hard against knotted ends. Now tip the whole card-packet forward ($\frac{1}{4}$ turn), so that numbers are upright. A new shed is formed; insert shuttle into shed, beat shuttle-edge hard against cardboard end, to separate threads. Pass shuttle through, leaving thread-end hanging.

Tip card-packet forward again so that numbers are horizontal, as shown. Beat threads apart as before; put shuttle through. Give cards another turn; numbers are now upside down. Repeat procedure. When cards are upright again (having been tipped four times) you have completed the first repeat.

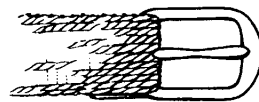
Watch edges—pull shuttle thread evenly.

To repeat the design, continue to turn in the same direction or, to reverse the design, turn backward four times—that is, till the numbers are upright again. You can also vary the design by making two full turns in one direction, then two full turns in the other.

THE SUMMING UP

This is all there is to weaving, and you see that it isn't hard. Just remember:

- Cards must be in exactly the right position at the start.
- Beat your filling thread very close to the one before.
- Secure cards with rubber band whenever you stop weaving.
- From time to time the threads behind the cards may become twisted. Untie the shoelace, straighten out threads, and tie the lace again.
- When piece becomes too long for comfort, untie the shoelace from your waist and fasten it around woven strip near end of weaving; tie around your waist as before.



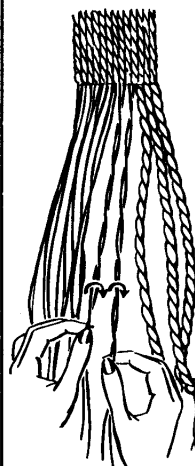
- When woven piece has reached desired length, untie the shoelaces and remove cards. Open out knot at beginning.

FINISHING ENDS

Buckle: Sew closely several times back and forth across one end and cut threads close to stitching. Fold end over buckle, forcing prong through threads. Sew as shown.

At other end cut threads about 4" from weaving. Thread one at a time in a darning needle and pass through threads on wrong side for about 1". Cut.

Long Fringe: Allow about 18" at beginning and end of woven band. Attach piece somewhere so ends can be held taut. Separate the first four thread-ends; take two ends in each hand and twist the two together, both hands working in the same direction. When twist is tight, knot the two twist-ends (4 threads) together; roll lightly in opposite directions.



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