



# Tapestry Loom

## Instructions for Assembly, Warping and Weaving



25" Tapestry Loom with Optional A-Frame Stand

# 18" and 25" Tapestry Loom

Instructions for Assembly, Warping and Weaving

## Parts List

- 1 – tension bar
- 2 – 1" dowels (top and bottom bar)
- 1 – ¾" dowel (center bar)
- 4 – long dowels (heddle bars)
- 1 – short dowel (warp bar)
- 2 – loom sides with heddle bar supports

## Hardware List

- 2 – 1 ½" flathead screws
- 4 – 1 ¾" flathead wood screws
- 2 – ¼" washers
- 2 – ¼" square nuts
- 2 – 2 ½" thumb screws

## Required Tools

Phillips screwdriver

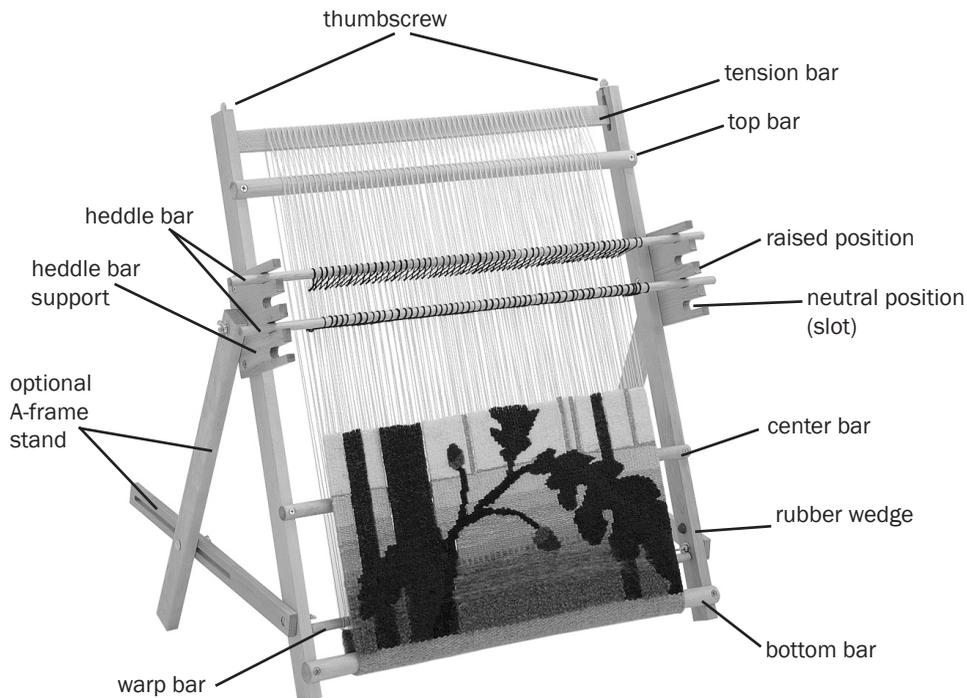
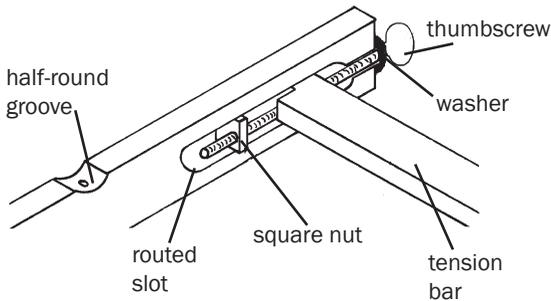


Diagram 1

## Loom Assembly

*Assemble the tension bars:*

Place a washer on each thumb screw. Insert a thumb screw in each end of the tension bar and fasten loosely with a square nut (diagram 2).



**Diagram 2**

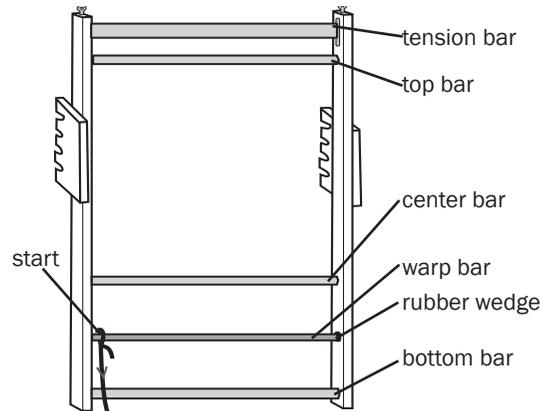
*Assemble the loom frame:*

1. Lay the two side pieces on a flat surface with the routed slots facing inwards and the half-round grooves with holes facing up.
2. Place the tension bar in the routed slots of the sides. Make sure the washers and thumb screws are on the outside top of the loom sides and the square nuts and tension bar are inside the slot as shown in diagram 2. Position the tension bar midway in the slots.
3. Install the top and bottom bars (two 1" diameter dowels) and fasten with 1 3/4" screws.
4. Install the center bar (3/4" dowel) using 1 1/2" screws.
5. Install the warp bar (short dowel) between the rubber wedge and the side of the loom. Position the warp bar midway between the center and bottom bars.

## Warping the Tapestry Loom

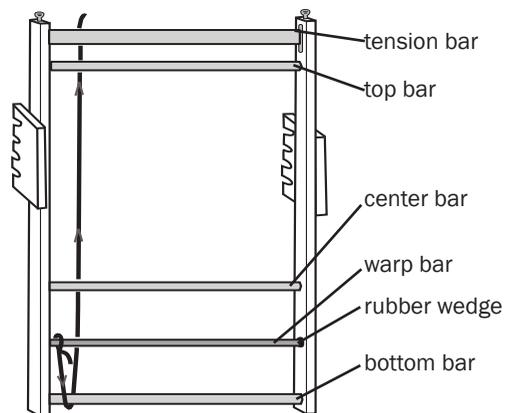
Place the loom face down on some books to hold it level. Make sure that the loom is oriented with the bottom bar of the loom towards you.

1. Using a compact ball or tube of warp yarn, tie the warp yarn to the warp bar at the point labelled "start".



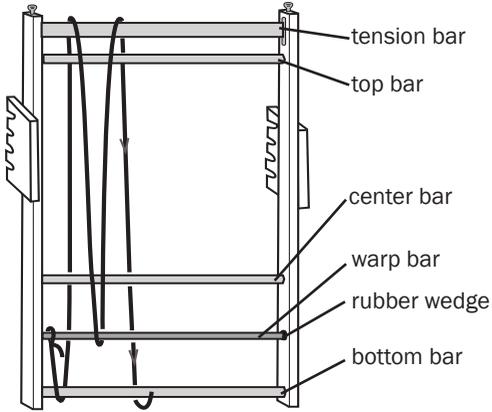
**Step 1**

2. Bring the yarn toward you, then pass it under the bottom bar and away from you toward the top of the loom. Go underneath the warp bar, center bar, top bar and tension bar.



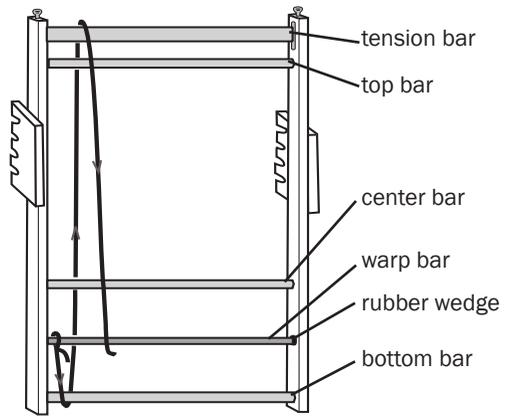
**Step 2**

- Bring the yarn up and over the tension bar and back towards you. Go over the top bar, center bar and warp bar.



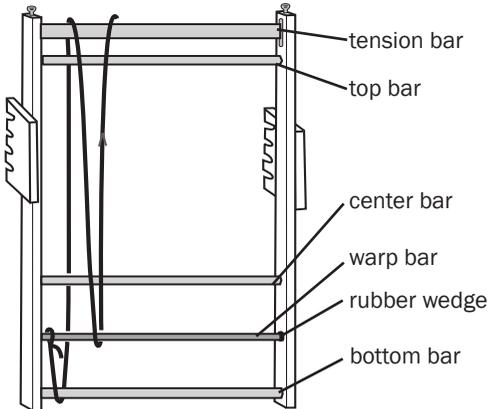
**Step 3**

- Go down to the bottom bar, making sure the yarn is under the top bar, center bar, warp bar and bottom bar.



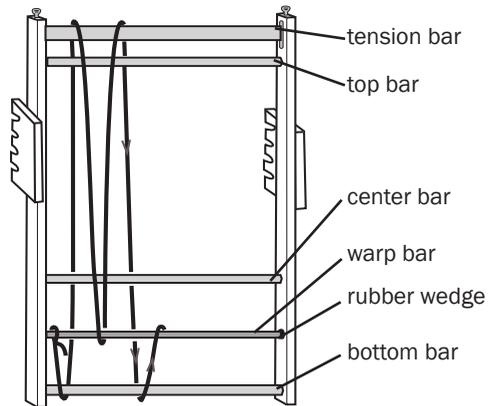
**Step 5**

- Wrap the yarn under the warp bar, then head back toward the top of the loom, going over the center top and tension bars.



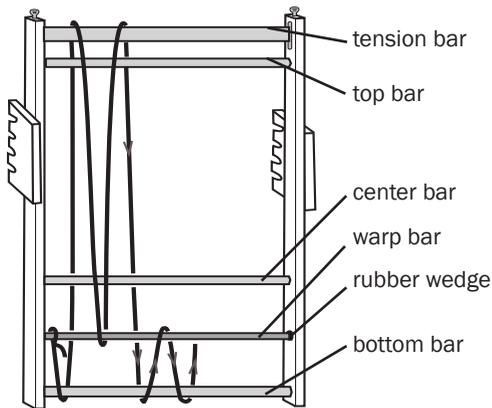
**Step 4**

- Bring the yarn toward you under the bottom bar, up and over the warp bar. This completes one full repeat of the warping sequence (equivalent to two warp ends). Bring the yarn back over the bottom bar.



**Step 6**

7. Begin the next sequence by taking the yarn underneath all bars up to the tension bar. Bring the yarn up and over the tension bar, then back down to the warp bar, going over all bars, following steps 3 - 7 until the desired number of ends have been warped.



**Step 7**

See the “Warping Hint” sidebar if you are having difficulty with warping your loom.

## Making String Heddles

You can make heddles out of string to lift the warp threads and allow you to weave more efficiently. To weave plain weave, you will use two of the four heddle bars provided and some strong cotton string.

Weave a pick-up stick or ruler over and under the warp threads across the width of the loom. The warp ends that are on top of the stick will be attached to your first heddle bar. Choose one of the two methods described below for making string heddles: the continuous heddle method or the reusable heddle method.

### Continuous Heddle Method

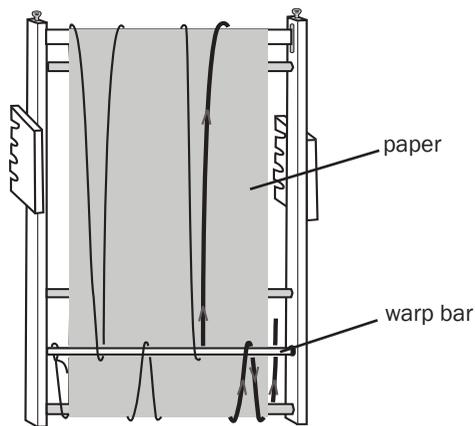
Measure two lengths of string. You will need 5” of string for each warp end on the pick-up stick.

1. Place a heddle bar in the neutral position on the heddle bar supports. Tie one end of the heddle string to the heddle bar.

## Warping Hint

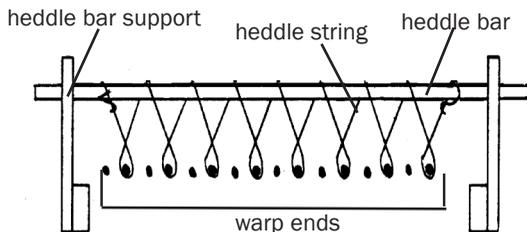
If you are having difficulty warping your tapestry loom, try this:

1. Remove the warp bar.
2. Wrap the loom in paper, from the tension bar to the bottom bar and back up to the tension bar. Secure the paper with tape. You will need approximately 65” of length to wrap the loom. The paper can be the width of your warp, or you can use a narrower strip as an aid until you get the hang of warping.
3. With the back of the loom toward you, replace the warp bar as shown in diagram 3.
4. Warp the loom, following the directions in the previous section.
5. Remove the paper before tightening the tension on the warp.



**Diagram 3**

2. Loop the string down and around the first warp thread on top of the pick-up stick, then bring the heddle string back to and around the heddle bar as shown in diagram 4.



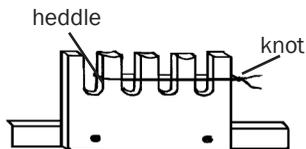
**Diagram 4**

3. Continue until all of the warp ends on the pick-up stick have been attached to the heddle bar.
4. Adjust the length of the loops so they do not lift the warp ends when the heddle bar is in the neutral position but are short enough to lift the ends as soon as the heddle bar is in the raised position. Be sure the loops are all approximately the same length and fairly taut.
5. Tie the end of the heddle string to the heddle bar. Secure the heddle string with masking tape to keep the heddle string even. Repeat this process for the warp ends that are under the pick-up stick.

### Reusable Heddle Method

*Make reusable heddles:*

1. Loop string around three of the four uprights of the heddle support as shown in diagram 5. Tie with a square knot and trim the ends to 1/2" long. Remove the heddle from the heddle support.

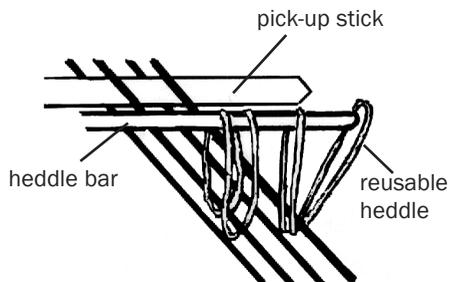


**Diagram 5**

2. Make one reusable heddle for each of your warp ends.

*Install reusable heddles:*

1. To install the heddles on the first heddle bar: slide the pick-up stick that holds half of your warp ends to the top of the loom and place one of your heddle bars nearby.
2. Fold a heddle in half around the first warp thread and then slide the two loops onto the heddle bar (diagram 6).



**Diagram 6**

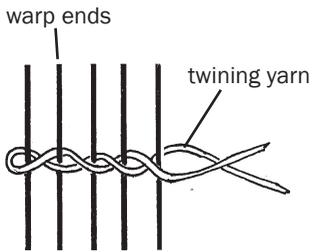
3. Repeat across until the warp ends on top of the pick-up stick have been attached to the heddle bar.
4. Put rubber bands around each end of the heddle bar to keep the heddles from sliding off. Slide the heddle bar down the loom into the bottom neutral position on the heddle bar support.

Repeat the installation process with a second heddle bar, using the ends not placed on the first heddle bar.

### Spreading the Warp

To spread the warp evenly and provide a firm base for weaving, make a twined edge across the bottom of the warp.

1. Use a yarn slightly heavier than your warp yarn. Cut a length approximately 2½ times the width of your warp.
2. Starting at one side of your warp, wrap the twining yarn around the first warp thread and adjust the twining yarn ends to be the same length. Twist the twining yarn ends over each other and pull firmly to tighten the twist (diagram 7).



**Diagram 7**

3. Wrap the next warp thread in the same way. Continue to wrap each warp end, twisting the twining yarn once between each pair of warp ends until all the ends are wrapped. Tie off the twining yarn with an overhand knot.

### Adjusting the Warp Tension

To tighten the tension on the warp, turn both thumbscrews in the clockwise direction. To loosen the tension on the warp, turn the thumbscrews in the counter-clockwise direction.

### Weaving on the Tapestry Loom

Wind a shuttle with weft yarn. Stick shuttles work very well.

1. To make a shed, lift one heddle bar and place it in the upper slot of the heddle bar support.
2. Insert the shuttle with the weft yarn through the open shed.
3. Lower the heddle bar.
4. Beat the weft pick down with a comb or tapestry beater.
5. Raise the other heddle bar and place it in the upper slot of the heddle bar support and repeat steps 3–5.
6. Continue to alternate lifting and lowering the heddle bars, inserting a weft pick in each shed to create the basic plain weave structure.

### Advancing the Warp

When the woven cloth is a few inches long, advance the warp as follows:

1. Loosen the warp tension by turning the thumbscrews counter-clockwise.
2. Move the tension bar a small amount downward. On the back of the loom, pull up on the warp bar until the front of the weaving has moved to the desired position.
3. Re-adjust the tension bar so that the warp is taut and tighten the thumb screws.

### Further Reading

*Learning to Weave*, Deborah Chandler

*Tapestry Weaving*, Kirsten Glasbrook

*Tapestry Weaving: A Comprehensive Study Guide*, Nancy Harvey

*Weaving: A Handbook for Fiber Craftsmen*, Shirley Held

### Basic Weaving Terminology

*heddle* - device used to hold a warp thread to assist in lifting a portion of the warp threads for weaving

*plain weave* - the simplest weave structure in which the threads pass over, under, over, under

*pick-up stick* - smooth pointed stick, also called a "shed stick"

*shed* - the space between yarns for the weft yarn to pass through

*stick shuttle* - a flat stick with grooved ends for holding weft yarn

*twining* - a twisting technique used to spread the warp evenly for weaving

*warp* - threads stretched on loom

*warp end* - a single warp thread

*weft* - threads that are woven through the warp threads

*weft pick* - one weft row

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