

Tape Weaving: Instructions for DIY Loom and Shuttle

Option A - Cardboard Loom and Shuttle:



Materials Needed:

- Sturdy cardboard measuring approximately 8" X 10" (I cut down an Amazon box.)
- Utility knife
- Awl or nail to punch holes in the cardboard
- Ruler
- Glue
- Extra cardboard for the shuttle (I used a toilet paper tube.)
- Scissors

Instructions for Making the Loom:

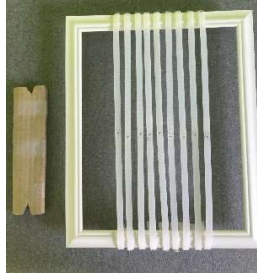
- Find the midpoint of your cardboard.
- Using the awl or nail, punch a hole where the midpoint is located. The hole should be just big enough for the yarn to go through.
- Using the ruler as a straight edge, draw lines $\frac{1}{8}$ " from either side of the midpoint from top to bottom. (You are drawing the middle slat of the loom. Each slat will measure $\frac{1}{4}$ ".)
- Draw a $\frac{1}{4}$ " border along the top and bottom of the cardboard.
- Starting on either side of the middle slat, draw lines spaced $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart connecting the top and bottom border. Stop after you've drawn 7 lines on either side of the middle slat. (Your outer border may vary from $\frac{1}{4}$ ", depending on the exact size of your cardboard. As long as the border measures at least $\frac{1}{4}$ ", it will work.)
- Place your loom-to-be on a cutting mat or another piece of cardboard. Using the utility knife, carefully cut on the lines you've drawn. Be careful not to cut into the border.
- Starting with the middle slat, cut out the tops and bottoms of the spaces on either side. This will leave a pattern of slot-slat-slot-slat...
- Mark the placement of holes on the slats, using the middle hole as a guide. Punch holes in the slats.
- Reinforce the border of the loom by gluing extra cardboard on top. (I used the cardboard leftover from cutting out the slots.)

Instructions for Making the Shuttle:

- Using the extra cardboard, cut out 2 pieces measuring approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". Glue the pieces together. (I smooshed the sides of a toilet paper tube together and held them in place with tape.)
- Cut notches in the middle of the top and bottom. (The notches do not have to be deep. They help the yarn stay on the shuttle as you are weaving.)

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Option B - Wooden Loom and Cardboard Shuttle:



This loom is sturdier than the cardboard option but takes more time and work to make. If you plan on weaving more than just a few pieces of tape, I recommend this option.

Materials Needed:

- Wooden 8" X 10" picture frame with the glass and back removed.
- 9 zip-ties at least 12" long and as wide as you can find (I found a bag of ten extra wide and long zip-ties at Tractor Supply.)
- 18 small diameter screws or nails (Screws fasten zip-ties more securely to the frame but are a bit more work to attach.)
- Hammer
- Screwdriver (if using screws)
- Awl or Nail
- Heavy-duty scissors
- Ruler
- Cardboard (I used the cardboard insert that came with my frame. You could also use a toilet paper tube.)

Instructions for Making the Loom:

- Using an awl or a hammer and nail, punch holes in the middle of the zip-ties. (Start with a small diameter nail to make the initial hole, then use a larger diameter nail to make the hole big enough for the yarn to easily go through.)
- Mark the back of your frame, top and bottom, at the center point about $\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the edge. Exactly where these marks go depends on the width of wood on your frame. You want to leave enough room along the edges so that the wood does not split as you insert the screws or nails.
- Attach a zip-tie at the center point marks on the back of the frame using either screws or nails. The zip-tie will have to be bent over the frame to attach it at the back. (This is much easier if you first mark and punch small holes on it where it is to be attached.)
- Spacing the zip-ties at regular intervals (mine are spaced $\frac{1}{8}$ " apart), attach them to the back of the frame.
- Using heavy-duty scissors, snip off any extra portions of zip-ties. (I used a lighter to slightly melt the edges of the cut zip-ties, so they didn't "grab" the yarn.)
- Using the instructions on the first page, make a shuttle.

This class involves the use of materials, tools, and other work that can cause injury. We encourage you to follow all safety precautions. Old Salem Museums & Gardens does not assume any liabilities for injuries as a result of this class.