

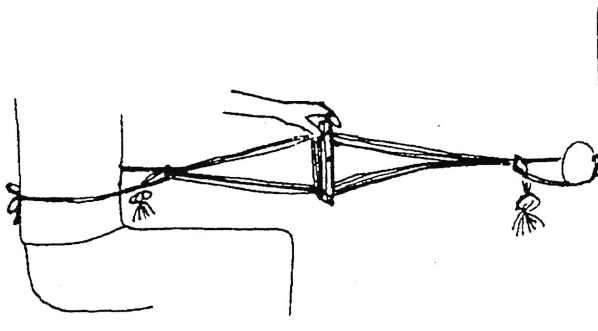
BUILD A BACKSTRAP LOOM USING A RIGID HEDDLE SYSTEM

A small rigid heddle can be constructed with 5 undrilled popsicle sticks and 4 or more drilled ones. The drilled sticks are made by marking the center of the popsicle sticks, and using a hand drill make a hole in the center of each stick. Using a glue gun or regular glue, you use two of the undrilled sticks to form the top and bottom to help hold the drilled ones in place, and place one undrilled one to end and form the last "slot". You can then place two more-top and bottom- to form a sandwich to hold the drilled sticks in place. This becomes a slot-hole rigid heddle.

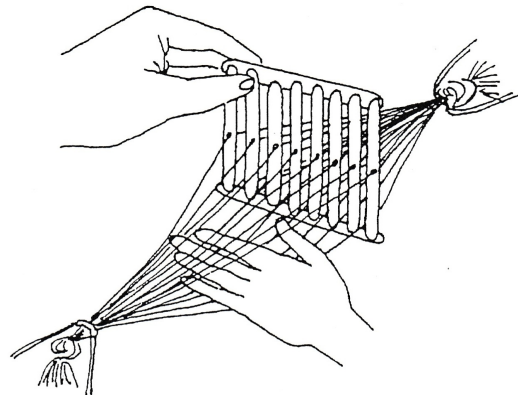
Cut the correct number of warp threads all the same length. To get the number needed, count the slots and holes. Thread slot, hole, slot, hole. Tie all the ends at one end in a knot; at the other end tie another knot. There are quick-release hooks that can be used to attach the warp to a post and to the waist of the weaver. It is better if the backend of the warp is a little higher than the waist-connected end. You can attach loops to a central post and the children can sit in a circle to weave. This can make it so that the children can talk with each other and help each other while weaving. Using a heavy cord tie one knotted end to the front of the student's waist. Quick releases, like carabiners or other quick release methods can make it easy for the weaver to stop and get up to get more weft yarn or rest, etc.

You can tie both ends to something and work from the side.

Materials Needed - popsicle sticks, a drill, glue gun or regular glue, yarns for warp and weft. Quick release hooks can be purchased at a hardware or home improvement store to form the method to attach the loom to some object and to the weaver.



CLASS DIRECTIONS
Set up of loom, ready for weaving



CLASS DIRECTIONS
Weaving



WEAVING ON THE LOOM

Using another stick with some yarn wrapped around it, you can weave back and forth to make the fabric. By raising and lowering the heddle, you can weave in the over-and-under method to create a plain weave. If you pull the weaving thread (called the weft thread) tight as you weave only the warp threads (those held taut by the body and pole or doorknob) will show. This creates a "warp-faced fabric". Beat the weft into the fabric with the weaving shuttle.

At the beginning and at the end, you can weave the ends in as you go.

When you end off you can tie all the warp threads together to make a large knot or you can tie the warp threads two or three at a time to make a fringe. Add beads or other embellishments as you want.