Weaving on a Loom

Weaving is the interlacing of two sets of threads to form cloth. Weaving is usually done on a loom.

One set of threads is called the warp. These threads are vertical and go up and down on the loom. The weft thread is woven over and under the warp threads to make cloth.

We are going to make our own loom using things you may already have at home. You will need an old styrofoam container that has been cleaned and dried, scissors, and assorted yarn. You can use any size yarn that you have. Thicker yarn will make the process go faster. If you don’t have yarn, you can get creative and use strips of cut-up tee-shirts, plastic bags, strips of fabric, or anything else you think might work!

If you don’t have a styrofoam container, sturdy cardboard will work too.

**Step 1**

Cut 10 slits on one side of the tray using scissors. Make these about 1/2” apart. Do the same on the opposite side of the tray, making sure the slits are lined-up across from each other.

**Step 2**

Letting the end of your yarn hang down the back of the loom, start to wind back and forth across the notches, from end to end. You are making the warp.
Step 3

Once you have wrapped the yarn through the ten slits on either side, pull the ending-end of the yarn across the back, leaving enough to tie to the beginning-end of the yarn, and cut it. Tie a knot.

Now, you are ready to weave!

Step 4

Pick a yarn from your stash! Start the yarn by weaving a bit of the yarn into the warp. Then just keep weaving over and under, back and forth. After you weave a row, scrunch it down a little bit with your fingers. This is called beating. You are working the weft!

Step 5

You can change your yarn color as often as you like. Just make sure you weave in the ends a little. Experiment with different widths of yarn and different textures. If you're not sure how to end a color, just tie a small knot.
**Step 6**

When you have made your weaving as long as you want to, turn the styrofoam tray over and cut the yarn threads on the back.

![Image](image1.png)

**Step 7**

Tie each set of two warp strands together in a square knot, to keep the weaving from unraveling.

![Image](image2.png)

**Step 8**

Trim the knotted strands to whatever length you want.

![Image](image3.png)

If you want more of a challenge, add more slits to your styrofoam tray. Make your warp threads closer together. This will give you a tighter weave. You can also use thinner yarn for your weft.

![Image](image4.png)

What have you woven? A tiny rug for a dollhouse? Maybe it’s a miniature wall hanging! Or, is a bookmark? It could be a coaster for your Mom’s cup of tea.

Whatever you’ve made, you have learned how to weave! Your styrofoam loom is ready to use again and again! What will you make next?