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Explore our extensive collection of natural fiber yarns crafted from luxurious materials such as merino wool, alpaca, possum, cashmere, silk, cotton, and more.Iknow I am not alone when I say that I am loving this growing trend in weaving, especially in home dcor. No longer is it relegated to trained fibreartists orthat small group ofex-hippiesand modern bohemians (you know who you are) who prefer the unique and handcrafted over thingsmass-produced. Weaving, in all its forms, is now becoming increasingly accessible to the rest of us who love to mix one-of-a-kind pieces with ourWalmart finds Part of the reason for this is the growing number of experts (like the incredibly talentedMaryanne Moodie) and enthusiastswho are willing toshare their passion and their knowledge with others.As my own love of weaving continues to grow, I am finding myself wanting to amass more supplies and try new techniques. But then theres that brick wall called a budget thatis always in my way.Argh. So for todays tutorial, I thought Id share a recent budget-friendly DIY projectof mine that shows you how to make a basic loom. I made itin order to tacklesome new weaving projects that my lap loom was just too small to cover. I wanted it to be large enough its about 2.5 feet by 2.5 feet to cover a whole variety of small-to-medium weaving projects for the home.~The post contains affiliate links at no extra cost to you. See my full disclosure policy here.~If youd like to try your hand at making your own budget-friendly loom, here are thesupplies you will need:Making the Frame Making the Loom1 or 1 & 1/4 inch wire nails (look for these types of nailsthat have a nailhead which will prevent your yarn from slipping off your loom)HammerRulerPencil & EraserMaking the FrameIf you have a handy husband, you may want to enlist his help for this first part, as I did hereUsing a compound saw or simple hand saw, cut each piece of woodto the desired length. (Or simply ask them to cut your pieces to size at the hardware store). Mine were about 2 feet long.Then prepare to attach the corners of each piece. Attach the drill bit to your drill and makeone to two holes in one of the corners of your frame.(By pre-drilling these holes, it will make attaching your screws a whole lot easier).Next, replace the drill bit with the countersink bit anddrillan indentation directly over the hole(s) created by your drill bit. The purpose of the countersink is to give the head ofyour screws space to sit flush against the wood.Now takeyour screwdriver and attach your screws.Repeat for each corner of your frame. Your cornersshould look something like this.Making the LoomNow youre just a few steps away from taking this basic frame and transforming it into aworking loom.Taking your ruler, find the mid-point of the top of your frame and draw a line across. Do the same for the bottom of the frame. Thenbegin to mark points along the line where you will be adding your nails.The space between each point will depend on how fine you expect your weavings to be. For mine, since I wanted the option of creating finer weavings, I marked 1 cm of space between each point. (If I ever want to use thick yarns or create more woven space, I can always use every other nail when creating the warp. There aresimply more options for future projects this way. (For more on terms and other weaving basics, see An Introduction to Weaving)Now simply hammer a nail at each point marked out on your frame.Heres a view close up. Each nail was hammered into the wood about a quarter of an inch.And that is all. Really, its that easy.Now get ready toweave!With this basic loom, you can tacklea variety of small and medium-sized weaving projects around the home.Happy weaving Woman Making Fabric with a massive weaving loom in AsiaDid you know wayyy back in the day our ancestors used to make a loom and weaved their own fabric? I mean imagine making a gorgeous pattern and cutting it to make a shirt, or a skirt, or a blanket!! WHAT? I loved that idea and knew I wanted to be a part of it.Now I wish I was the genius who found a way to make this loom but I got my inspiration from Pinterest. Let's start making this loom shall we?Weaving may look daunting and impossible, however it is rather easy after some practice.Weaving is a method of fabric production in which two distinct sets of threads are interlaced perpendicularly (right angle) to form a fabric.In this instructable, i will be showing you how to make a loom, as well as basic weaving techniques and i will be making a cloth. THIS POST MAY CONTAIN AFFILIATE LINKS. PLEASE SEE THE DISCLOSURE POLICIES FOR DETAILS. Are you thinking about learning to weave? Do it! Just give it a try. Weaving on a loom is easier than you might think. You will need a few tools and materials and someone to show you how to weave (me!). Follow along and you will have made your first DIY woven wall hanging in no time! This article is part of a four-part DIY weaving tutorial series. Follow along and learn how to make your own woven wall hanging!1. In this first article well go through the tools you will need to make your first weave and how to properly set up your weaving loom. This is a good place to start if you are a beginner weaver or just need a quick refresher.2. Start your wall hanging with a few basic weaving techniques. I start every weave with a few rows of a plain weave. And I love a good fringe, so there will be some rya knots. And a few rows of the classic basket weave.3. Moving on to some more weaving techniques that add even more texture and depth to your wall hanging. The loopy pile weave, soumak braids, and weaving with wool roving.4. The last part of the series shows how to finish your wall hanging and get it off your loom and up on your wall! Lets talk terminology for a bit. Weaving loom, heddle bar, stick shuttles, there are a few terms that might be unfamiliar if you are a beginner weaver. But no worries, let me tell you what everything is so you can get you started. The loom is your most important piece of equipment. Its the frame that you use to make your weave on. Once your weave is finished, you will remove it from the loom. Looms come in different sizes. There are smaller, lap looms, and larger, standing looms. You can even find round looms! The top and bottom bars of your weaving loom have notches or pegs to warp the loom. On some looms, these can be turned to adjust the overall tension of the warp. These are optional, but both are big time savers. The heddle bar is the middle bar on your loom. Rotating the heddle bar creates an opening between alternating vertical warp threads in either direction. This makes it easier and much faster to weave your horizontal weft threads through your warp. If you have no heddle bar, you could also use a shed stick. A shed stick is a piece of flat wood or plastic that you flip and turn on its side to create the opening, or shed. Lay the shed stick flat to close the shed. The heddle bar creates a shed for your weaving to go through both ways, a shed stick just creates a shed going one way. Using a shed stick, you will have to weave your shuttle or needle through up and down the threads going back each alternate row. You dont need anything fancy or special. Any ruler you have around will work fine as a shed stick. Just make sure its as long as your project is wide. The warp are the vertical threads on your weaving loom. These threads give structure to your weave, so you want them to be strong. You can use linen, or my favorite, cotton yarns. Setting up the loom is also sometimes called dressing the loom. The weft are the threads going horizontally across the loom. The yarns that you weave over and under the warp threads to create your design. The shed is the tent-shaped space between the warp threads that you create by using a shed stick or a heddle bar. This opening makes it easier to pass the shuttle or needle with your weft threads through the warp. You want some type of tapestry beater or loom comb to push your horizontal weft threads down when you weave. This can be a special tapestry beater or something like an afro pick or a plastic comb. Ive even seen people use regular kitchen forks as a loom comb. I like to use a wide-tooth vintage pocket comb. These wont break as quickly as newer-made combs. A weaving shuttle literally shuttles your weft yarn back and forth through your warp. Shuttles are optional to use, but again, an option that will make you weave quicker. Wrap your yarn around the shuttle and guide the shuttle through the shed. Use a shuttle that is a little wider than your weave. This makes it easy to unwind and work with just the right amount of yarn for each row. A long needle is great for doing detailed work on your weave and finishing off the back side when youre done. You can use any needle with a large enough eye to fit your yarns. If you have one of those plastic kids needles with a large eye and blunt tip, you could even use that. My favorites are tapestry needles with a bent tip. That tip makes it super easy to get under your warp threads. You will need a strong, non-stretchy yarn to set up the warp on your loom. Cotton or linen threads are perfect. You can choose any color. Depending on how tight your weave is, these yarns will be (mostly) covered by your work. You will still see the color on the loops on top when youre finished and hang your wall hanging. So pick a color complementary to your projects color scheme. Which yarns you use for the design of your weave, the weft, is all up to you. Go through your leftover scraps of yarn. Choose your favorite colors, wool or synthetic, combine different textures and weights. Have fun with it. A warp spacer is a fancy word for a piece of cardboard. You will need a warp spacer when you want your finished weave to be shorter than your loom. You weave the cardboard on the bottom of your warp as a temporary placeholder. It will be the foundation on which you push down your weave. A warp spacer also makes it easier to tie off when you finish weaving, leaving you with longer warp yarns to secure your weave. When you are ready to remove your weaving from the loom, youll need a wood dowel rod or some other type of stick to weave through the loops along the top. Make sure it is about 3-4 inch wider than your weave. And finally, sharp scissors to cut all your lovely yarns. I love my pretty stork scissors, but you can obviously use any scissors you have. If you are just starting out, you can purchase a weaving loom kit. This will give you all the essential weaving tools so you can start your first weave. As soon as you have gathered all your tools and materials, its time to set up the warp on your weaving loom so you can actually start to weave. Take your time warping your loom because it is an important step as it will be the base where you will weave upon. Try to have an even tension throughout the warp. Tip! Make it easier for yourself by placing your loom sideways while you set up the warp. And make sure that both top and bottom beams are tight in place. Weaving loom Cotton yarn Cardboard Heddle bar / Shed stick (optional) You can start your warp at any corner. I like to start at the left corner of the bottom bar. Make a loop with your cotton yarn and wind it around the first tooth. Guide the thread up and through the heddle bar and pass it around the first (left) tooth on the top bar. If you are not using a heddle bar, just go straight to the top. Go back to the bottom bar through the next notch on your heddle bar. Wrap your thread around the first tooth on the bottom and guide your thread up again. Through the next notch on the heddle bar and around the second tooth on top. Each warp thread goes twice through each notch on top and bottom bars, but only once through each notch on the heddle bar. Repeat up and down until your warp is the width you want it. Finish by tying a knot around the bottom beam. Create the shed with a shed stick if you dont have a heddle bar. Weave your shed stick over and under the warp threads all the way across. Flip your shed stick to separate the warp threads and create the opening to pull your weft yarn through. Insert your warp spacer. Weave it over and under your warp threads and push the warp spacer all the way to the bottom. The time required to warp your loom is an estimate. Actual time depends on experience and the size of your weaving loom. When your warp is finished, check its tension. Lightly pull the yarn to even out any uneven sections. If you have a loom with one or two adjustable bars, you can increase the overall tension by loosening the wing nuts and turning the warp bar slightly. Tighten the wing nuts to secure. Take the end of your yarn and hold it with your thumb on the shuttle. Try not to overlap the yarn too much. You dont want too much bulk when you have to pass it through your warp threads. You can loop the sides as well, going in a figure-eight motion around the sides. Keep going! In the next part of this weaving series, the actual weaving starts. Bring your yarn and Ill see you there! When I started weaving I wanted a simple loom that wouldnt cost too much. A frame loom was the perfect option. They are portable and easy to warp then begin weaving on. It really is just that simple. There are a few ways to use a frame loom, but I found that the easiest way was to warp the yarn directly on the frame. I was able to do this without any major hardware, using washi tape as a warp guide. This is perfect for those who want to set up a loom quickly and get started weaving. Im so excited to share this tutorial with all of you!Supplies:-The first thing you need is a frame that you can open, by removing the glass and backing. Another option is usingCanvas stretcher stripsto make an open wooden frame. If you choose to get the stretcher strips you will need to follow their assembly steps. The frame Im using arecanvas stretcher strips, given to me already assembled from my mom.-Scissors-Ruler-PencilWashi TapeWarp yarn Step One: Using your ruler and pencil mark the interior edge of the frameStep Two: Take your washi tape and cut off a 1 inch piece, then cut in half so that you have two pieces of 1 inch tape that is about wide. Place one piece of your cut washi tape along the bottom of the frame and along the front, following the marked line.Step Three: Following your first washi tape use a piece of warp thread to determine the gap size you need then place the second piece of washi tape. Continue cutting and placing the washi tape with gaps for your warp thread across the bottom of your frame loom. Repeat the washi tape step across the top.Now you can warp your loom. Instructions for warping your loomcan be found here.Happy Weaving!KateThis post contains affiliate links. If you purchase through these links, youll help support The Weaving Loom, and youll receive some amazing stuff, too. Whohoo!For more fun, follow me here -> DIYFrame LoomLap LoomLoomWarpWeaveWeavingWoven Weaving is a traditional way of producing fabric that has been practiced by fiber artists for thousands of years. Woven fabric is made of lines of interlaced yarn arranged in perpendicular directions to each other. It produces a pattern shaped like a cross, and fabric that is very durable and attractive. In todays article Ill be exploring everything there is to know about the weaving loom. Ill list the different types of weaving looms, weaving terminology, the history of weaving, how to weave using a loom, tools, and accessories youll need to have in addition to the loom itself and share my tips for selecting the perfect weaving loom for you. Lets get right into it! A weaving loom is the piece of equipment that is used for weaving fibers together to make a piece of fabric. You can use a weaving loom to make a rug, a table runner, or a variety of other materials used for garments and decoration. Looms keep the warp (longitudinal) threads where they should be as you weave the weft (or filling) threads through them. In the process, a weaver can decide to use different thread or yarn colors to end up with special patterns. Different kinds of patterns or textures can be achieved by altering the method youre using at your loom. There is a thread that is positioned going down the fabric that is referred to as the warp. This thread is positioned in a longitudinal direction. There is also a lateral thread that goes across the fabrics width. This is referred to as the weft. There are several different kinds of weaving loom available, and the styles Ill focus on in this article will be: Handlooms Backstrap Looms Tapestry Looms Rigid Heddle Looms Inkle Looms Floor Looms Table Looms Power Looms In this section of the guide Ill go over each type in detail, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each style of loom to help you determine which type might be the best fit for you. A handloom is simply a loom that runs manually instead of with electricity. These looms can come in a variety of forms. A woman using a traditional Hand Loom in Thailand Most handlooms are wooden vertical shaft looms. With this kind of loom, the heddles are held in a specific position in the shaft. The movement of the warp threads alternate between going through a space between the heddles (also called the shed) and a heddle. When you raise the shaft, you raise half of the threads. This half will be the threads going through the heddles. If you lower the shaft, the same threads will lower. Either way, the threads that are passing through the shed (the spaces between the heddles) stay where they are. There are different kinds of handloom. The backstrap loom is an extremely simple type of handloom developed in ancient times. Its still found and used in several countries today. With a backstrap loom, the warp is tied to the weaver on one end and a stationary object on the opposite. Weaver using a Backstrap Loom The weavers weight is the force keeping the warp properly taut. While its true that a backstrap loom is very basic, a skilled weaver is still able to make complex and impressive patterns. A simple backstrap loom like this one is perfect for beginners and will hardly take up any room at all. Features of this loom include a belt loom, hardwood clamp, and shuttle beater. It also comes with cotton weft yarn and cotton warp. Portability Simple design that makes it perfect for beginners Isnt suited for making polished and consistent weavesOur Pick from The Woolery Tapestry looms are frame looms, which are the simplest kind of manual looms. When you use a tapestry loom, the size of the tapestry you create is determined by the frame size. Also, you will not have the ability to create a shed on a frame loom. A Turkish carpet weaver working on a tapestry frame loom There are some types of tapestry looms that are larger and able to hold longer warps. These also provide ways of creating a shed. If youre a true beginner but you really want a tapestry loom, think about the Schacht Tapestry School Loom. Learners of all ages can use this loom. Its suitable to use on a table or the floor. It is quite compact in size and it comes with a weaving needle, two pick-up sticks, and detailed instructions. Its simple to set the size of your tapestry You cannot create a shed to help separate the yarns and keep them organizedOur Pick from The Woolery If youre a beginner, a rigid heddle loom is a great choice. Even skilled weavers can use this kind of loom to do complex patterning through manual manipulation of the weft and warp. A Spanish lace weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom If you have just one rigid heddle, you can use it with thick yarns for two-shaft weaving. If you add an additional heddle, you will be able to use thinner types of yarn and create more sophisticated patterns. To do this, you can use pick-up sticks as well as manual manipulation techniques. An attractive feature of rigid heddle looms is that they are portable. You can use rigid heddle looms with a stand or without. The Schacht Cricket Rigid Heddle Loom is a great loom for beginners. It comes in a compact size and it can be portable, too. This loom is made of beautiful maple and apple plywood. It is sold unfinished. The Schacht Cricket Rigid Heddle Loom comes with several different accessories, including: table clamps, warping peg, threading hook, 8-dent rigid heddle, two shuttles, and even two yarn balls so you can get started right away. Compact and portable An excellent choice for beginners Can be used for both simple and complex weaving patterns Doesnt provide the same kind of tension you would get from a floor loomOur Pick from The Woolery If you just want to weave thin strips of fabric to create perhaps belts or straps, an inkle loom will be appropriate. This kind of loom is portable. If you are a beginner, an inkle loom might be a good choice for you. In certain contexts, skilled weavers can use inkle looms to make sophisticated patterns. A compact Inkle Loom on a tabletop If you want to try an inkle loom, the Ashford Inkle Loom might be the one for you. It is made of unfinished New Zealand Silver Beech. You will be able to produce very durable and long braids with this loom. The loom has an adjustable tension peg, so you can change the warp tension if you want to. The Ashford Inkle Loom is advertised as being especially good for making trims, straps, belts, and bracelets. Small and portable Can be a good choice for beginners Limited in the width of weavings it can createOur Pick from The Woolery Floor looms are the largest type of loom used by home weavers. A floor loom is freestanding and you can use it for larger projects. An antique Bulgarian floor loom If you want to create wider and longer stretches of fabric, such as you would find with rugs, home linens, and other kinds of home accessories. A floor loom will usually have four or eight shafts but it is possible to find models of this kind of loom that have more shafts. While a floor loom is a manual loom in most cases, its possible to control this kind of loom electronically. This uses a dobby that can lower and lift the harnesses to produce sheds. A floor loom isnt usually something that beginners choose. However, if this kind of loom is what you have your heart set on, check out the Leclerc Compact Floor Loom. Its less expensive than many other floor looms and a bit smaller in size. The most powerful and versatile manual loom You can make anything on it, even large projects It takes up a lot of space They are expensiveOur Pick from The Woolery If youre looking for something smaller and more portable than a floor loom, a table loom can be a good choice. A table loom is more complex than some other small looms. A young girl using a Table Loom This kind of loom is designed to be used on top of a stand or table. Table looms usually have either four or eight shafts. There are some types of table loom, though, that have more than eight shafts. Some of the other types of looms that we have discussed above are table looms. The power loom is a type of mechanized loom. It is powered by a power driven rotating shaft called a line shaft. A Power Loom in use in a factory setting Edmund Cartwright designed the first power loom in 1784. The first one was built in 1785. The next five decades after that saw refinements on the original design. The Lancashire Loom was the design that rendered power looms entirely automatic. There were more than 250,000 of these used in England by the middle of the nineteenth century. The Northrop Loom emerged fifty years later. Many other models have been designed over the decades since then. Lets take a look at some of the different types below: The first power looms invented were this type. With shuttle-type looms, there is an unraveling of weft spools while the shuttle moves across the shed. In many ways, this has similarities to projectile ways of weaving. One way it is different from those is the fact that the spool is kept on the shuttle. Shuttle-type looms are no longer used in manufacturing. That is because these machines are limited when it comes to their efficiency. Their picks-per-minute rate has a maximum of only 300. Air jet types of power loom are the most efficient of the traditional weaving methods used in manufacturing. With an air jet loom, compressed air in short bursts moves the weft through the shed. This is key to creating the weave. Air jet looms can reach as many as 1200 picks-per-minute. These looms are quite expensive because of how complicated the air jet positioning is, as well as the enormous amounts of compressed air you need to operate the machines. Similar to air jet looms in principle, water jet looms use pressurized water instead of air for weft propulsion. Water is more inexpensive than compressed air, and this is one reason why water jet machines are popular. The picks-per-minute rate for water jet looms can reach even 1000. Projectile looms use an object that is moved across the shed. Spring power usually propels the object. The object is guided along the cloths width by way of a series of reeds. After that, the projectile is taken out of the weft fiber. It then goes back to the machines opposite side so that it can be reused. Increases to pick speed are created through the use of multiple projectiles. These machines can get to speeds of 1050 ppm. Rapier looms provide excellent versatility. There are different kinds of rapier available. Every type of rapier loom uses a hook system attached to a metal band or rod so that the pick can pass across the shed. This type of loom can get to a picks-per-minute speed of about 700 in normal manufacturing conditions. Lets look at the respective pros and cons of handlooms and power looms. To review, handlooms are looms that must be operated manually. There is no electricity powering them. Power looms use electricity in some form. Hand LoomPower LoomAdvantages: Hand looms are manual and dont require electricity. With a manual loom, you can change to a different weaving pattern very quicklyAdvantages: Not as much skill is required with a power loom. After the power loom is set and started, it will work independently. Power looms are much more efficient than a hand loomDisadvantages: Manual labor is necessary to operate a hand loom. They cannot compete with power looms when it comes to production volumes and efficiency.Disadvantages: After a power loom has been set for a particular design, you cannot easily change it. These looms are much more expensive than other types. Power looms are used for industrial purposes. They are not suitable for use at home. As we touched on earlier, human beings have been weaving for thousands of years. In fact, weaving is the oldest form of textile production. Both vertical and horizontal looms were used in Europe, Africa, and Asia by 700 AD. Around this time, pit-treadle looms equipped with pedals were developed and they began to be found in Iran, Syria, and Islamic regions of East Africa. Later on, looms advanced so the weaver had a free hand to pass the shuttle while using the foot for heddle operation. It was the most often used loom in Medieval Europe. Home weaving became extremely common in Europe. Eventually, factors such as plague, war, and famine caused most weaving to move to centralized places rather than individual homes. The advent of power looms in the Industrial Revolution transformed weaving and the fabric production industry. To weave with wool, you will need to have the appropriate width of wool for your project. While thicker yarns lend to quicker weaving, you should be aware that they will make your warp thread show. For tighter weaves that wont show the warp, you should use worsted weight yarn or DK. Yarn that you use for weaving must be strong enough to withstand the warp. The pinch and pull test helps you determine if this is the case. Wind some of the yarn around the index and middle fingers of your right hand. Prop it against your thumb, and then grab onto the end with your left hand, wrapping it around that hand and then pulling the yarn as hard as you can. If the yarn doesnt break, it should be strong enough for weaving. Just for the sake of clarity, here are the definitions of some common weaving terminology. Weft: The weft is the thread that you will weave between the warp threads. This is a necessary part of creating cloth. Warp: The warp is the thread that moves from the front of the loom to the back. This thread is woven into when creating cloth. Warp separators: Warp separators are generally warp sticks (or perhaps pieces of heavyweight paper) that are inserted to separate layers of warp. It maintains distance between the layers of warp on the beam. Warp separators are useful for keeping proper tension during the weaving process. Shed: The shed is an opening separating warp threads made by lowering or raising the heddle. During weaving, the shuttle moves through the shed. Header: A header is the yarn woven within the first three inches of the warp. It helps evenly spread the warp threads prior to weaving. The exact process of weaving will depend on the kind of loom that you have. In this section, we will go over some of the basic steps of weaving on a simple handloom. Dress the loom with warp. Ensure that it stays taut. Prepare a shuttle that will let you wave the weft through the warp. Prepare a shed stick. This tool lets you create a weave between the threads of warp. Youll be able to put the weft through the openings created by this. Weave the shed stick through the yarn, first going over, then under and continuing that process until the end. After youve done this, the shed stick can move backward and forwards. If you like, you can also use a spacer. Add another shed stick, this time starting with going under and over the yarns. If you added a spacer for the other shed stick, add a second one. Use a loom comb (also called a beater) to ensure the weft is positioned properly and correct your yarn density. Begin weaving by using the shuttle and weft. There are several factors you need to consider when deciding what kind of loom is best for you. Some of these include: Your knowledge and expertise as a weaver Cost and budget Space requirements General preferences If you are a beginner weaver, you wont want to buy an extremely expensive floor loom that costs thousands of dollars and you might not have the space for. As a beginner, you are much better off buying a small loom, such as a rigid heddle loom, an inkle loom, or a backstrap loom. Other than a loom, what are the other important tools and accessories that you will need for weaving? Lets take a look below. Different kinds of yarn can be used as warp yarn, but cotton yarn is the most popular. Whatever yarn you use, make sure that it is durable and able to deal with the stress of weaving. The specific warp yarn you use will also depend on the specific project. Weaving yarn is also called weft yarn. You have a lot more latitude in what you can use as weaving yarn than you can with warp yarn. That is because with the warp yarn, you have to worry more about strength and durability. With the weaving yarn, you may be able to use thinner yarns and think more about appearance than other qualities. A tapestry needle is a blunt needle. It weaves yarn through the warp in a meticulous way that wont damage any of the yarns. Most tapestry needles are plastic or metal. Wood tapestry needles have recently become available. You need to use a loom comb to control yarn density. It does this by beating down the yarns that you have on the loom. A shed stick makes the weaving process easier by making an opening to separate the warp layers. This makes it easier for you to get the weaving yarns through the warp. Most shed sticks are made of smooth and flat wood. The size is usually similar to a ruler. The warp width is important when deciding on the length of the shed stick. It should be about an inch or two longer than the warp yarns. Wrapping weft yarn around a shuttle or yarn bobbin makes it easy to keep them where they should be during the weaving process. You can find yarn bobbins in different sizes and made of different materials. Have a tape measure or ruler on hand for measuring. You need to keep track of the weaving edges and width. You will always need a cutting tool such as shears or scissors when you are weaving. This is because sometimes you have to cut the weft and warp yarns. You should find regular hobby scissors are good enough for this purpose. Now youve learned about weaving looms, the weaving process, and the materials you will need to weave, are you ready to start your new hobby? Keep all of these tips in mind and take things one step at a time. Create your own weaving loom for less than $20! This budget-friendly project is perfect for the crafty person in your lifeeven if that person is you.If youve ever wanted to create a weaving from scratch (and not just one of the many DIY weaving hacks Ive put together over the last year), this project is for you.We made a giant loom (and a small one too), adapted from a project that Jess and her husband whipped up a while back, and Im sharing the tutorial today.Surprisingly, making your own loom is really straight forward and super budget-friendly, if you choose the right materials.And you can easily adapt the instructions to the kind of loom youre wanting too a standing loom (that has legs that kick out for stability) or a lap loom for smaller projects that is more portable, etc.PLUS, you can customize the size of the loom to any dimensions you want.Click through to make your own loom from scratch, for under $20!DIY Standing Weaving LoomThe instructions below are for the larger 2436 inch standing loom.If you want to make the smaller lap loom, scroll down to to the bottom for the materials list and instructions for the smaller loom.Materials and Tools for DIY Standing Weaving Loom (2436)one 13 select pine board that is 6 ft long (mine cost $5.92)*one 13 select pine board that is 8 ft long (mine was $8.32)*1 inch finishing nails or panel board nails (both of these work best because they have a small head good for stringing up the loom and removing the finished weaving)eight 1.5 inch screwsruler or tape measure and pencilhammer anddrill2 inch middle hinges (only need these if adding legs to your loom)thin chain and 4 eye screws (only need these if adding legs to your loom)wire cutters (for cutting the chain again, only need if making legs for loom)*You can use any type of wood here youd like, but I used select pine board to make it look the best it could on a tight budget.If you use common board, the final cost will be even cheaper.And if you use something like poplar or oak, the final cost will be a bit more than pine. Each wood type will have its own pros and cons.Instructions for DIY Standing Loom (2436)1. Cut the piece of wood down to size (the dimensions of each piece of wood are shown in the supplies shot).Then, start laying out the pieces to create the loom shape.I put the 2 longer pieces (36 inch pieces) on the bottom and 2 of the shorter pieces (24 inch) on top, as shown in the photo.2. Next, begin screwing the pieces together. You may want to create a pilot hole first to avoid splitting the wood.Just two screws diagonal from each other (as shown in photo) seemed to work really well for each of the 4 corners.You can always do 4 screws per corner if you feel like thats better though. Mine felt really secure after just two screws in each corner though.Screw all 4 corners the same way, making sure that the corner is squared off before screwing.FYI -You may want to clamp the pieces of wood together first (if needed) to make sure nothing moves around while screwing, etc. Not required though.3. Once the base is complete, you can either add legs (which Ill show you how to do) OR skip this one and move onto the next step.If youre adding legs, youll use the remaining two 24 inch pine pieces for the legs.Flip the loom base over, so that the long vertical pieces are on top (as shown in photo).Then measure 12 inches from the top, and attach the hinges to both the loom base and the top of the legs (as shown in photo).From there, you can add screw eyes (one to each of the legs and one to each of the base pieces across from it) and then attach the two together with the thin chain from the supplies list.You can do this by double or triple knotting one end of the chain once its inside the eye of the screw and then bringing it across to the other eye screw (on the leg side for example), and knotting that side around the eye screw as well.Making sure the chain is tight when you have the leg fully extended to where you want it to be.Then, repeat this process on the other side.4. Next, its time to add the finishing nails.Make sure the loom is facing right side up (as shown in photo with shorter horizontal wood base pieces on top of the longer ones).Make a mark every 1/4 inch OR 1/3 inch (this is a preference thing based on how tightly woven you want your weavings to be), all the way across the top horizontal piece of wood and the bottom horizontal piece of wood.Then, hammer a nail in at every mark, in a straight line across. Use the photo for reference.Youll do that on the top and bottom of the loom and then its ready to be strung up for use.To create your warp, tie a knot around the first nail in the upper corner with your yarn / string.Then, keeping tension in the string, bring the string down to the first nail at the bottom of the loom, wrap around that nail, and continue back to the top of the loom (this time wrapping around the second nail).Then go back down to the bottom second nail, etc.Repeat this process until the entire loom is strung and then knot the very last nail on the bottom right to finish it. Cut off excess string from end of knot and its ready for weaving.If youre still not sure how to string your loom, you can check out this YouTube videoI found for a visual.No need to double up the string as they did in the video though.DIY Lap Weaving LoomIf youre making the smaller lap weaving loom instead of the larger standing weaving loom,the dimensions and materials will be slightly different.The finished lap loom in the photos is 1218 inches.Here are the materials and instructions for making the DIY lap loomMaterials and Tools for DIY Lap Loom (1218)1 /2 x 2 oak (mine came in a 3 ft pieces and was $6 per piece I bought 2 pieces to create a loom that was 1218)1 inch finishing nails or panel board nails (both of these work best because they have a small head good for stringing up the loom and removing the finished weaving)eight 1 inch screwsruler or tape measure and pencilhammer anddrillThe large loom was made with pine and the small loom was made with oak. Oak is a little more expensive, but looks a little nicer, so its kind of a preference thing. You can use either one for this project. Both pine and oak are good options.Instructions for DIY Lap Loom (1218)The instructions below are for the smaller 1218 inch lap loom. If you want to make the standing loom, scroll up for the materials list and instructions for the bigger loom.1. Cut the piece of wood down to size youll needtwo 12 inch long pieces of 12 and two 18 inch long pieces of 12 for this one.Then, start laying out the pieces to create the loom shape.I recommend putting the 2 longer pieces (18 inch pieces) on the bottom and the 2 shorter pieces (12 inch) on top of that. This will give you a little more space for hands, etc when weaving later.2. Next, begin screwing the pieces together. You may want to create a pilot hole first to avoid splitting the wood.Just like in the larger loom, two screws diagonal from each other seemed to work really well for securing each of the 4 corners.You can also use finishing nails instead of screws for this if you prefer, but I would recommend also using some type of wood glue in between the two pieces of wood if you go that route.3. Now its time to measure for the nails. Make sure the loom is facing right side up (with shorter horizontal wood base pieces on top of the longer ones).Make a mark every 1/3 inch, all the way across the top horizontal piece of wood and the bottom horizontal piece of wood.Then, hammer a nail in at every mark, in a straight line across. 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Then, keeping tension in the string, bring the string down to the first nail at the bottom of the loom, wrap around that nail, and continue back to the top of the loom (this time wrapping around the second nail).Then go back down to the bottom second nail, etc. Repeat this process until the entire loom is strung and then knot the very last nail on the bottom right to finish it. Cut off excess string from end of knot and it's ready for weaving. Mention @paperandstitch or tag #paperandstitch! Brittni If you're making the smaller lap weaving loom instead of the larger standing weaving loom,the dimensions and materials will be slightly different. 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SaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSaveSave
Working Time:30 minutesTotal Time:30 minutesSkill Level:BeginnerEstimated Cost:$20 There's something so special about handcrafted textiles. Follow these steps to learn how to make a loom for your DIY weaving projects. Whether you want to expand your skills or create a chic DIY wall hanging, our homemade loom will get you started. Making one yourself is pretty simple: Attach nails to a wood frame or canvas stretcher, then string it with medium-weight yarn to create the warp. Our how-to instructions walk you through the loom-making process, including correctly placing the nails and stringing the warp. Measure 1/2 inch from the inside corner on both short sides of the wood frame. Mark spots. Measure 1/2 inch in from the long sides of the frame. Continue measuring across the bottom of the frame in 1/2-inch increments. Repeat along the top of the frame. Hammer nails into marked spots. String the loom to create the warpor the vertical strings used for weaving the weft (horizontal strings). Starting in the lower left corner, tie a knot around the nail with one end of medium-weight yarn. Pull the yarn up to the first nail on the top left, go around the nail, and continue back down to the bottom of the second nail, wrapping around it. Continue stringing thread across the loom until the warp is complete. Keep the tension even and taut; you want a nice bounce to the warp yarn. Tie off at the last nail on the bottom right. Cut a piece of cardboard about 1-1/2 inches wider than your loom. For reference, we cut ours to 1-1/2x11 inches. Insert cardboard along the bottom of the loom by weaving it in and out across the warp. This will make it easier to remove the final product once weaving is complete. Cut a dowel to the width of the loom. Weave the dowel in and out, left to right, opposite the cardboard piece. Push to the top. This piece is the shed; it will allow for one row of the warp strings to be lifted when moved toward the bottom of the loom. Apply painters tape over the bottom row of nails to prevent strings from slipping while you weave. THIS POST MAY CONTAIN AFFILIATE LINKS. PLEASE SEE THE DISCLOSURE POLICIES FOR DETAILS. Are you thinking about learning to weave? Do it! Just give it a try. Weaving on a loom is easier than you might think. You will need a few tools and materials and someone to show you how to weave (me!). Follow along and you will have made your first DIY woven wall hanging in no time! This article is part of a four-part DIY weaving tutorial series. Follow along and learn how to make your own woven wall hanging!1. In this first article well go through the tools you will need to make your first weave and how to properly set up your weaving loom. This is a good place to start if you are a beginner weaver or just need a quick refresher.2. Start your wall hanging with a few basic weaving techniques. I start every weave with a few rows of a plain weave. And I love a good fringe, so there will be some rya knots. And a few rows of the classic basket weave.3. Moving on to some more weaving techniques that add even more texture and depth to your wall hanging. The loopy pile weave, soumak braids, and weaving with wool roving.4. The last part of the series shows how to finish your wall hanging and get it off your loom and up on your wall! Lets talk terminology for a bit. Weaving loom, heddle bar, stick shuttles, there are a few terms that might be unfamiliar if you are a beginner weaver. But no worries, let me tell you what everything is so you can get you started. The loom is your most important piece of equipment. Its the frame that you use to make your weave on. Once your weave is finished, you will remove it from the loom. Looms come in different sizes. There are smaller, lap looms, and larger, standing looms. You can even find round looms! The top and bottom bars of your weaving loom have notches or pegs to warp the loom. On some looms, these can be turned to adjust the overall tension of the warp. These are optional, but both are big time savers. The heddle bar is the middle bar on your loom. Rotating the heddle bar creates an opening between alternating vertical warp threads in either direction. This makes it easier and much faster to weave your horizontal weft threads through your warp. If you have no heddle bar, you could also use a shed stick. A shed stick is a piece of flat wood or plastic that you flip and turn on its side to create the opening, or shed. Lay the shed stick flat to close the shed. The heddle bar creates a shed for your weaving to go through both ways, a shed stick just creates a shed going one way. Using a shed stick, you will have to weave your shuttle or needle through up and down the threads going back each alternate row. You dont need anything fancy or special. Any ruler you have around will work fine as a shed stick. Just make sure its as long as your project is wide. The warp are the vertical threads on your weaving loom. These threads give structure to your weave, so you want them to be strong. You can use linen, or my favorite, cotton yarns. Setting up the loom is also sometimes called dressing the loom. The weft are the threads going horizontally across the loom. The yarns that you weave over and under the warp threads to create your design. The shed is the tent-shaped space between the warp threads that you create by using a shed stick or a heddle bar. This opening makes it easier to pass the shuttle or needle with your weft threads through the warp. You want some type of tapestry beater or loom comb to push your horizontal weft threads down when you weave. This can be a special tapestry beater or something like an afro pick or a plastic comb. Ive even seen people use regular kitchen forks as a loom comb. I like to use a wide-tooth vintage pocket comb. These wont break as quickly as newer-made combs. A weaving shuttle literally shuttles your weft yarn back and forth through your warp. Shuttles are optional to use, but again, an option that will make you weave quicker. Wrap your yarn around the shuttle and guide the shuttle through the shed. Use a shuttle that is a little wider than your weave. This makes it easy to unwind and work with just the right amount of yarn for each row. A long needle is great for doing detailed work on your weave and finishing off the back side when youre done. You can use any needle with a large enough eye to fit your yarns. If you have one of those plastic kids needles with a large eye and blunt tip, you could even use that. My favorites are tapestry needles with a bent tip. That tip makes it super easy to get under your warp threads. You will need a strong, non-stretchy yarn to set up the warp on your loom. Cotton or linen threads are perfect. You can choose any color. Depending on how tight your weave is, these yarns will be (mostly) covered by your work. You will still see the color on the loops on top when youre finished and hang your wall hanging. So pick a color complementary to your projects color scheme. Which yarns you use for the design of your weave, the weft, is all up to you. Go through your leftover scraps of yarn. Choose your favorite colors, wool or synthetic, combine different textures and weights. Have fun with it. A warp spacer is a fancy word for a piece of cardboard. You will need a warp spacer when you want your finished weave to be shorter than your loom. You weave the cardboard on the bottom of your warp as a temporary placeholder. It will be the foundation on which you push down your weave. A warp spacer also makes it easier to tie off when you finish weaving, leaving you with longer warp yarns to secure your weave. When you are ready to remove your weaving from the loom, youll need a wood dowel rod or some other type of stick to weave through the loops along the top. Make sure it is about 3-4 inch wider than your weave. And finally, sharp scissors to cut all your lovely yarns. I love my pretty stork scissors, but you can obviously use any scissors you have. If you are just starting out, you can purchase a weaving loom kit. This will give you all the essential weaving tools so you can start your first weave. As soon as you have gathered all your tools and materials, its time to set up the warp on your weaving loom so you can actually start to weave. Take your time warping your loom because it is an important step as it will be the base where you will weave upon. Try to have an even tension throughout the warp. Tip! Make it easier for yourself by placing your loom sideways while you set up the warp. And make sure that both top and bottom beams are tight in place. Weaving loom Cotton yarn Cardboard Heddle bar / Shed stick (optional) You can start your warp at any corner. I like to start at the left corner of the bottom bar. Make a loop with your cotton yarn and wind it around the first tooth. Guide the thread up and through the heddle bar and pass it around the first (left) tooth on the top bar. If you are not using a heddle bar, just go straight to the top. Go back to the bottom bar through the next notch on your heddle bar. Wrap your thread around the first tooth on the bottom and guide your thread up again. Through the next notch on the heddle bar and around the second tooth on top. Each warp thread goes twice through each notch on top and bottom bars, but only once through each notch on the heddle bar. Repeat up and down until your warp is the width you want it. Finish by tying a knot around the bottom beam. Create the shed with a shed stick if you dont have a heddle bar. Weave your shed stick over and under the warp threads all the way across. Flip your shed stick to separate the warp threads and create the opening to pull your weft yarn through. Insert your warp spacer. Weave it over and under your warp threads and push the warp spacer all the way to the bottom. The time required to warp your loom is an estimate. Actual time depends on experience and the size of your weaving loom. When your warp is finished, check its tension. Lightly pull the yarn to even out any uneven sections. If you have a loom with one or two adjustable bars, you can increase the overall tension by loosening the wing nuts and turning the warp bar slightly. Tighten the wing nuts to secure. Take the end of your yarn and hold it with your thumb on the shuttle. Try not to overlap the yarn too much. You dont want too much bulk when you have to pass it through your warp threads. You can loop the sides as well, going in a figure-eight motion around the sides. Keep going! In the next part of this weaving series, the actual weaving starts. Bring your yarn and Ill see you there!

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