Master Warping Checklist

There are a lot of small steps involved in setting up the loom. Checklists help us stay on track. Included here are lists for direct and indirect, single and two-heddle warping methods to keep handy while you are warping. I assume you know how to warp and these checklists serve as a brief reminder as you work through the process. For a more extended, written list of the steps, information on when to use which method, and tips for managing long, fine warps, see pages 138-149 of Handwoven Home. Heddles up!

—Liz

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Direct Warping

- **Set Up**
  - Secure loom.
  - If you have a front and back beam, bring apron rod and cords up and over the beams.
  - If adjustable, be sure apron cords are evenly spaced and running straight from beam to rod.
  - Place heddle in the neutral position.
  - Place peg at desired warp-length distance from the back apron rod.
  - Place yarn at back of loom.

- **Measure Warp**
  - Centering the warp, mark the first and last slot to thread.
  - Tie warp yarn onto back apron rod, aligned with the first slot you want to thread.
  - Using moderate tension, pull a loop of yarn through the first slot and place on peg.
  - Repeat until all desired slots are thread.
  - Check your work.
  - Cut yarn from supply and tie securely to back apron rod.

- **Pack Back Beam**
  - Remove the loops from the peg and cut.
  - Tie ends in a loose overhand knot.
  - Crank and yank.
  - Stop when warp is even with the cloth beam, untie knot.

- **Thread the Holes**
  - Remove one warp end from each slot and thread through an adjacent hole.

- **Tie Onto the Front Apron Rod**
  - Starting in the middle and working out to each side, tie the warp to the apron rod.
  - Evenly tension the warp and secure.
  - Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.
Indirect Warping

- **Set Up**
  - Secure loom and place heddle in neutral.
  - Centering the warp, mark the first and last slot to thread.
  - Place threading hook and scissors nearby.
  - If you have front and back beam, bring apron cords up and over the beams.
  - If apron cords are adjustable, be sure they evenly spaced and straight.
  - Position warping board at a comfortable height for winding.

- **Measure Warp**
  - Place a leader yarn on the warping board the length of your warp.
  - Wind the warp on the warping board, forming a cross in the desired position.
  - Tie choke.

- **Thread Heddle**
  - Cut the loops at the opposite end from the cross.
  - Tie a loose overhand knot at this end and chain warp from cut end, if desired.
  - Securing the cross, take the warp to the loom.
  - Cut the loop at the top of the cross.
  - Tie the choke to the front beam.
  - Thread the heddles.

- **Pack Back Beam**
  - Leaving the choke intact, tie the warp onto the back apron rod.
  - Cut choke tie.
  - Crank and yank.
  - Stop when warp is even with the cloth beam, untie knot.

- **Tie Onto the Front Apron Rod**
  - Starting in the middle and working out to each side, tie the warp to the apron rod.
  - Evenly tension the warp and secure.
  - Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.
Direct Warping Two Heddles

- **Set Up**
  - Secure loom.
  - If you have a front and back beam, bring apron rod and cords up and over the beams.
  - If adjustable, be sure apron cords are evenly spaced and running straight from beam to rod.
  - Place back heddle in the slot farthest away from the front of the loom; see loom manual for suggestions specific to your loom.
  - Place peg at desired warp-length distance from the back apron rod.

- **Measure Warp**
  - Centering the warp, mark the first and last slot to thread.
  - Tie warp yarn onto back apron rod, aligned with the first slot you want to thread.
  - Using moderate tension, pull 2 loops—4 ends—of yarn through each desired slot.
  - Check your work.
  - Cut yarn from supply and tie securely to back apron rod.

- **Pack Back Beam**
  - Remove the loops from the peg and cut.
  - Tie ends in a loose overhand knot to secure.
  - Crank and yank.
  - Stop when warp is even with the cloth beam, untie knot.

- **Thread the Heddles**
  - Take one thread in each slot of the back heddle and move it to the hole to its right.
  - Place second heddle in the slot closest to the front of the loom.
  - Working from right to left, take the first yarn threaded in a hole into the back heddle, and thread it though the slot to the right of the corresponding hole in the front heddle. (red line)
  - Thread the next three ends in the back heddle into the front heddle as shown in diagram. (blue lines)
  - Repeat the previous two steps until all desired slots and holes are threaded. (green lines)
  - Check your work. You should have three yarns in every slot, and one in every hole.

- **Tie Onto the Front Apron Rod**
  - Starting in the middle and working out to each side, tie the warp to the apron rod.
  - Evenly tension the warp and secure.
  - Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.
Set Up
- Secure loom.
- If you have a front and back beam, bring apron rod and cords up and over the beams.
- If adjustable, be sure apron cords are evenly spaced and running straight from beam to rod.
- Place back heddle in the slot farthest away from the front of the loom; see loom manual for suggestions specific to your loom.

Measure Warp
- Place a leader yarn on the warping board the length of your warp.
- Wind the warp on the warping board, forming a cross in the desired position.
- Tie choke.

Take Warp to the Loom
- Cut the loops at the opposite end of the cross.
- Tie a loose overhand knot at this end and chain warp from the cut end, if desired.
- Securing the cross, take the warp to the loom.
- Cut the loop at the top of the cross.
- Tie the choke to the front beam.

Thread Back Heddle
- Centering the warp, place one end in every hole, and three in every slot.

Pack Back Beam
- Leaving the choke intact, tie the warp onto the back apron rod.
- Cut choke tie.
- Crank and yank.
- Stop when warp is even with the cloth beam, untie knot.

Thread Front Heddle
- Place second heddle in the desired slot closest to the front of the loom.
- Working from right to left, take the first yarn threaded into a hole in the back heddle, and thread it though the slot to the right of the corresponding hole in the front heddle. (red line)
- Thread the next three ends in the back heddle into the front heddle as shown in diagram. (blue lines)
- Repeat the previous two steps until all desired slots and holes are threaded. (green lines)
- Check your work. You should have three yarns in every slot, and one in every hole.

Tie Onto the Front Apron Rod
- Starting in the middle and working out to each side, tie the warp to the apron rod.
- Evenly tension the warp and secure.
- Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.
Warp Speed Ahead

Resources To Get You Warped and Ready In No Time.

Weaving Made Easy
17 Projects Using a Simple Loom

Know nothing about weaving? Start here!

Includes warping section with tips on when to use which method.

Handwoven Home
Techniques, Tips, & Projects for the Rigid Heddle Loom

Warping three ways:
direct, indirect, and indirect with two heddles.

Weaving 101:
The Basics
A soup-to-nuts class for beginners from the Yarnworker School.

Warpworker.com
Know-How for the Rigid Heddle Weaver

Double Your Fun:
Doubleweave on a Rigid Heddle Loom

Direct warping two heddles and one of the best reasons to do so: doubleweave!