

Master Warping Checklist

There are a lot of small steps involved in setting up the loom. Having a checklist handy can keep you from missing one. Included here are checklists for direct and indirect, single- and double-heddle warping methods. When using these lists, I assume you know how to warp. The list serves as a brief reminder as you work through the process.

Heddles up!

Liz

Direct Warping

Setup

- Secure loom.
- If you have front and back beams, 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.

Measure Warp

- Centering the warp, mark the beginning and ending position for threading.
- 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 threaded.
- 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.
- Set rear brake.
- 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, secure the warp to the apron rod.
- Evenly tension the warp.
- Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.

Indirect Warping

Setup

- Secure loom, then place heddle in neutral.
- Centering the warp, mark the beginning and ending positions for threading.
- Place threading hook and scissors nearby.
- If you have front and back beams, bring apron cords up and over the beams.
- If apron cords are adjustable, be sure they are evenly spaced and straight.
- Position warping board at a comfortable height for winding.

Measure Warp

- Place a leader string on the warping board.
- Wind the warp on the warping board, forming a cross in the desired position.
- Tie choke, and further secure warp as desired.

Thread Heddle

- Cut the loops at the opposite end of the cross.
- Tie a loose overhand knot at this end.
- Holding the cross, take the warp to the rigid heddle.
- Cut the loop at the top of the cross and remove any ties you may have placed on the cross.
- Tie the choke tie to the front beam.
- Thread the heddles.

Pack Back Beam

- Leaving the choke intact, tie the warp onto the back apron rod.
- Cut the choke tie.
- Set rear brake.
- 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, secure the warp to the apron rod.
- Evenly tension the warp.
- Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.

The checklists are for a standard, two-heddle threading on pages 3 and 4, suitable for weaving plain weave, Hopsack, pick-up lace, doubleweave, and Summer and Winter. There are other threadings which may or may not lend themselves to the direct method.

Direct Warping Two Heddles in a Standard Threading

Setup

- Secure loom.
- If you have front and back beams, 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 position 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

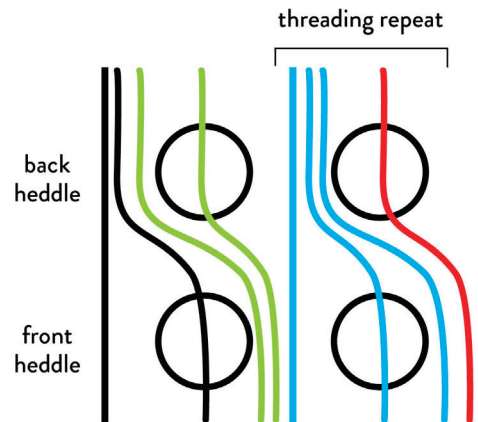
- Centering the warp, mark the beginning and ending positions for threading.
- Tie warp yarn onto back apron rod, aligned with the first slot you want to thread.
- Place two loops of yarn through the first slot and place each on a peg.
- Repeat until all desired slots are threaded.
- Check your work.
- 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.
- Set rear brake.
- Crank and yank.
- Stop when warp is even with the cloth beam, untie knot.

Thread the Heddles

- Sitting at the front of the loom, take one thread in each slot in the back heddle, and move it to a hole to its right.
- Place second heddle in the slot closest to the front of the loom.
- Take the first yarn threaded in a hole on the right side of the back heddle, and thread it through the slot to the right of the corresponding hole in the front heddle (**red line**).
- Thread the next three ends in the slot to the left of the hole in the back heddle into the front heddle as shown in diagram. (**blue lines**).
- Continue following the previous two steps until your heddle is threaded. You can consolidate threading the hole end and the first slotted end in the back heddle to the slot in the front in one step if desired (**green lines**).



Tie onto the Front Apron Rod

- Starting in the middle and working out to each side, secure the warp to the apron rod.
- Evenly tension the warp.
- Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.

Indirect Warping Two Heddles in a Standard Threading

Setup

- Secure loom.
- If you have front and back beams, 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 front heddle in the position farthest away from the back of the loom (see loom manual for suggestions specific to your loom).
- Mark the beginning and ending positions on heddle.

Measure Warp

- Place a leader string on the warping board.
- Wind the warp on the warping board, forming a cross in the desired position.
- Tie the choke and further secure warp as desired.

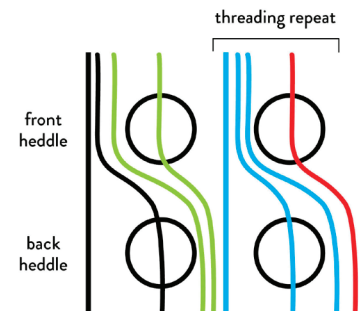
Take Warp to the Loom

- Cut the loops at the opposite end of the cross.
- Tie a loose overhand knot at this end and chain warp if desired.
- Holding the cross in your non-dominant hand, take the warp to the rigid heddle.
- Center the warp and tie the choke tie to the front beam.
- Cut the loops at the top of the cross.

Thread Heddles

If preferred and it works better for your setup, you can thread both heddles at the same time. For the standard threading, I find it easier to thread them separately.

- Working from the front of the loom left to right, placing one end in every hole, and three end in every slot.
- Place back heddle and move to the back of the loom.
- Take the yarn threaded in the right-most hole of the front heddle, and thread it through the slot to the right of the corresponding hole in the back heddle (**red line**).
- Thread the next three ends in the slot to the right in the back heddle as shown in diagram. (**blue lines**).
- Continue following the previous two steps until your heddle is threaded. You can consolidate threading the hole end and the first slot end in the front heddle, to the slot in the front, into one step if desired (**green lines**).



Pack Back Beam

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

Tie onto the Front Apron Rod

- Starting in the middle and working out to each side, secure the warp to the apron rod.
- Evenly tension the warp.
- Turn the back brake to fully tension the loom and take up any remaining slack.

When to Use Which Method

There are so many ways to dress a loom. As your skills grow, you can begin to choose the method or methods that work best for you. Here is a quick rundown of why you might want to pick a particular method vs. another.

DIRECT

Advantages

- Requires minimal equipment.
- Easy to learn.
- Warp packs on the beam in a straight line with the least amount of drag, unless you use a board or peg to compact the warp in a shorter space.

Disadvantages

- Requires more space, unless you use a board or peg to compact the space.
- Can be uncomfortable.
- Works in a paired system, so it is difficult to warp thread color orders that involve individual ends. You can use cut-and-wrap or alternate threading to achieve your color order, however, this results in threads crossed behind the heddle that require management during the weaving process.

INDIRECT

Advantages

- May be more ergonomic, depending on your space.
- Easier to contain the work if interrupted.
- Easier to manage complicated color orders with no crossed threads behind the heddle.

Disadvantages

- Takes a little more time.
- Involves more steps.
- Bends the warp when winding with more opportunity for yarns to shift when moving yarn from board or pegs.

Warp Speed Ahead

