

Weaving on a Simple Frame



You can make a weaving from really simple materials that you probably have at home or can even collect from the garden, along the roadside or in the bush. Use your imagination and see what you can create!



Workshop created by Kerrie Bowles



Materials

A frame – this can be a photo frame (recycle an old one), an old canvas frame, even some sticks from the garden.

Yarn – wool, cotton, pieces of sheep's wool, strips of fabric, etc. Try to have lots of colours to work with or colours you like.

You will need something strong for the warp thread – cotton thread from the supermarket (used for cooking) or Bunnings works well.

Grasses, sticks, seedpods.

A needle with a large eye and blunt tip – this is called a wool darning needle.

Scissors, a pencil, an old fork and a ruler.

Step 1.

Gather your supplies.



Yarns



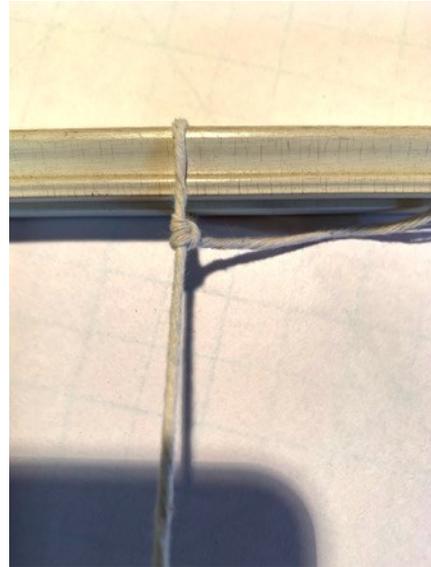
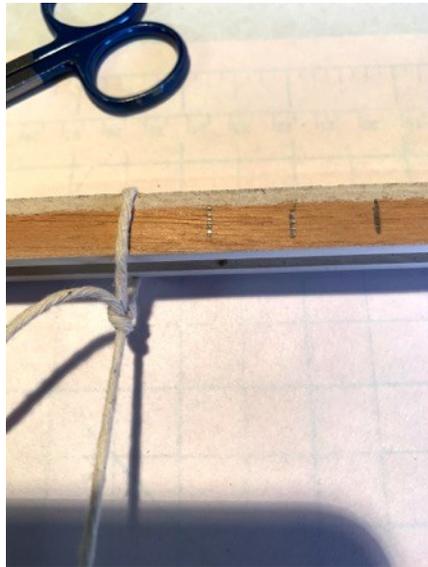
Frame, sticks, cotton thread



Scissors, pencil, fork, needle

Step 2.

We are now going to *warp our frame* – the warp is the thread that runs from the top to the bottom of your frame and we will weave across these threads to make our weaving. With a ruler and pencil mark your frame across the top and bottom of the frame at 1.5cm intervals. Then tie a knot at one side on the top of the frame.



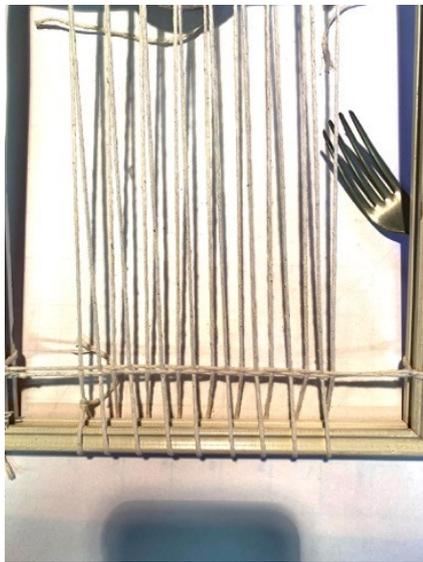
Step 3.

Wind your strong cotton thread around the frame keeping a nice tight tension on the thread. Place your thread on the 1.5cm markings across the width of the frame. Finish off and tie a knot at the opposite end of the frame to where you started.



Step 4.

We now need to pull our warp threads together so they lay flat on the frame. Start by cutting a piece of strong thread that is about one and a half times the width of your frame. Tie it in a knot near the top of the frame on one side. Now you are going to take this thread so it pulls up the bottom warp threads to meet the top warp threads. To do this you go under the bottom thread and over the top thread, under the bottom thread and over the top thread – continue until you get to the other side. Follow the pictures below. Pull tight and tie it off in a knot. Now do the same with a second piece of thread going the opposite way to the first thread. Complete the same step at the other end of your frame.

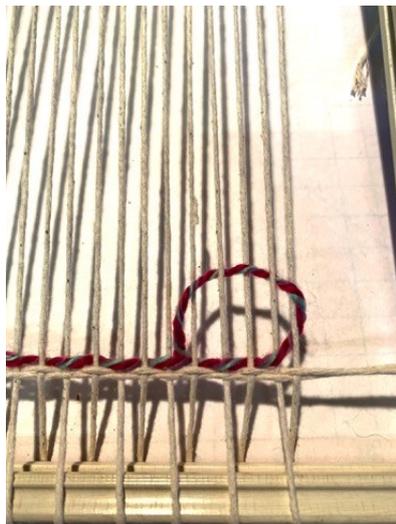


Step 5.

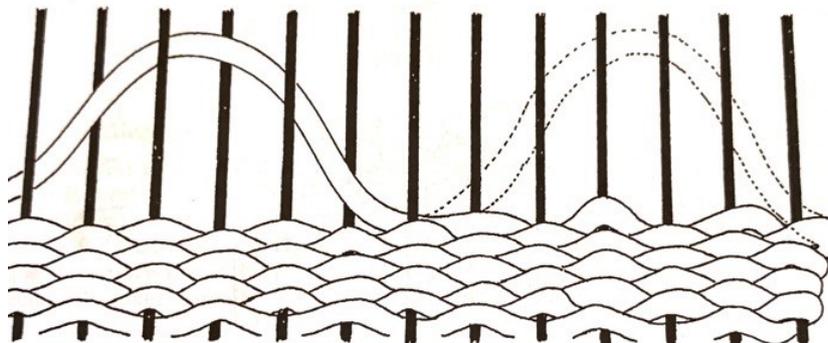
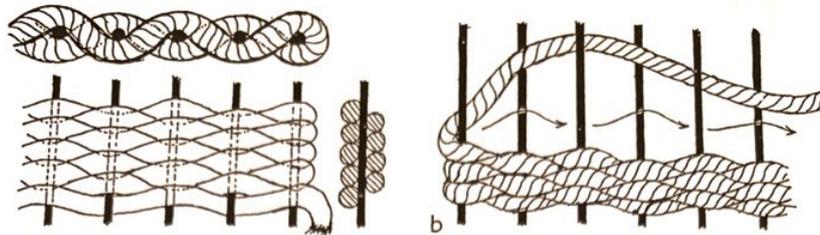
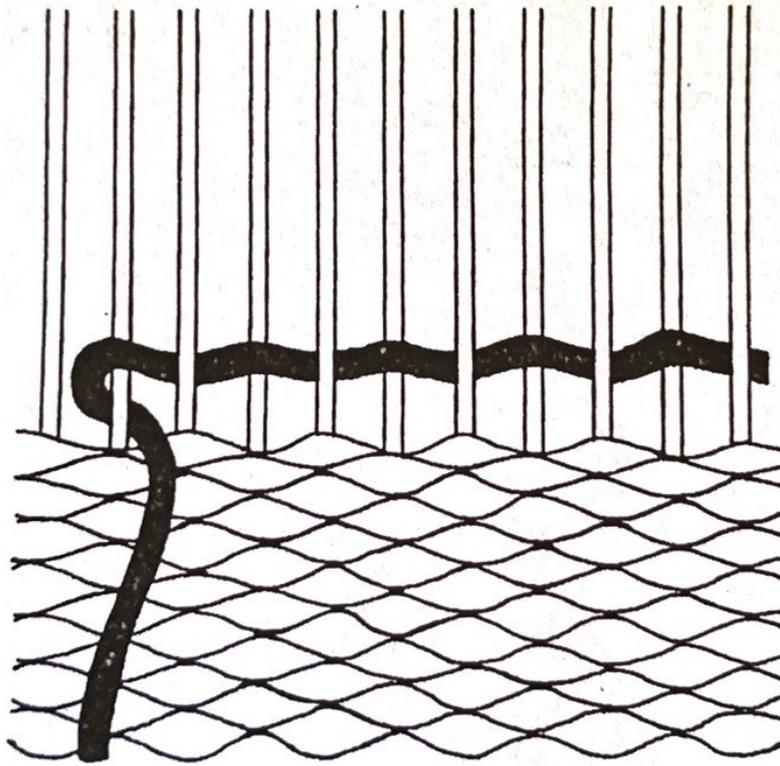
Choose a smooth thread to make the beginning of your weaving – this is called the header. Wind your thread into little skeins around your fingers – this makes it easier to pass the thread through the warp. Starting at the bottom on one side take your thread across the warp going under one warp thread, over the next warp thread – under one warp thread, over the next warp thread.....keep going until you get to the opposite side. Lay your thread so it looks like little hills – this makes sure there's plenty of thread so your weaving doesn't pull in too tight.

This is called your weft. Tuck your tail back into the warp – see picture. Now take your thread back the other way doing the opposite to the first row – if you went over the thread last time, this row you go under it – and vice versa. Keep weaving until you have about 2cm completed.

An easy way to remember what this thread is called is that the weft thread goes from “weft to wight”!!!!



Use these diagrams to help you understand how to weave the threads.



Step 6.

Now you can add different yarns. Try different colours, textures, thicknesses, etc. If you don't have thick yarns you can make some by winding lots of thin ones together – see the pictures below for some examples. You can leave some threads hanging out the sides, make loops by leaving little curls up – see what else you can invent!



Step 7.

Finishing off. As you get closer to the top of your weaving the space gets smaller so it can be tricky to get your yarn through. Now it's time to use your wool needle. Finish off at the top with a nice smooth thread for about 2 cm - just like you did when you started.

Now you're ready to cut the warp top and bottom from the frame. Then tie each pair of warp threads in a knot (you will have 3 threads left at one end – tie the three together).



Step 8.

Now you can add a fringe to the bottom if you'd like one – see the pictures for how to tie this. Then tie a stick or rod or even a pencil to the top and add a hanger and you're done!

Congratulations – you've made your first weaving!



Make Another One!

This time try making a weaving with different materials. Gather sticks, grasses, flowers, jacaranda twigs, seedpods, palm tree inflorescence (this is the stem of the palm that carries the flowers) and anything else you think might work. Make a frame out of sticks, tie the corners with thread, warp with strong thread and weave away! The best part is just playing!

