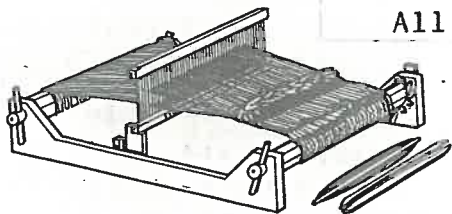


How To Weave on the Ashford Rigid Heddle Loom

By Heather Ashford Guthrie

Manufactured by ASHFORD HANDICRAFTS LTD, ASHBURTON N.Z.

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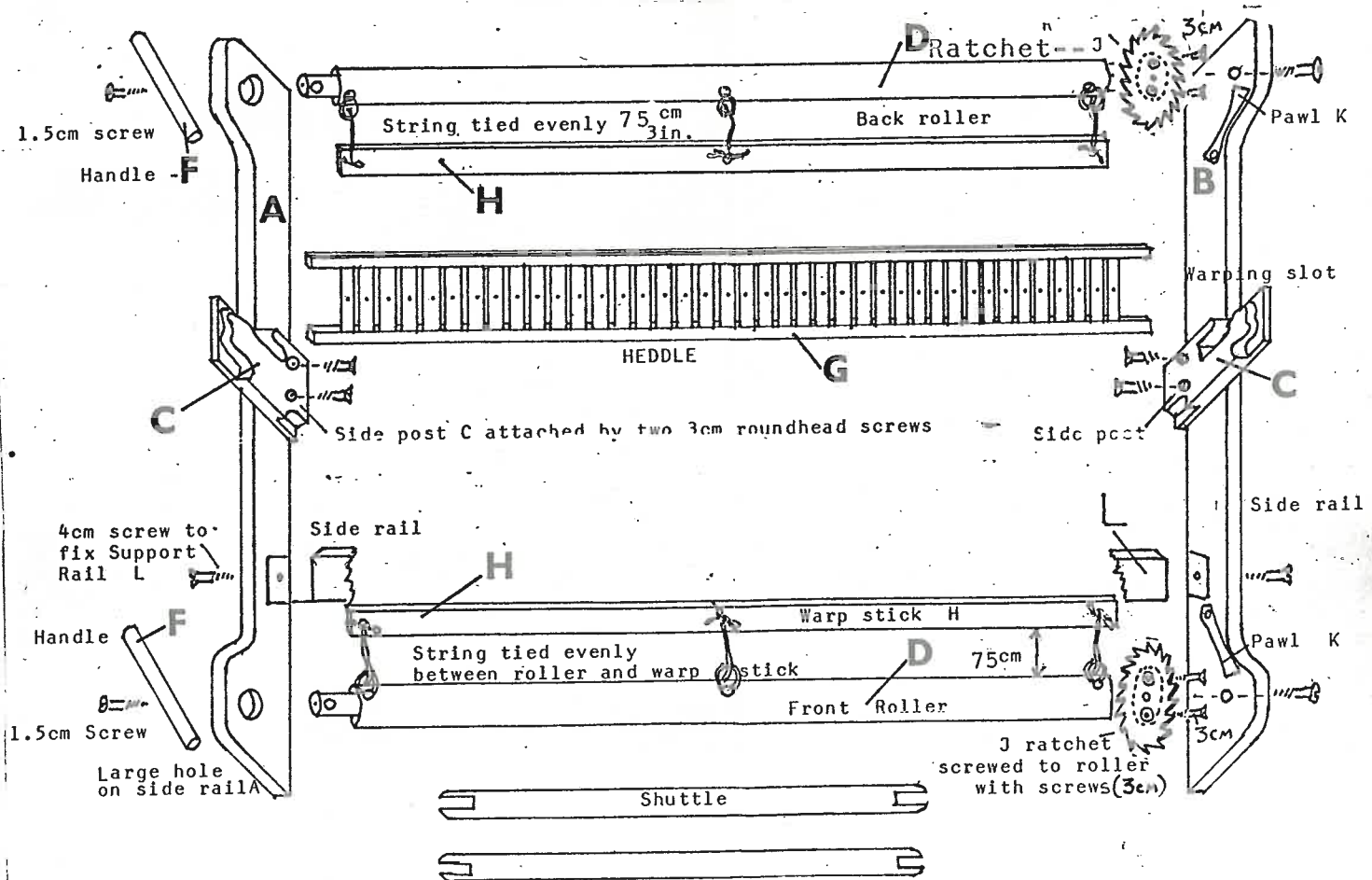


ASHFORD RIGID HEDDLE LOOM - Looks well finished with raw linseed oil or clear polyurethane.

ASSEMBLING INSTRUCTIONS

Read all the instructions carefully before assembling
Lay out and identify the parts
Sandpaper all parts, especially edges of sticks and shuttles

- SIDE RAILS A and B**
Place side rail A (with large holes) on your left. Pre-drilled holes on both side rails must face inwards.
- SIDE POSTS C**
Screw side posts C to inside side rails A and B, with high side of C facing the front. Use the four 3cm roundhead screws.
- Fix the two PAWLS K** to the inside of B with two 25mm roundhead screws.
- Study the illustration and fix the two ratchets J onto the ends of the roller D using 30mm/1 1/4 in counter-sunk screws. It is important that the teeth on the ratchets point in the direction as illustrated.
- WARP STICKS H.**
Double each piece of string and thread through holes in roller and tie with flat knots to warp sticks H. Make sure each piece of string leaves a gap of approximately 75mm/3in between roller and warp stick.
- HANDLES F**
Drive the two dowel handles F carefully through holes on protruding left-hand side roller. The two small flathead screws are screwed into the ends of the rollers to fix dowel handles.
- SUPPORT RAIL L** goes between A and B and is used when clamping the loom to a table. Fix in place with two 37mm/1 1/2 in screws. See illustration which shows RAIL L in place.
- HEDDLE G**
Place in back slot of C for warping up the loom.



A QUICK METHOD TO WARP-UP
(THREADING)

for a plain weave (tabby)

Use a smooth, strong cotton thread.
Avoid fuzzy or stretch wools.

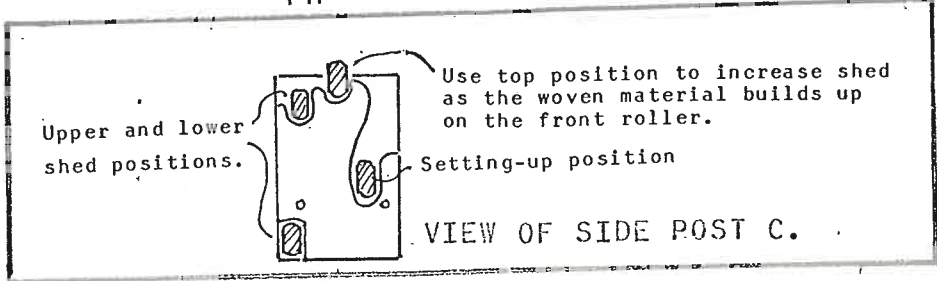
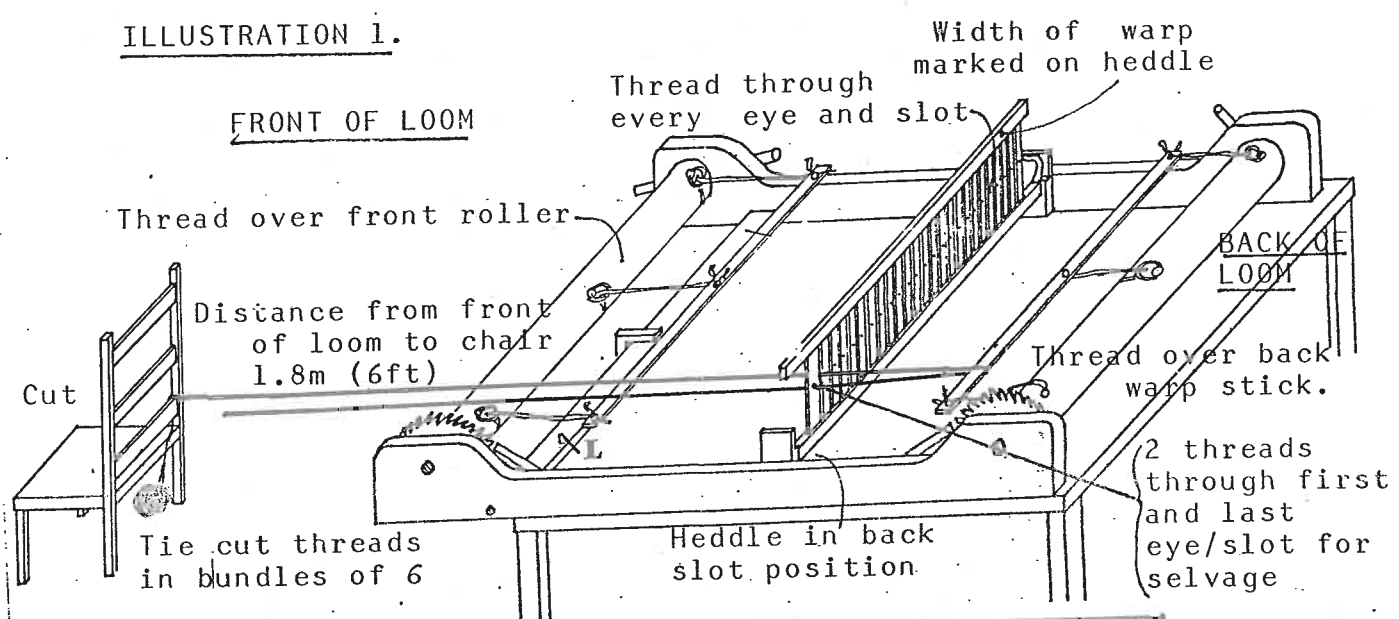
TO MAKE A WOVEN SAMPLER 1.2m x 32cm.
(4ft x 1ft.)

1. Place front of loom to edge of table. (Illustration 1) and clamp.
2. Place heddle in back slot.
3. Mark centre slot of heddle. On heddle, measure and mark 17cm (6in) on either side of centre point.
4. Place chair 1.8m (6ft) from front of loom.
5. Place ball of warping thread through back of chair. Pull thread towards loom and thread through eye of heddle marked at RIGHT from centre. Carry thread over top of back warp-stick and re-thread through same eye. (This double thread forms the selvege.) Continue to pull thread back to chair and cut.

6. Pull new thread through back of chair to heddle and thread through next slot. Take it over back warp-stick and return through next eye. Apply the same tension to all threads for even lengths. Pull threads back to chair and cut. To avoid tangles as the threads are cut, tie loosely in groups of six.
7. Continue threading in this way until reaching the left-hand selvege mark. Tie the extra selvege thread to the back warp-stick. CHECK all eyes and slots are threaded correctly.

ALTERNATIVE WARP-UP (threading) for a weft-faced weave. Thread slot and eye. Now miss the next slot and eye. Keep repeating this sequence across the heddle. When weaving, the weft thread should lie loosely in the shed but is beaten very firmly.

ILLUSTRATION 1.



WINDING ON THE WARP

Spread threads evenly along back warp-stick, then begin to wind on the warp.

It is easier to do this with two people, but one person can manage so long as even tension is applied while winding on.

Untie bundles of ends and comb straight with fingers. Hold all loose ends firmly in right hand so that even pressure is applied to all threads.

Set pawl against back ratchet.

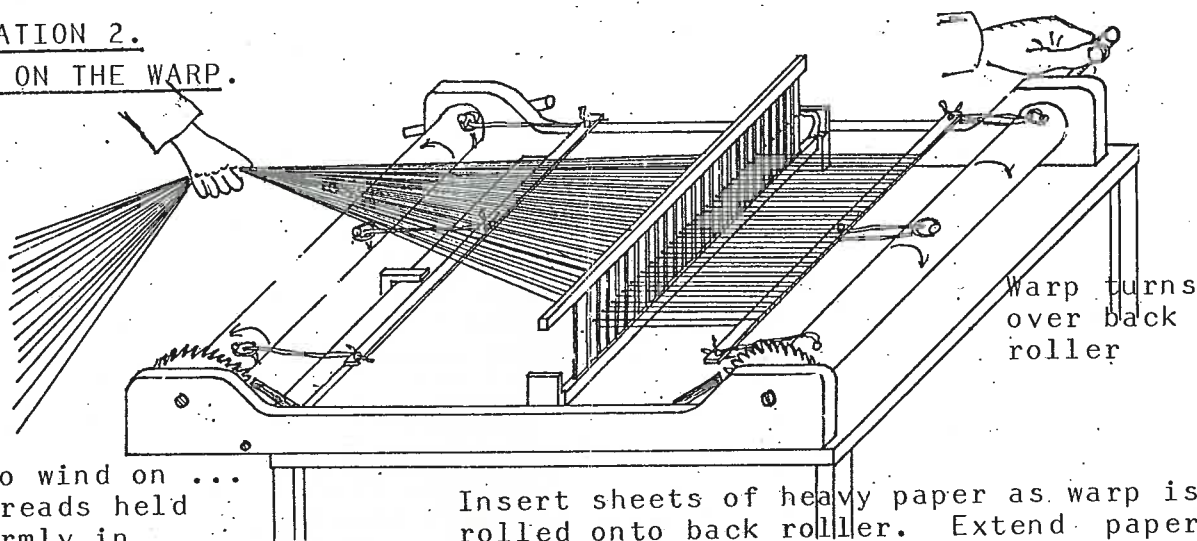
With left hand, rotate handle of back roller so the warp turns on the top of roller.

While doing this it is important to insert sheets of paper between the warp threads and back roller. (This prevents warp threads from becoming embedded and tangled.) The paper must extend beyond the width of the warp threads.

Continue to wind on the warp very evenly, until 40cm/16in. remain to be pulled through heddle.

Left hand turns roller

ILLUSTRATION 2.
WINDING ON THE WARP.



Ready to wind on ...
Warp threads held down firmly in right hand.

Insert sheets of heavy paper as warp is rolled onto back roller. Extend paper beyond width of rolled warp.

TYING THREADS TO FRONT WARP STICK.

Tie loose ends in bundles of four, over the front warp-stick with a triple twist or temporary reef knot. (See diagram)

ILLUSTRATION 3.

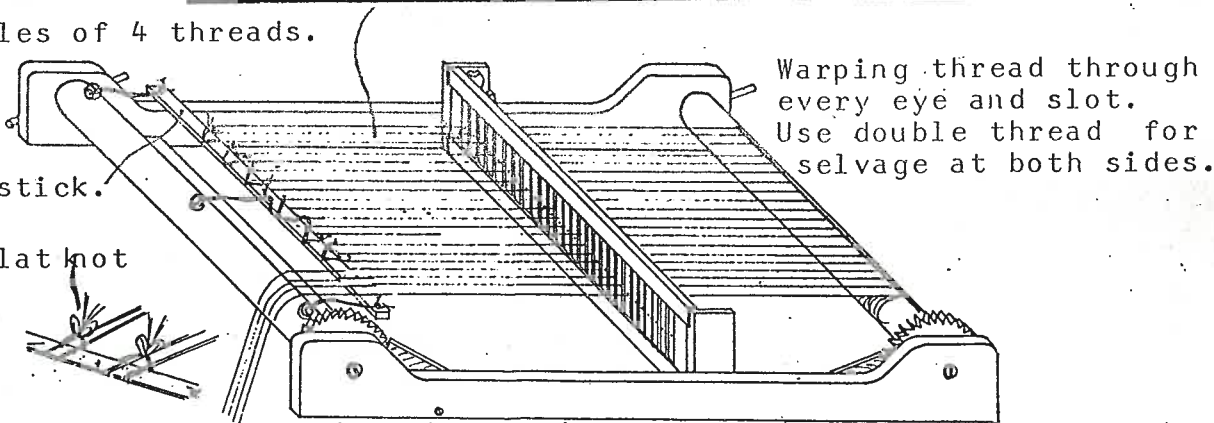
Check that the tension is the same for all bundles. Re-tie all temporary knots with a double knot to prevent slipping.

Warp should be FIRM and EVEN.

Maintain even tension while tying threads.

Tie in bundles of 4 threads.

Front warp-stick.
Reef knot/flat knot



Divide four threads into 2 groups. Place over and under front warp-stick and tie with temporary knot. Retie for even tension on all threads.

WEAVING

(Illustration 4.)

Fill shuttle with weft thread. Use different colours for effect.

First set heddle in front down position. Place and slide filled shuttle through warp shed in front of heddle.

Tuck loose ends of weft around the selvage thread. Slide heddle forward and beat weft thread.

Slide heddle at an angle back to top position.

Slide shuttle through this upper shed. Bring heddle forward and beat woven thread.

Continue alternating heddle from lower to upper position while weaving.

Always beat evenly.

ILLUSTRATION 4. (Weaving)

Slide shuttle filled with weft yarn, through gap between upper & lower warp (shed.)

Turn front handle to wind woven material on to front roller.

Begin weaving with heavy yarn until all warp threads are evenly spaced approx. 4cm or 2 in.

SHED - the gap created between the upper and lower warp through which the shuttle slides.

4
Roll cloth over front roller as the warp is used. Do this by releasing the back roller pawl, and with left hand rotating the front roller handle to wind the cloth forward and over on the front roller. Replace pawl on back ratchet and keep the warp as taut as possible before commencing to weave.

When the warp is woven, cut off ends in pairs and tie against cloth. Roll cloth off loom and tie the other end in same manner.

NOTE - these are very elementary instructions for working the rigid heddle loom.

To be creative and enjoy your loom, read books on the subject. This is a versatile loom - use it to its fullest extent.

"SIMPLE WEAVING" by Joan Fletcher.

77 pages with instructions on Wall-hangings, Cushions, Tapestries, Placemats, Bags, Jackets and Ponchos

Heddle is shown in front lower position. To weave, alternate heddle from front lower to front upper position.

BEATER - the heddle acts as a beater. Slide it forward and use two hands to beat weft thread. Angle heddle backwards when returning it to the upper position.



Fill shuttle as shown by winding thread in a figure of 8 first on one side and then the other, thus preventing bulk of thread and permitting shuttle to pass through a narrow shed.