# WHEELS & LOOMS

# ALTERNATIVE WARPING TECHNIQUE

By using the optional Rigid Heddle Warping Pegs with your loom you can use the indirect warping method. Some benefits of indirect warping are the flexibility to use one thread of one colour, it saves space, ensures even warp lengths and better tension control.

Calculate the length of your warp. Cut a piece of scrap yarn the correct length and use as a guide.





Tie the warp yarn to the start peg with a loop. Wind around the pegs for the required warp length and return following the same path back to the beginning.



When returning back to the start you will be creating a threading cross between the second to last peg spacing. Create this cross by passing the thread up or down in the opposite direction to the previous thread. The threading cross keeps the yarn in the correct order for threading.



When finishing a colour, tie off at the start peg the same way as at the beginning.



If there is just one thread of one colour needed in the design, tie the yarn off at the end peg in the same way as the start. Then begin again from the start peg.



When all the yarn has been wound on, add choke ties to the warp to prevent the threads from tangling. Add a long loose tie through each side of the threading cross. Note: For wide projects wind your warp in two or three separate chains.



Also add tight choke ties at the start and end pegs and at regular intervals along the warp.



Now it is time to chain the warp from the pegs. To remove the warp begin at the end peg. Take your hand through the middle of the loop. Reach for the warp pulling it back through the loop.



Put your hand through the new loop and continue chaining until you get close to the threading cross.



Tie part of the unchained end to the front roller to keep it in place while threading.



Hold the chain near the threading cross and cut the top loops.



Pick up the threading cross and insert your fingers on either side of the cross. Place the reed in the neutral position. Start threading the reed by taking the outer-most warp thread on the cross and thread it through the reed from the front of the loom to the back. Unlike the direct method you thread slots and eyes (not just slots) sequentially.



Take the next thread from the cross through the eye (next to the last slot thread) of the reed.



Continue across all slots and eyes.



Divide the threads into small groups. Take a group of threads over and around the front warp stick. Divide it in two. Tie around the top of the group in a flat SINGLE knot.





Tie the width of the warp in the same way. FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TIE-ON METHOD see our YouTube tutorial "Tying a warp on a Rigid Heddle Loom" https://youtu.be/bnrCoijfZVY



Tie a second knot to secure the warp.



Untie the warp chains from the front roller. Wind the yarn onto the back roller, keep the warp under tension. A friend can help by holding the end of the chain out under tension at the front of the loom.



Insert cardboard warp sticks as you wind, at least one per turn.



Once the warp reaches the front roller. Tie the threads into
small group and leash on the warp to the front warp stick.
See video tutorial on Tying on a warp https://youtu.be/
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Lastly you will need to spread your warp using some scrap

Lastly you will need to spread your warp using some scrap yarn. See video tutorial on Spreading the warp https://youtu.be/A-SW47MtrsQ

Now you are ready to weave!

### **FINISHING**

The woven work should be washed so the threads open up, bloom and fill the spaces to give the fabric a 'finished' look.

### WASHING

Wash the scarf gently in warm water with a little detergent. Push up and down for a minute. Let the soapy water drain away and rinse the scarf in warm, clean water. Hang out to dry. Place the work over a towel so you don't get a fold line on the fabric. While the work is still damp, cover it with a soft cotton cloth and press with a warm iron. Hang again until thoroughly dry. You did it! You can now proudly wear your first handwoven scarf!

## **HELPFUL HINTS**

#### Beating

Always beat gently. Sometimes the work will look a little open. Remember, the work is under tension on the loom and will come together when taken off. Also, the washing process will close the gaps a little.

#### Tension

Do not over-tension your warp. The warp threads only need enough tension applied to hold the reed in the up position. If your reed falls forward when in the up position, increase the tension slightly. If you have difficulty changing the reed to the up or down position, loosen the tension slightly. Over-tensioning the warp will put strain on the yarn, the loom and you!