

# Learn to weave on the Knitters Loom



# Welcome to the wonderful world of weaving ...

## YOUR FIRST PROJECT – A SCARF

### You will need:

A pair of sharp scissors  
A measuring tape  
Cardboard strips 20cm (8ins) wide  
Two tables

### Yarn

For this project we have used Ashford Tekapo, a smooth DK (double knit) sports weight yarn with a slightly textured handspun look, for the warp, and a fancy yarn for the weft.

### Quantity

Ashford Tekapo DK yarn in bright pink – 100gm ball  
Fancy yarn – 100gm balls  
You will not use all of the yarn for this scarf, there will be plenty left over for the next project.

### Warp

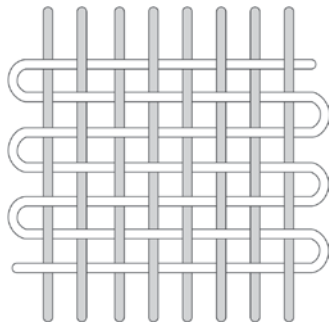
Use Ashford Tekapo throughout  
Length – 1.90m (75ins)  
This length allows 23cm (9ins) at each end for fringe.  
Number of ends – 48  
Finished width – 14cm (5½ins)

### Weft

Weave with fancy yarn throughout.

## WARP & WEFT

These are 2 terms you will need to know as they form the basis of all weaving. The **warp** threads are put onto the loom first. They are held on the loom under tension between the front and back roller. The **weft** threads pass over and under the warp threads to form the woven fabric.



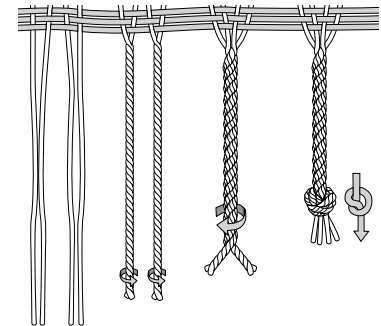
## WARPING OPTION

If you do not have two tables, clamp the loom to one table and place the warp threads around a chair. A straight backed chair works well.

## TWISTED FRINGE

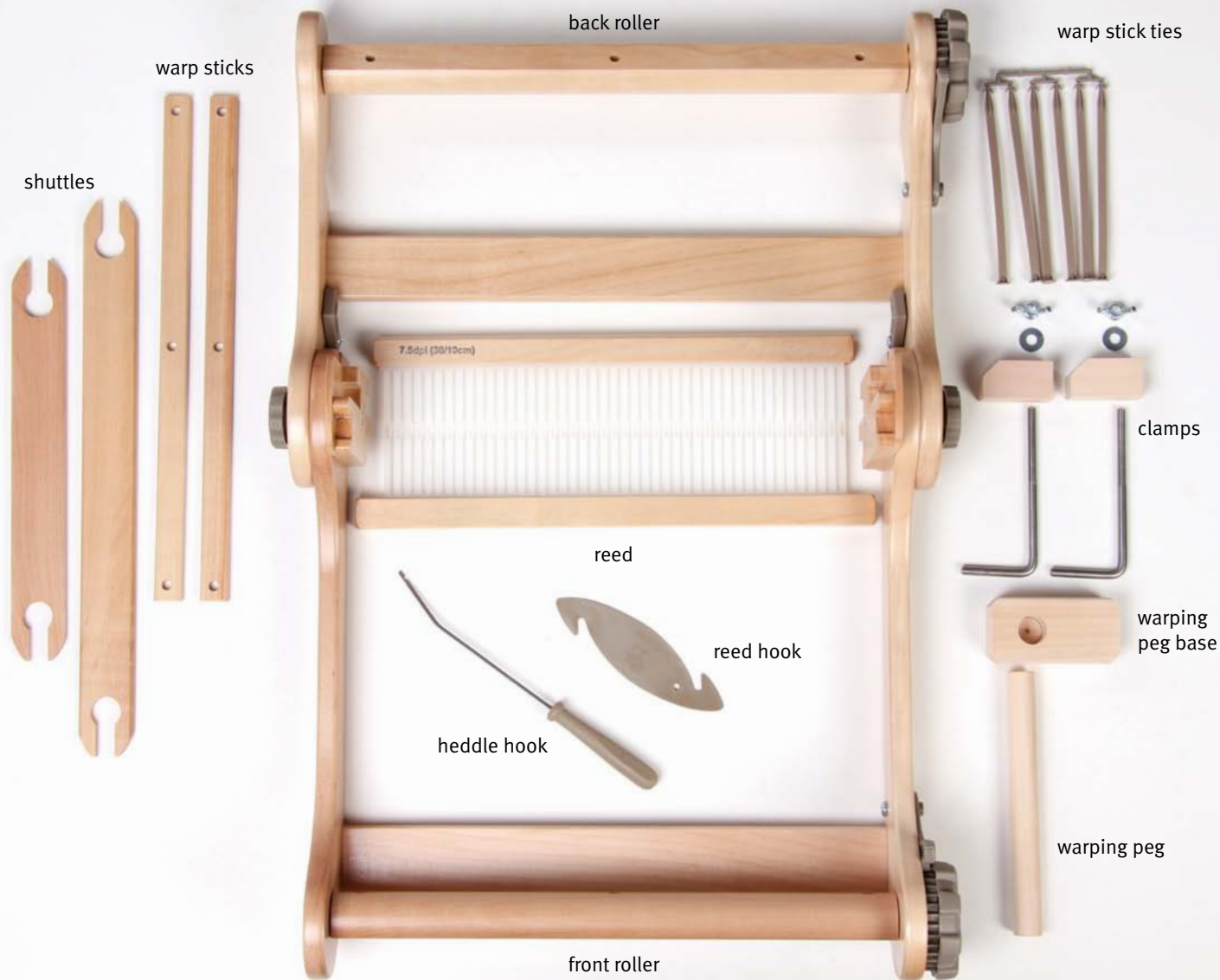
Separate out four threads to be twisted. Divide into two groups and twist both sets of two threads to the right. It is a rolling action between the thumb and first two fingers. Now twist both sets of two together in the opposite direction.

Wind each set over and over until you have the look you want. Experiment. The more twist, the lighter and narrower the cord will be. When you are happy with the look, tie an overhand knot at the end of the fringe to hold the twist in place. When finished all ends you may wish to trim to neaten.



## ACCESSORIES

Reeds with 5, 7.5, 10 and 12.5dpi, 20, 30, 40 and 50/10cm allow you to weave almost any yarn or project.



## THE LOOM

**The reed** has large holes and slots to accommodate fancy yarns. This is used to create the woven fabric and to beat the rows of weaving into place. The warp threads pass through the holes and slots. This reed sets the threads at 30 threads to each 10cm

section of reed or 7.5 threads to 1 inch. **The shuttle** is used to carry the weft yarn from side to side to make the fabric. **The warping tools**, of a warping peg, 2 threading hooks and 2 clamps, are used to thread the warp into the loom.



01



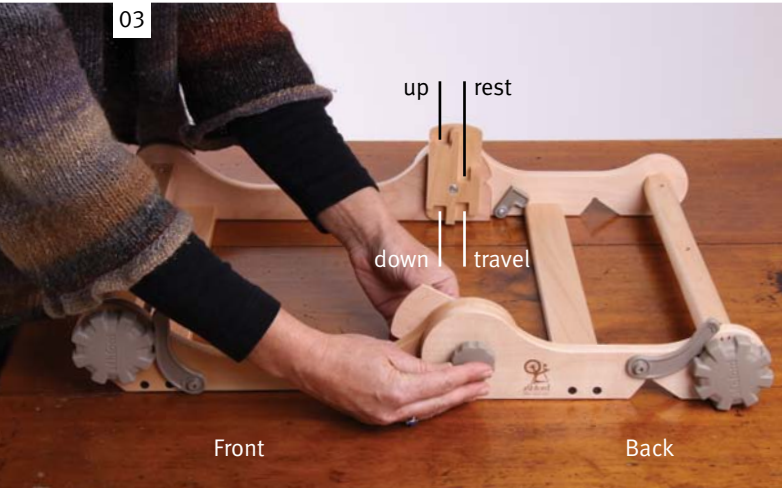
The loom folded.

02



Loosen the side knobs and unfold the loom.

03



Swing the reed support blocks into the upright position. Tighten the side knobs. Note the four positions on the reed support block.

04



Place the reed into the rest position. Make sure the front and back brakes are on. When we say put the brake on, we mean the pawl should be clicked into the ratchet on the handle.



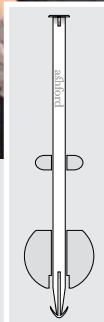
05

Connect the front and back warp sticks to the rollers using the warp stick ties. Firstly push the arrowhead of the nylon ties through the holes in the warp sticks.



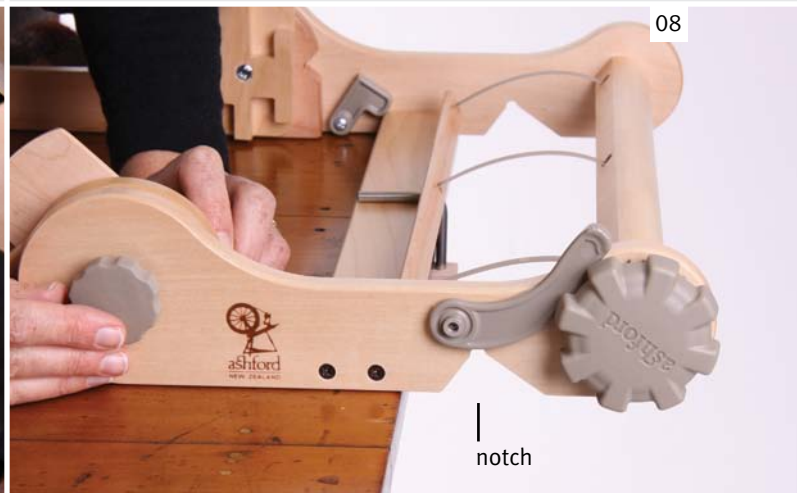
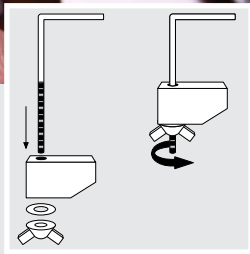
06

Now push the arrowhead ends into the wide flat edge on the back and front rollers.



07

Assemble the clamps. Clamp the back of the loom to the table.



08

The back of the loom has notches in the lower back edge.

notch

09



Insert the warping peg into the base and clamp it to a table.

10



Adjust the tables until the warping peg is 1.90m (75ins) from the back stick on the loom.

11



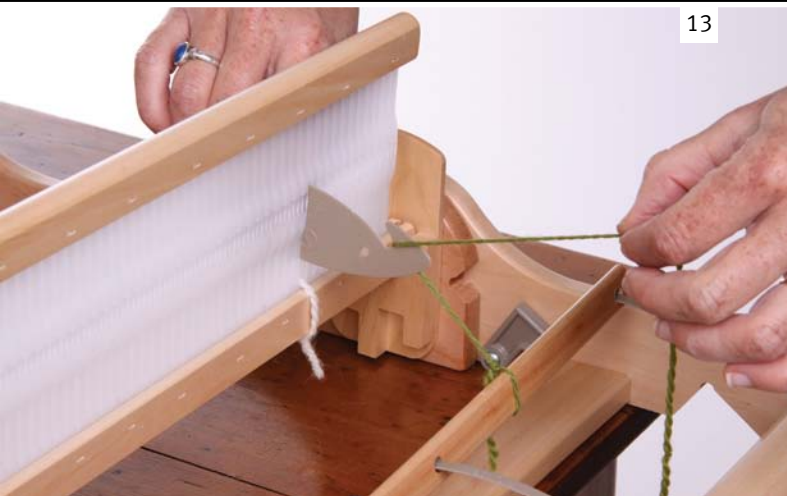
Tie a starter marker to the reed 10 slots from one side.

12



There are 48 warp ends in this scarf. That is 24 double threads that first go through the slots in the reed. Tie the warp yarn to the back warp stick directly behind the starter marker. The back warp stick should be approximately 8cm (3½ins) from the back roller.





13

Take the thread through the first slot with the starter marker in it. Catch the yarn with the reed hook and pull a loop through the slot.



14

Take the yarn to the warping peg and loop it over. The ball of yarn is on the floor.



15

Go to the warp stick again. Take the yarn UNDER the back warp stick and make another loop and pull through the next slot. Place this loop over the warping peg in the same way.



16

Go back to the warp stick again. Take the yarn OVER the back stick, through the next slot and over the warping peg. Continue this way, one thread under, one thread over until you have 24 double loops/threads through the slots (48 ends).



17

Cut the last thread at the back of the loom and tie to the back warp stick.



18

Take a 15cm (6ins) length of yarn. Tie the yarn around all the warp threads in the front of the warping peg. Tie firmly with a knot you can easily undo later.



19

Cut all the threads at the warping peg.



20

Ask a friend to hold the warp ends for you. They must hold the threads at the tie and move forward as you wind the warp on the loom.





21



a. Stand at the back of the loom. Wind the back handle towards you until the back warp stick goes around the roller once. Insert a cardboard warp stick. b. Wind the back handle a little more than one full rotation, insert another cardboard strip. This separates the threads and keeps the tension even. Add more cardboard strips as you go.

22



Stop when the tie your friend is holding is just past the front of the loom. Remove the tie. Do not wind any further!



23



Unclamp the loom from the table. Loosen the side knobs and lift the back of the loom until the 2 L blocks engage. Check that the reed support blocks are upright. Retighten the side knobs.

**BE CAREFUL. DON'T PULL TOO HARD AND BREAK THE THREAD!**

24



Lift the first 2 threads on the left to the top of the slot. Look behind the reed and gently pull the left hand thread out of the slot. The other thread stays in the slot. Use the threading hook to pull this thread through the hole to the left of the slot. Continue across all slots. Now threads are in both holes and slots.

25



Move the loom toward the front of the table. Divide the threads into four groups, 12 threads in each group. Start with a centre group. Take a group of 12 threads over and around the front stick. Divide it in two.

26



Tie in a flat SINGLE knot.

27



Tie the other three groups in the same way. Check the tension. All the threads should be the same. Tighten all the threads by winding the front handle towards you.

28



Adjust the knots until all groups are the same tension.





29

Tie the second half of the knots to secure. Use half a bow tie. You want to be able to undo this knot easily when your scarf is finished.



30

Rest the loom on your knee with the back of the loom against the table.



31

There are 2 weaving positions at the front of the reed support block. First lift the reed into the up position. Insert a cardboard strip or a piece of folded paper into the weaving space. Slide it to the front of the loom.



32

Change the reed to down weaving position. Insert a cardboard strip and slide to the front of the loom. If you want longer tassels repeat, inserting additional cardboard strips.



33



Change the reed to the down weaving position. This makes the second weaving space.

34



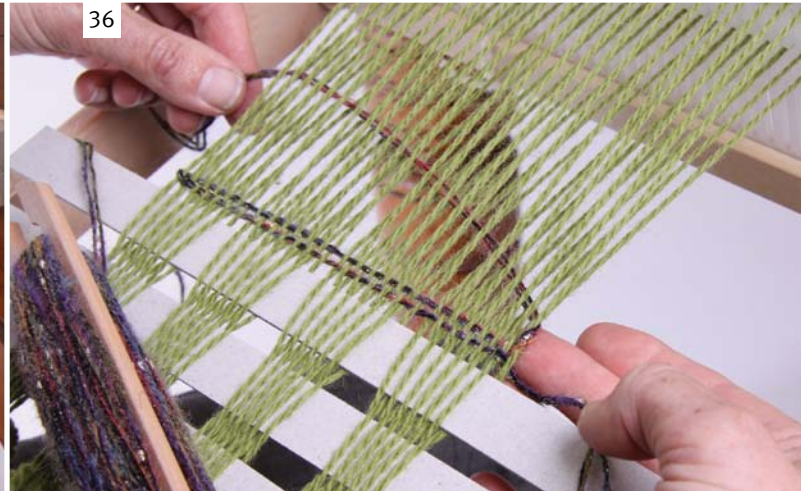
Wind the weft yarn onto the shuttle.

35



a. Take the shuttle and pass it through the weaving space.  
b. Leave the end of the yarn out approx 5cm (2ins).

36



Bring the reed forward and gently push the first row into place. Put the reed into the top position.



Weave another row. Push this row into place with the reed.



BEAT GENTLY! THERE MUST BE A SMALL SPACE BETWEEN THE ROWS.

We need to leave room for the texture on the fancy yarns to open up when the work is off the loom. To keep the edges straight, do not pull the weft thread too tight – pass the shuttle through the weaving space, and leave at an angle of 20 degrees before beating.



Continue weaving until your work is approx 10cm (4ins) from the reed. Now it is time to move the weaving onto the front roller. PLACE THE REED INTO THE REST POSITION. Release the back brake handle and unwind some of the warp.



Turn the front brake handle to wind the weaving onto the front roller. Continue moving the work in this way.





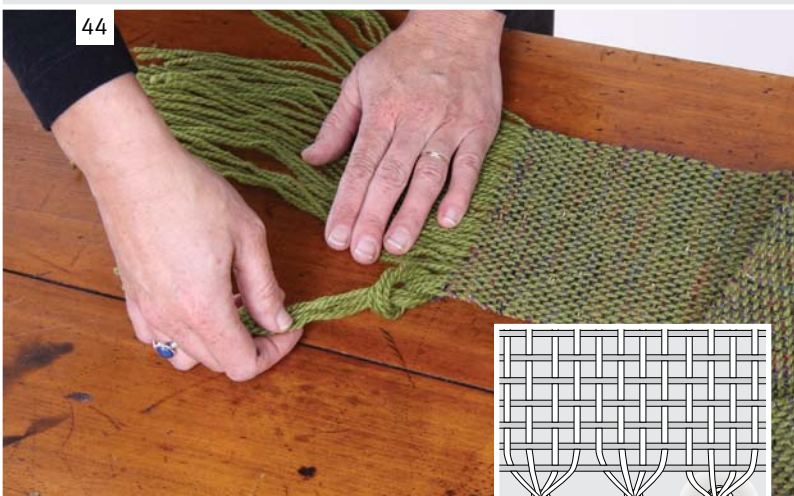
Continue weaving until you are approx 13cm (9ins) from the end of the warp. Cut the weft yarn and leave the end out. Cut the warp yarns along the back stick. Take care not to cut the warp stick ties.



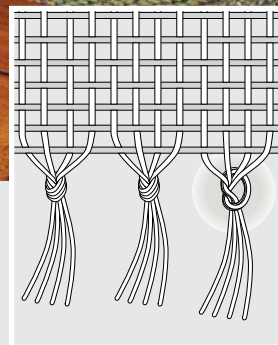
Release the front brake and unwind the weaving from the front roller.



Undo the knots at the front stick and remove the work from the loom. Take out the cardboard strips.



Lay your work on the table and tie the ends in groups of six. Use overhand knots. Darn the end thread into your work using a wool needle.





## FINISHING

The woven work should be washed so the threads open up 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

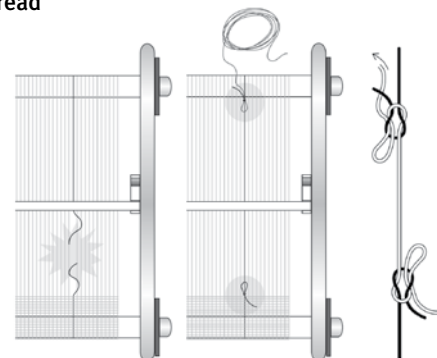
### Tying Knots

When you tie any knot during weaving you will need to undo it again at some stage. Always tie a knot that you can undo easily.

### Beating

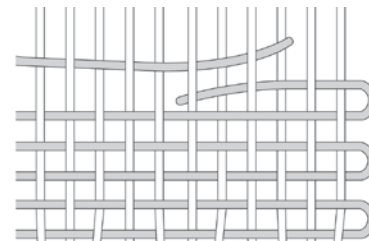
Always beat gently. Sometimes the work will look a little open. Remember, the work is under tension on the loom and will come together when taken off. Also, the washing process will close the gaps a little.

## Fixing a Broken Warp Thread



## Joining a New Thread

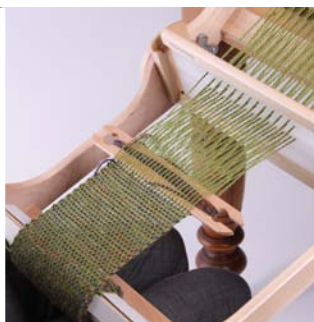
Overlap the last and next thread.



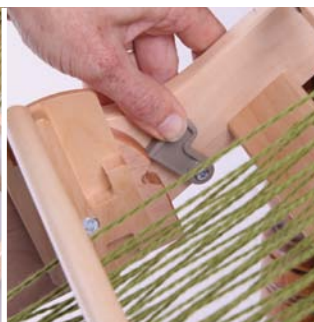
## FOLD AND GO



Put the shuttle into the open shed.



Push the reed down into the travel position. The travel position is at the back of the reed support block.



Loosen the side knobs and disengage the L blocks with your thumbs.



Pull up the back of the loom and bring forward the shuttle until lying flat.



Tighten the side knobs and go!

For more information, helpful hints and inspiration we recommend the Ashford Book of Weaving for Knitters (25 easy and exciting scarf patterns) and the Ashford book of Rigid Heddle Weaving. Both written by Rowena Hart.

**ashford**  
WHEELS & LOOMS

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