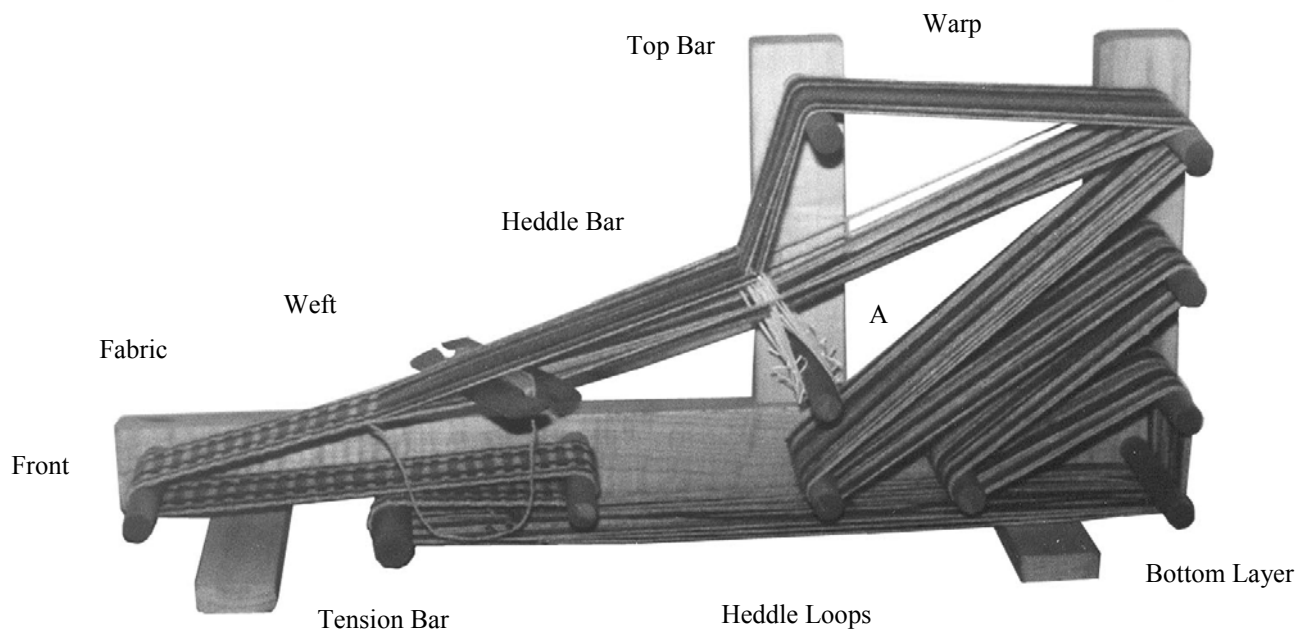


Instructions for the Beka Inkle Loom



Your Beka Inkle Loom comes to you assembled and ready for use. Before warping the loom, you must select your yarn. The warp threads you choose will create your pattern. In a traditional inkle project, you will not see your weft thread in the finished fabric.

Begin by making enough heddles to accommodate one of the two sheds used in inkle weaving (half the total number of warp threads). Use the heddle bar and top bar to measure your double heddle loops. Tie a firm cotton yarn, such as crochet cotton, in loops around the two pegs to make the heddles. Tie these, and all threads, with square knots.

Now place the tension bar about an inch from the front of its slot and tighten it. You are now ready to warp the loom. First tie the end of your warp thread in a temporary slip knot around the front peg. Wind this thread around the loom, using the appropriate pegs for the length of the fabric you wish to make. The path pictured is that taken for the longest band done on this loom.

The first thread you “wind on” goes **under** the top bar. When you wind around the pegs and return to the starting point, untie the beginning slip knot. Tie the end thread to the second thread. Use a square knot to prevent the threads from sliding apart. Continue to wind the thread around the pegs following the same path except that this time you go **over** the top bar. This second thread, and every other even numbered one (2, 4, 6, 8...), has a heddle over it. As you wind the thread onto the loom, attach the heddles by slipping one end of your heddle loop onto the heddle bar, folding the heddle over the proper thread, and slipping the other end over the heddle bar. This gives you a sling that holds each even warp thread, and thus, separates the warp into two sets for weaving. Proceed to warp the loom, placing a heddle over alternating threads which go over the top bar, and **not** putting a heddle on the ones that go under the top bar. Make sure that the knots on the heddle loops themselves are positioned under the heddle bar (Fig. A in the photo).

When you change colors, tie each new thread to the previous one. Your aim is to have a continuous warp, so never tie a thread to a peg. Continue the warping process until you have wound on the number of desired threads, in your chosen color pattern. When you reach the end of your warp, use another square knot to tie it to the previous thread.

Now you are ready to weave. Adjust the tension by moving the tension bar to a position which gives you a good tight warp but does not stretch the thread. Weave as you would weave a tabby, by alternating the two sheds. Raise or lower the set of threads not in heddles by lifting or pressing down with your hand on the threads in the space behind the heddle bar. As you weave, pull each weft thread firmly straight across the warp until all of the warp threads touch each other. Then beat the weft into place with your shuttle, and repeat the process in the next shed. (For a tighter fabric, change sheds before beating the weft yarn into place.)

After you have woven a comfortable distance, you will want to advance the warp. To do this, loosen the tension bar and tip the loom onto its side. Grip the weaving with your left hand, and grip the bottom layer of warp with your right hand. Pull toward yourself with your left hand and push away from yourself with your right hand. Continue this until you have moved the warp the desired distance. You may need to stop during this procedure to push the heddles back, to better allow for the warp to move through them. When you are finished moving the warp, re-tighten the tension bar in the position which gives you a good weaving tension. You can then continue to weave until you need to advance the warp again.

When you have woven all that you can, or all that you desire, simply loosen the tension bar and remove your band by sliding it off the pegs. Cut the remaining warp threads and tie them in sets against the woven area to finish your band, or just weave the weft yarn back through the next to last weft shot position. You can then use your band as a belt, sash or decorative trim in a variety of items.

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