

A warping board is an important accessory for handweavers. It is used to prepare the warp yarn for putting onto a loom. A warping board enables you to handle a very large number of threads of a given length without fear of tangles. This use of a warping board to measure your warp yarn is called winding a warp. You may wind your warp yarn from one continuous strand or you may use several different yarns to wind one warp. In either case, you need a warping board which is suitable for the length of your desired warp. You also need to be able to accommodate the number of threads you want to have. Beka Looms has developed a series of warping boards, which allows you to select the board that is especially suitable for the loom you have, and for the types of projects you prefer.

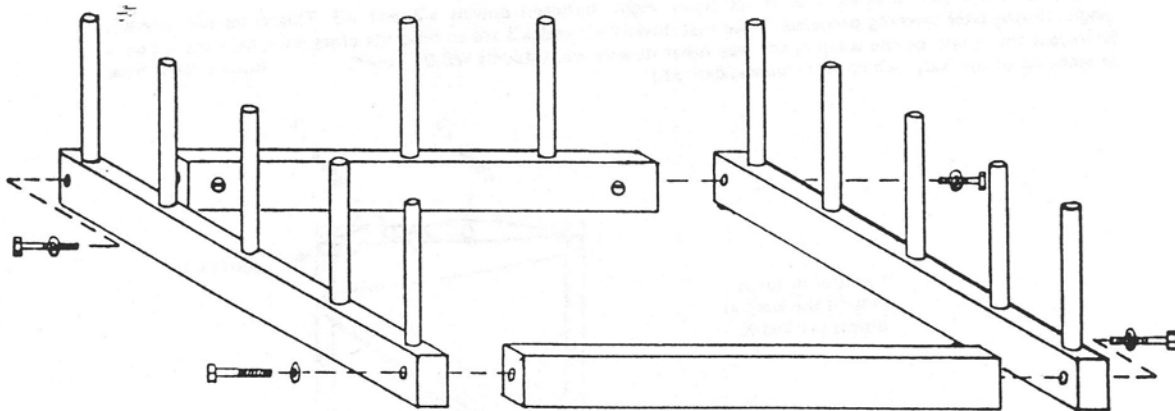
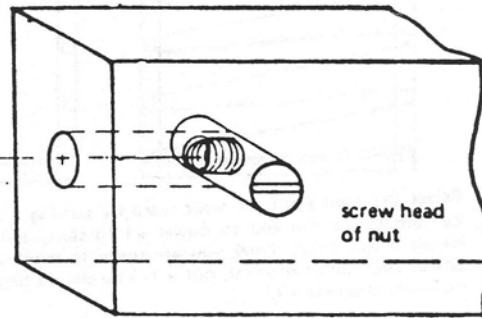
The Beka Warping Board Model WB-4 measures nearly 1/2 yard across. It has been designed for use with small, usually portable looms, such as our SG model looms and our backstrap looms. The capacity of this board is 4 1/2 yards.

The Beka Warping Board Model WB-9 measures nearly 1 yard across, and so has a nine yard warp capacity. It has been designed for use with our RL model looms and most small harness looms. It is large enough for most of the projects handweavers normally do.

Before proceeding you must insert the barrel nuts into the holes provided. The four barrel nuts go into the four holes which are drilled into the inside edges of the top and bottom pieces of your warping board. Simply position each barrel nut so that the screw end is up, and push it into the hole. You should line up the screw slot with the hole for the connector bolt which will be used later.

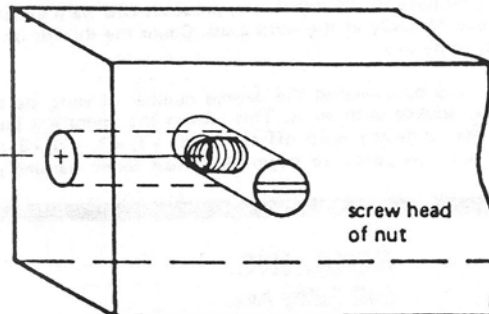
Note: The barrel nut goes in the hole which is in the side of the top and bottom piece.

detail of barrel nut in end of top piece

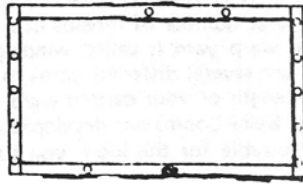


Assemble the warping board as illustrated above. Each bolt should pass through a washer, and then through the side piece of the board, before being screwed into the top or bottom piece. The top and bottom pieces are equipped with a barrel nut, which the bolts are screwed into. In the event that a bolt will not screw into a barrel nut, use a screw driver to turn the nut until it's hole is in line with the bolt hole. (The screw head that you see on the inside edge of the top and bottom pieces is for this barrel nut adjustment.)

detail of barrel nut in end of top piece



To tighten the bolts, use one of the following, in this order of preference: a 7/16" wrench, an adjustable wrench, vise grips, or regular pliers.



WB-9

To use a warping board, place it in a sturdy position. The WB-4 will usually be comfortable on the floor, leaning against a chair or table. The larger boards are often easier to use if they are hung on a wall (though this is not essential).

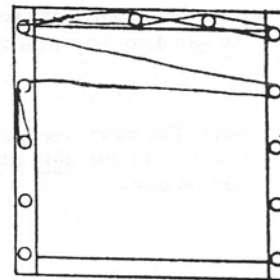
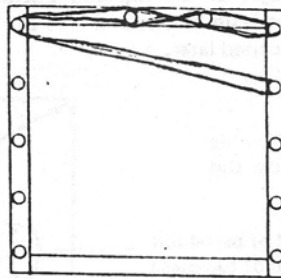
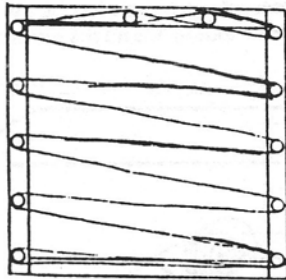
To use your board, first calculate the length and number of threads in your warp. Then follow these basic steps (illustrated with a WB-4). Picture the variety of lengths which you can obtain by crossing the board. Each time across is  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard, and each peg is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart.

$\frac{4}{5}$  yard warp

1 yard warp

1 and  $\frac{2}{3}$  yard warp

WB-4

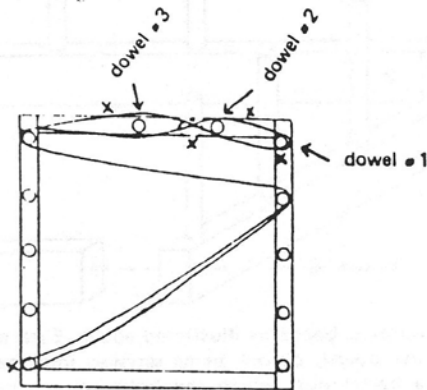


Select the right path for your warp by cutting a piece of chord the desired length, and trying different paths. Be sure to tie the end to dowel #1 to start, and select a length which is as close to perfect as possible—but longer if not exact. Now you are ready to wind your warp. Begin by tying the end of your yarn to the last dowel your chord reached, not #1. You should begin and end any yarns used at the last dowel, so that there are no knots at dowel #1.)

Wind your warp yarn making a cross, or figure eight, between dowels #2 and #3. This cross will prevent tangles during later warping processes. Note that dowels #2 and #3 are to hold the cross only; they are not used to increase the length of the warp in the way other dowels are. (Models WB-9 has dowels for a cross at each end of the warp, which is sometimes desired.)

tie securing loops around the warp at points marked X

tie warp on at last dowel used



Notice that a complete circuit of the path from the last dowel, where you tied the first thread, to dowel #1 and then back to the last dowel, produces two warp threads (called warp ends). The number of ends you have can be counted easily at the warp cross. Count the threads on one side of dowel #2, where the warp is separated, and multiply by two.

When you have wound the desired number of ends, tie the last thread to the last dowel. Now tie loops at the places, marked with an X. This secures the important points before the warp is removed from the board. Now you may slide the warp off of dowels #1, #2, and #3, placing the cross in the palm of your hand (as shown). You are now ready to begin the actual loom warping process suggested by the manufacturer of your loom.

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