

Straw or Stick Weaving



Our weaving loom consists of reinforced paper straws cut in half with string loops on which to attach the warp. By holding the straws parallel in our hand, we form a loom ready to weave.

String loops make threading our warp a breeze. They can also let us attach multiple threads to each straw. For instance, a sturdy yarn can be strung along with a decorative thread to add support to the warp. Do note however that this weaving method produces a weft-faced weave, meaning the warp is completely covered by the weft. Warp threads show themselves only at the ends (In the picture at right, the white [warp] ties were completely hidden in the bracelet by the blue weft yarn.)



The width of our weaving is determined by the number of straws we use as well as the straw diameter — not the thickness of the warp threads.

Warp — Lengthwise, parallel threads on which we weave.

Weft — Crosswise threads which are moved in and out of the warp threads.

Mnemonic: Weft rhymes with left. Goes left to right across the fabric. WARP goes vertically top to bottom.

Warping

Warp threads are always twice the length of the finished piece plus 10 to 12 inches extra at each end for finishing. For example, a bracelet woven to a 7" length requires cutting a warp 134" long yarn for each straw ($7'' \text{ weave length} + 10'' \text{ end} = 17'' \times 2 = 34''$). Insert warps through straw loops and even out the ends.

Weaving

Hold straws parallel to each other in one hand letting them fan out at the top. You will likely be most comfortable holding the straws with your non-dominant hand.

Pick up weft yarn with your other [weaving/dominant] hand. Hold a 2" tail under the thumb of your straw-holding hand then begin to weave in and out across the straws. Do not pull tightly. After weaving several rows, you can let go of the yarn tail. Let it hang loose. It will be hidden when we finish weaving.

As straws become filled, move weaving down onto the warp threads by gently twisting upward on one straw at a time. Note: Try to leave a few rows of weaving on the straws to keep them together.

Continue to weave changing colors as desired by cutting old yarn and adding new, using your thumb to keep ends in place.

Finishing

After reaching your desired length, cut weft yarn and lay weaving on a flat surface. Gently pull each straw and move weaving to the middle of warp. Let all yarn ends remain hanging loose. Carefully cut the warp threads where they hang over the straw loops.

Adjust the density and length of your piece as desired. Now secure the piece by tying adjacent columns of warp ends together. Lastly, bury weft yarn ends inside the warp using a yarn needle or crochet hook.

Remaining yarn tails can be left loose as a fringe, or braided beaded and knotted together for a bracelet necklace headband or other circular piece.

Embellish with buttons or charms and wear with pride. Make another for a friend.