

Instructions for weaving on the Hideaway Rectangle Loom - Right Return Continuous Strand Method

The scarf on the right was woven on a Hideaway rectangle loom 10 inches wide set at a length 4 times that width or about 40 inches. The finished scarf is about 46 inches long plus the fringe. Scarf finished width is about 8 inches. This type of weaving produces bias fabric that stretches in length. The thinner the yarn in relation to the pin spacing, the more the length stretches when taken off the loom. Fabric characteristics can be modified by choosing different yarn.

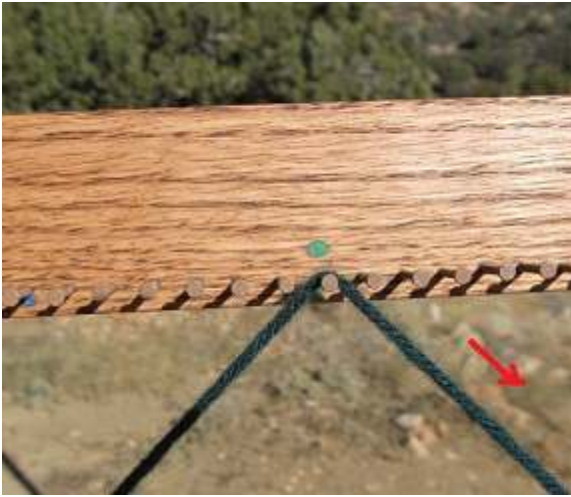
www.rectangleloom.info



Start in the upper left corner. "S" marks the start pin. The marks for turning the yarn and the marks for the rectangle corners are designed for starting here. Use a slip knot for the start, leave a long end for tying in or using it as a fringe. Start to zig zag your first yarn by going down and to the right.



The colored-coded marks for turning the first strand are *outside* the pins of the rectangle. Round green dot shown here is the color code for this width. Turn back up and to the right.



Again turn the yarn down and to the right.



Then back up and to the right.

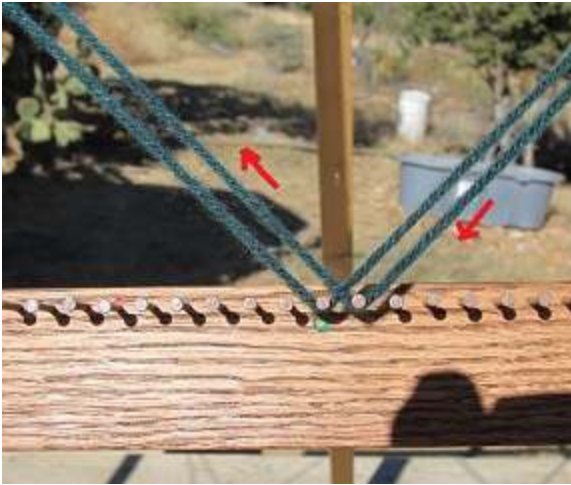


After zig-zagging to the right, you end up at the upper right corner on this setting which is for a rectangle length 4 times width. Turn 180 degrees (clockwise in this case) back down your yarn path so that you are returning parallel on the right side of your first strand. You can see how the green marks line up to assemble the movable rail in the correct position.



This shows how you turn back at the corner of a rectangle with an odd-number of squares (multiples of width). You turn back 180 degrees so that your returning strand is on the right of the first strand. For the odd-numbered (I.E. 3 or 5 times width) rectangles only, you can go around 2 pins at the corner as shown here to make the final weaving path perfect.

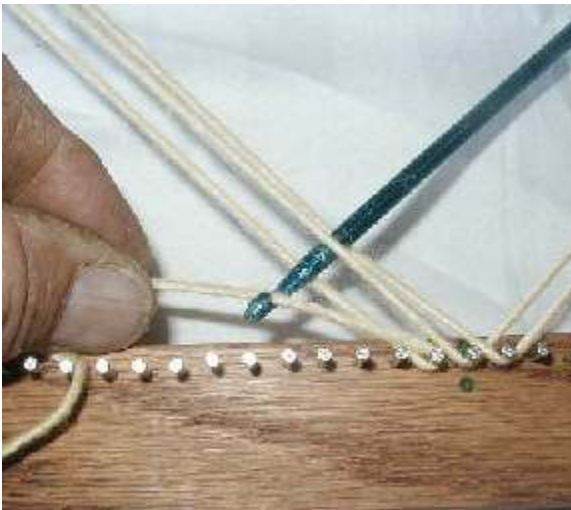
Regardless of how many multiples of the width in the rectangle length; return to the starting corner, turning the yarn on a pin next to where you turned the first strand. Stay parallel to the first strand. This returning strand is always on the right of the first strand.



This returning strand is always on the right side. Even though all this yarn is at a 45 degree angle, the description 'right-return' is a good way to put it. You may hear of a method that returns on the left, this right-return method is better.



Now back at the starting corner, cross over and go around the next empty pin on the left end of the rectangle, marked here in red. This pin is the end of the first loop. Now you are ready to weave, starting down at the lower right.



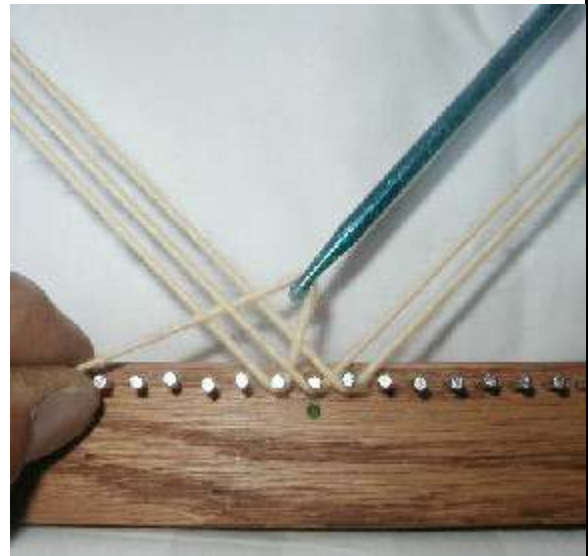
This is how the actual weaving is done. Go around the next empty pin and grab the yarn *after* it has gone around the pin. Weave this way each time. You can see the marked turning point that you followed on the initial strand. Some of these photos show an older loom model.



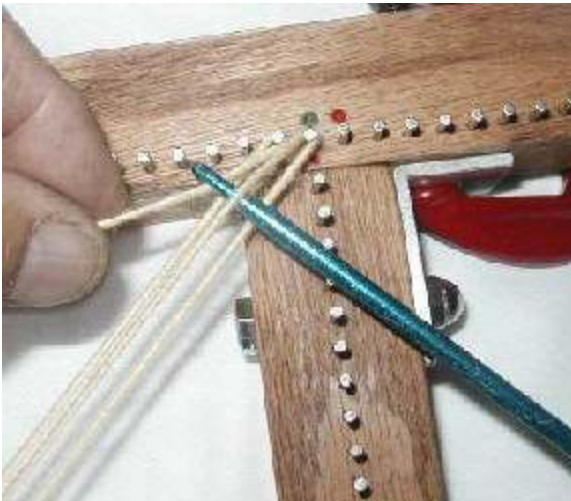
Here you have pulled the loop through the first set of 'warps'. You can see the yarn trail starting here. It will trail through all squares and be put in place on the way back.



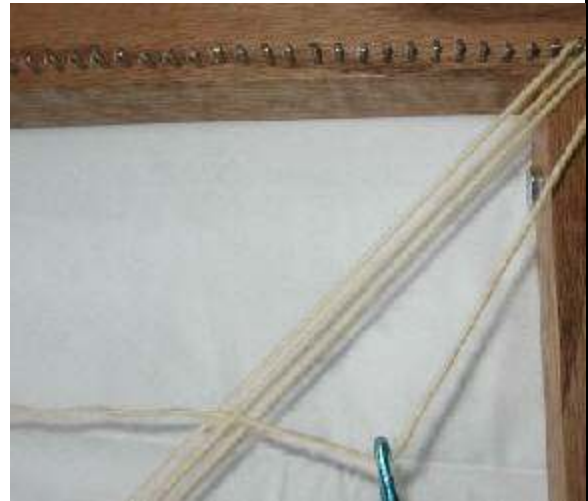
The hook is woven through the second set of 'warps' and the yarn is pulled into the next square. You could just finger weave at first, but later the hook is necessary.



Third square. Try to weave as loosely as possible. Later on it will all get much tighter. This loom has colored marks for rectangle corners and turning points.



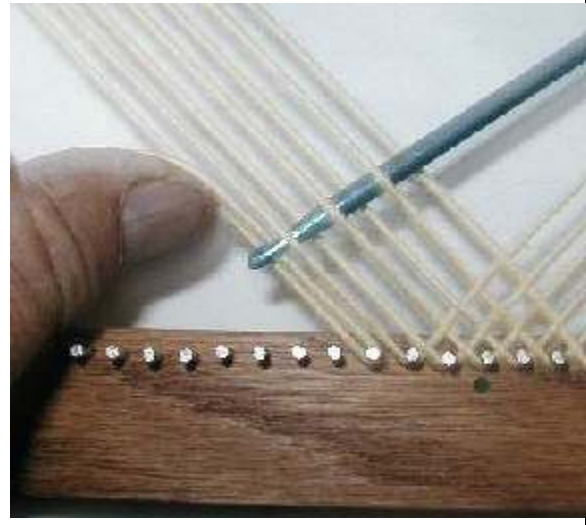
Fourth and last square. The yarn will catch the next empty pin down from the corner. The yarn trail now runs the length of the rectangle and is pre-woven through all the 'warps' in all the squares. This modular end rail is clamped in place, new models fasten with bolts.



You now work your way back, placing the yarn trail on the next empty pin at each turn. Take out the slack as you go. Each place the trail crosses other strands is pre-woven. Always keep the new strand parallel.



After stringing the yarn trail in its return path, you end up back at the left end of the rectangle. This loop is now completed. Each loop interlocks the last. Only the starting end and the finishing end need to be tied in.



Starting a weaving loop a little later on. In this method of continuous strand weaving, the hook starts out its over-and-under path to reach for the yarn the same way each time you weave. It gets to be routine, you don't have to think about whether you go under or over first.



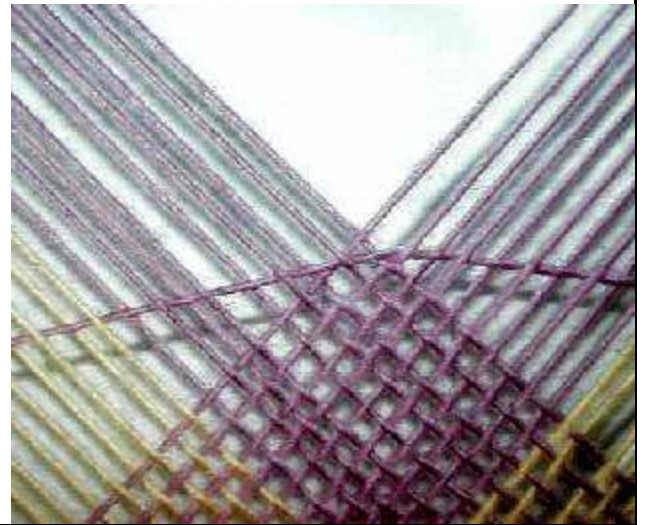
This left end is where color or yarn changes can take place. The knot is at the outside of the pin. I plan to do 20 loops of the new color. The first color was 10 loops, which made a band of 20 strands. The last band of color will be 19 strands due to the final single strand. The plan is first do $\frac{1}{4}$ of width, then $\frac{2}{4}$, then $\frac{1}{4}$.



I push down every other strand while weaving the hook.



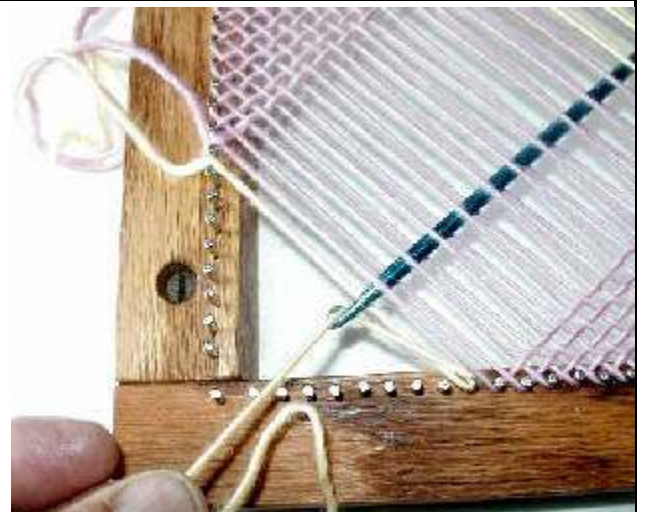
I did this project using the hook as a beater to straighten out the weaving as I went along. A weaving comb or hair pick works better.



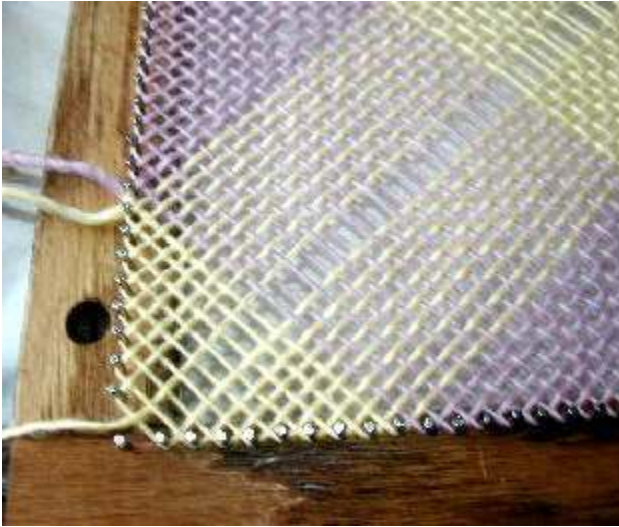
To avoid pulling the trailing yarn into the woven peaks... like this,



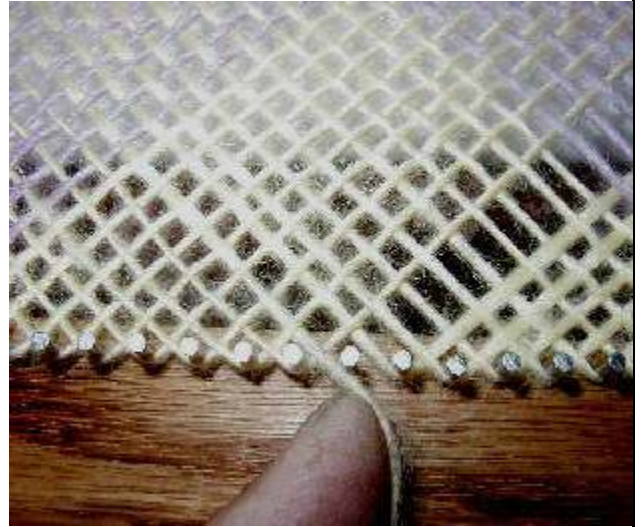
keep lots of slack pulled, and use the empty pin areas to turn the yarn away from where it will bind.



Starting a loop after the final color change. By this point, the hook will not reach all the way through the warps. Pull the loop through in stages.



Here the final complete loop has been completed, only one single strand to go. There is a path for this strand and an empty pin at each turning point for it to turn on. You will only have the starting and finishing ends to tie into a cross-strand to have all the weaving edges completely secured.



The final strand partly woven. See the empty pin along the side where the strand will turn. Before I cut the strand from the ball of yarn, I laid out the yarn down its path to see how much was needed. If you still have empty pins or not enough pins, examine the pins to see if you have doubled up on a pin or skipped one.



A better way to tie fringe. Use equal lengths of yarn to loop and tie this way. Shouldn't have to trim the fringe this way, except for the places where you made a yarn change and left extra yarn when you tied the knot. Photo is of triloom, recloom works the same.



Taking a weaving off the loom. Once you have lifted 1 or 2 sides off the pins, the remainder pulls off easily.

7. Other Weaving Methods

The Hideaway Modular Rectangle Loom has rectangle corner settings and turning points designed for the my continuous yarn weaving method (right-return). Because of these scientifically designed settings, you do not end up with extra or missing pins for the last weaving strand. With this right-return method, you do not have to watch how you twist the loop each time you come into a square. So less chance of having multiple weaving flaws.

If you weave a left-return method on a Hideaway loom, you will have an extra pin or two when finished but that is better than not enough pins. Just as with triangle loom continuous yarn weaving, rectangle continuous yarn weaving is just a series of interlocking loops plus a last single strand. The pins hold the yarn in place until the weaving is completed. If there are extra pins in your loom it won't change the outcome in the long run when the new fabric is taken off. But you will have to spend some time working to straighten out the weaving before taking it off the loom. Not enough pins will make the weaving more difficult than necessary near the end of the project.

The scarf in photo below was woven with that left-return method on a rectangle loom I designed for that method. I did not have to re-arrange the weaving before taking it off as you would have to do with a widely sold loom, using the left-return weaving method that is promoted with their loom. That is because I had a setting on that loom that was one pin shorter than my regular Hideaway pin arrangement. To keep it simple, I now make my rectangle looms with just the settings for the right-return continuous strand weaving explained in this flyer.

It is the pin arrangement on a rectangle loom that allows for a perfect outcome, not necessarily the weaving method.

Any other continuous yarn weaving method would work well on a Hideaway Modular Rectangle Loom, if the loom is designed for that method. Scarf at right woven using the left-return method. I could make a model that has holes for setting the loom rectangles one pin shorter for a better result for the left return method. It is simpler to just to promote the weaving method shown in this flyer and stick with it.

The right return Continuous Strand Weaving Method described herein may not necessarily improve your results with other loom brands, as it is the arrangement of the pins that determines the 'perfect' outcome.



NOTE

If you weave a rectangle length with an odd multiple of widths, you will end up with an extra pin in that last 'square'. That will not be the perfect outcome as with an even number of widths. Refer to the last photo on page 2 to remedy this.

Warp and Weft weaving on the Hideaway Modular Rectangle Loom

This loom is useful for warp and weft weaving also. In this weaving method, any width to length ratio works. The warp can be made by stringing the yarn back and forth lengthwise. Then the weft can be woven in with a shuttle, using a shed stick and heddle stick with loops. Because each weft yarn turns around a side pin, you get perfectly straight sides. If you start part way up the loom, the un-used warp can become the fringe for that end and the weaving can be stopped short of the far end so that warp can become the fringe for that end. These photos show a plain solid weave but you can make patterns with color changes. This prototype loom had a pin spacing of 3/8 inch.



I started 6-8 inches from one end. Prior to taking the scarf off the loom, tie off each long end to make a fringe. The finishing end of the weaving gets very tight for the shuttle, so 8 inches is probably better. The black split tubes have been placed over the pins to smooth the path for the shuttle. This type of weaving makes a non-bias fabric.



This is about the last pass with the shuttle. Here you can see the heddle rod that holds a string loop lifting every other strand. A shed stick can be seen that has been inserted and turned on edge to hold open the shed for the shuttle. There is another shed stick that stays in place on the far side of the string heddles to open alternate sheds.