

Family Art from Home

No Yarn Required

by Ophelia Cornet

This weaving project uses common materials found around the home. Use unexpected materials to create a unique necklace or art weaving to hang on your wall.

"Weaving involves crossing two threads, the warp and the weft, one vertical and the other horizontal, one stretched taut and the other undulating and intertwined with the first. To produce the textile it is necessary for these two threads to be bound, otherwise each will remain a fragile and fluttering potentiality...if the meeting of opposites does not take place, nothing is created, for each element is defined by its opposite and takes its meaning from it."

–Dario Valcarengi, Kilim History and Symbols, as quoted in ZATI The Art of Weaving a Life

Supplies Needed

LOOM

- cardboard
- glue
- tape
- string or yarn for the WARP (Vertical thread)

WEAVING MATERIAL

- Any of the following for the WEFT (Horizontal thread)
- yarn
- string
- ribbon,
- sturdy grasses
- plastic bags
- pipe cleaners
- strips of fabric, etc.
- needle (optional)

TO FINISH AND/OR MAKE A NECKLACE

- cardstock
- hot glue
- yarn



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MAKE THE LOOM

1. Cut cardboard into a rectangle of desired size (example: 3 x 5). A smaller size will work well for a necklace and larger size for a piece of art to hang up, but experiment! Glue a few layers of cardboard strips near the top and bottom to facilitate weaving later on.
2. To create your WARP (vertical thread), make evenly-spaced snips into the loom along the top and bottom, stopping at the cardboard strips you have glued down.
3. Take the yarn that you are using for the WARP (Vertical thread) and tape one end to the back of your loom. Thread the yarn down and all the way around across the front and back of the loom until all of the tabs you cut at the top and bottom are used. Trim the string an inch from the last tab and tape the end to the back as you did with the other end.

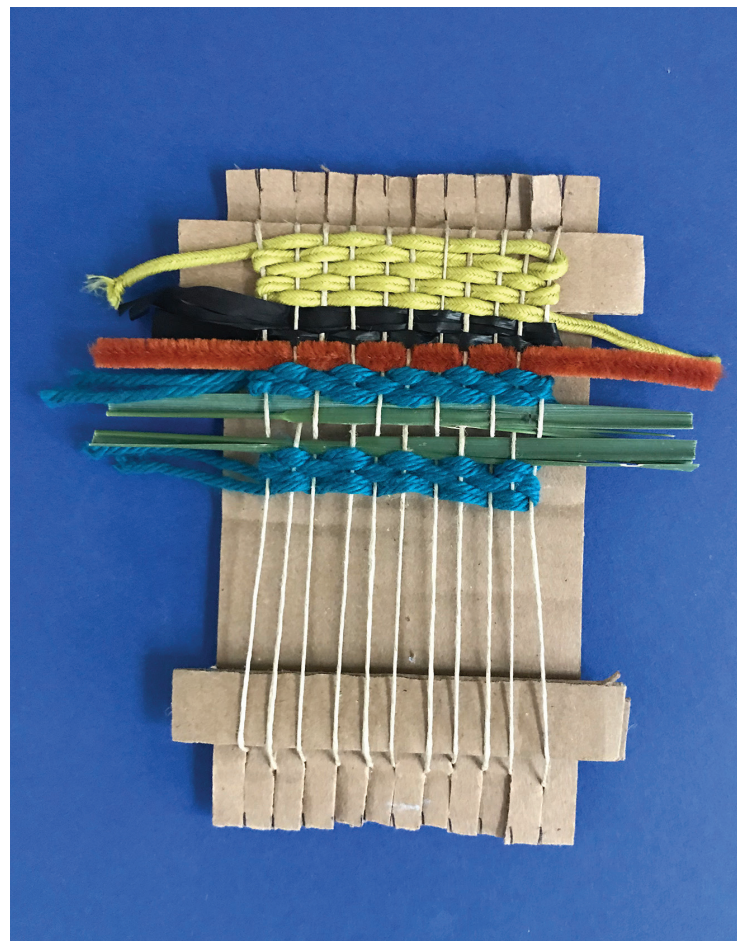
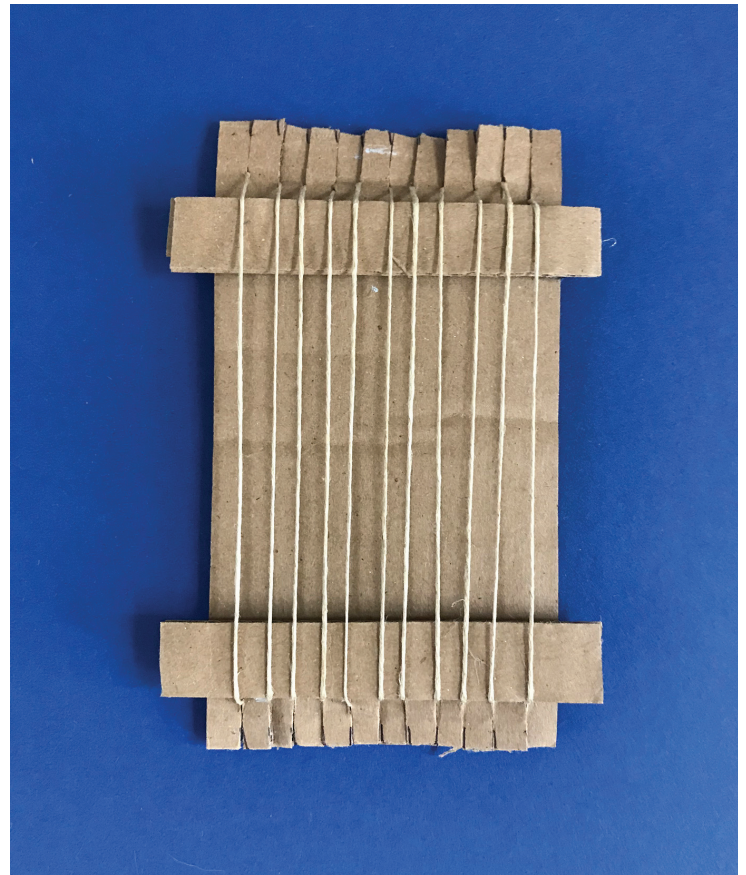
WEAVE

4. Now you are ready to weave! If you do not have a weaving needle, cover the end of your weaving material with masking tape so that it is rigid when you pull it through.

Begin to weave the WEFT (horizontal thread) under the first WARP (vertical) on the left and over the second and under the third and so on until you reach the end to the right. Pull material through, but not all the way. Leave about an inch of material loose at the start.

Repeat in the opposite direction going towards the left. The WARP (vertical thread) that you went over will now be the one you go under, and vice-versa. Continue back and forth across the loom until you want to change your color or material. Gently scrunch your weaving up until it is tightly held snug against the top bar. Make sure not to pull your material so tightly that the weaving gets narrower in the center, and try to maintain the rectangular shape.

5. When you are ready to change colors, simply cut your material when you have woven to one of the edges, leaving that one-inch tail on the finished row. Repeat the process, with your new material or color following the same pattern. If your first yarn finished left-to-right and your last motion was to go under the last WARP thread, start right-to-left and begin by bringing your material over that same WARP thread. String beads or buttons as you go to create a face or a design of your choosing.



FINISHING YOUR WEAVING

6. Make certain that your rows have been snugly pushed against each other in order to have a tight weave. Turn your loom over and cut across the WARP (vertical threads) in the middle. Then turn your loom back to the front and tie each pair of the WARP yarns to each other 2 by 2. If you have an odd number of WARP threads, you can tie 3 into a knot. Tie gently as not to distort the shape.

7. Trace your weaving onto cardstock or a thick piece of paper and cut it out. Use hot glue to attach the back of your loom to the paper, tucking in all of your loose strings as you go (both WARP and WEFT tails). This is a simple way to deal with strings hanging off your weaving especially if you don't have a needle. Attach a long string to the top corners and a fringe of short yarn pieces glued to the bottom if you would like to make a necklace!

