



Bracelet Weaving

A simple introduction to weaving.

Project Type: Creative Tactile

Group/Individual: Individual

Lesson Plan Audience: Maker Mentor, Maker

Time: 1-2 hrs.

Hard Skills: Weaving

Soft Skills: Design concepts, Resilience and patience

Ideal # of Participants: 1-7

Age Group: 7 and up

Ideas for Taking it Further: Weave longer and bigger objects. Experiment with weaving different fabrics and materials- pipe cleaners, foam, paper, plastic strips, LEDs. Build bigger looms out of cardboard, or make a gigantic loom out of a clothing rack, to weave rugs and tapestries. Make a shuttle and heddle out of cardboard (two tools which will make weaving go faster).

Difficulties/Tips: This activity requires making a loom out of cardboard before you start weaving. Younger kids may require assistance with this. Although these instructions are fairly thorough, learning to weave is easier when somebody shows you how it's done. Watching [this video](#) may help you get the hang of it. I've found that even kids under 7 can pick up weaving quickly once a mentor has gotten them started.



Materials:

Stiff cardboard

Scissors

Ruler

Pencil

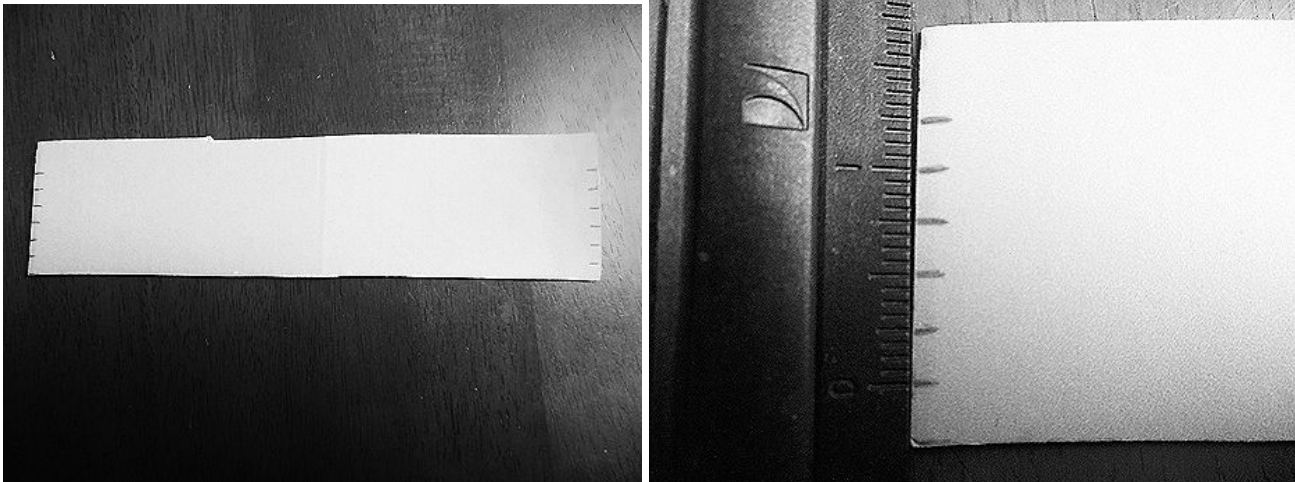
Yarn (strong materials like acrylic and wool are good for the warp, any kind is good for the weft)

Preparation:

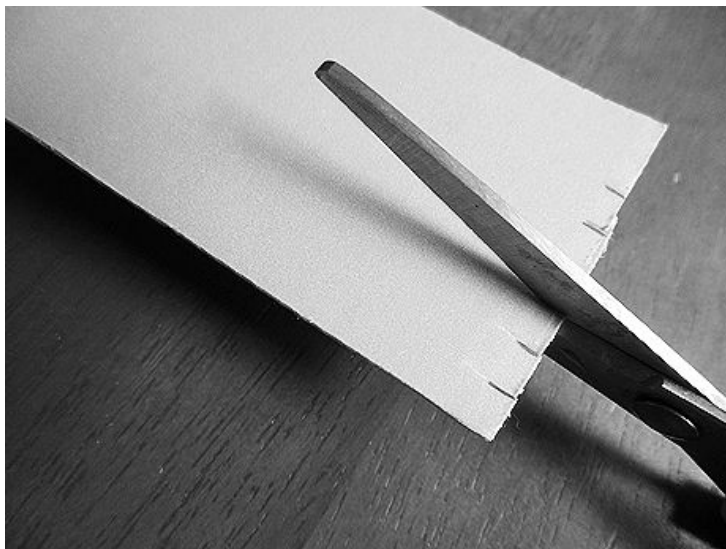
Younger kids may need to have a loom prepared for them. Its also helpful to have a finished bracelet to show to the participants before you start.

Steps:**Building your loom:**

1. Cut cardboard into a 2 in. x 8 in. rectangle
2. Make six marks along the 2in. sides of the rectangle. Each mark should be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart.

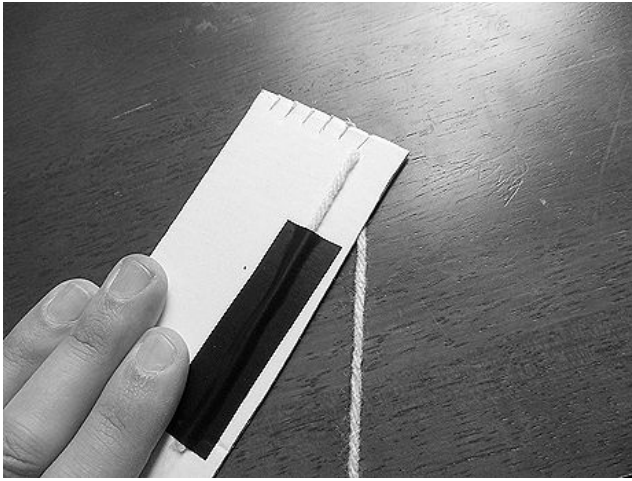


3. Take your scissors and cut small $\frac{1}{2}$ inch slits into the cardboard at each of the 12 marks.

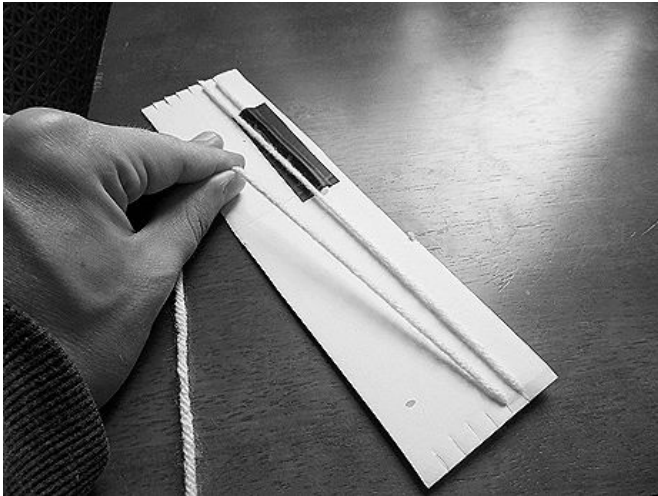


4. Cut a piece of yarn to roughly 90 in.

5. Tape one end of the yarn to the cardboard and pull the rest through the first slit.

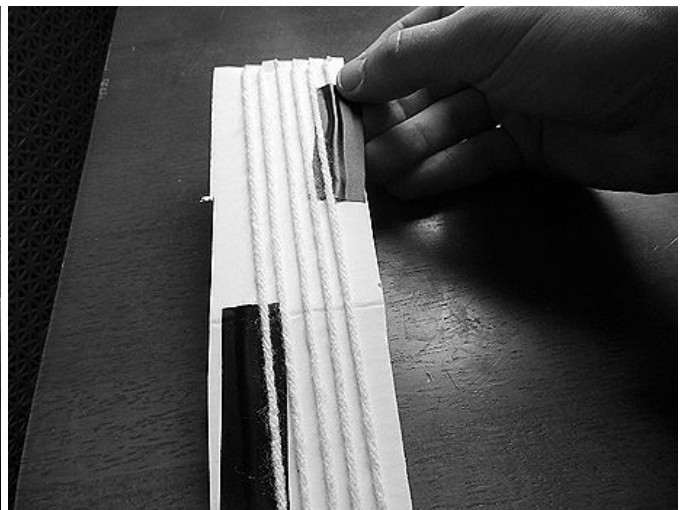
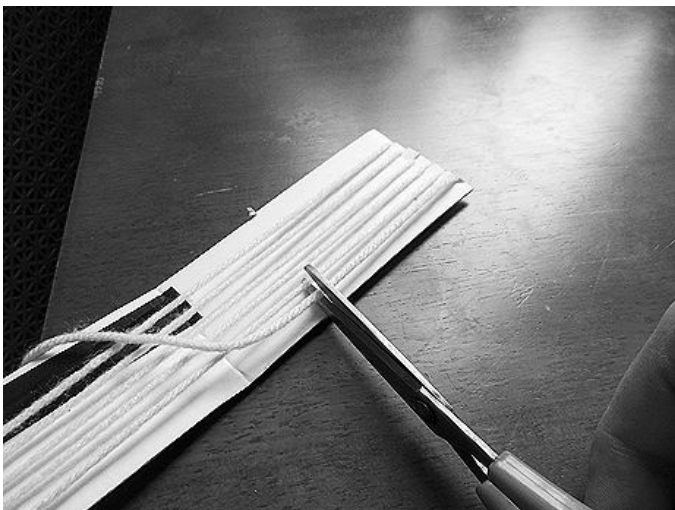


6. Wrap the piece of yarn around your cardboard, making sure it goes into the slits.



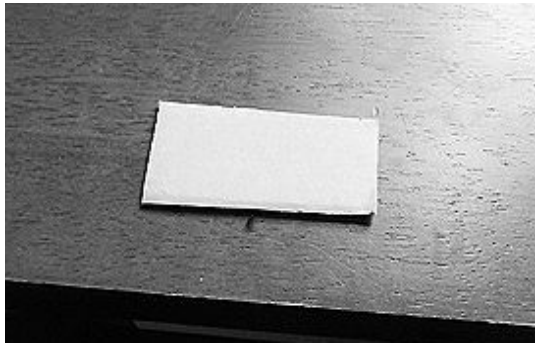
7. Make sure one side of the loom has six pieces of yarn running the entire length of the cardboard. These 6 pieces are called the warp.

8. Cut the excess yarn and tape down the end tightly on the other side of the loom.

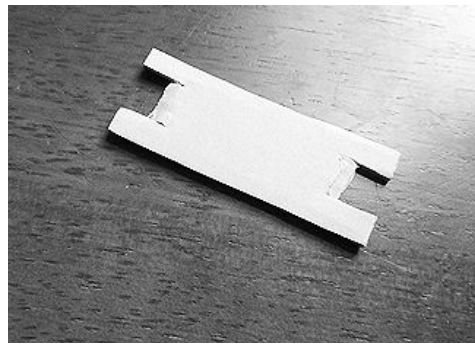


Making the Shuttle and Heddle:

1. Cut out a rectangle of cardboard roughly 2 in. x 1 in. This is the heddle



Heddle



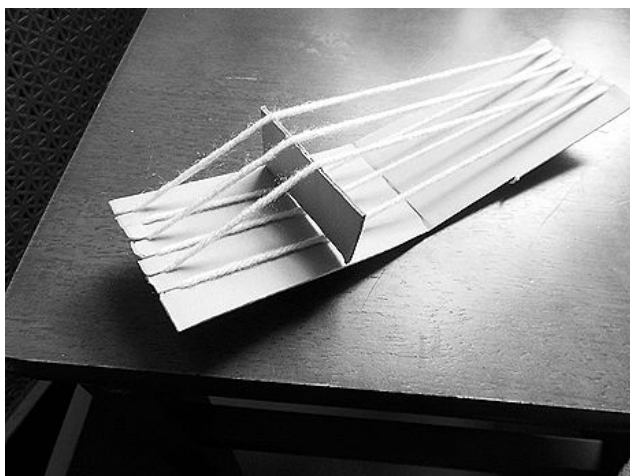
Shuttle

2. Cut out another rectangle of roughly the same size. Cut out two small openings at the sides of the rectangle to make a razor blade-like shape. This is the shuttle.

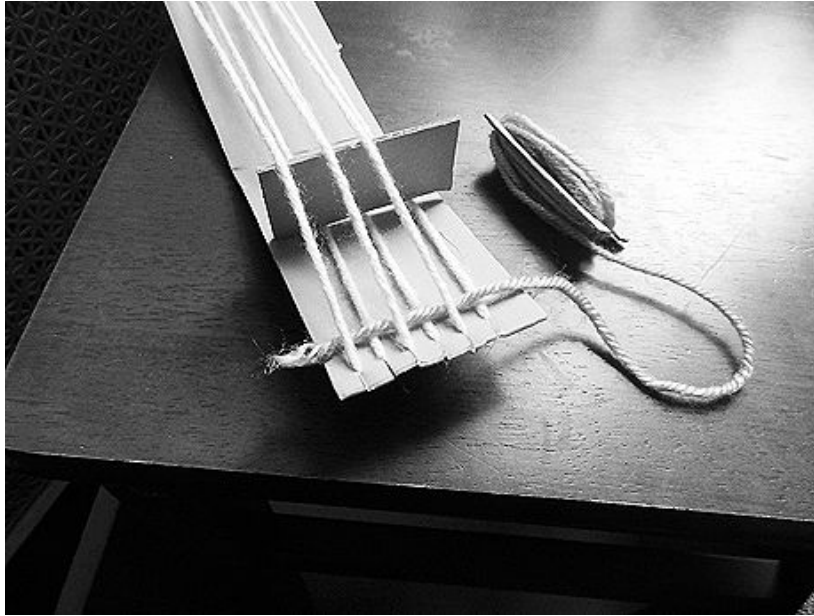
Weaving

1. Cut a 70 in. length of yarn and wrap it around the shuttle (kid's bracelets will be smaller- 30 to 50 in. of yarn should work well).

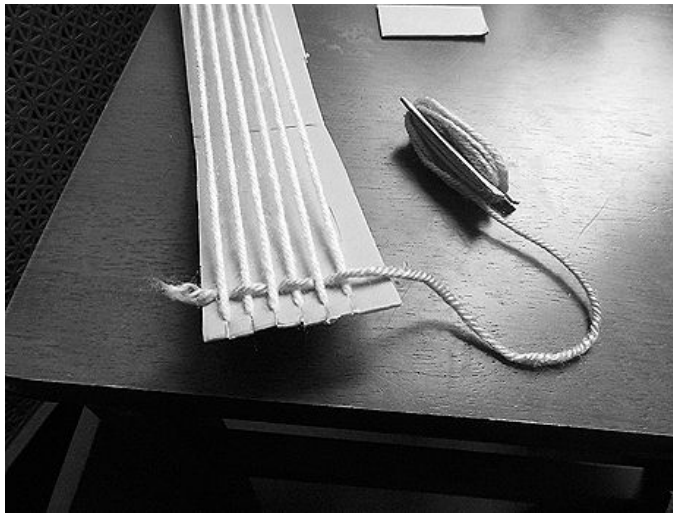
2. Place the heddle in the weft and lift up every other strand as shown in the picture. Make sure you start on the front side of the loom (the side without any tape).



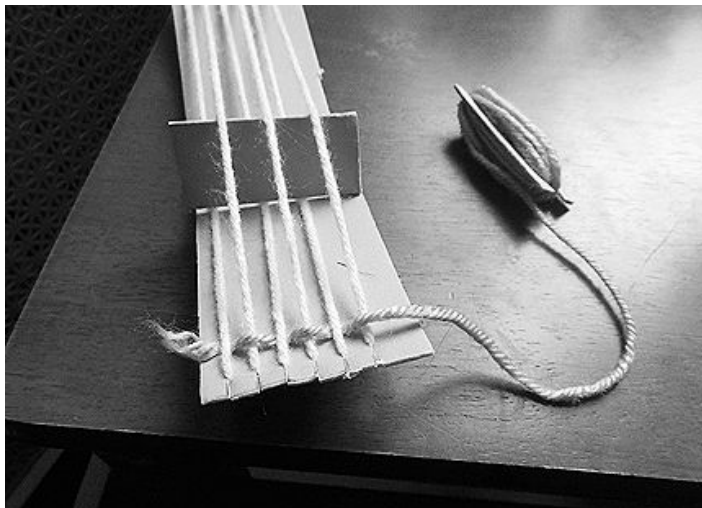
3. Place the loose end of yarn from the shuttle through the warp. It should be under the raised strands and over the unraised strands



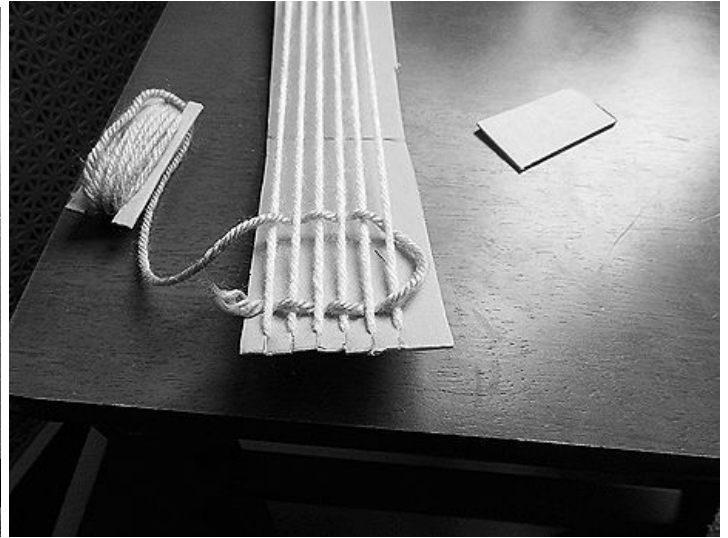
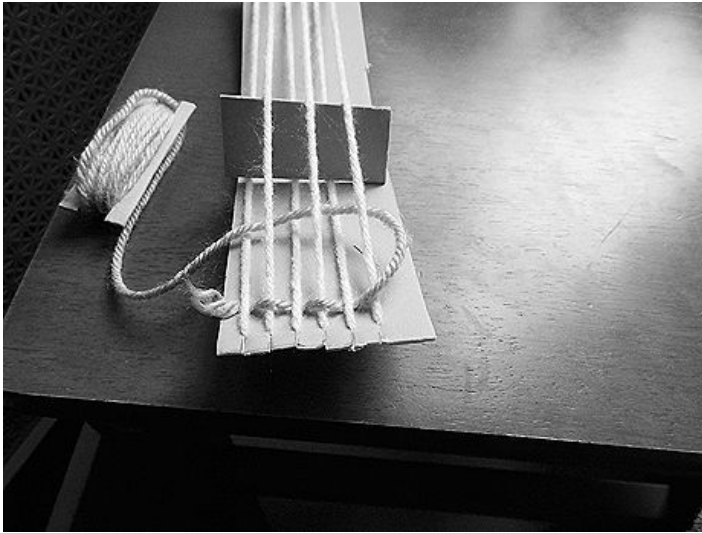
4. Tie off the loose end from the shuttle to one of the strands
5. Remove the heddle (Note: I forgot to tie off the loose end in this picture)



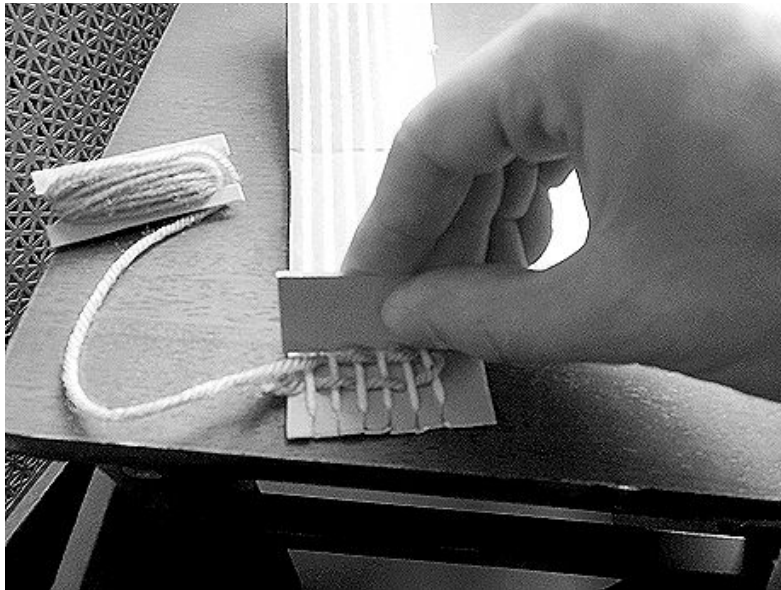
6. Use the heddle to lift up the strands of the warp that were not lifted last time



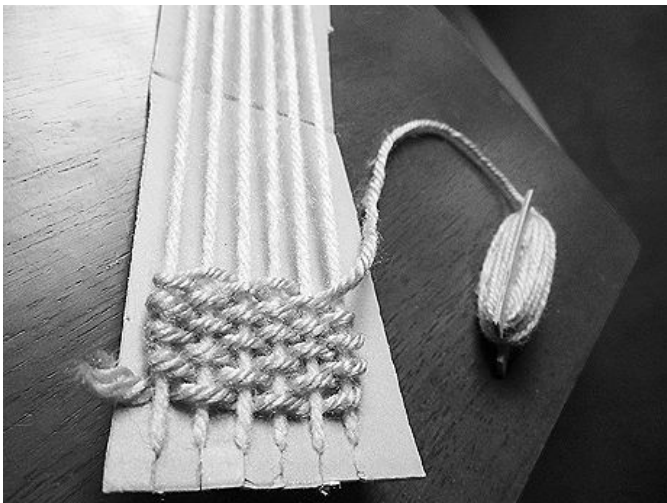
7. Pull the shuttle through the warp. The yarn should be underneath the raised strands and over the unraised strands.



8. Remove the heddle. Use it to push the yarn into place

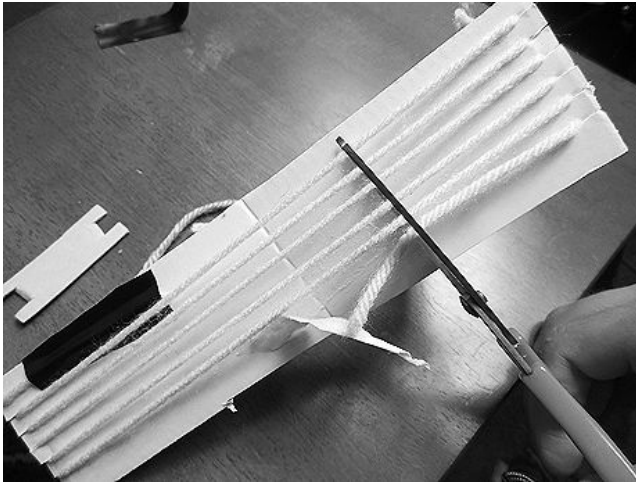


9. Repeat Steps 6 through 8.

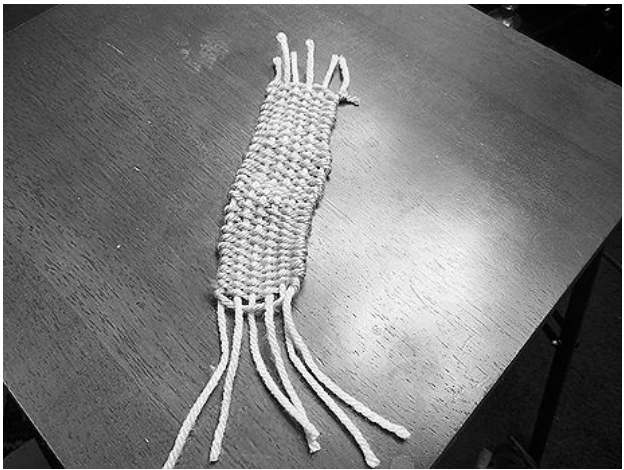


10. Once you've used up all the yarn on your heddle, tie off the loose end to a strand on the warp.

11. Remove the tape from the back of the loom and cut the warp.



12. Tie the loose ends of the warp to each other.



13. Tie the bracelet to your wrist!