Introduction to weaving:
Make a wall hanging

By Leni Collin from SomethingBoHo
Introduction

In this tutorial, I give you the basic skills and tips to make a wall hanging using different weaving techniques. However, weaving is much more than that! Below you will find a short definition of important weaving terms, as well as internet links to useful online resources.

Essential weaving definitions

Dressing the loom: putting a wrap into place, wrapping the loom

Warp: the lengthwise threads of the fabric which are loaded onto the loom with tension in order to prepare your loom for weaving.

Weft: The horizontal thread running from one side to another on your loom, perpendicular to the warp threads.

Shed Sticks: flat sticks of the width of your loom used to raise and secure your wrap while weaving.

Online resources:

http://www.theweavingloom.com/beginners-guide-to-weaving/
http://www.abeautifulmess.com/2014/07/weaving-class-the-basics.html
**Material**

- cotton string
- stick or branch
- loom
- plastic and tapestry needles
- shed stick
- fork or hair comb
- Scissors (optional if you are on a plane)
- yarn in different colours (light background colour white or grey and a contrasting bright colour)
- roving or wools tops
- Scissors (optional if you are on a plane)
Dressing the loom

make a loop knot at one end of the cotton string (wrapping string), and hook it to the bottom left tooth of the loom.

Wrap the cotton string around the top first tooth of the loom and back down again. On the right side of the first bottom tooth, you will then have 2 cotton strings because of the loop knot. Continue to wrap your cotton string up and down around each tooth of the loom until you reach the last one. Your wrap shouldn’t be too tight or too loose.

To finish the warp, make a loop knot in the last tooth of the bottom part of the loom. If you need to, measure how much cotton string you need to do the loop knot, unwrap slightly your loom, do the knot, wrap your cotton string again, and hook it to the last tooth.
Bottom tassels give a lot of character to a wall hanging.
Cut two pieces of the contrasting color yarn, about 10-15 cm long. Fold them in 2, and insert it in your loop knot (right string).

Pass the end through the yarn loop and pull down gently.

Repeat for each string, inserting your pieces of yarn under each string, pass the end through the loop, and pull. You have a bottom row of tassels. You can do one or two, also create triangle shaped tassel bottom rows by doing multiple rows, omitting one string on each side at each row.
Basic weaving

Place the shed stick across the loom wrap. At each row, you can move/alternate the shed stick in order to leave space for the needle to go across the wrap. Cut a piece of the background yarn twice your arm length, thread it to the plastic needle and secure it around the first wrap string with a simple knot. Weave the yarn across each wrap string, over and under.

Gently, but firmly push down with a fork, the weaving needs to be tight. Be careful not to pull the yarn too much from one side to another, otherwise the weaving won’t be uniform and will shrink on the sides as you weave.

Tip: If you are on a plane, save your dinner fork! If you are on a train, grab a plastic/wood fork at a food store!

At the end of the row, if the yarn is under the last string, weave it over and vice versa. Treat the loop knot as a single string. Continue to weave for a few rows (± 2 cm tall)
Basic weaving

When you have about 10 cm of yarn left on the needle, secure the yarn at the end of the row (on one side or another, it doesn’t matter) with a simple knot. Leave the yarn end on the back of the loom.

Triangle shape

To shape a triangle, you’ll have to weave using basic weaving, starting a few strings away from the sides, in the middle of the wrap. Weave a few rows.

Leave a string on each side of the triangle base, and weave a few rows again. Continue following the same pattern until there is only one or two strings left in the middle of the wrap. Secure the yarn with a simple knot.
**Triangle shape**

Weave around the triangle with the background yarn on one side, excluding the strings onto which the triangle is woven.

Repeat on the other side until you have reached the top of the triangle. Weave again with the background yarn for a few rows, across the whole width of the loom in order to cover the top of triangle.

**Soumak stitch**

The soumak stitch creates a lovely braided effect on both side of the weaving. Change color. Start with a simple knot leaving a 10 cm tail. Wrap the yarn under the first wrap’s string, and go back under the first two strings with your needle. Pull the yarn gently.
Soumak stitch

Once you reach the end of the first row, wrap the yarn twice around the last wrap’s string, clockwise, and pull the yarn gently.

Repeat the same step, but this time wrapping the yarn starting under the second and third wrap’s string, third and fourth etc...

Do another row of soumak stitch from right to left, using the same technique as previously. Then do a few more rows using the background color yarn.
Adding roving

Roving is unspun fiber, and adds great texture to woven pieces. Take 2 strands of roving, each about twice the width of the loom long.

You might want to raise the shed stick sideways to have more space for weaving the roving. Wrap one end of the roving around the first wrap’s string, leaving a 5 cm tail to do a simple knot. Use the basic weaving technique to weave the roving across, without pulling it too much to give more texture.

When you reach the end of the first row, continue weaving the roving from right to left, and secure again with a simple knot at the back. If it is difficult to secure each end separately, you can knot both ends together at the back.
Adding roving

Do a second row of roving weaving, as well as a few basic weaving rows with the background color.

Short middle tassels

You can add even more texture and feature to a wall hanging by doing tassels only in the middle part of the weaving. Add the middle tassel using the same technique as the bottom tassels and trim them to a very short length.

Tip: Trim the tassels once you are off the plane...no scissors!
**Short middle tassels**

Weave a few rows of the background color on top of the tassels using the basic weaving technique.

**Finishing the weave**

When you weaved ¾ of the loom height, unhook the wrap from the top of the loom.

Cut through the middle of each loop, and tight both strings together with a double knot.
**Finishing**

Tuck the string’s ends into the weaving, on the back using the tapestry needle. Be careful not to go through both layers of the weaving with your needle.

*Tip: If you are on a plane, don’t forget to remove the tapestry metal needle before you go through security, and use the plastic needle instead!*

The same way, tuck all the yarn ends as well.

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**Attaching the weave to a wood stick**

To suspend the wall hanging, you can use a wood stick (like a chop stick), a branch, or even a piece of copper pipe. To start, cut a piece of cotton string, about 30 cm long, and thread it to the needle.
Attaching the weave to a wood stick

Go through the weave with the needle, leaving a 10-12 cm tail. Secure the stick and weave together by tightening both ends of the cotton string with a double knot on the top of the stick.

Stitch the weaving and stick together. At the end, go through the stitch loop twice to do a double knot. Knot the tails of the cotton string together, leaving a 10 cm drop to hang your weaving.

Trim the bottom tassels to the desired length and shape.

Tip: You can trim the bottom tassels once you are off the plane!
You are all done, congratulations!

I hope you enjoyed this introduction to weaving. If you have any questions / problems, do not hesitate to contact me:

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I started a #weavingmarathon on so please tweet comments, photos of your weave etc...
go to @BoHoSomething #weavingmarathon