# SCHACHT TAPESTRY LOOM

SL2202

## Assembly, Warping & Weaving

*TAPESTRY LOOM ON OPTIONAL A-FRAME STAND*

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Schacht Spindle Company 6101 Ben Place Boulder, CO 80301
303.442.3212

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# TAPESTRY LOOM

## Assembly, Warping & Weaving

### PARTS

2X loom sides
1X tension beam
1X top beam (1" square)
1X bottom beam (1" square)
1X center beam (3/4" square)
1X warp wedge bar (1/2" dowel with screw)
4X heddle bars (1/2" dowels)
2X #8 x 1-1/2" Phillips flat head sheet metal screws
4X #12 x 1-3/4" Phillips flat head sheet metal screws
2X 1/4" USS washers
2X 1/4-20 square nuts
2X 1/4-20 thumb screws

### TOOLS NEEDED

#2 Phillips screwdriver

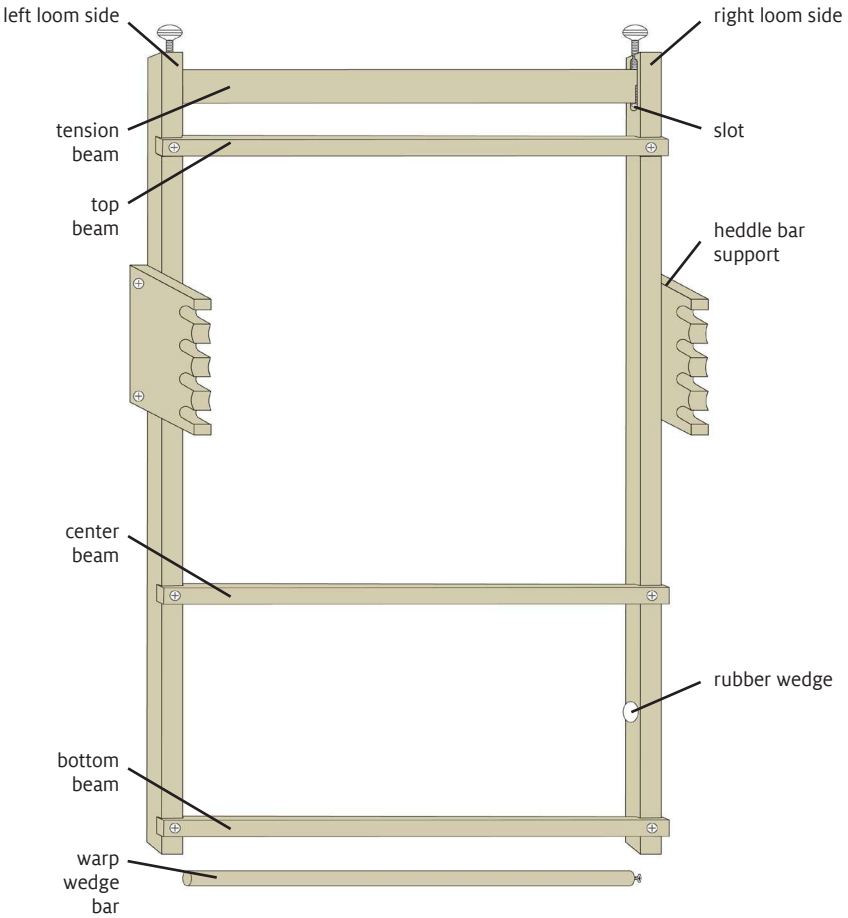



*FIGURE 1: PARTS OF THE TAPESTRY LOOM*

## Loom Assembly

**1.** Lay the loom sides on a flat surface with the slots facing inwards and the heddle bar supports facing up (Figure 1).

**2.** Place a 1/4" USS washer on each thumb screw. Insert a thumb screw into each end of the tension beam, then secure the thumb screw with a 1/4-20 square nut. The nut should sit near the bottom of the thumb screw shaft.

**3.** Place the tension beam in the slots of the loom sides. The square nuts and tension beam sit inside the slots; the washers and tops of the thumb screws sit above the sides (Figure 2). Turn the thumb screws clockwise or counterclockwise until the tension beam sits in the middle of the slots.

**4.** Set the top and bottom beams (two 1" square beams) in the top and bottom grooves of the loom sides. Using four #12 x 1-3/4" Phillips flat head sheet metal screws, secure the bars at each end (Figures 1 and 3).

**5.** Set the center beam (3/4" square beam) in the center grooves of the loom sides. Using two #8 x 1-1/2" Phillips flat head sheet metal screws, secure the bar at each end (Figures 1 and 3).

**6.** Place the screw end of the warp wedge bar against the rubber wedge (Figure 3). Slide the other end of the warp wedge bar into place against the left side of the loom. Level the warp wedge bar and make sure it fits tightly in place. If necessary, loosen or tighten the screw to adjust the fit.

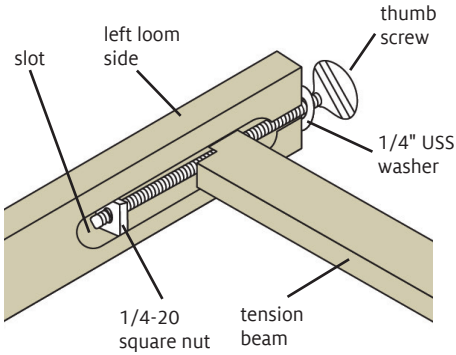



*FIGURE 2: INSTALL TENSION BEAM*

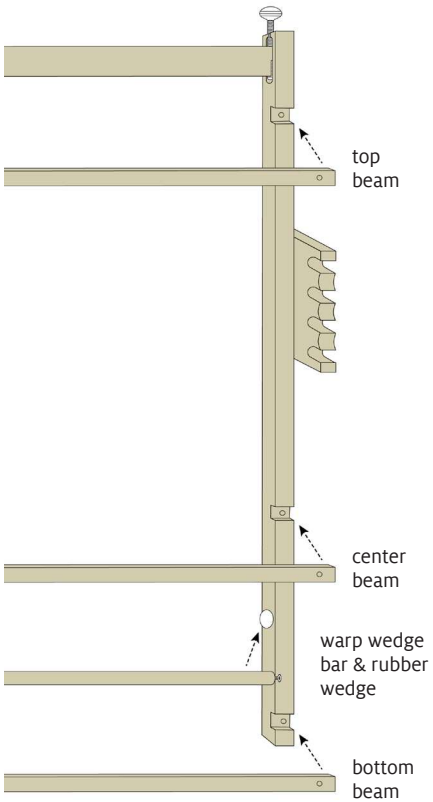



*FIGURE 3: ATTACH BARS*

## Warping the Tapestry Loom

You will wind a continuous warp. Place the loom face down on some books to hold it level. Orient the loom with the bottom beam closest to you.

**Hint: The warp yarn always goes around the outside of the loom. It never travels from the front to the back or vice versa. See the "Warping Hint" sidebar for an easy way to avoid warping errors.**

**1.** Tie the warp yarn onto the warp wedge bar next to the rubber wedge on the right loom side. Bring the yarn towards you.

**2.** Pass the yarn under the bottom beam and away from you, up to the top of the loom. Yarn will travel **under** the warp wedge bar, center beam, top beam, and tension beam (under the loom front).

**3.** Bring the yarn over the tension beam and back towards you. Yarn will travel **over** the top beam, center beam, and warp wedge bar (over the loom back).

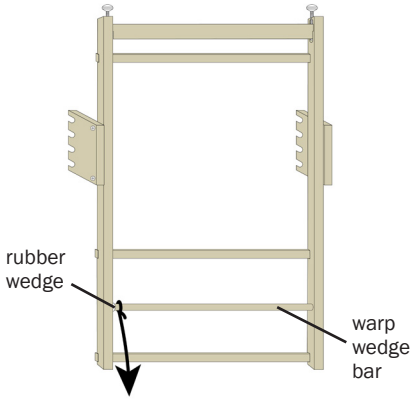
**4.** Bring the yarn under the warp wedge bar, then head back to the top of the loom. Yarn will travel **over** the center beam, top beam, and tension beam (over the loom back).

**5.** Bring the yarn over the tension beam and go down to the bottom beam. Yarn will travel **under** the top beam, center beam, warp wedge bar, and bottom beam (under the loom front).

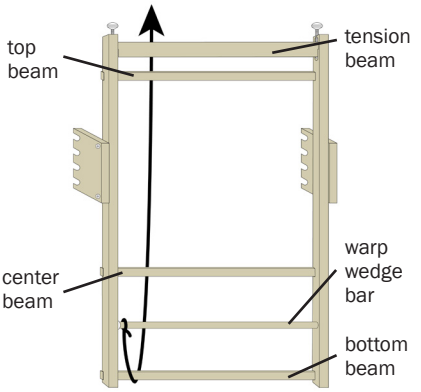
**6.** Bring the yarn toward you under the bottom beam, then up and over the warp wedge bar. This completes one full repeat of the warping sequence, equivalent to two warp ends. Bring the yarn back toward you and over the bottom beam.

**7.** Begin the next repeat by taking the yarn underneath all bars up to the tension beam. Now you're in place for step 3.

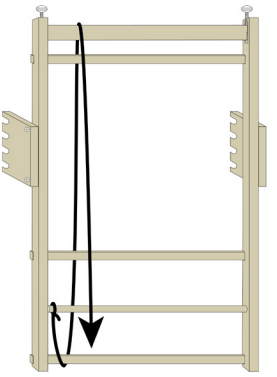
Repeat steps 3 to 7 until the desired number of ends have been warped.



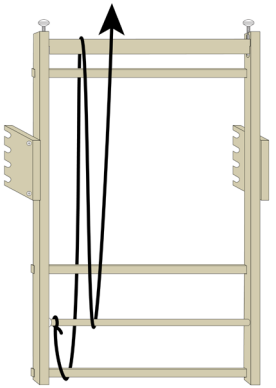

*WARPING PATH 1*



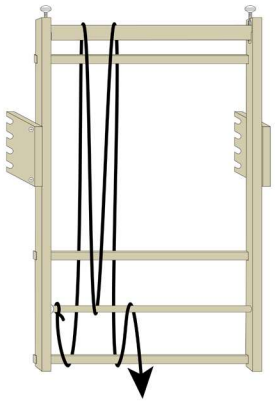

*WARPING PATH 2*



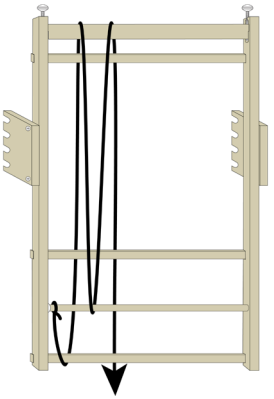
*WARPING PATH 3*



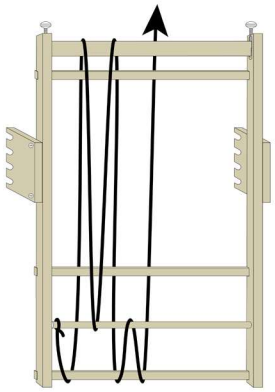
*WARPING PATH 4*



*WARPING PATH 6*



*WARPING PATH 5*

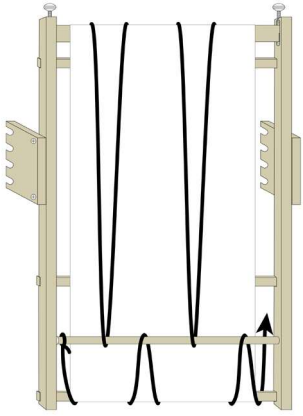


*WARPING PATH 7*

**WARPING HINT**

If you are having difficulty warping your tapestry loom, try this:

- Remove the warp wedge bar.
- Wrap the loom with a strip of paper about 65" long. Loop the strip around the tension beam and bottom beam, then secure it with tape. The paper can be as wide as your warp, or you can use a narrower strip to get the hang of the warping sequence.
- With the back of the loom toward you, replace the warp wedge bar as shown at right.
- Warp the loom following steps 1 to 7.
- Remove the paper before tightening the tension on the warp.



## USING HEDDLES

You can make heddles out of string or use red texsolv heddles (5-7/8" long) to lift the warp threads and weave more efficiently. For plain weave, you will use two of the four heddle bars included with the loom.

To measure string heddles, loop strong, smooth cotton string around four of the five uprights of a heddle bar support as shown in Figure 4. Tie the string with a secure knot and trim the ends to 1/2" long. Remove the heddle and set it aside. Make one string heddle for each of your warp ends.

To install string or texsolv heddles on the first heddle bar: Weave a pick-up stick or ruler over and under the warp threads across the width of the loom. The warp ends that are on top of the stick will be attached to your first heddle bar.

Fold a heddle in half around the first warp thread and then slide the two loops onto the heddle bar (Figure 5).

Repeat across until the warp ends on top of the pick-up stick have been attached to the heddle bar. Place the heddle bar in the neutral position on the heddle bar support (Figure 7).

Repeat the installation process with a second heddle bar, using the warp ends not already placed on the first heddle bar. Weave the pick-up stick under these warp ends so they are easier to see.

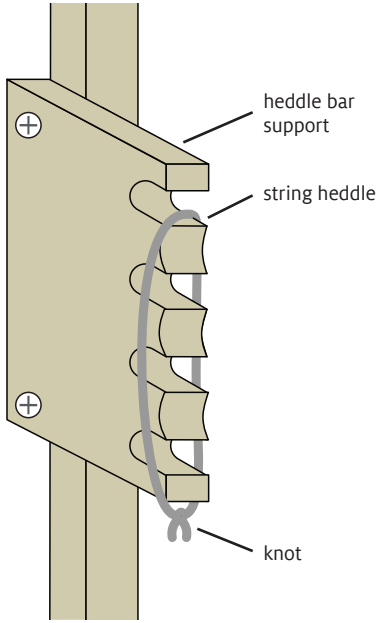



*FIGURE 4: MEASURING STRING HEDDLES*

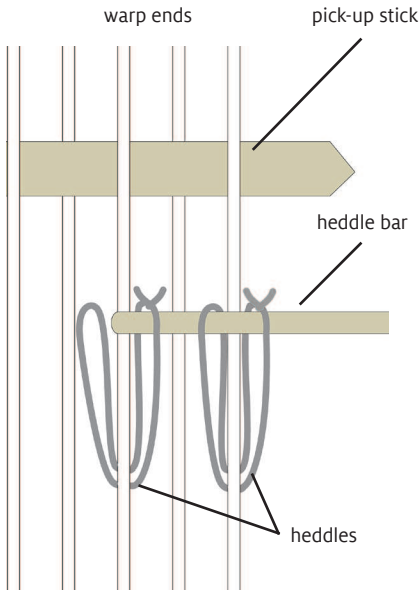



*FIGURE 5: INSTALLING HEDDLES*

# Weaving on the Tapestry Loom

## SPREADING THE WARP

To spread the warp evenly and provide a firm base for weaving, make a twined edge across the bottom of the warp.

Use a yarn slightly heavier than your warp yarn. Cut a length approximately 2-1/2 times the width of your warp.

Starting at one side of your warp, wrap the twining yarn around the first warp thread and adjust the twining yarn ends to be the same length. Twist the twining yarn ends over each other and pull firmly to tighten the twist (Figure 6).

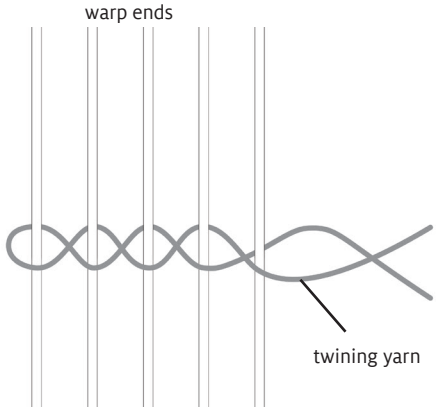



*FIGURE 6: SPREADING THE WARP*

Wrap the next warp thread in the same way. Continue to wrap each warp end, twisting the twining yarn once between each pair of warp ends until all the ends are wrapped. Tie off the twining yarn with an overhand knot.

## ADJUSTING THE WARP TENSION

To tighten tension, turn both thumbscrews in the clockwise direction. To loosen tension, turn the thumbscrews in the counter-clockwise direction.

## WEAVING

Wind a shuttle with weft yarn.

**1.** To make a shed, lift one heddle bar and place it in the raised position on the heddle bar supports (Figure 7).

**2.** Insert the shuttle with the weft yarn through the open shed. Angle or bubble the weft.

**3.** Lower the heddle bar to the neutral position (Figure 7).

**4.** Beat the weft pick down with a comb or tapestry beater.

**5.** Raise the other heddle bar and place it in the raised position on the heddle bar supports and repeat steps 2 to 4. Continue to alternate lifting and lowering the heddle bars, inserting a weft pick in each shed to create the basic plain weave structure.

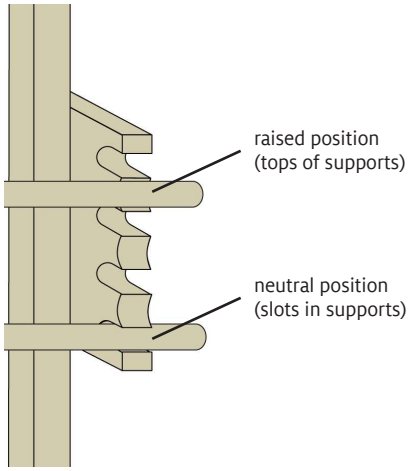



*FIGURE 7: POSITIONS ON THE HEDDLE BAR SUPPORT*

## ADVANCING THE WARP

When the weaving is a few inches long, advance the warp:

- Loosen the tension by turning the thumbscrews counterclockwise.
- On the back of the loom, pull up on the warp wedge bar until the front of the weaving has moved to the desired position.
- Tighten the tension so that the warp is taut.

## FURTHER READING


Glasbrook, Kirsten. *Tapestry Weaving.* Search Press, 2015.

Harvey, Nancy. *Tapestry Weaving: A Comprehensive Study Guide.* Echo Point Books, 2015.

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Scanlin, Tommye. *Tapestry Design Basics and Beyond.* Schiffer, 2021.


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