



The Schacht Guide to the

Rigid Heddle Loom

Projects
Tips
Inspiration



Chunky Plaid Pillow



Big yarns and a mega plaid design make this pillow fast to warp and quick to weave. It's easy to sew, too. Designed by Jane Patrick and Stephanie Flynn Sokolov.

Overview: This fabric sett at 5 epi can be woven in an afternoon. We accented this nautical look with hemp stitching and a rope trim.

Weaving: *Note: All measurements are made off-tension.*

Step 1: Weave 6" with white.

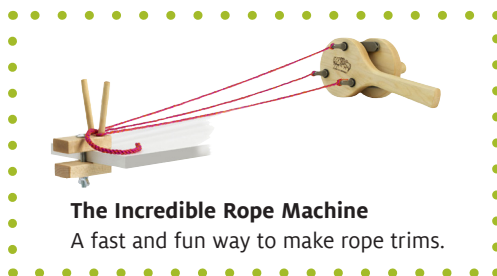
Step 2: Weave blue for 3½" (19 picks) or to square. *Note: The blue square should measure the same warp-wise and weft-wise.*

Step 3: Weave white for 12".

Step 4: Weave blue for 3½" (19 picks) or to square.

Step 5: Weave white for 6".

Finishing: Remove from the loom, secure the ends, and hand wash in hot, soapy water. Press out (don't wring) as much water as possible. Machine dry on medium hot to further full the fabric. Check often so as not to over full. When fabric measures 13" across, remove and lay flat to dry, then steam press on wool setting.



Accent: Using hemp rope (ours is from the hardware store) or thick linen, stitch accent lines using a running stitch. Make 52" of braid or twisted rope trim using the Schacht Incredible Rope Machine.

Assembly: Mark the center of the length of the fabric, zigzag on either side of the cutting line and cut apart for two equal pieces. With right sides together, stitch around all four sides, leaving at least an 8" opening for the pillow form. Turn the fabric right side out, insert the form and hand stitch the opening closed, leaving a ½" hole. Stuff the end of the trim into the hole and stitch the trim all the way around the pillow. Insert the other end into the hole and stitch the hole closed.

Weave Structure: Plain weave

Finished Size: 12½" x 12½"

Equipment: 15" Cricket Loom, 5-dent reed, 2 stick shuttles, tapestry needle, sewing machine (you can also hand stitch), 12" pillow form. Optional: Incredible Rope Machine

Yarn: Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Bulky 175 yds or 2 skeins (4 oz/125 yd per skein) of M-11 White Frost and 60 yds (1 skein) of M57 Brite Blue. You'll also need a small amount of hemp rope or heavy linen yarn for the stitched accents and rope trim.

Warp Length: 1¾ yards which includes take up and 24" for take-up and loom waste. If weaving on a floor loom allow 36" loom waste and increase warp yardage by one third.

Width in reed: 15" (Note: you will fill every slot and hole in the heddle.)

Number of warp ends: 77

EPI: 5

PPI: 5

Warping Plan:

				Totals
White*	29		29	58
Blue		19		19
Total ends				77

*begin and end in a hole



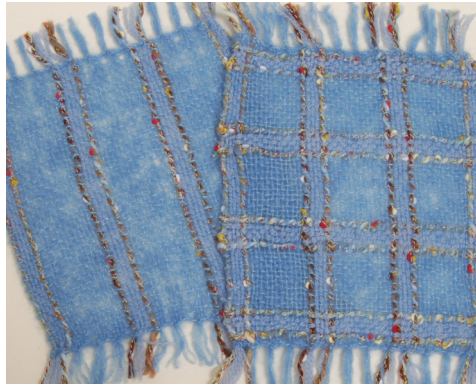
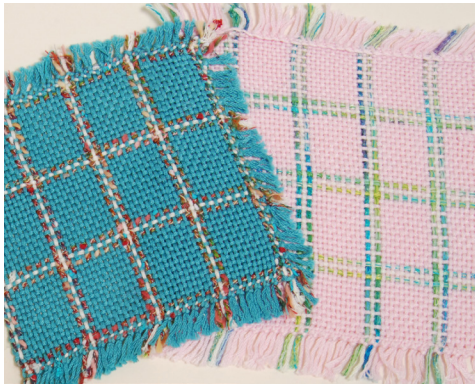
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Get the Gear

The Cricket Loom is just about the friendliest loom around and comes with everything you need to weave, including yarn. Available in 10" and 15" weaving widths. Here the Cricket Loom is shown on the optional Cricket Stand.

The Cricket Bag is made exclusively for us by the women of Mayan Hands co-op in Guatemala who support their families and traditional way of life through weaving fabric on back strap looms. Available in four color ways.

The Variable Dent Reed lets you mix and match dents. An assortment of rigid heddle reed sections in 5, 8, 10 and 12 dents can be inserted into a special rigid heddle frame for different setts in the same reed.

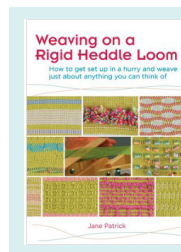


Same But Different

The same windowpane plaid pattern is given two quite different looks by altering the colors and yarns. For the pink swatch, the double windowpane is separated by a single pink thread; for the blue swatch the double windowpane is highlighted by a contrasting white thread. Small amounts of novelty yarns make a big impression. Yarns: Background yarn for both swatches is Tahki Cotton Classic Lite. Accent for blue fabric is TSC Filatura Di Crosa's Tempo Fancy. Accent yarn for pinks swatch is xxx. Sett is 10 epi.

Coordinating Stripes and Plaid

Different weights and styles of yarns offer many textural possibilities. This fabric feels as light as air and would be lovely woven up into a scarf. Sett: 10 epi Yarns are Filatura Di Crosa's Nirvana used double, Tempo, and Superior.



A workshop you can watch over and over again.

Weave Speak

epi (ends per inch): The number of warp ends in 1".

heddle: On a rigid heddle loom, the device that holds the warp, determines sett, and beats the weft into place.

Also: rigid heddle reed.

pick: One row of weaving.

ppi (picks per inch): The number of weft rows, or picks, in 1" of weaving.

selvedge: The edge threads in weaving.

sett: Number of warp ends in one inch.

shed: The space between raised and lowered warp threads through which the shuttle passes during weaving.

shuttle: The tool that holds the weft yarn.

warp: The set of threads held taut by the loom.

weft: The threads that cross the warp.



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Felted Fringy Bag



Felting or heavily fulling makes a thick and sturdy fabric perfect for this versatile bag. The rough warp ends were cut off the fabric and then sewn on the bag for the carrying handles. Designed and woven by Stephanie Flynn Sokolov.

Overview: This snappy bag is woven with two yarns and then felted. The sewing is simple and the handles and thrum trims are the finishing touches that says “designer bag”.

Weaving: Beat at 8 EPI. The plaid will be somewhat elongated. If you would like to square the plaid, weave fewer white picks between the rows of Dune. Measure off-tension.

Step 1: Weave handle holders. With Dune, weave 3 picks of Dune, leaving a tail four times the width of the warp

(37"). Hemstitch over 2 warps and wefts. Alternate 2 picks of Lambs Pride and 2 picks of Dune 9 times.

Step 2: Weave 10 picks of the Lamb's Pride followed by 2 picks of Dune for the remaining warp length. End with 2 picks of Dune and hemstitch to finish.

Finishing: Wash the fabric in the washing machine with laundry detergent on a gentle cycle. Place a bath towel along with the bag fabric into the dryer. Dry on medium heat checking often. If the fabric is not sufficiently felted to make a dense fabric, repeat, checking progress often.



For this elongated variation, we used an orange variegated Lamb's Pride Worsted and Dune in Red Blaze. Square bone handles lend a sophisticated look.

Assembly:

Step 1: Using pinking shears, cut off the felted fringe and hemstitching from both ends of the fabric.

Step 2: Cut off the section with the alternating 2 picks of Dune and Lamb's Pride.

Weave Structure: Plain weave.

Finished Size: 11½" wide x 8½" tall, 11½" wide x 14½" tall including handles.

Equipment: 10" Cricket Loom, 8-dent heddle, 2 stick shuttles, pinking shears, sewing machine.

Notions: 2 bamboo handles, 6" in diameter.

Yarns: Brown Sheep Company Lamb's Pride Worsted, 1 skein (190 yd/skein) or 190 yd of White Frost M-11 and Trendsetter Yarns Dune, 1 ball (1.76 oz/80 yd ball) or 60 yds of Red Blaze #91.

Warp length: 2 yards which allows for take-up and 24" loom waste. If weaving on a floor loom allow 36" loom waste and increase the warp yardage by one third.

Width in reed: 9¼"

Number of warp ends: 78

EPI: 8

PPI: 8

Warping Plan:

	2x	5x	2x		Totals
Red	2	2	2	2	20
White	2	10	2		58
Total ends					78



Meet and weave. Join the Cricket Club. Check with your favorite yarn shop about joining their Cricket Club.

Step 3: Cut this piece in half lengthwise to make the handle holders. These pieces will measure 4" long by 4½" wide.

Step 4: Sew the ends of the 25" piece together using 3/8" seam allowance. The fabric now forms a loop. Press the seam allowance open and topstitch. .

Step 5: Turn the bag wrong side out (topstitched seam will be on inside). Position the seam in the center of the right side of the bag. Sew along one of the selvedge edges to make the bottom seam using a 3/8" seam allowance. Press this seam open and topstitch.

Step 6: Make the bottom gussets. Turn the bag inside out. At one end of the bottom seam, push the side of the bag down so you can fold the bottom and side to form a triangle, 2" across, perpendicular to the bottom seam, and 1" tall. Stitch across. Repeat on the other side. Fold triangles to bottom of bag and tack down. See illustration.

Step 7: Attach the handle holders. With the bag still inside out, measure and mark the center between the two sides along the top edge. Place the handle holder in the center. Sew the handle flap down on the inside of the bag, 1½" from the top edge. Once the handle flap is secured on the inside, turn the bag right side out, insert the handle, fold handle holder over the handle. Place half the cut fringe piece underneath the handle flap and top stitch to secure. Repeat for the other side.



The woven fabric, with one end of 2 x 2 stripes.



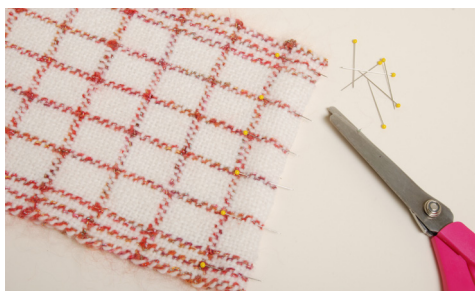
Step 1. Using pinking shears, cut off the felted fringe, including the hemstitching.



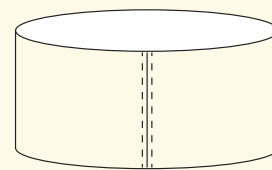
Step 2. Cut off the section of 2 picks of red/2 picks of white.



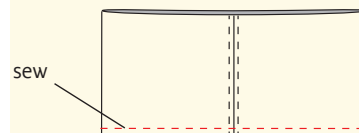
Step 3. Cut this section in half to form the handle holders.



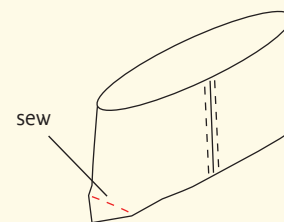
Step 4. Sew the ends of the long piece together to form a loop. This will be the body of the bag.



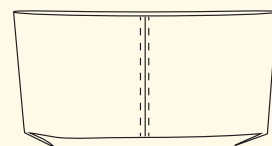
Step 4. Press the seam allowance open and topstitch.



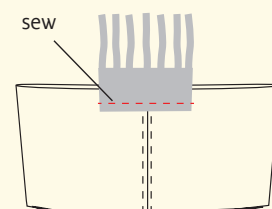
Step 5. With the bag wrong side out, sew the bottom seam (red line).



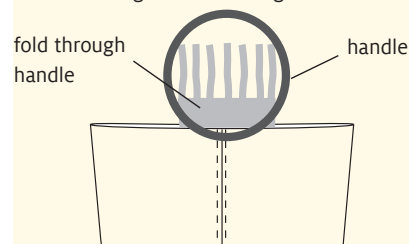
Step 6. With the bag wrong side out, push the side down and form a triangle at the end of the bottom seam. Sew across the triangle.



Step 6. Fold triangles to bottom of bag and tack down.



Step 7. Attach handle holder to the center of the wrong side of the bag.



Step 7 continued. Turn the bag right side out, and fold the handle holder over the handle. Topstitch to secure.



Great project ideas for the Cricket Loom from Jane Patrick and Stephanie Flynn Sokolov.



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Spring Garden Table Runner



Fabric strips, whether recycled or purchased yardage, weave up into smashing textiles perfect for your table. We've used a blue and white striped warp and bright colors for a spring look. Translate this idea to any other season by just changing the colors. *Designed and woven by Stephanie Flynn Sokolov.*

Weaving: Use a hand beater to firmly press the weft into place.

Border

Step 1: Weave 1 1/4" of header using the Old Rose carpet warp and hemstitch 2 warps by 2 wefts.

Step 2: Alternate white fabric and Old Rose cotton carpet warp 2 times. End with 1 pick of white fabric.

Step 3: Alternate Pear carpet warp and green/blue fabric 6 times, end with Pear carpet warp.

Step 4: Alternate blue fabric and Old Rose carpet warp 2 times. End with 1 pick of blue fabric.

Step 5: Alternate Pear carpet warp and green/blue fabric 6 times. End with 1 pick

of Pear carpet warp.

Field

Step 1: Alternate white fabric and Old Rose carpet warp 9 times.

Step 2: Alternate white fabric and Parakeet carpet warp 3 times.

Step 3: Repeat steps 1 and 2 nine times.

Step 4: Alternate white fabric and Old Rose 9 times. End with 1 pick of white fabric.

Border

Weave the border above in reverse, step 5 to Step 1.

Finishing: Wash in warm water and dish detergent and lay flat to dry. Steam press as needed. Turn the ends under twice and machine or hand stitch into place. Press.

Weave Structure: Plain weave.

Finished size: 12" x 34".

Equipment: 15" Cricket Loom, 10-dent heddle, 2 or more 15" stick shuttles, hand beater, rotary cutter, straight edge, and healing board, sewing machine (optional).

Yarn: *Warp:* 8/4 Cotton Carpet Warp (800 yd/8 oz tube), 130 yd of Natural and 120 yd of Parakeet. *Weft:* 8/4 Cotton Carpet Warp (800 yd/ 8 oz tube), in 75 yd Old Rose, 15 yd Pear, and 15 yd Parakeet, and 3 coordinating cotton fabrics, cut into 1/2" rag strips for weft.

Warp length: 1 3/4 yd which allows for take-up and 24" loom waste. If weaving on a floor loom, allow 36" loom waste and increase warp yardage by one third.

Width in reed: 13.8"

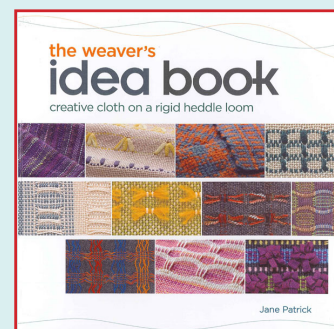
Number of warp ends: 138

EPI: 10

PPI: 10-11

Warp color order:

	11x		Totals
Natural	6	6	72
Parakeet		6	66
Total ends			138



The comprehensive guide for rigid heddle weaving: everything you need to know from warping, to weave patterns. Projects with complete instructions are included throughout.



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Rag Tips & Techniques



For a lively surface, try alternating two colors in the warp (blue and white here). Subtle changes make a difference. From top to bottom:

Sample 1: One fabric weft used throughout.

Sample 2: Fabric strips are alternated with blue cotton carpet warp. The blue is inserted when the blue warps are raised, creating a solid blue line.

Sample 3: Natural cotton carpet warp is inserted when the natural warp yarns are raised. A subtle blue print fabric is woven when the blue picks are raised.

Sample 4: Two fabrics are used for this sample, one for the borders and the other for the center.

Sample 5: Two different fabric strips are alternated. The light blue strip is inserted when the blue warp yarns are raised.



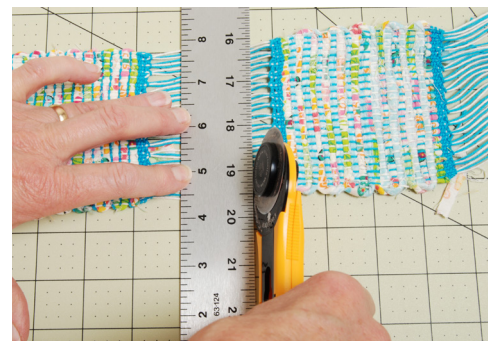
Weighted, single end, and double end tapestry beaters.



Reduce bulk when beginning and ending rag wefts by cutting the rag in half. Overlap this reduced strip at the selvedge.



For beautiful selvages: twist the fabric strip at the selvedge after you've inserted the weft into the shed.



For even fringe, use a self-healing cutting mat, straight edge, and rotary cutter to cut the fringe to the desired length. This is an efficient way to cut your fabric strips, too.

Attaching strips: a glue stick makes fast work of this and washes out afterwards. A little dab will do ya—the strip only needs to hold together long enough to be woven.



Go wide: The Flip Folding Rigid Loom accommodates 2 heddles and comes in 15", 20" and 25" weaving widths. Optional Trestle Floor Stand available.

Good to Know

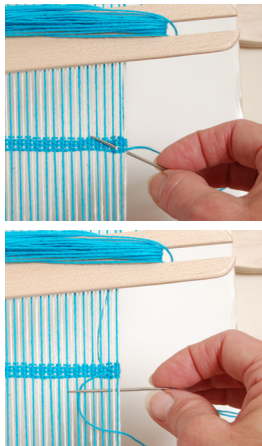
Hemstitching

Begin and end your weaving with hemstitching. It's easy, just follow these steps:

Step 1: Leave a weft tail 4 times the width of the weaving.

Step 2: Weave a few rows and then thread a tapestry needle with the tail.

Step 3: Insert the needle diagonally under the fabric. Here we counted up 2 weft rows and over 3 warps. Bring the needle up through the fabric and draw the needle and tail through.



Step 4: Make a loop pointing in the direction you are working. Then, insert the needle horizontally along the bottom edge of the weaving and under the same three warp yarns and over the loop.

Step 5: Pull tight toward the weaving.

Step 6: Repeat steps 3-5 all the way across the warp.

Step 7: Weave the tail into the weaving and trim off the end after washing.

Tip: Spreading the warp

When you begin to weave, you need to spread the warp to make a good base for your weaving. Using the same yarn you'll be using for weft, weave back and forth 3 times but don't beat. Press these 3 rows down and repeat. The warp should be spread evenly and you can begin weaving. If not, repeat again.

You Have to Be Warped if you want to Weave

Warping is made easy with the direct peg warping method.

Step 1: Place the peg as far warp away from the back of the loom as your warp is long.

(Peg is closest to front of loom.) [PHOTO 1]

Step 2: Clamp the loom on a table with the back facing the edge.

Step 3: Place heddle in neutral and your yarn source on the floor.

Step 4: With the apron rod over the back beam, tie onto the apron rod. [PHOTO 2]

Step 5: Determine the edge of the weaving and begin threading at this point. Insert the heddle hook into the slot at this point and draw a loop through. There will be 2 warp threads in the slot.

Step 6: Place the loop around the warping peg.

Step 7: When all of the slots for your project are threaded, tie and cut off the yarn.

[PHOTO 3]

Step 8: Remove the loop warping peg, cut it and tie in a loose overhand knot. [PHOTO 4]

Step 9: Wind onto the back beam, separating the layers with heavy paper. Stop winding when the knot is about 8" from the heddle. [photo 5]

Step 10: Untie the knot in the warp and thread the holes, taking one warp out of a slot and threading in an adjacent hole.

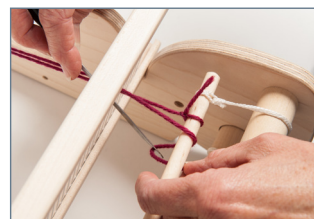
Repeat. [PHOTO 6]

Step 11: Tie onto front apron rod and you're ready to weave. [PHOTO 7]

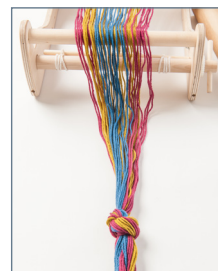
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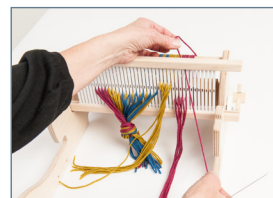
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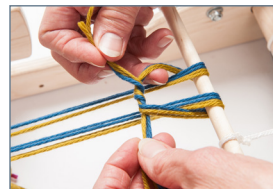
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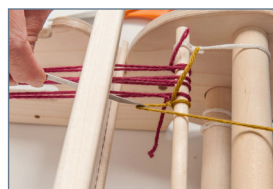
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for more detailed information



Get the gear: Instead of direct peg warping, you can measure your warp on a warping board before threading your loom. Choose either our 14 yard or 4½ yard warping board. Find more information at schachtspindle.com.