

the LACIS PURSE BEAD LOOM

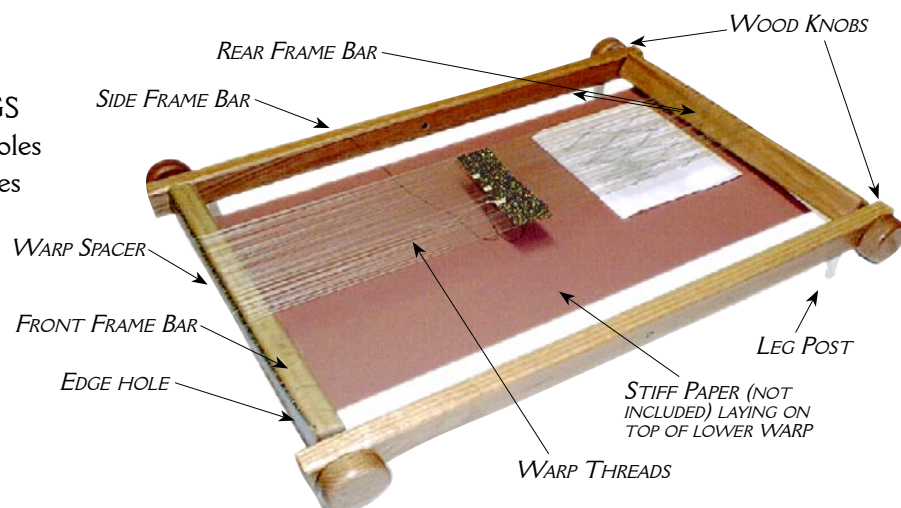
Designed specifically for wide pattern weaving as would be required for beaded bags, this loom is suitable for weaving any width up to 11" and any length up to 36". The raised frame permits working flat on a table or at an angle, the front legs falling over the edge of the table. It is suggested that this loom be used with the accessory floor stand which allows 360° rotation of the loom as well as allowing for sit-down or stand-up working.

To bead-weave wide pieces as permitted by this loom, the prepared warp needs to be able to be rotated so weaving can proceed near the center of the loom. The warp needs to be taut while weaving, and the tension relaxed when not weaving and when rotating the warp.

This loom, having integral warp tension control can be simply warped by wrapping the warp thread in a continuous fashion completely around the frame, tying off the beginning and end to the adjacent warp thread.

PARTS:

- 2 Long SIDE FRAME BARS with 2 PEGS
- 1 Short FRONT FRAME BAR with 2 holes
- 1 Short REAR FRAME BAR without holes
- 4 WOOD KNOBS
- 1 WARP END RODS
- 1 ELASTIC BANDS



ASSEMBLY

Referring to picture, the loom is easily assembled by connecting the 4 bars together with the (4) WOOD KNOBS. Assemble so the FRONT and REAR FRAME BARS are vertical with the upper edge sitting above the side bars and the edge holes in the FRONT BAR facing outward.

Note: The SIDE FRAME BARS are interchangeable and reversible. The bars have a center hole which is used for connecting the frame to the floor stand (not included) and which can be used to support the frame when warping (see Fig 2).

PREPARATION

WARP SPACER: Refer to *Fig. 1*. String several more beads than will be needed for the widest row (color not important) on a 3 ft length of warp thread. The length of the strung beads should not be longer than 10", as the beads will spread apart as the warp threads are placed between each bead. Tie a knot through a bead at each end, spacing these end beads 11-1/2" apart. This will keep the beads from falling off this thread. Feed one end of the strand through one of the end holes and tie it to an ordinary rubber band. Locate the beads on the FRONT FRAME BAR so the tied end beads are centered on this bar. Feed the other end of the strand through the other end hole and tie it to the same rubber band, stretching the rubber band so the beaded strand is in tension.

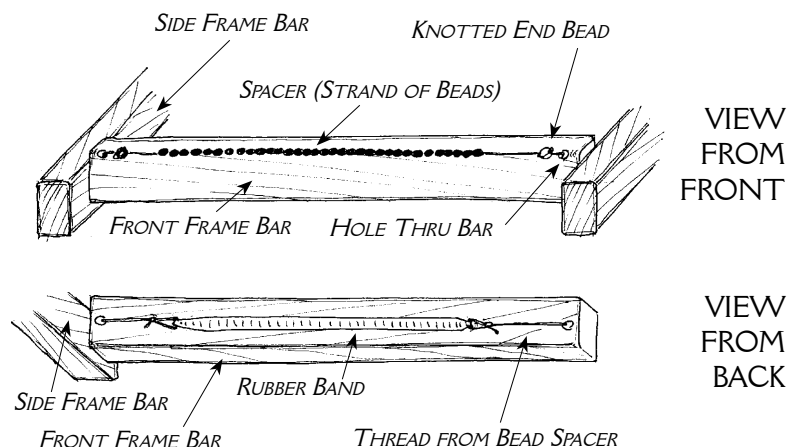


Fig. 1 WARP SPACER

WARPING

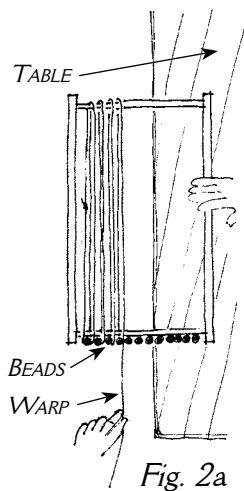


Fig. 2a

Warping consists of simply wrapping a continuous thread around the FRONT & REAR FRAME BARS, this thread falling between all the spacer beads. This can be done by wrapping the thread around the loom while the loom is extended off the edge of a table *Fig. 2a* or a simple pivoting device can be improvised which will allow the entire loom to be rotated around a shaft placed through the center holes in the SIDE BARS. *Fig. 2b* shows a suggested set-up. Another set-up can be simply supporting the rod across the backs of 2 chairs.

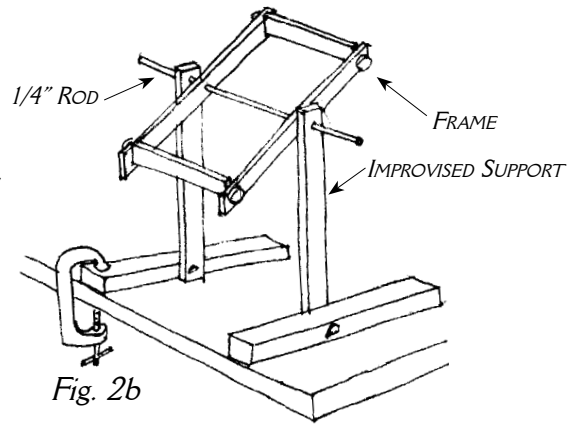


Fig. 2b

The number of warp threads should equal the number of beads in the widest row of your pattern plus 3. Thus if there are 40 beads in the widest row, 43 warp threads will be required. The end warps will consist of two warp threads while one warp thread will fall between each bead.

Starting at one end, wrap a continuous warp thread around the FRONT and REAR FRAME BARS tying the end of the warp to the wrapped warp, forming a tight loop around the frame. Continue wrapping, in continuous fashion, with the warp thread going between each bead of your warp spacer. When warping is complete, tie the end of the warp to the last wrapped thread.

Tension is controlled by rotating the FRONT and/or REAR FRAME BARS. Referring to *Fig. 3*, to increase tension, rotate outward, to decrease tension, rotate inward.

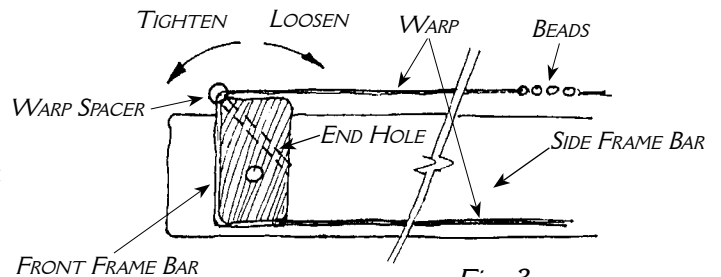


Fig. 3

Weave the first rows close to the FRONT FRAME BAR, where the threads are uniformly spaced. Now move these two rows up to the center of the loom. All further weaving will be done at this location. The WARP SPACER can now be removed as your woven bead rows now control the warp spacing.

Using the recommended 2-needle beading technique, all beading will be worked near the center of the loom, always from the same direction, the loom rotated after each row. To maintain this position, the warp will need to be periodically rotated. Weave the WARP ROD through groups of warp threads, above the woven section. This can be done by working through groups of 5-10 threads. To rotate the warp, draw the WARP ROD down to the last woven row, loosen the tension by rotating the FRAME BARS inward and pull work to new central position.

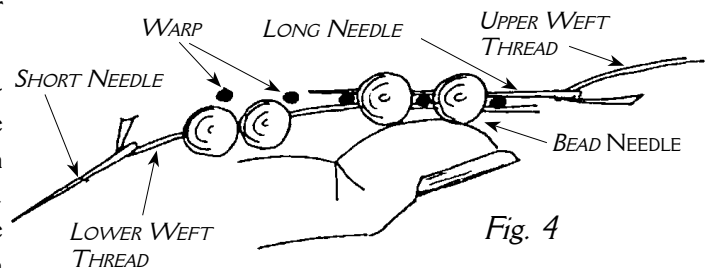


Fig. 4

Pushing beads on lower weft thread up so upper weft thread on long needle can be passed through beads above the warp.

Note: A stiff sheet of paper in a color contrasting to your warp thread should be placed on top of the warp threads on the underside of the frame to minimize eye strain. Your weaving pattern can be placed on this paper.

WEAVING

Weaving with beads is unlike basic weaving where the weft, or cross-wise threads go over and under the warp threads to create a structural fabric.

In bead weaving, there is a double weft thread, one thread

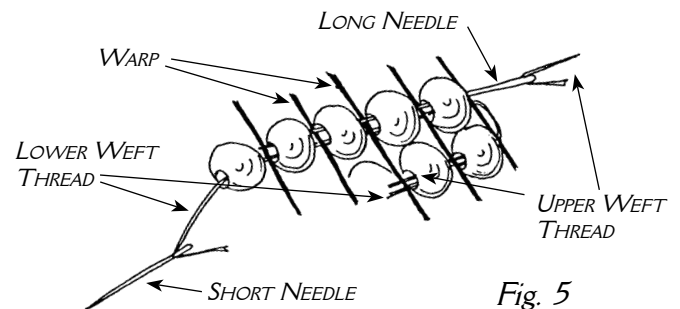


Fig. 5

Showing the bead threaded lower weft thread and the top locking weft thread being fed through the beads on top of the warp threads.

going under all warp threads and the other going over all warp threads, both threads going through the single hole in each bead which falls between all warp threads. Refer to *Fig. 4*.

Weaving in this manner requires no shed, all warp threads remaining parallel. Spacing is controlled, not by any outside spacer but by the beads themselves.

Bead weaving is thus quite simple and much closer to the charted techniques of cross stitch and filet, where the main concern is deciding which color bead is placed between each pair of warp threads or corresponding square of your chart.

In weaving narrow bands, the selected beads for each row are placed onto your weft thread and then pushed up from below with your finger, one bead falling between each pair of warp threads. The threaded weft thread is then passed around the outer warp threads) and returned to the opposite side, passing through each bead, but this time running on top of the warp threads. It is a good practice to wrap the weft thread one or two times around the outer warp thread prior to the return to secure each row. The beads are then threaded for the next row. The passing of the upper thread will always be in the same direction, typically right-to-left if right-handed.

In weaving wide pieces, this procedure is difficult and certainly time consuming as the many beads of each row need to be carefully counted and placed on the weft thread with no margin for error.

TWO NEEDLE BEAD WEAVING TECHNIQUE: For wide pieces, for which this loom is designed, a two needle method is suggested, using 2 separate weft threads. This will eliminate the pre-counting and will permit the placement of one or more individual beads as the work proceeds. It permits beading as you go and is definitely more fun.

Referring to *Fig. 5*, a standard length blunt pointed beading needle is used on the lower weft thread to pick up the beads and a long blunt pointed beading needle is used on the upper weft thread to pass this thread through the beads as they are placed between the warp threads. Thus, when doing a background of the same color, a large quantity of uncounted beads can be threaded and incorporated into the weaving. When you get near the design, excess beads can be dropped off and the selected color beads can be threaded in small manageable units. A blunt needle is necessary to avoid splitting the warp threads when passing through the beads. In passing the upper (long) needle, take care that one bead lies between each pair of warp threads

As you will be most comfortable in passing the threaded weft in one direction, typically right-to-left if right-handed, it will be necessary to rotate the loom, 180° after the completion of each row. For comfort, the weaving area is best kept in the middle of the loom. In working on the LACIS bead loom, this is easily accomplished by simply rotating the warp around the frame as the work proceeds.

SUGGESTIONS

To keep the needles in place and out of the way when not being used, it is suggested that a magnet be placed on the side frame bar which will hold the non-working needle.

The warp threads should be quite taught when weaving and relaxed when not weaving. Warp tension is easily controlled by rotation of the END FRAME BARS.

An accessory, compact floor frame, *Fig. 6*, is available which allows comfortable weaving while sitting or standing and allows the loom to be easily rotated as required for two needle weaving. Consult your dealer for further information or write to address below.

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Fig. 6