

# Learn to weave on the Knitters Loom



**ashford**  
WHEELS & LOOMS

spinning | weaving | carding | felting | knitting | dyeing

# Welcome to the wonderful world of weaving ...

## YOUR FIRST PROJECT – A SCARF

### You will need:

- A pair of sharp scissors
- A measuring tape
- Cardboard warp sticks
- One long table or two smaller tables

### Yarn

For this project we have used Ashford Tekapo, a smooth DK (double knit) sport weight yarn with a slightly textured handspun look, for the warp and the weft.

Ashford Tekapo 8ply/DK yarn (100% wool, 200m/218yds, 100gm net) #206 Natural White, #230 Midnight Blue, #203 Butter, #221 Chartreuse.

### Warp

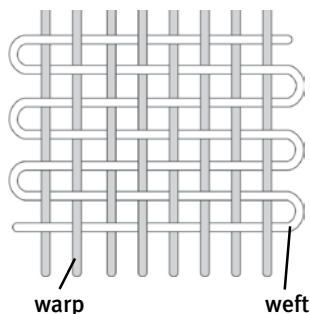
Use Ashford Tekapo in stripes of white, blue, yellow and green.  
Length – 2m (78ins) allowing 15cm (6ins) at each end for fringe  
Number of ends – 88  
Finished width – 26cm (10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>ins)

### Weft

Ashford Tekapo #206 Natural White.

## WARP AND WEFT

These are two terms you will need to know as they form the basis of all weaving. The **warp** threads are put onto the loom first. They are held on the loom under tension between the front and back roller. The **weft** threads pass over and under the warp threads to form the woven fabric.



## SHED

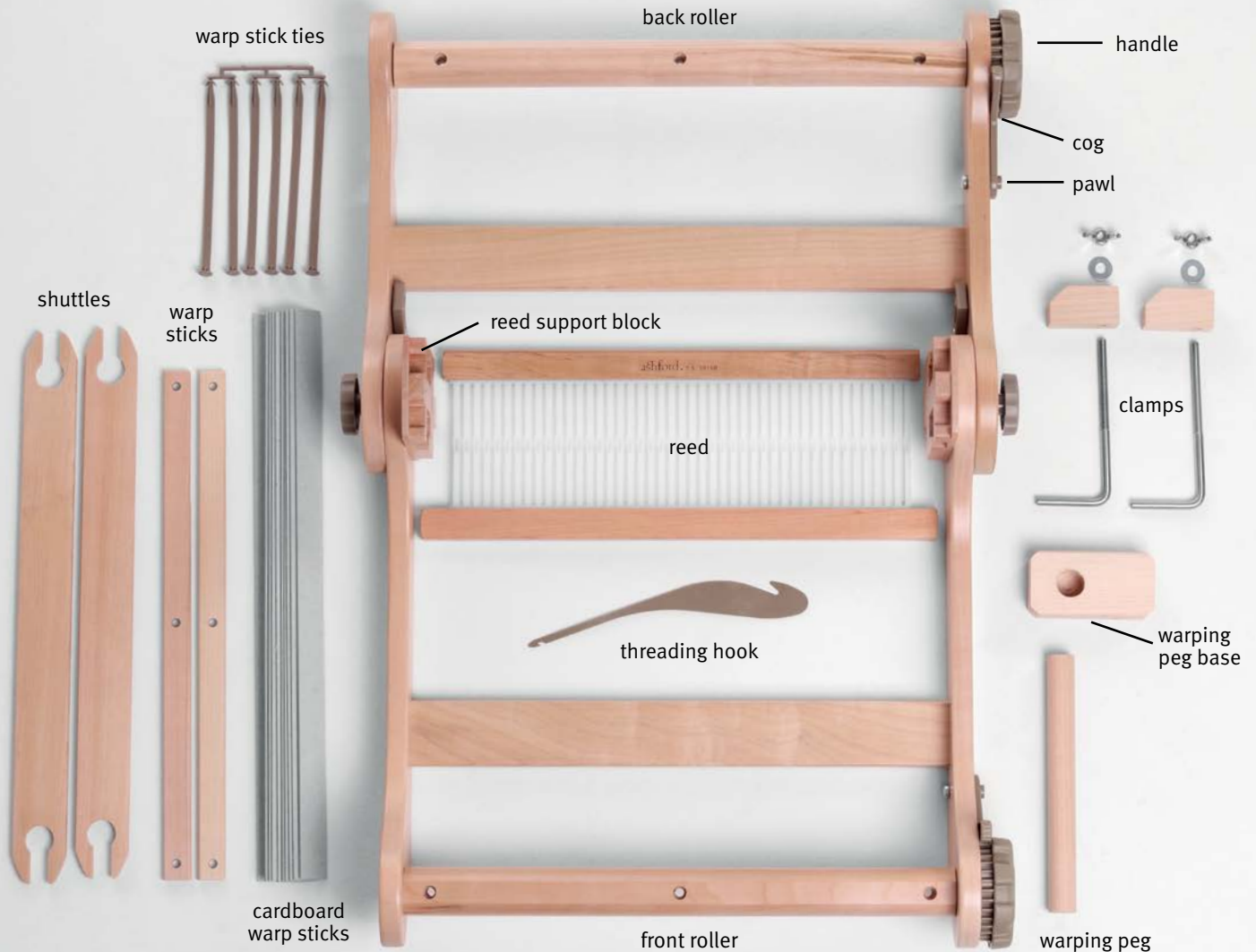
The shed is the opening formed in the warp, through which the shuttle passes.

## OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

Extra reeds 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 dents per 10cm (2.5, 5, 7.5, 10, 12.5 and 15 dents per inch), vari dent reed, loom stand, pickup sticks, shuttles, weaving needles, tapestry beater, warp thread weights, fringe twister.



*Knitters loom 30cm (12"), carry bag included, loom stand optional*



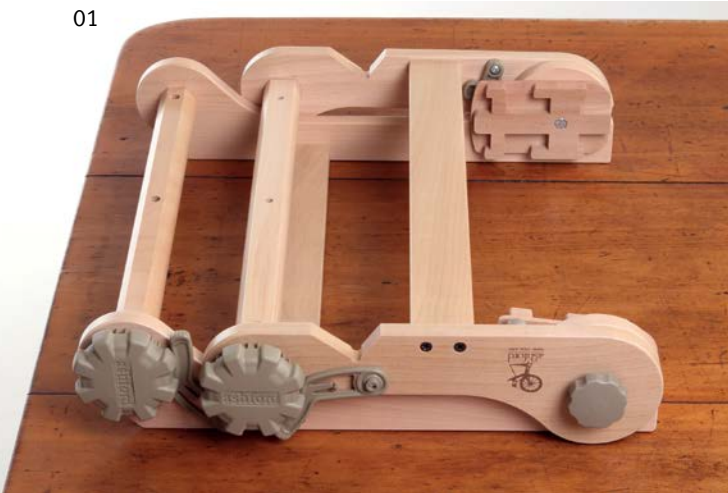
## THE LOOM

The **reed** has large holes and slots to accommodate a larger variety of yarns. This is used to create the woven fabric and to beat the rows of weaving into place. The warp threads pass through the holes and slots. This reed sets the threads at 30 threads to each 10cm section of reed or 7.5 threads to 1 inch.

The **shuttle** is used to carry the weft yarn from side to side to make the fabric.

The **warping tools**, of a warping peg, threading hook and 2 clamps, are used to thread the warp into the loom.

01



The loom folded.

02



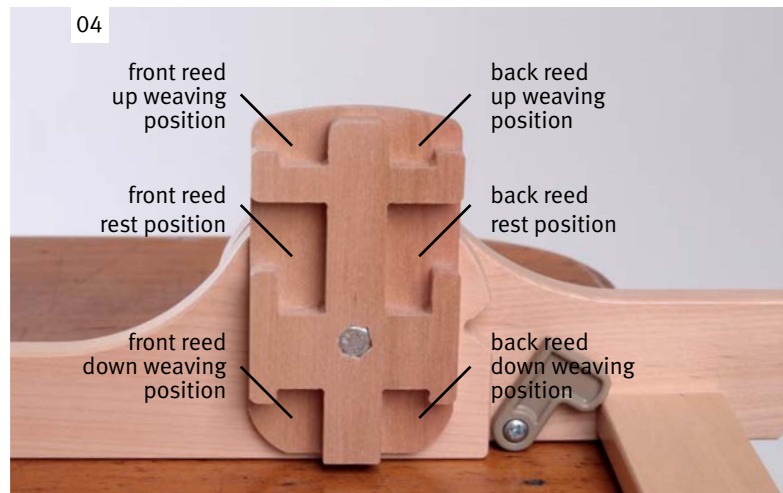
Loosen the side knobs and unfold the loom.

03

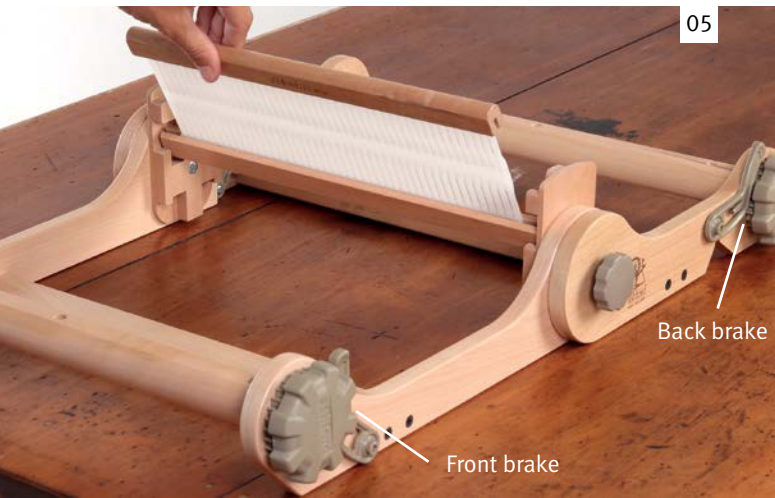


Place the reed support blocks into the upright position.  
Tighten the side knobs.

04



There are two sets of three weaving positions on the reed support block. Use the front set of weaving positions when using one reed. When using two reeds for weaving double width, double layer and patterns use the front and the back set of weaving positions. **Note:** For more information on using two reeds to weave double width, double layer and patterns visit our website: [www.ashford.co.nz/doubleheddle](http://www.ashford.co.nz/doubleheddle)



Place the reed into the rest position. Put the front and back brakes on by engaging the front and back pawls into the teeth in the cogs.



Connect the front and back warp sticks to the rollers using the warp stick ties. Firstly push the arrowhead of the nylon ties through the holes in the warp sticks.



Then push the arrowhead ends into the small hole in the roller and out the **larger** hole as illustrated.



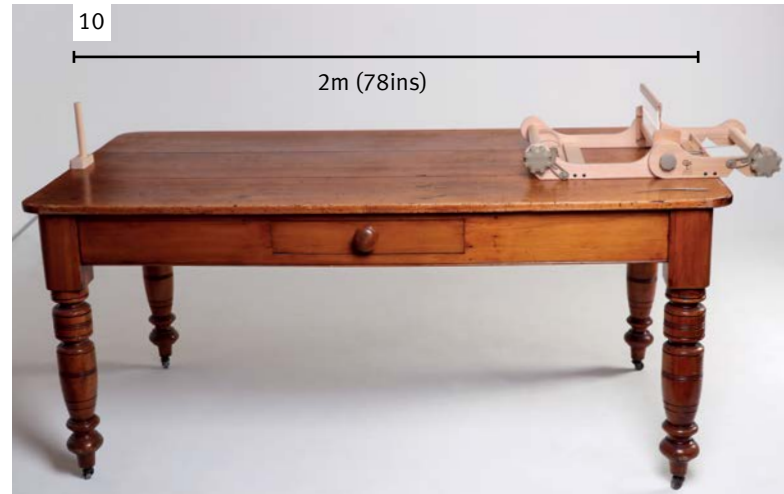
Assemble the clamps. Clamp the back of the loom to the table. The back of the loom has cut-outs in the lower back sides.

09



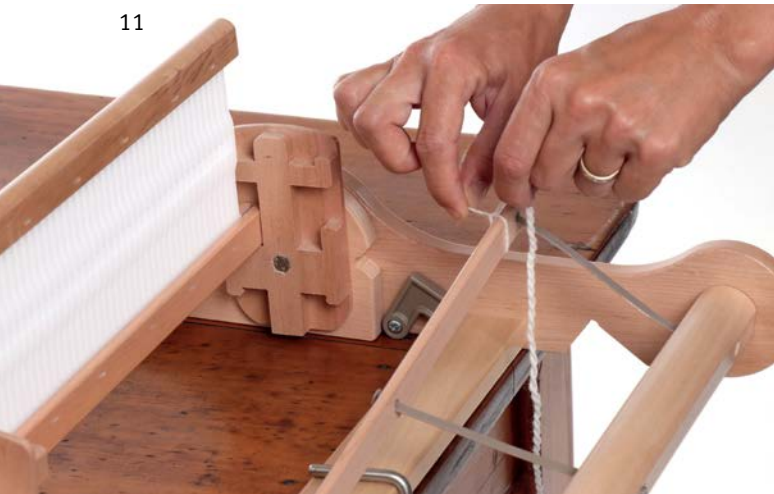
Clamp the warping peg to the other end of the table.  
**Note:** If the table top is not deep enough, place the end of the clamp over the warping block.

10



Use a long table or set two tables in place until the warping peg is approx. 2m (78ins) from the back warp stick on the loom.

11



There are 88 warp ends in this scarf. That is 44 double threads that first go through the slots in the reed. Tie the warp yarn to the back warp stick behind the first slot.

12



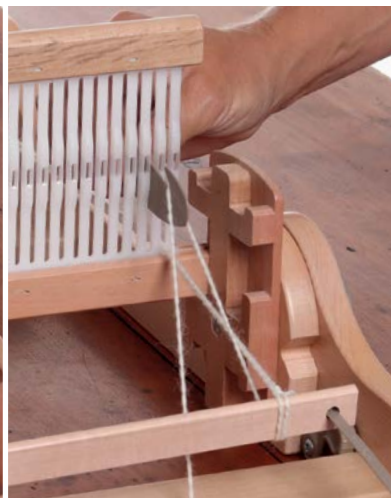
Put the threading hook through the first slot. Catch the yarn with the hook and pull a loop through the slot.



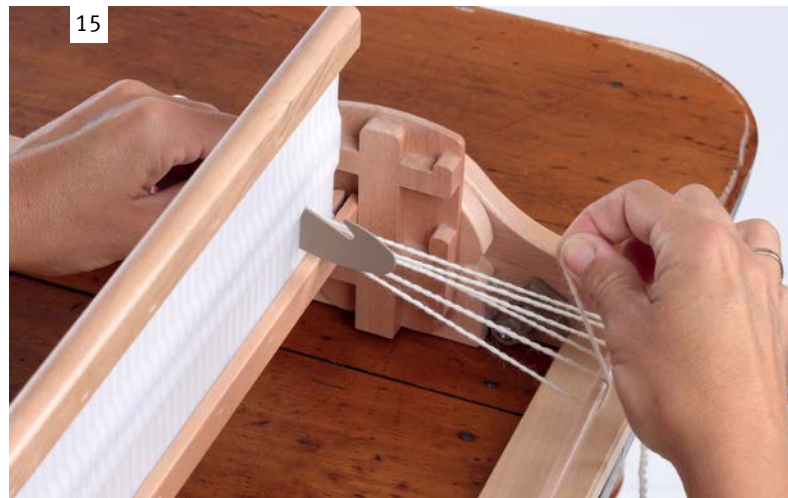
Take the yarn to the warping peg and loop it over. Sit the ball of yarn on the floor behind the loom.  
**Hint:** Sit the ball of yarn in a bowl so it doesn't roll around on the floor.



14



Go to the warp stick again. Put the threading hook through the next slot. Take the yarn UNDER the back warp stick, catch the yarn on the hook and pull a loop through the slot. Place this loop over the warping peg in the same way as the first loop. Try and keep the tension even along the length of the warp.



15

Go to the next slot. Take the yarn UNDER the back stick, through the slot and over the warping peg. Continue this way, one yarn thread over, one thread under until you have yarns in every slot.



16



To change colours tie off one colour onto the back warp stick. Tie on the new colour to the back warp stick. Check tension. Cut the last thread at the back of the loom and tie it to the back warp stick.



17

Ask a friend to hold the warp ends for you and move forward as you wind the warp onto the loom. Wind the back handle towards you until the back warp stick goes around the roller once.

**Note:** If you are by yourself, refer to the Solo Warping Instructions on our website [www.ashford.co.nz/solo](http://www.ashford.co.nz/solo)





18

Insert a cardboard warp stick or piece of paper the full width of the back roller. Wind the back handle a little more than one full rotation, insert another cardboard strip. This separates the threads and keeps the tension even. Add more cardboard warp sticks or paper as you wind on the warp.



19

Stop when the end of the warp reaches the front roller. Cut through all the yarn loops. Do not wind any further. Unclamp the loom for threading.



20

**IMPORTANT:** Loosen the side knobs and lift the back of the loom until the 2 L blocks engage. Check that the reed support blocks are upright. Retighten the side knobs.



21

Take one thread from the first slot. Using the threading hook, pull this thread through the eye to the right of the slot. The other thread stays in the slot.



22

Continue across all slots. Now threads are in both eyes and slots.



23

Divide the threads into small groups. Take a group of threads over and around the front warp stick. Divide it in two. Tie around the top of the group in a flat SINGLE knot.



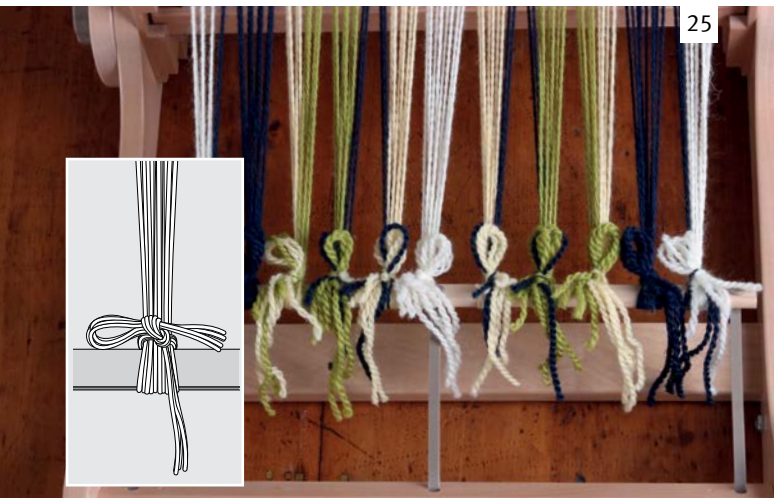
24



Tie the width of the warp in the same way.

FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TIE-ON METHOD see our YouTube tutorial “Tying a warp on a Rigid Heddle Loom” <https://youtu.be/bnrCoijfZVY>  
Check the tension. Adjust the knots until all groups are the same tension.

**Note:** To adjust a knot simply hold the threads on both sides of the knot and gently pull upwards towards the reed, then retighten.



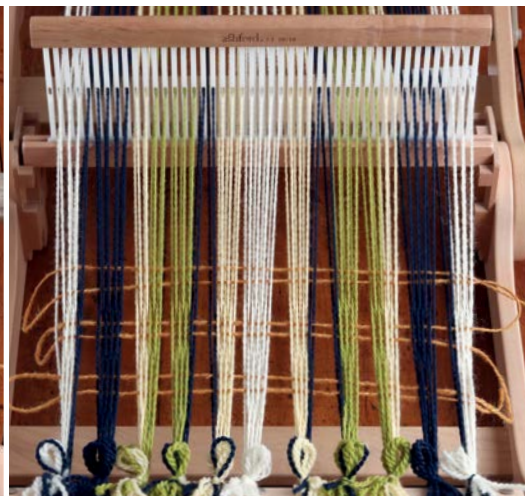
25

Tie the second half of the knots to secure. Use half a bow tie. You want to be able to undo this knot easily when your weaving is finished.



26

To advance the warp to the front roller, release the tension on the warp by turning the back handle away slightly and pull the pawl out of the cog. Keeping tension on the back handle, wind the front handle towards you until the front warp stick reaches the front roller. Click the back pawl down and retension the warp.



27

Before weaving, you need to close the spaces the knots have created, this is called spreading the warp.



Watch on YouTube <https://youtu.be/A-SW47MtrsQ>. Place the reed in the up weaving position. Insert a loop of scrap yarn, from the right side of the warp, into the shed. **DO NOT beat!**

Change the reed to the down weaving position. Insert a second loop into the shed (ensure the end of the scrap yarn remains on the right side of the warp to allow easy removal). Repeat again in the up position. Use the reed to gently push the scrap yarn towards the knots, until the scrap yarn is compressed. The warp threads will now be evenly spread.



28

Now you are ready to weave. Wind the weft yarn onto the shuttle. Put the reed into the down weaving position. Pass the shuttle through the shed. Use the reed to gently push the first row of weaving down to the scrap yarn.



29

Put the reed into the up weaving position. Use your fingers to place the end thread into the shed. Pass the shuttle through the up shed. Use the reed to gently push the second row into place.



30

BEAT GENTLY! THERE MUST BE A SMALL SPACE BETWEEN THE ROWS.

30° angle

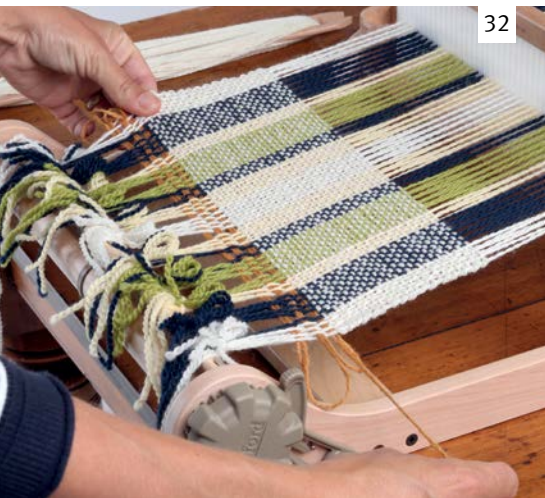
Pinch

*Hint:* To avoid drawing in the sides of your weaving, allow enough weft yarn on each row by passing the shuttle through the shed, pinch the weft thread in line with the outside warp thread and lay the weft in the shed at a 30° angle. Gently push the weft into place with the reed. **Note:** BEAT GENTLY! THERE MUST BE A SMALL SPACE BETWEEN THE ROWS.

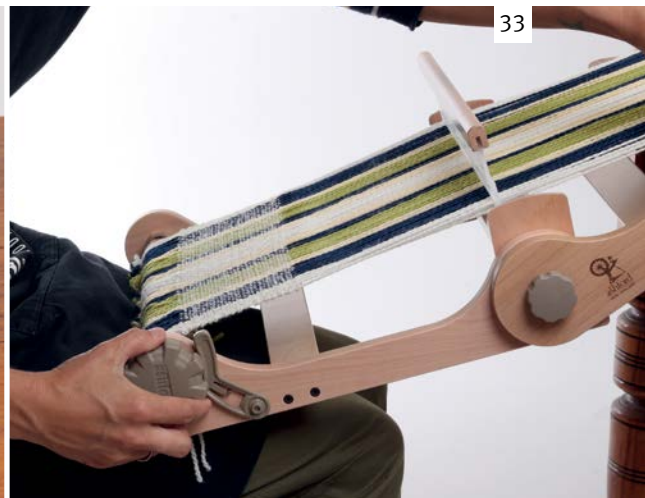


31

Sit in a comfortable chair with the loom in your lap and the back of the loom on the edge of the table.



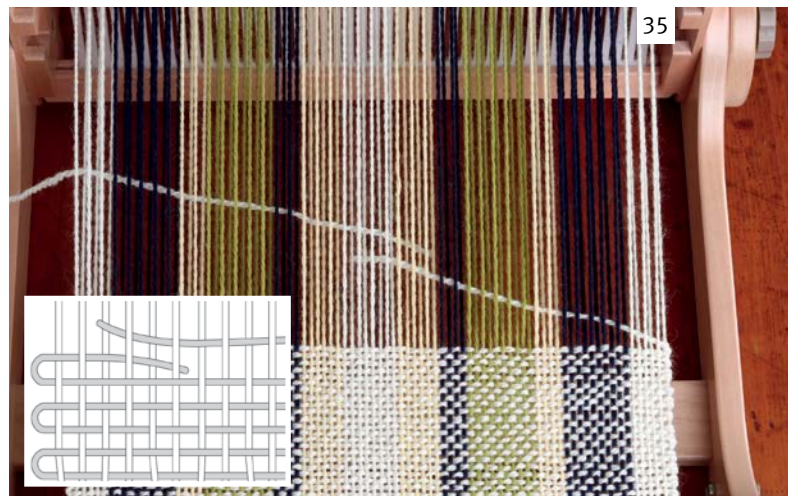
When your work is approx 8cm (3¼ins) from the reed, remove the scrap yarn from the warp by gently pulling the last scrap yarn thread.



Now it's time to wind the weaving onto the front roller. PLACE THE REED INTO THE REST POSITION. Release the tension on the warp by turning the back handle away slightly and pull the pawl out of the cog. Turn the handle towards the front of the loom so some of the warp unwinds, replace the pawl into the cog to stop it advancing too much. Now wind the front handle towards you until your work is approx. 5cm (2ins) from the roller. Check your tension. As you weave continue winding your work onto the front roller in this way.

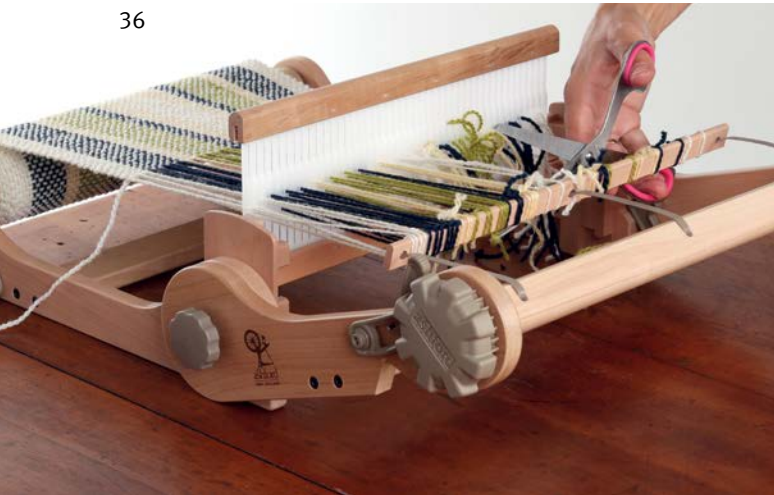


**Hint:** Add a piece of cardboard to cover the knots as you wind your weaving onto the front roller.



Joining in a new thread: At some stage the yarn on the shuttle will finish. Wind some more yarn onto the shuttle. Overlap the new yarn across the old yarn into the same shed. Beat both yarns down together. You can trim the ends sticking out after you finish.

36



When you reach the end leave enough warp for your fringe. Cut the weft yarn and leave the end out. Cut the warp yarns along the back warp stick. Take care not to cut the warp stick ties.

37



Release the front brake and unwind the weaving from the front roller. Undo the knots on the front warp stick and remove the work from the loom.

38



Tie the ends in groups of four. Use overhand knots. Darn the weft thread into your work using a wool needle or add the thread into the fringe.

Alternatively, you can use a fringe twister for the ends. See video tutorial on fringe twisting <https://youtu.be/8b2jL4UgsfA>



39



Weaving straight off the loom.

Weaving after washing.

The woven work should be washed so the threads open up, bloom and fill the spaces to give the fabric a 'finished' look. See the back page for further washing instructions.

## WASHING

Wash the scarf gently in warm water with a little detergent. Push up and down for a minute. Let the soapy water drain away and rinse the scarf in warm, clean water. Hang out to dry. Place the work over a towel so you don't get a fold line on the fabric. While the work is still damp, cover it with a soft cotton cloth and press with a warm iron. Hang again until thoroughly dry. You did it! You can now proudly wear your first handwoven scarf!

## HELPFUL HINTS

### Beating

Always beat gently. Sometimes the work will look a little open. Remember, the work is under tension on the loom and will come together when taken off. Also, the washing process will close the gaps a little.

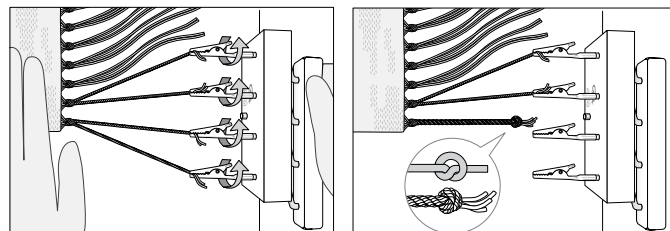
### Tension

Do not over-tension your warp. The warp threads only need enough tension applied to hold the reed in the up position. If your reed falls forward when in the up position, increase the tension slightly. If you have difficulty changing the reed to the up or down position, loosen the tension slightly. Over-tensioning the warp will put strain on the yarn, the loom and you!

## CREATING A TWISTED FRINGE

To quickly create an attractive evenly-twisted fringe use a Fringe Twister.

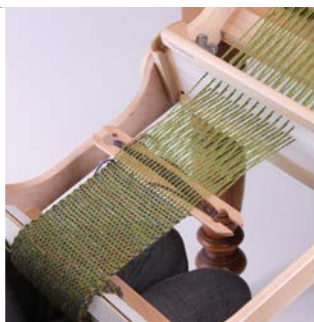
See video tutorial on fringe twisting  
<https://youtu.be/8b2jL4UgsfA>



## FOLD AND GO



Put the shuttle into the open shed.



Place the reed in the back reed rest position.



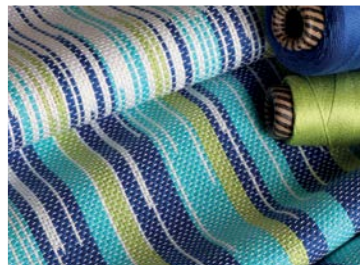
Loosen the side knobs and disengage the L blocks with your thumbs.



Pull up the back of the loom and bring forward until lying flat. Turn the handle to tighten the warp slightly and to hold the reed in place. Tighten the side knobs and go!



For more information, helpful hints and inspiration we recommend The Ashford Book of Rigid Heddle Weaving. Visit our website to view our tutorial videos [www.ashford.co.nz](http://www.ashford.co.nz)



LTWKL VW1

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