



LESSON 21 LEVEL B WEAVING

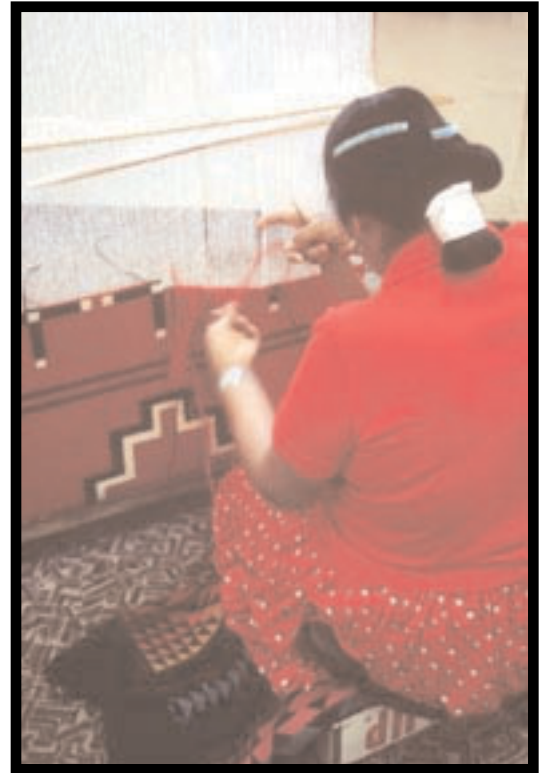
TEXTURED TAPESTRY WEAVING

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

weaving on a cardboard loom with textured fibers

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: colored mat board or heavy cardboard 13 x 21 cm. to 21 x 30 cm. (5" x 8" to 8" x 12"); cotton string, colored or white; yarns of various textures and colors; large-eye tapestry needle or small cardboard shuttle; scissors; a shallow open box or basket to hold yarns and scissors; (optional: shells, buttons, beads, feathers, a dowel or twig.)

"TIPS": To make your loom, cut notches about 12 mm. (1/2") apart and 5 mm. (1/4") deep at both ends of a piece of colored mat board (often available free from framing shops) or firm cardboard. Wrap string around and around the "loom", catching it in the notches. Tie the ends together on the back of the cardboard. Roll an assortment of yarns into small balls. Keep them in an open box or basket. Keep scissors in the box too.



Navajo Weaving Photograph by Kay Alexander

Getting Started: Examine examples of textured, woven fabrics, pillow covers, drapery or upholstery and wall hangings. Notice how the colored threads have been interlocked to create a design. The weaving you are about to do is for decoration, not

clothing, so it is all right if you pull the weft tightly sometimes. You can even leave some spaces in it. You do not have to weave all the way across every row before turning back, once you are started. You can use many colors or textures, or just a few. This is your chance to express your very own ideas and explore what fun weaving can be!

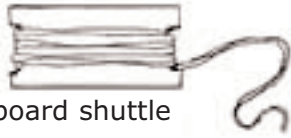
1. Look closely, perhaps with a magnifying glass, at some woven objects that have designs made with colored or textured yarns. Notice that the



large eye needle



blunt tip



cardboard shuttle

weaver didn't just take the same yarn all the way back across the loom. Instead, another weft (weaving thread) goes back and forth part of the way to make the design. The background color covers the rest of the warp (support) threads.

To use the shuttle, unwind enough yarn to go across the loom and halfway back. Then use the shuttle to guide the yarn as you read the directions. Unroll more yarn as you need it.

2. Thread a large-eye needle with yarn the length of your arm.

The loom should look like this from the back. The front will have just the straight lines of yarn.



Marisa Age 8

3. Begin halfway across the warps so that the end of the yarn will be hidden behind the weaving as you proceed. Weave over and under the warps to the edge. Then weave back again, all the way across. Be sure to go over the warps that you went under before, or you will un-weave!

4. As you finish with one piece of yarn, slip the needle off and tuck that end behind the weaving, as well. Re-thread the needle using a new color or texture as you wish.

5. Back up a few warps, insert your needle, and continue to weave. Do not tie knots; just tuck the ends behind the warp as you continue weaving.

6. Instead of weaving every row from side to side, begin to create a diagonal by working one or two fewer warps each time. Then fill in with a different kind of yarn. Loop the new yarn around the same warp, or create a slit between the two parts so you can hang a bead or shell there, later.

7. Explore other possibilities: Weave around and around in a spiral; push

rows apart and fill the space with another color or texture; weave over *two* and under *two* warps for a change; leave some open areas where the warp and background color will show.

8. If you have used colored mat board, your finished tapestry can be left on the loom and matted or framed. If the weaving is to be removed, clip the warp near the center on the back of the cardboard. Tie pairs of warp threads together close to the weaving. Hang the tapestry from a twig or a dowel.

CLEAN UP: Save all but the shortest lengths of yarn. Put your needle where you can find it again. You might stick it into a ball of yarn or put it in a small envelope. Keep all your supplies together in a box or basket for another weaving project.

TALK ABOUT IT: What combinations of color and texture do you like best? What is the most unusual part of your weaving?

MORE IDEAS: Now that you have woven your first tapestry, collect interesting bits of yarn, feathers, small stones with holes in them, buttons, seed pods or whatever catches your eye. Weave them into a new tapestry. You can give it to someone as a gift.

CONNECTIONS: Read [Abuela's Weave](#) by Omar Castaneda (available in Spanish or English).

