

March 2023 guild program

WSWG will be making keychains for the MAFA conference gift bags. This program will cover the very basics of Inkle band weaving.

Sandi Petty will be leading this program - with help from other guild members. And handout by Cindy French.

First things first: Thread count: Key Fob bands for the MAF conference gift bags

The key fob hardware we have is 1 1/4" wide. So the bands need to be woven to this width.

Typically with weaving we use wraps per inch to decide the sett. However band weaving is a warp faced weave, showing none of the weft except for a tiny bit on the very edge. Which means to pull the weft threads firmly together.

Here are the thread counts we've come up with so far to result in the 1 1/4" band.

8/4 cotton rug warp: 55-57 threads wide

Size 3 crochet cotton - 49-51 threads

3/2 perle cotton - 51-55 threads

5/2 perle cotton 57-61 threads wide.

For the key fobs that tend to fit over most women's wrists - we've cut the length between 10 1/2 - 11" long. We are experimenting with key fobs to fit men's wrists - but need to decide this length.

Inkle weaving basics

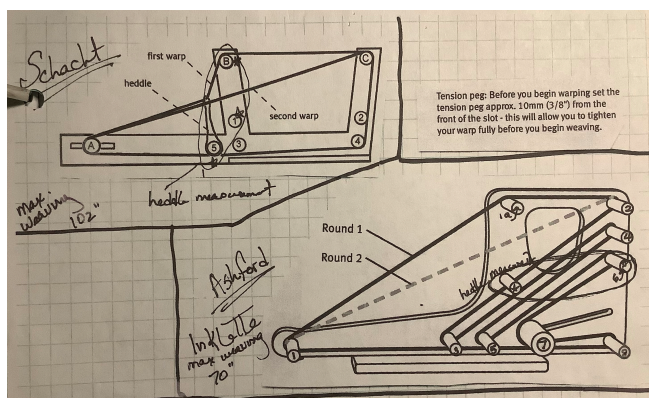
Inkle weaving (band weaving) is an ancient art used by many different cultures. Bands were used as fastenings, decorations, straps, ties, so many different uses. Today we don't need to weave bands to function, but do so because they are a creative expression and a blast to make. Bands are a very sturdy warp faced weave, where the weft threads don't show, except on the edges.

Inkle looms are a convenient way to weave bands, although Backstrap, tablet weaving and other types of looms can certainly be used to create bands. This handout covers basic techniques with an Inkle loom.

A few Inkle looms that can be purchased (top to bottom right side of page)

Schacht, Ashford full size and Inklette, Windhaven Fiber Tools Inkle, LeClerc Cendrel, Glimarka Swedish Band Loom, Kairos, Gilmore mini wave.

Understanding the warp pattern on your Inkle and making Heddles



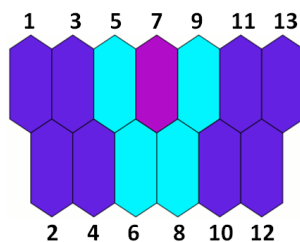
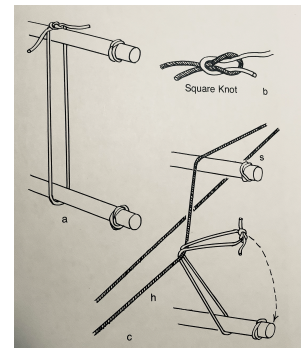
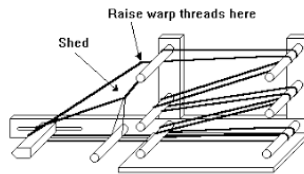
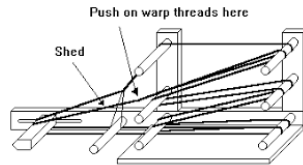
Each brand of Inkle loom has its own warping directions and maximum warp length. By skipping certain pegs, the max warp length may be shortened. Shown below is a short band on the Schacht, long band on the Inklette.

Warping an Inkle loom needs to result in a continuous warp that will circle around the pegs. Once you fill the weaving space, release the tension to advance the warp, giving you more room to weave.

Inkle looms have a tension adjustment peg somewhere on the loom (the old style flaps work, but not as easily as the movable pegs). To start warping, determine the longest length possible with the movable peg, and back it off 3/8". This gives you plenty of room to loosen the tension as you weave the band. The tension will tighten as you weave, and moving the peg adjusts the tension.

Making heddles: most looms have 2 or 3 pegs indicated for tying heddles the proper length. Heddles may be made from any non stretchy sturdy fiber. Cotton works well - something like size 10 or size 3 crochet cotton. Crochet cotton has a tight spin. Marked in illustration above are the heddle/peg arrangements for a Schacht loom, and for the Ashford Inklette. Every Inkle loom has its own setup depending on peg arrangement. Find the size heddles that work best for your loom and make a handful of heddles for your loom. Sandi will show us how to make them if you don't have the instructions from your loom. She'll do this in the program.

Heddles are attached to all odd numbered 'rounds' of warping. So round 1 will be heddled, then round 2 will be unheddled, etc. The heddles are placed around the heddle bar, and over the thread, then back on the heddle bar. (Illustration to the right). Once the heddled threads are set up alternating with the unheddled threads, your loom will be ready to weave. When set up this way, the loom has 2 sheds.

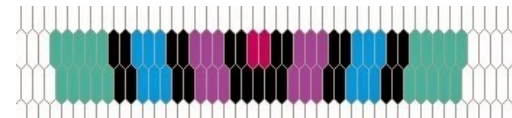


Planning designs for Inkle bands

1. Using free software to plan a design:

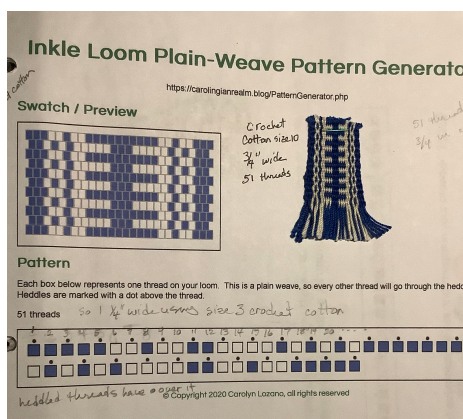
To the left is a design example from Annie MacHale's blog: A Spinner Weaver. Top line shows heddled threads, bottom line shows unheddled threads. Read the threading design by top row (heddled), 1, diagonally down is the next thread (unheddled), then back up to the top row, etc. Threads 1-4 will make a stripe. Threads 5-9 will make a chain look.

Annie used an online Inkle Loom Weaving Pattern Editor <https://www.raktres.net/seizenn/editor.html>. She has descriptions on how to use this program, which her blog.



The design on the right is also a pattern from Annie's blog with stripes and a chain in the middle of the piece. The stripes are made by having the same color in the heddled thread beside the unheddled thread. Notice in the very center of the 2 line design grid, the chain has 2 different colors in the heddled threads vs the unheddled threads that go together,

Another software method for planning designs: <https://carolingianrealm.blog/PatternGenerator.php>. This pattern generator puts the threads in order of warping in a straight line. The heddled threads are marked with a dot over the top.



It may take a few picks or so to get the width sorted, but don't throw that part away when the band is finished. Cut it off the band to add to the design sheet if you made one. Or put it on a samples page for later reference.

2: Graph Paper: Another method of design is to print out a graph paper designed just for Inkle band planning, and play with color pencils.

<https://www.deviantart.com/flufdrax/art/Inkle-offset-graph-74494166>

So you could play with the color pencils first, then type it into one of the online pattern generators and see what it might look like. Then decide if you like what you have before you weave it. To the right, is a design idea graph paper and color pencils. To the right below, is how the sketched idea looks in the Carolingianrealm generator. The CarolingianRealm



generator is simpler to pop in and try. Pick a color and put it in the swatch preview. The resulting piece is not as realistic as the Raktres editor, but is simpler to learn. The Raktres editor has a slight learning curve.

3. Saori method: Of course - possibly the best method for designing is the Saori method of playing and seeing what happens!!

Inkle Loom Plain-Weave Pattern Generator

<https://carolingianrealm.blog/PatternGenerator.php>

Swatch / Preview



Pattern

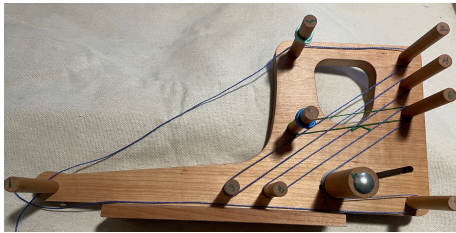
Each box below represents one thread on your loom. This is a plain weave, so every other thread will go through the heddles. Heddles are marked with a dot above the thread.

37 threads



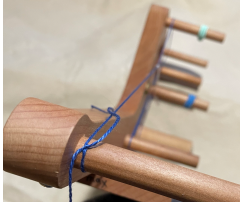
Warping the Inkle loom (Cindy's method). Sandi will show her method in the program.

Once you have a design planned with the number of threads and color order you are ready to start warping your loom.



Step 1. Hold (or tape) thread at the front peg. Wind around following the heddled path, using as many pegs as desired to obtain length. This example has used them all.

Add heddle to first thread.

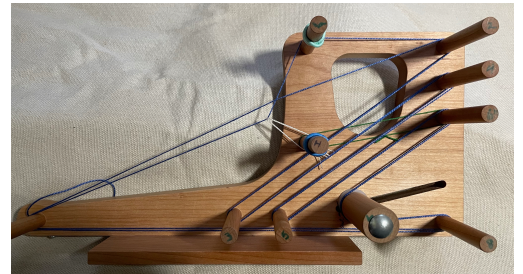


Step 2. Tie the first thread once around (leave about a 2"tail), to secure. Don't cut the thread.

Step 3: Using the same thread add the next round of thread, following the unheddled path. Then continue wrapping alternating heddled, then unheddled.

Do make sure the thread path is a complete circle, so that once you go to advance the warp threads, the entire batch of threads will move as one bundle.

No thread is wrapped entirely around a single peg (in a completed circle). This will cause the bundle to not move when advancing the warp.



Step 4: continue winding a heddled thread, then an unheddled thread. Change colors as desired, tying the new thread to the old thread in front of the first peg.

Each time the color changes, tie the new color to the old color by holding both colors together, and making an overhand knot.

If you're making checks where the heddled thread is one color and the unheddled thread is a different color, you can run 2 colors at the same time. Tie both colors onto the last thread. Pick up color 1 and do the heddled thread path, drop it at the front peg. Pick up color 2 for the unheddled thread path, then drop it at the front peg, picking up color 1 again.

Cindy's all excited to see how Sandi warps her Inkle loom. Cindy's not sure where she got her technique, maybe made it up?? Sandi's method is from Anne Dixon's book.

Winding a belt shuttle

Here are 2 examples of Belt shuttles for an Inkle loom: both with a beveled edge and are very sturdy. Schacht on the left, Ashford on the right.



Wind the shuttle with a figure 8 along the thicker edge (the non beveled side) of the shuttle. Use the same color as first and last threads warped on the loom, to make an almost invisible weft thread. Or use a contrasting color for pop of color along the edge.

Weaving the band

It helps to use 2 folded pieces of an index card (or 2 popsicle sticks) to give a stable base for starting the weaving. One for down shed and one for the up shed. Leave in place until you have a few inches of band woven. This fixes the width of the band within a few rows.



Start with the weft yarn in the next row. Weave a few rows to start the piece, and establish the width of the band. I always use this to help me keep my place: if the shuttle is on the left, lower the shed (l for left and lower). If the shuttle is on the right, I raise the shed - r for right and raised. (Tricks of a dyslexic weaver).

- Throw the shuttle and leave a loop of weft thread at the edge
- Change the shed
- Beat firmly with the beveled edge of the belt shuttle
- Pull the weft thread even with the edge of the warp threads. Pinch the edge as you pull.

Throw the shuttle and repeat the loop, change shed, beat, pull technique. This helps keep an even edge.



Even edges

In addition to using the loop, change shed, beat, then pull technique here are a couple more ideas to help obtain a fairly consistent width.

1. Measure the width with a ruler from time to time.
2. Or cut a piece of index card, fold in half, a hole punched in the edge. Tie it with a bit of string, mark the width of your piece with a line and slide it up as you weave. Use the mark to stay consistent.



Resources: Websites

<https://carolingianrealm.blog/PatternGenerator.php>

<https://www.raktres.net/blog/inkle-loom-pattern-editor/>

<https://littellooms.com/a-free-guide-to-inkle-weaving/>

<http://aspinnerweaver.blogspot.com/p/inkle-weaving-faqs-and-answers.html>

<https://www.weavezine.com/content/weaving-inkle-loom.html>

https://www.ashford.co.nz/images/download_pdfs/learn_to/learn_to_weave_on_the_inkle_loom.pdf

Resources: books:

Atwater, Mary Meigs. Byways in Weaving

Bress, Helene. Inkle Weaving

Dixon, Anne. The Weaver's Inkle Pattern Directory 400 Warp Faced Weaves

MacHale, Anne. In Celebration of Plain Weave, Color and Design Inspiration for Inkle Loom Weavers.

More advanced ideas for Inkle weaving -

Check out [Laverne Waddington's](#) books. Some of her Backstrap style weaving can be done on an Inkle loom, and she has a couple of books for it.

Also [Daryl Lancaster](#) has a couple of Inkle loom books, one beginning, one advanced.

[Annie MacHale](#) has a 3 color pick up book out now. Plus her website: A Spinner Weaver has marvelous free info available.

Look up [Sami Band weaving](#) - lots of resources for this!

Stoorstalka has some cool heddles to make Sami style pick up easy - and the not so huge ones will fit on your Inkle loom.

Weaving Patterned Bands by Susan J. Foulkes

Norwegian Pick up Bandweaving by Heather Torgenrud

Card weaving can be done on a Inkle loom - many resources for that - do a google search.

Krokbragd can be done on an Inkle loom. Check out goggle for that as well.