

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR A 7X10 NAVAJO STYLE WEAVING

Between a wood frame, some wood dowels, masking tape, string and rubber bands.....I think we can make a small, relatively inexpensive vertical loom to make a small practice weaving on.

We can accomplish a lot more....if you can do some prep work ahead of the program in April....so below is a list of supplies needed and some things to do.

Needed:

An 11x14 (or larger) sturdy wooden frame.

4 wood Dowels 16 x 3/8 each, or longer if you have a larger frame. Dowels need to be wider than the frame.

Two more sticks of some kind.....plant stacks work well.....to preserve the shed

Cotton twine

Nylon twine

Butchers string.....or some heavy cotton type twine

Rubber Bands

Good Masking tape

Tape Measure

Scissors

4in. Sacking Needle.....or a needle with an eye big enough to thread the Butcher string through.

A batten of some kind. Maybe a narrow ruler would work??? To separate the sheds.

Some kind of Fork to beat the weft down with. I used a sturdy plastic fork for a while....but it did break.

For anyone interested in purchasing a Batten, Fork and the sacking needle.....they are available on line. I purchase my supplies from Weaving Southwest.....in Taos, NM. A 24 x 1/2 batten is about \$18, a Navajo Fork runs between \$14 and \$20, and the sacking needle is \$1.75. All optional....

DO AHEAD OF MEETING:

For a 7 x 10 weaving you will need approx. 16 yds of Warp. If your frame is larger....make more. Warp can be made by overspinning a single ply yarn.....such as Lambs Pride. Set the twist by wrapping the yarn around a metal oven rack....or something similar.....and placing in hot water. Roll up in to a ball for ease of use.

These are the approx.. weights of re-spun yarn needed for different rug sizes.

9 x 15 need .8oz

14 x 24 need 1.2 oz

15 x 40 need 2 oz.

30 x 40 need 3.5 oz

We will use twinning at the bottom and top of the rug.....and I'll show you how to do a side selvedge as well.....so take 12 yds of single ply yarn and ply them together. Set the twist as above. If your frame is larger.....make adjustments. Below is the "math" on how to determine how much yarn is needed.

Width +(tassel length...{A 9 inch tassel gives you plenty to work with} x 2= yardage for single ply of bottom cord x 8 + length +(tassel x 2) = yardage for single ply of side cord x 8. Add these two together and divide by 36 and you have total yardage needed for a two cord edging.

Example: 7 x 10 rug

$7 + (9 \times 2) = 25 \times 8 = 200$ inches

$10 + (9 \times 2) = 28 \times 8 = \underline{224}$ inches

424 inches divided by 36 =11.77 yds i.e. 12 yards of single ply yarn.

Two or three colors of single ply yarn....or more depending on your design. A 4 oz. skein of yarn covers between 125 and 150 sq. inches.....

Make a simple pattern using graft paper. For now, stripes and squares would be best.

Making re-usable heddle loops will probably be easier than trying to teach the Navajo way for now. This can be done by cutting 10in. lengths of Nylon twine and making a knot at one end. Melt the tip with a flame to they don't fray. Try to make them as close to the same size as possible. For the 7x10 rug....make 30 loops.

When we get closer to the time....I'll have written instructions sent to you so you can print off and bring to the meeting.

If you have any questions....feel free to give me a call.

Thank you for your interest in Navajo Weaving.

Diane Hickman

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