

Taming Fancy Yarn, 2024

Hello All! We're going to have a great time together this March (Tues the 12th)! I want to make sure everyone is prepared and knows what to bring in order to get the most out of class.

We will all be warping our looms together for a scarf using a mix of novelty yarn. I know everyone has different ways that they like to warp their loom but let's talk about some of the pros and cons of the major methods ahead of time so that you can bring everything you might need. On the next page, I'll make a list of all of the other basic weaving and warping tools that everyone should bring, regardless of your warping method.

Direct Warping (Rigid Heddle ONLY)

This method will need a long space to set up (about 3.5 yards), and you'll want to make sure to bring your GOOD clamps, a warping peg, and of course all of your other warping and weaving tools.

Direct warping is fast and easy, and allows you to "design at the loom," creating your stripes as you go. The downside is that it is more difficult to use a single strand of yarn (not impossible, it's just trickier!), and your yarns have to pass through narrow slots / holes while you are winding on, which is more difficult with bumpy novelty yarn.

If you're a rigid heddle weaver, you may also want to bring a pick-up stick or two.

Front to Back Warping (Reed First), Any Loom!

This method will need a warping board, lease sticks (optional, but super handy), reed holder (a nice stack of heavy books will suffice), and all of your general warping and weaving supplies.

Front to back warping is a great way to mix up your warp yarns as you sley your reed. It's perfect for putting together multiple warps, and designing as you go. The downside is that the yarns are not as well ordered, and they can tangle much easier, which is especially true of novelty yarns!

Back to Front Warping (Heddles First) Any Loom!

This method will need a warping board, lease sticks, and all of your general weaving and warping tools. I like to attach my lease sticks to my loom as I am winding on, if you do too, make sure not to forget your ties.

Back to Front warping is the neatest of the warping methods. Your yarn will stay nice and tidy as you beam on. The downside is that you will need to do most of your warp color arranging on the warp board, this can be limiting or at least tedious as you frequently swap yarns.

Other Warping Methods

If you are planning on using a different warping method, or a variation on one of the above, make sure you bring the appropriate equipment. I wouldn't recommend sectional warping for this class.

MOST IMPORTANT!!! This is not a learn to warp class, please plan on using a method that you feel comfortable with. We will be learning ways to counter the difficulties of novelty yarn in your warping, but not how to warp in general.

General Warping and Weaving Tools

We will be weaving a 3-yard warp about 10 inches wide, so keep that in mind when you are gathering your equipment. Please use this list as a checklist and make sure all of these items are in your car or bag before you leave. A few things you can borrow, but others will put you dead in the water and you'll be very sad.

- **Warp separator** (cardboard, THICK paper, warp sticks) for keeping the warp from digging into its neighbors
- **Threading and Sleying Hooks**
- **Cone holder / yarn bowl** (can be a large bowl or cooking pot) for holding your yarn while warping or winding your weft
- **Scissors** (regular size and small for fine work)
- **Warp Weights** (S hooks, old cardboard yarn cones, fishing weights, fancy custom weights)
- **Measuring Tape**
- **Strong string** (I use carpet warp)
- **Waste Yarn** (I'll show you how to spread your warp without waste yarn!)
- **Shuttles** (any kind you are comfortable with) along with anything else that goes with ...
 - Bobbins, quills, or pirns
 - Bobbin winder (we can probably share if not everyone can bring one)
- **Loom** Don't forget this one! Any WORKING loom that is at least 10" wide will be great. Rigid heddle looms, table looms, floor looms, whatever. As long as it works and you know how to use it.
- **Chair or bench** If you have a specific height you like to weave at, it's really nice to have a proper height seat rather than weaving on a folding chair.
- **Reed(s)** You will need a 4 to 8, or 10 dent reed, depending on the yarn you pick for your warp. It is better to have a reed with wider dents than narrow ones. If you are on a rigid heddle, don't bring anything narrower than the 7.5 epi heddle. You can test your reed choice ahead of time by trying to pass some of your novelty yarn through the reed and seeing if it catches. If it does, go bigger!
- **Ruler or WPI tool** for testing your yarn for sett
- **Weaving Draft?** I will be bringing a handful of threading drafts for 4 or 8 shaft looms. If you have a fancy twill that you would like to weave, feel free to bring your draft but most structures won't really show, so it's best not to get too complicated with the threading or tie-up.
- **Yarns for Warp** You can just bring your large sacks of novelty yarn and decide what to use in class, or you can think about a color scheme and just bring the yarns that you are planning on maybe using.
 - **Plain Yarns** It can be really nice to have some nice, but less striking yarns mixed in with your novelty yarn in order to offset them some. Feel free to bring some other yarns of a similar size that are a bit plainer. Chenille, knitting wool, hand-dyed yarn, or any other smooth textured yarns are really helpful.
- **Yarns for Weft** Bring a few different options for your weft. I personally like to use a smaller wool (or wool/cotton/rayon blend) for my weft in a coordinating color (or black / navy / other 'neutral'). We will be weaving a small sampler section in the beginning, so that you can try out a few different colors before striking off into weaving your scarf proper.

Did I forget anything? Do you have any questions? Feel free to contact me before class: smisle@gmail.com

See you soon!

Susannah Day