

WEAVING

COMMON TERMS

Balanced Weave: The number of warp threads across equals the rows of weft.

Battening: The action of pushing the weft into place with the reed, also known as "Beating Up."

Beaming: The process of winding the warp threads onto the back beam of the loom before threading through the heddles and reed.

Beat: The act of pressing the weft thread into place using the reed or beater, ensuring that the fabric is evenly woven.

Clasped Weft: A technique where two weft threads are used simultaneously, clasping each other as they pass through the shed to create patterns or color changes.

Cross: The figure-eight arrangement of warp threads that keeps them in order during winding and beaming, preventing tangling.

Double Weave: A technique that creates two layers of fabric simultaneously, which can be interlocked or left separate.

Draw-In: The slight narrowing of the fabric as it is woven, caused by the tension of the weft threads pulling the warp threads together.

EPI (Ends Per Inch): The number of warp threads per inch in a woven fabric, which determines the fabric's density.

Float: A warp or weft thread that extends over several other threads without interlacing. Floats can be intentional for patterning or may be considered a flaw if unintentional.

Heddle: A device used on a loom to separate and lift warp threads, forming a shed. Heddles can be made of wire, string, or even wood.

Heddle Eye: The opening in a heddle through which a warp thread passes.

Jacquard: A type of loom or weaving technique that enables the creation of intricate patterns, often used for brocade and damask fabrics.

Loom: The device or frame used to weave cloth. It holds the warp threads under tension to facilitate the interweaving of the weft.

Pickup Stick: A tool used to manually lift specific warp threads to create patterns in plain weave fabrics.

Pile Weave: A type of weave that creates a raised surface on the fabric, such as in velvet or terry cloth, by leaving loops or cutting them.

PPI (Picks Per Inch): The number of weft threads per inch in a woven fabric.

Overshot: A type of weave where a pattern is created by floating weft threads over multiple warp threads, often used in traditional American coverlets.

Reed: A comb-like tool that pushes the weft threads into place as you weave. It also helps to keep the warp threads evenly spaced.

Selvage: The finished edge of a woven fabric, running parallel to the warp. It prevents the fabric from unraveling.

Shed: The opening between raised and lowered warp threads through which the weft passes.

Shedding: The process of raising and lowering warp threads to create a shed through which the weft passes.

Shuttle: A tool used to carry the weft thread back and forth through the shed between the warp threads.

Supplementary Warp: Extra warp threads used for decorative purposes, often creating a pattern on the fabric's surface. Tabby: A plain weave where each weft thread passes over and under alternate warp threads.

Supplementary Weft: Additional weft threads added to create patterns or texture without affecting the structure of the fabric.

Take-Up: The amount of warp thread consumed as it is woven into fabric, reducing the overall length of the warp on the loom.

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Tapestry: A form of weaving where the weft threads are packed down tightly, often using different colors to create a design or image.

Temple: A tool used to maintain the width of the fabric on the loom, preventing draw-in.

Tension: The degree of tightness in the warp threads. Proper tension is crucial for even weaving.

Tie-Up: The arrangement of treadles to control which warp threads are lifted during weaving.

Twill: A type of weave that produces a diagonal pattern on the fabric surface, created by passing the weft over one or more warp threads and then under two or more warp threads.

Warp: The set of yarns or threads that are stretched in place on a loom before the weaving process begins. The warp runs vertically on the loom.

Warp-Faced Weave: A type of weave where the warp threads are more visible on the surface of the fabric, often used in rugs.

Weft (or Woof): The horizontal threads that are woven over and under the warp threads to create fabric.

Weft-Faced Weave: A weave where the weft threads dominate the surface of the fabric, hiding most of the warp.

WEAVING

COMMON TOOLS FOR RIGID HEDDLE WEAVING

Ball Winder: A mechanical device designed to wind yarn into a round, center-pull ball or cake. It allows for efficient and even winding, making the yarn easier to handle and use.

Boat Shuttle: A shuttle that holds a bobbin of weft yarn, allowing for smoother and faster weaving.

Clamps: Used to secure the loom to a table or work surface while warping or weaving.

Heddle Hook: A tool used to thread warp threads through the holes in the rigid heddle.

Measuring Tape: Used to measure the length of warp threads and to check the progress of the woven fabric.

Pick-Up Stick: A flat, narrow tool used to manually lift specific warp threads to create patterns in plain weave fabrics.

Reed Hook: A tool with a hooked end, used to thread warp threads through the slots and holes in the rigid heddle.

Rigid Heddle: A frame with slots and holes through which the warp threads are threaded, serving both as a heddle and reed.

Rigid Heddle Loom: The loom itself, designed for simplicity and portability, using a rigid heddle to lift and lower warp threads.

Scissors: For trimming yarn ends and cutting finished fabric off the loom.

Sleying Hook: A hook used for pulling the warp threads through the slots and holes of the rigid heddle.

Stick Shuttle: A flat, elongated tool around which the weft yarn is wound, used to pass the yarn through the shed.

Tapestry Needle: A large, blunt needle used for weaving in ends, repairing mistakes, or adding supplementary weft.

Temple: A tool used to maintain the width of the fabric on the loom, preventing the draw-in of the warp threads.

Tension Knob: A knob used to adjust the tension of the warp threads on the loom.

Threading Hook: A small hook tool used for threading warp threads through the heddle slots and holes.

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COMMON TOOLS FOR RIGID HEDDLE WEAVING

Warp Beam: The beam at the back of the loom on which the warp threads are wound before threading through the heddle.

Warp Separator Paper: Paper or cardboard strips used to separate layers of warp threads on the back beam, preventing tangling and maintaining even tension.

Warping Board: A frame with pegs used to measure and organize warp threads before they are placed on the loom.

Warping Helper or Assistant: A tool or accessory designed to help hold and manage warp threads during the warping process.

Warping Pegs: Pegs used to measure and stretch the warp threads to the correct length before threading them through the rigid heddle.

Yarn Bobbins: Small spools or bobbins around which weft yarn is wound for use with a boat shuttle.

Yarn Swift: A device designed to hold a skein or hank of yarn in place while it is being wound onto a yarn ball winder or into a center-pull ball. It allows the yarn to unwind smoothly and evenly without tangling.
