

Fish Hooks On A Loom

By A. B. GARDNER

Probably the most universally hated process connected with hand weaving is the tie-up. And justly so. I don't believe any more awkward, painful, profanity provoking job was ever invented, than that of lying on one's side under a loom, breaking finger nails and struggling with loops and snitch knots after they have become firmly snugged down by continual use.

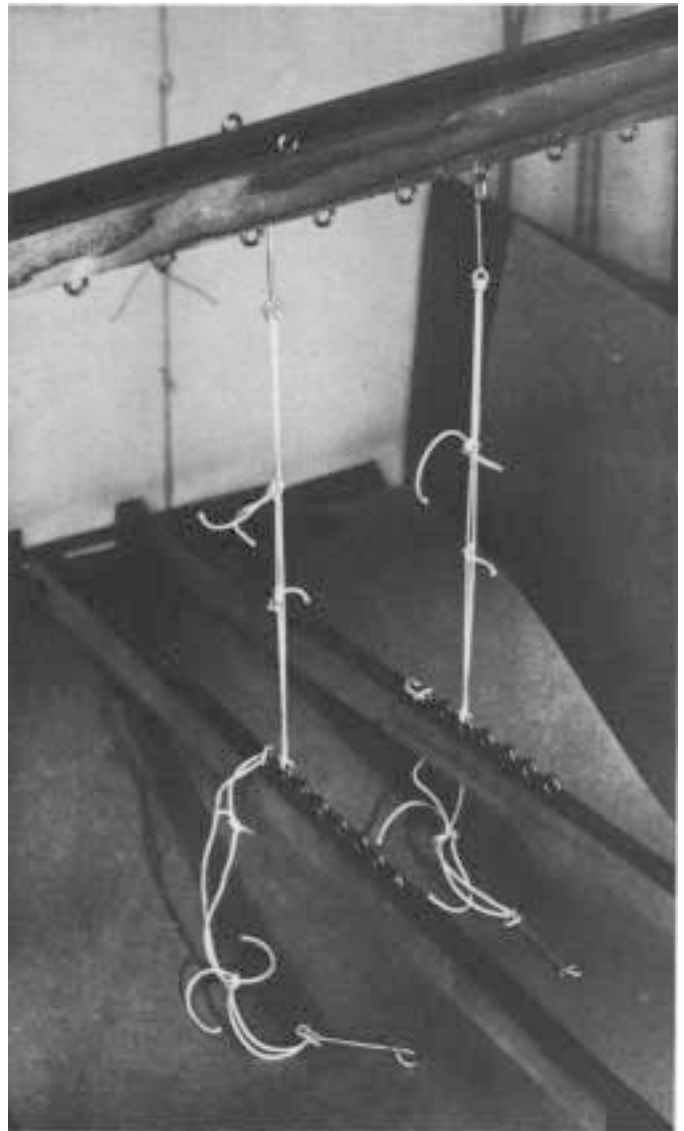
But this is not necessarily the case now. Three quarters of the work and most of the grief including all of the finger nails can be prevented. The answer is "fish hooks". Yes, Pflueger/IP Cod, Ringed, No. 4321, Tinned 3, which any dealer in hardware or sporting goods can obtain in boxes of 100. Fish hooks were selected for this work for the reason that they are made from wire that is stiff enough to hold its shape and there is an eye in each hook which it would be almost impossible for the home workman to form by hand in such hard wire.

To modify the hooks it is first necessary to grind the barbs off as they cannot be cut. This done on the corner of an abrasive wheel about half way thru and the point broken off with pliers. The rough end is then smoothed on the wheel. Then a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch rod or bolt is set upright in a machinist's vise and the point of the hook caught between the bolt and vise jaw. The hook is bent around the bolt with a spiral motion so there is space between hook end and shank to allow the screw eye on the lamm to pass thru. That is all there is to it and I did not find it much of a job to modify a box of 100 hooks.

In use, the regular double cords are used as usual except that they may be shorter. The lower cord is looped into screw eye in treadle, upper cord in eye of hook, hook is turned into eye of lamm, snitch knot made and adjusted and you are ready to weave. When a change of tie-up is desired, simply turn the unwanted hooks out of their eyes and allow them to rest on the floor without detaching from treadle. Attach additional hooks where needed and go ahead. In time probably every treadle eye will have its individual hook attached and ready for instant use with no more bothering to change cords and break finger nails. After the loops and knots become firmly snugged into place there is no further adjustment until a cord breaks and needs to be replaced.

In starting to use this method, probably the best way is to equip only those treadles required for the pattern at hand and gradually add others as needed. This divides the under loom contortions into many short sessions in place of one long nightmare.

I have used this method all summer on my eight harness, ten treadle loom without the least trouble and would not be without it. Don't be afraid the hooks either on the lamms or on the floor will catch into anything as they don't. If some hook should interfere with an adjacent



lamm coming down it is because the point was not turned short enough. It should not project beyond the shank and can be pinched down if necessary with pliers or a vise.

There are only two precautions to observe. Be sure to attach the hooks to lamms and not to treadles. It took me six months to learn this. Don't use a hard, stiff cord.

One advantage of this method over some others that have been proposed is that it is so easy to secure all the materials anywhere.

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