

ENTERING A WARP SINGLE HANDED

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As weavers, I think we are all seeking ways of lessening the time consumed in the most tedious part of our work, that of making and entering a warp. Much has been written on the subject and many ways described, meritorious and otherwise. We try them all and then adopt the one which seems the best for our individual use.

I have read with interest the article published recently in the *WEAVER* on "Speeding up the Process of Loom Weaving" but disagree with the writer that it is advisable to have FOUR persons to enter a warp. Some of us do not have four available people at our command and so we must have some method to do it "Single Handed". Besides even if we can call in some member of the family to assist, they do not realize the importance of keeping an even hold on the warp and so the result is an uneven tension. There are several devices on the market called TENSIONERS and if one can add this article of equipment to his studio, they are a help in shortening the time.

I use a simple method whereby "Single Handed" I can enter a warp successfully and I offer it to you in the following way:—

When making your warp divide it into sections and chain each section. Before taking it off the warping frame make a number of ties with cord — (waste ends of carpet warp) — one at each end thru the loop as at illustration A.

You have already the tie at the cross or lease where one keeps count of the ends. Now at a short distance from the cross tie, take the top group of the cross ends and the lower group of the cross ends separately and tie each as at illustration B.

Next at various intervals along the warp as a whole, tie loops, as many as are necessary according to the length of the warp. This keeps the warp in good order. All ties to be loose enough to slip easily along the warp as it is beamed in. Illustrations C.

Cut the warp at the end nearest to the cross. Distribute into the reed for the determined width of the material. By taking each group as tied in the cross it is easy to pick up the ends in order of over and under and thus keep a good warp. Then thread the heddles from the front with the pattern; draw warp thru and tie to the warp beam. The reed being in the batten, the warp is the correct width and is ready to turn on.

But having only one pair of hands it is necessary to make some arrangement for holding the tension. Take a chair with a straight top bar such as a ladder back or any plain one. After straightening the warp, secure it to the top bar.

Raise a shed as tho beginning to weave and insert a lease stick in the open shed between the heddle frames and the back beam. Change the shed and insert a lease stick in open shed in front of first stick. Secure lease sticks at both ends and tie securely to loom to keep them from rolling into the warp. Move chair as far away from loom as possible;—straighten warp and tie with tension to top bar of chair. Put a heavy weight on seat of chair. Personally, I use a case containing a portable sewing machine. Begin to turn on the warp;—the chair will either slide along the floor if the floor is smooth or the chair will tilt. If the latter, allow it to tilt but not overbalance. When at that stage, release the tension of the warp—move chair back to original position and proceed as before. Repeat process until entire warp is entered, just making allowance for sufficient to tie to cloth beam. As you have already threaded your pattern and sleyed thru the reed you are ready to weave your cloth.

