

# MAKE THE MOST OF WEAVING AT CAMP

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Summer is upon us once again, and with it the camping season. Just as in our every-day lives we are paying more attention to the home crafts, so in Camp the things we create with our hands are a very important part of the summer program, and I know of no better craft project for the summer camp than that of weaving.

The possibilities for developing expression in design, color, and texture, are infinite, and the rhythm and freedom of large motion, all add to the soul-satisfying experience of the child of watching a design grow into a thing of beauty and real value. "I wove it myself," says she, with great pride.

The eight weeks of a camp season are extremely short and it seems as though we have no sooner started than we must hurry to finish the last pieces. In order to make the most of this short time there are several points which may well be taken into consideration.

First of all, the looms. There should be several — let us say six to twelve, and there should be a variety of types and sizes — floor and table, two, four, six, and eight-harness. But what is more important than the type of loom, is that every loom should be in **GOOD WORKING CONDITION**. Nothing is more discouraging than to try to weave on a loom that does not open a good shed, or that continually needs readjusting, or falls apart. Every screw and nut should be tightened, catches and springs adjusted, joints oiled, and the mechanics of the loom carefully analyzed to see if improvements can be made. Treadles should be fastened at

the front rather than at the back of the loom. Harnesses made with two sticks and string heddles should be discarded for frame harnesses and wire heddles. I have had great success with a four harness unit which can be set into any floor loom, does away with lamms, opens a perfect shed — always the same size, and makes an old loom into a brand new one. (Further information concerning this unit may be had from the writer.)

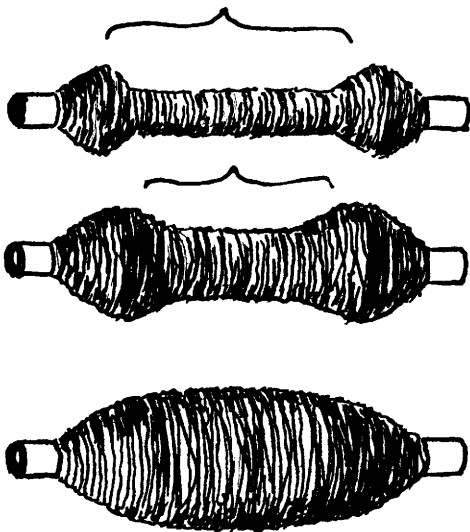
The second consideration is that of warps. During the course of the summer, new warps will have to be put on and when such a time comes, there will be plenty of enthusiasts who will want to help. I feel strongly, however, that the looms should be absolutely ready for weaving at the opening day of camp. I consider it unfortunate to have a youthful beginner in weaving start with either warp winding or threading, for it is only after one has actually woven something that one becomes interested in the why and wherefore of the preparation. Therefore the looms should be warped and threaded, and if one plans well, the looms will be re-warped and threaded at the end of the summer, ready for the following summer. There is no greater aid for the task of warping, than that of using steel beams and ready wound warp spools. Both of these may be purchased from Bernats — the warp in a variety of weights and colors. I have yet to find a loom which cannot accommodate a steel beam. It is necessary only to do some careful measuring and bore two holes just large enough to insert the steel rod which may

be had in any length. Simply give the outside dimensions of the width of the loom when ordering. The modern hand loom includes this attachment and the old loom is greatly improved by its adoption. Hours and hours of time are thereby saved.

For fancy short warps, wound either on a warping board or sectionally, I cannot stress too strongly the importance of their being well beamed. Use plenty of sticks, or wind in plenty of newspaper so that every layer will be absolutely even, with no slipping down over the edges. One cannot possibly expect to weave a good product unless the warp is beamed well.

Now with our loom in good working order, our warp looking professional, and with a perfectly drawn in pattern (please, please do not allow a threading mistake to remain uncorrected), we are ready to consider shuttles and bobbins. As far as possible boat or throw shuttles should be used. The flat stick shuttles are a nuisance and greatly reduce the speed and efficiency of weaving. The bobbins in the boat shuttles must be properly wound, preferably with a bobbin winder. Build up the ends first, then fill in the center evenly, continuing to build up the ends slightly, but never allowing the thread to wind beyond the two highest points.

I should like to make a few suggestions for simple projects for camp weaving.



1. Plaid scarves. Either authentic Tartans or original designs. May be done on a small two harness loom. A scarf should be the softest texture you can imagine and Bernats has a choice of three suitable weights.

Yorkshire, threaded ten to twelve per inch.

Canterbury, threaded fifteen or sixteen per inch.

Afghan, threaded twenty to twenty-four per inch.

Use same material for filling as used for warp. On the loom these may appear to be threaded too loosely, but when washed in warm soapsuds and steamed with a hot iron, the resulting fabrics are really a joy to wear next to the skin.

2. Towels and luncheon sets.

Warp, Egyptian cotton 24/3, threaded thirty or thirty-two per inch, or cotton 20/2, threaded thirty-six per inch.

Filling, Bernat's linen weaver, natural and colors.

3. Rugs.

	Mary Jones	Bobby Brown	Alice Smith	Edith Gray
Weave a one-shuttle piece.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weave a two-shuttle piece.	✓		✓	
Tie up warp to apron correctly.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design a plaid scarf.			✓	
Wind a warp by hand.	✓			
Help beam a warp.		✓		
Help thread a loom.		✓		✓
Help tie on a new warp.	✓			
Weave as drawn in.		✓		
Execute a laid-in design.		✓		
Spanish weave.			✓	
Etc.				

Warp, carpet warp, threaded fifteen per inch.

Filling, Bernat's chenille, used double for pattern, single for tabby.

Pattern, any suitable colonial or summer and winter.

4. Bathmats. Same threading as above. Use chenille single for pattern, carpet warp for tabby.

5. Runners, table mats, knitting bags, pillow covers, and so forth, using a variety of techniques.

We hardly need any motivation for weaving other than the joy that it gives us to create something both useful and beautiful, and that is the goal for which to strive with our campers. I do think however, that the camper age is still that of wanting to pass proficiency tests, and I believe the weaving counselor will find her campers greatly stimulated by the use of a chart which will show individual progress. There follow suggestions for accomplishments.

Some form of recognition may be given for a certain number of accomplishments, according to the type of group and policies of the camp.

It should be clearly understood by each camper who begins a weaving project, that no other craft should be started until the weaving project is finished, for it is evident that only one person at a time can weave on one loom, and we want as many as possible to have the opportunity to weave.

Finally — please have the weaving shop open at all times, so that weavers can work whenever they want to. The weaving counselor need not always be present. We want to develop independence, too.

And weaving to music is grand fun!