



Skill Level: Easy

Materials:

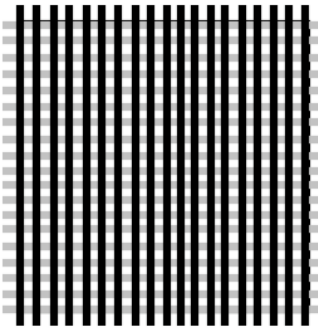
- Set of canvas stretcher bars
www.dickblick.com
- Hammer or rubber mallet (optional)
- Several woven cotton fabrics that coordinate
- Scissors
- Iron
- Staple gun
- Large safety pin (optional)
- Craft glue
- Assorted embellishments: buttons, sequins, etc.

Woven Wall Art

This project gives you an opportunity to really play with color and pattern by weaving simple fabric strips. These woven art pieces make great gifts – and remember, you can make them small enough to sit on a desk or large enough for a gallery wall.

Two Things You Need to Know...

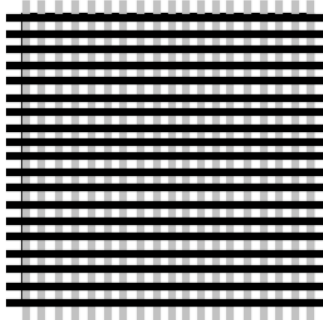
In this project, we'll use two weaving terms: *Warp* and *Weft*. Here's what they mean:



Warp

All the obvious Star Trek jokes aside, “warp” is a weaving term that means: *the vertical threads that give a piece of weaving its underlying structure*. If you string a traditional loom, those strings are called warps.

You'll often find that warps are made of simpler materials, like thin yarn, thread, or twine. This simplicity makes sense, because the warps' main mission is to provide structure for the wefts – which we'll talk about next.



Weft

This is another weaving term, meaning: *the horizontal threads that pass under and over and under and over to form the actual weave*.

Depending on your project, the weft might be one super-long, continuous strand that weaves its way back and forth, or it might be a bunch of short strands.

Weft is warp's more flamboyant cousin. Weft can be made of bulky or novel yarns, or fabric strips, or pipecleaners, or a multitude of other things.

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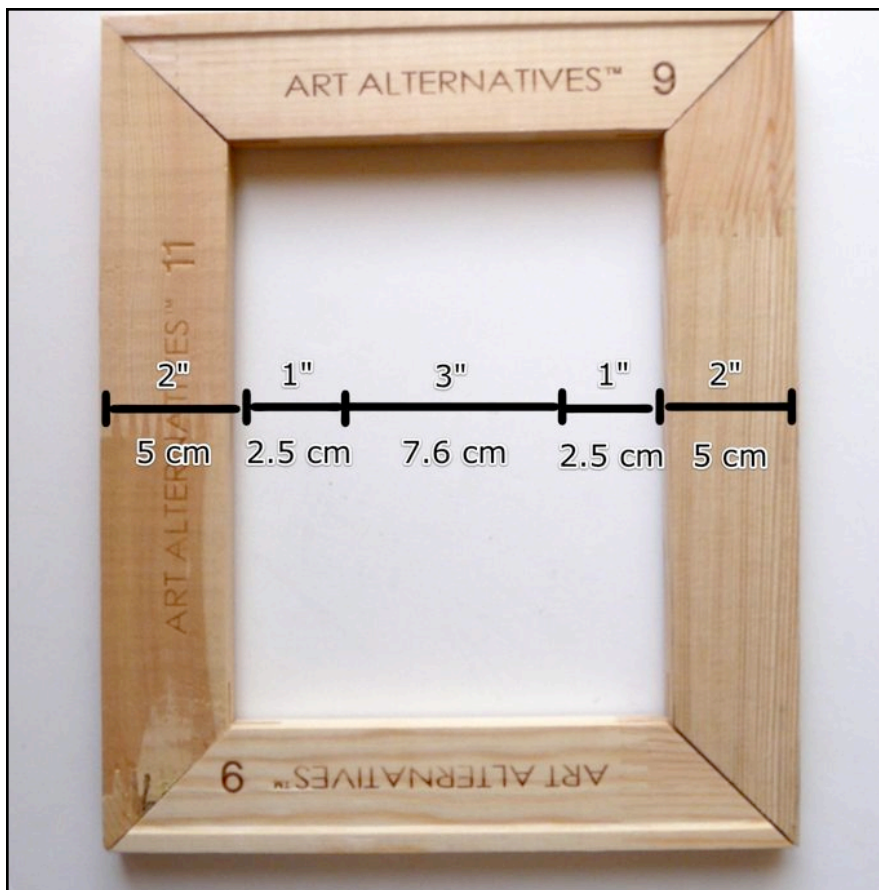
Choose some fabrics

You can use as many or as few fabrics for this project as you like, of course. I like to assemble four prints – two splashy ones and two subtle ones. That combination weaves together nicely.

Assemble the stretcher bars

Canvas stretcher bars are sold in pairs. They're fun because you can choose the length and width you like, and then put them together into a custom size.

Just fit the corners together as shown. You might need to tap the pieces gently with a hammer or mallet so they fit tightly.



Measure the fabric strips

1. Next, we need to figure out how many fabric strips we'll need in order to cover these stretcher bars with weaving. So, begin by measuring the width of your stretcher bars. Mine are 9" (29 cm) wide.

2. Now, decide how you'd like to divide that 9" up into fabric strips. You might, for example, plan to use nine 1" (2.5 cm) strips of fabric. Or you might use one 3" (7.6 cm) strip, two 2" (5 cm) strips, and two 1" (2.5 cm) strips. There are tons of possibilities here.

3. Once you've decided what configuration of fabric strips will cover the width of your stretcher bars, repeat this process to decide how to cover the height.



Prepare the warps

4. I like to tear my fabric into strips rather than cutting it. Not only does tearing give you a nice, straight edge, it adds a pretty bit of texture to the edges of the strips. So, make a small clip in the end of the fabric and rip your way to the other side. Press all your strips with an iron.

Make sure your strips are long enough so there's about 5" (12.7 cm) extending from each side of the stretcher bars, as shown.



5. Lay out the first warp, and then center the stretcher bars on top of it. Make sure the fabric strip is nice and straight.

6. Wrap the top end of the strip around to the back of the stretcher bars and staple it in place. Use two staples for strips wider than 1" (2.5 cm), and one staple for strips 1" and narrower. Wrap and staple the bottom end of the strip.

7. Continue placing and stapling new warps on either side of the first one. Keep them very close together and make sure they're stretched taut across the stretcher bars.



Weave the wefts

8. You might also find it handy to pin a large safety pin to the end of each weft strip. Use it to help guide the strips over and under each other.

9. Begin with the center strip, as you did during the warp process. Weave it under and over the warps, pulling it through until it's centered across the piece.



10. Bring the edges of this weft around to the back of the piece and staple them in place, pulling it taut.

11. Continue this process to weave the rest of the wefts. Make sure they're placed close together. I like to wait until all the rest of these strips are woven in before I staple them – that way, I can make little adjustments in the weaving if needed.



12. Stretch those remaining wefts taut and staple them down.



13. On the back of the piece, trim away any loose ends of fabric.



Finish & Embellish

- Add some sparkle to the project by gluing interesting buttons, appliques, or other shiny things to the front of the piece.
- If your piece will stand on a desk rather than hang on a wall, you may want to also glue on a backing of heavy paper.

Woven Wall Art: Printer-Friendly Instructions

Skill Level: Easy

Materials:

- Set of canvas stretcher bars
- Hammer or rubber mallet
- Several woven cotton fabrics
- Scissors
- Iron
- Staple gun
- Large safety pin (optional)
- Craft glue
- Assorted embellishments: buttons, sequins, embroidered appliques, etc.

Assemble the stretcher bars

Fit the corners of the stretcher bars together. You might need to tap the pieces gently with a hammer or mallet so they fit tightly.

Measure the fabric strips

1. Next, we need to figure out how many fabric strips we'll need in order to cover these stretcher bars with weaving. So, begin by measuring the width of your stretcher bars in inches. Mine are 9" (29 cm) wide.

2. Now, decide how you'd like to divide that 9" up into fabric strips. You might, for example, plan to use nine 1" (2.5 cm) strips of fabric. Or you might use one 3" (7.6 cm) strip, two 2" (5 cm) strips, and two 1" (2.5 cm) strips. There are tons of possibilities here.

3. Once you've decided what configuration of fabric strips will cover the width of your stretcher bars, repeat this process to decide how to cover the height.

Prepare the warps

4. Tear the fabric into strips: make a small clip in the end of the fabric and rip your way to the other side. Make sure your strips are long enough so there's about 5" (12.7 cm) extending from each side of the stretcher bars.

5. Lay out the first warp, and then center the stretcher bars on top of it. Make sure the fabric is nice and straight.

6. Wrap the top end of the strip around to the back of the stretcher bars and staple it in place. Wrap the bottom end of the strip around to the back of the stretcher bars, pulling it taut. Staple it in place as well.

7. Continue placing and stapling new warps on either side of the first one. Keep them very close together and make sure they're stretched taut across the stretcher bars.

Weave the Wefts

8. You may prefer to weave the warps with your hands, but you might also find it handy to pin a large safety pin to the end of each weft strip and use it to help guide the strips over and under each other.

9. Begin with the center strip, as you did during the warp process. Weave it under and over the warps, pulling it through until it's centered across the piece.

10. Bring the edges of this weft around to the back of the piece and staple them in place, pulling the weft taut.

11. Continue this process to weave the rest of the wefts. Make sure they're placed close together. Hold off on stapling these, though, until you've woven all the wefts.

12. When all the wefts have been woven in, stretch the ends around to the back of the stretcher bars and staple them.

13. On the back of the piece, trim away any loose ends of fabric.

Finish & Embellish

- Add some sparkle to the project by gluing some interesting buttons, appliques, or other shiny things to the front of the piece.

- If your piece will stand on a desk rather than hang on a wall, you may want to also glue on a backing of heavy paper.

Want More?

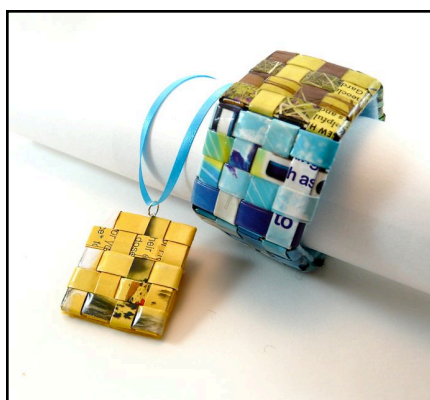
If you enjoyed this project, there are five more like it in *Weaving Un-Loomed!*



Twill Tape Placemat:
Weaving several colors of lovely cotton twill tape together, you can create all kinds of patterns.



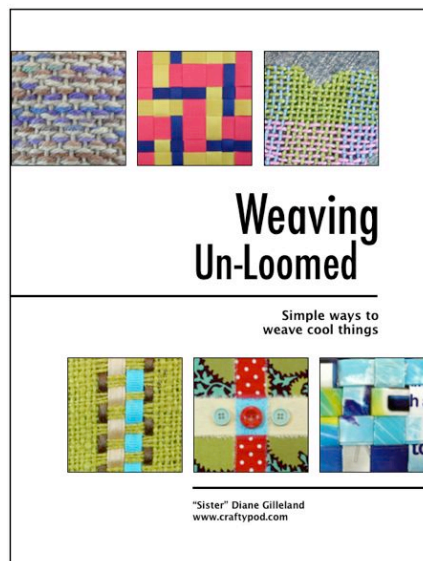
Cardboard Loomed Cushion:
Take a piece of humble cardboard, cut a few slits in it, and you have a perfect tool for weaving this pretty sofa cushion.



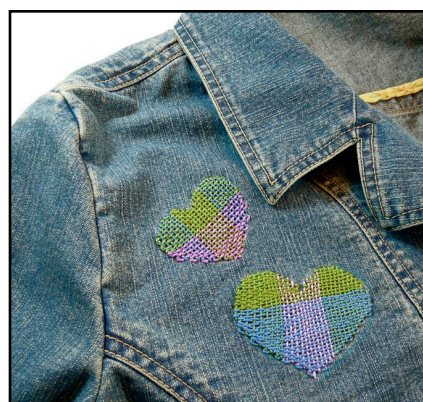
Magazine Page Jewelry:
Recycle pages from your old magazines into this cool woven pendant and bracelet.



Burlap & Ribbon Tote:
Learn a trick for weaving ribbons right into a piece of dyed burlap, and then whip up this adorable tote.



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Woven Applique: Use a variation on embroidery to weave shapes or letters right onto your favorite jacket or sweater.