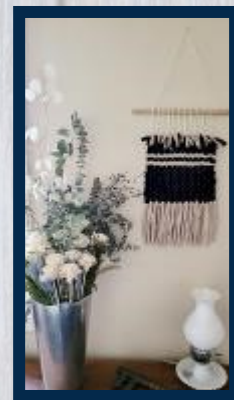




# Homemade Loom & T-shirt Yarn Weaving



## Supplies:

- Cotton t-shirts (best without side seams, graphics, and pockets)
- Cardboard (2 pieces - 9.5 x 12 inches & 1 x 12 inches)
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Pen
- Tape
- Cotton yarn
- Fork
- Dowel

**Step 1:** First, we will create our t-shirt yarn. Lay the t-shirt flat on an open work surface. Cut off the bottom hem. Starting on one side of the shirt and cut an inch wide strip parallel to the original hem **LEAVING** half an inch uncut on the other side. **DO NOT CUT ALL THE WAY ACROSS.** Cut 1 inch strips up the side of the shirt until reaching the armpit. Complete this last cut to detach from the rest of the shirt.



**Step 2:** Next, feed your cardboard through your t-shirt strips so that the uncut portion is centered on the flat surface, like a rib cage. We will create a continuous piece of yarn by cutting a **DIAGONAL** from each row to the row above. Begin at the outside edge and cut at a **DIAGONAL** to the first cut - follow the pattern up the rows until the final cut opens the top.



**Step 3:** Now you should have a single piece of t-shirt fettuccine! Yum! Starting at one end, gently pull on the yarn to stretch it out. This will give you more length and a curled fiber that is easier to weave.



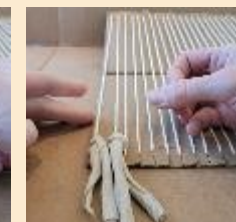
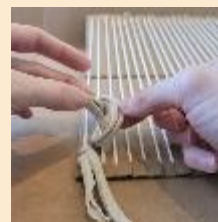
**Step 4:** Let's make our loom! Take your cardboard rectangle and mark every centimeter along the 9.5 inch ends. Using scissors, cut each mark down 1.5 cms.

**Tip:** draw a line across the cardboard at 1.5 cms so that each cut is equal in depth.

**Step 5:** Using your cotton yarn, tape one end to the cardboard about halfway down. Take the loose end and begin to wrap the loom lengthwise around the loom in the notches created in **Step 4**. Once completely wrapped, tape the loose end to the back side of the cardboard.

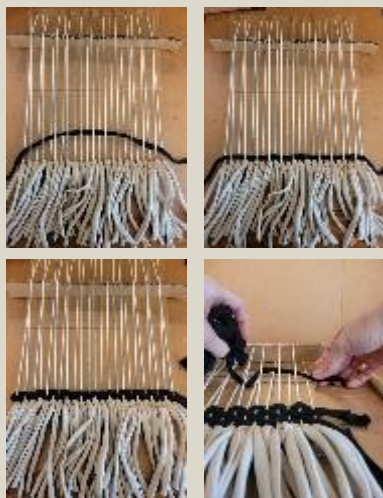
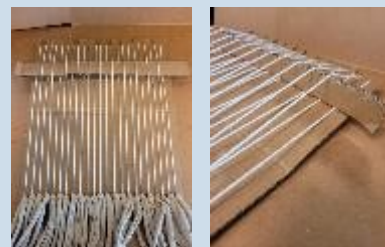
**Step 6:** Next we will add our tassels. Cut t-shirt yarn pieces depending on how long you'd like the tassels to hang - keep in mind the t-shirt yarn will be folded in half to attach to the weave. **Note: tassels can be trimmed at the end of our project, should you desire, but cannot be made longer!** You will need one piece of t-shirt yarn for each vertical strip of yarn on your loom. Fold each piece in half and slide just the fold underneath one end of a loom string. This defines the bottom of your weaving. Then, flip the ends over the string, through the fold, to secure into place.

**Tip:** keep directionality consistent to have a uniform look. Use a fork to gently press the tassels to the bottom of the strings, without pressing them off the loom.



**Step 7:** Use your extra cardboard to cut a strip at least 9 inches wide and 1 inch thick. Feed this strip through your loom starting on the right side in an over/under pattern. Slide to the top of the loom. *This is just a tool to make weaving a little quicker!*

Let's start weaving! **Tip: it may be easier to start with a smaller piece of yarn and roll it into a ball for handling.**



**Step 8:** When weaving, the pattern will always be: FROM THE RIGHT: over/under (use your cardboard strip to separate the strings and make quicker weaving from the right, by standing it on its edge. Lay flat when going from the left.) FROM THE LEFT: under/over

Begin from the right, leaving a 3 to 4 inch tail hanging off the side. Loose ends can be woven into the back of your project in the end. If you run out of yarn, simply use another piece leaving a short tail and continue on. It's easy to hide these imperfections in your pattern. Once you get to the far left, position your t-shirt yarn into a rainbow arc and use a fork to firmly push to the bottom. Skipping this step will result in uneven tightness and may create crooked rows. Continue weaving in the reverse (under/over) pattern. Don't forget your rainbows! Feel free to change coloring wherever you desire.

**Step 9:** The top row of your weave should be 2 to 3 inches below the top of the cardboard. If you want tassels at the top of your weave, repeat **Step 6**. Remove the cardboard strip and replace with a wooden dowel or stick. Flip the loom over and cut across the center of the strings. On the bottom edge, tie each string to its neighbor, across the weave, to hold the yarn in place. You can either trim the edges or use as tassels. Along the top, determine how much string you'd like showing then tie together above the dowel.



**Step 10:** Use a separate piece of string (cotton yarn) to create a hanger. Simply tie around the ends of your dowel and display your beautiful new weaving!



**Personalization:** Color is the obvious choice to personalize, but you can also play with textures and thickness by using different types of yarn. Don't forget to share your creations on our Way Public Library Facebook page!

