

# PIN WEAVING

## CARDBOARD LOOM EDITION

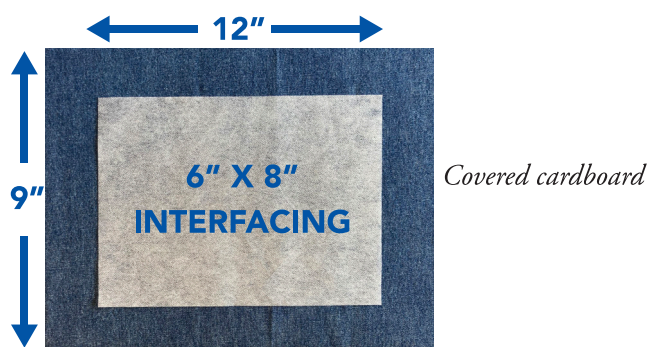
Pin Weaving requires minimal equipment to weave charming creations. Use a small frame bordered with sturdy pins, or a padded surface that will hold straight pins to create small pieces of fabrics or decorations woven with yarn, ribbon, or fabric. Instructions on how to make your own pin weaving loom with cardboard are below. You can adjust the size of your loom and creation by using different sized cardboard or fusible interfacing.

### Supplies:

- 2 or 3 pieces of 9" x 12" sturdy cardboard (for added strength, alternate direction of corrugation)
- Sturdy fabric to cover cardboard
- Lightweight fusible interfacing cut to 6" x 8"
- About 60 glass-head straight pins
- About 10 yards of cotton thread (size 5 "pearl" embroidery thread or size 10 "bedspread" weight crochet thread)
- Blunt-point needles for weaving yarns
- Yarns of various textures and contrasts (18" to 36" lengths)

### Steps:

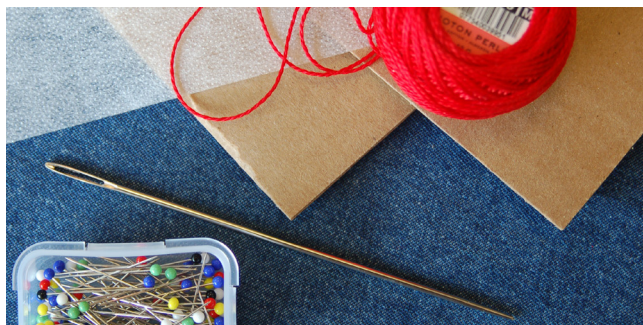
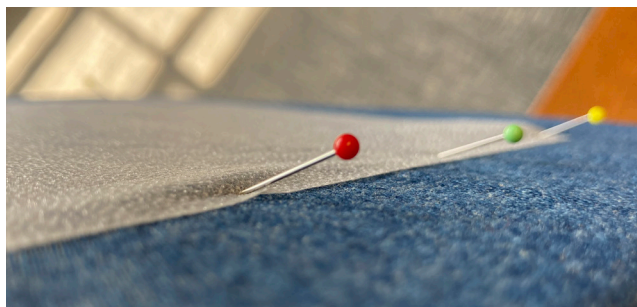
**1.** Stack cardboard pieces and insert into fabric "pillowcase" or wrap them with fabric and secure on the back; place interfacing **fusible side up** on the fabric cover (do not iron).



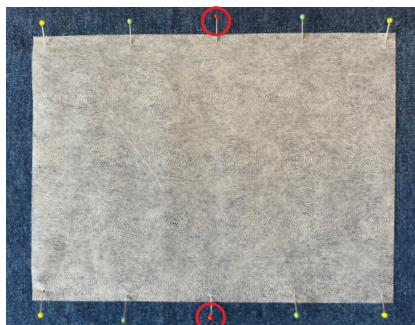
**2.** Secure interfacing to the covered cardboard. Insert pins at a slight angle through the interfacing, along the 8" sides (top and bottom) of the interfacing, about 1/8" from the edge; begin with a pin in the middle of the edge, then the corners, taking care to make sure the interfacing lays flat.



*Alternate direction of corrugation*



*Choose a neutral color for the cotton warp thread (red is used here for demonstration purposes)*



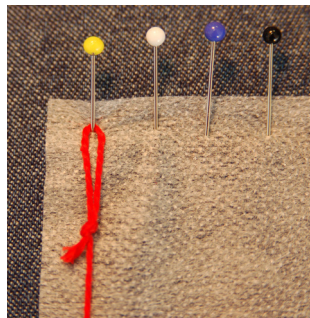
*Insert pins close to edge of interfacing*



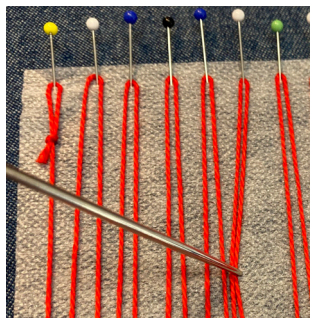
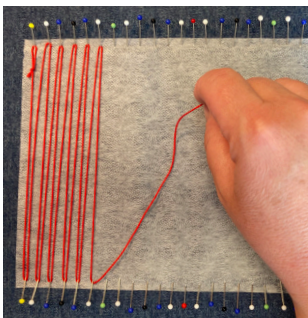
**3.** Insert pins so they are spaced about 1/4" apart (but no more than 1/2" apart); this will require about 26 to 30 pins along each interfacing edge (top and bottom). Use the same number of pins on each edge – or no more than one extra pin on one of the edges.



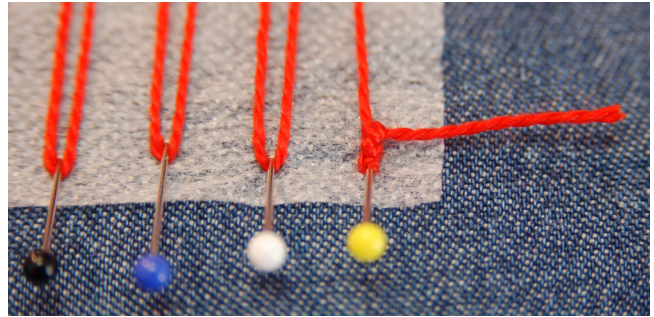
**4.** Use the cotton embroidery or crochet thread to “warp” the cardboard loom. Tie a small overhand loop knot at one end of the thread to create a tiny loop; place the loop over a corner pin; begin on the edge with more pins if one edge of the interfacing has one more pin than the opposite edge.



**5.** With a firm grasp on the warp thread, wind it up and down, wrapping it under each pinhead. Maintain light tension on the warp thread to allow space for yarns to be woven through side to side.



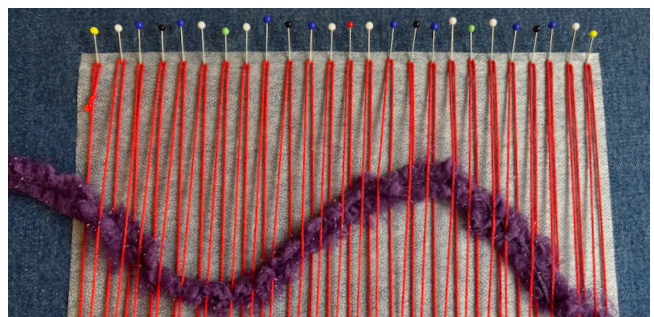
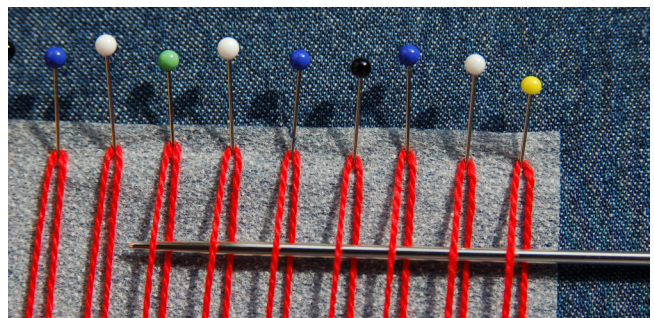
**6.** Tie a knot around the last pin and trim the excess warp thread.



**7.** To begin your design, thread your blunt-point needle with a thick, sturdy yarn, and weave it through the warp thread using an OVER / UNDER pattern. Start on either side of the loom and weave across the width, pulling the yarn through to the other side.

**8.** Create “hills and valleys” with this first yarn by pushing it up and down. This creates visual interest and prevents your design from looking too simplistic.

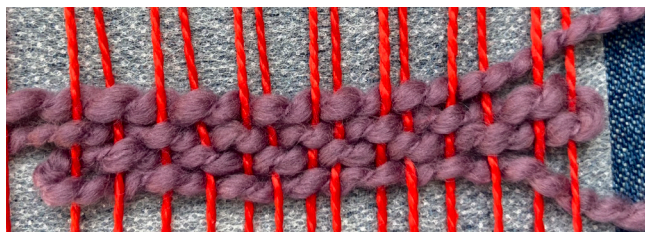
**9.** You may choose to continue weaving this same yarn back through the loom in the reverse direction – just be sure to wrap the yarn around the last warp thread and alternate the over / under weaving pattern so the yarn is in the opposite over / under location than the yarn above or below it.



*Create “hills and valleys” across the weaving space!*



**10.** To keep the weaving secure, gently push yarns against each other after you weave them through the warp thread to maintain the curves and contours of your design. Always start and stop the yarns at either side of the loom – do not begin or end a row in the middle of the warp area.



**11.** Vary your design by weaving yarns of different colors, textures, and weights through the loom. Use the design principles of “balance” to create unity – weave a particular yarn in one area, then use a little bit less of it in another area. Fill the areas of the warp thread by weaving yarns back and forth until they are very close to the pins along the top and bottom edges.



**12.** When finished, keep the pins in place. Lightly spritz a pressing cloth with water and place it (damp side up) on top of your design. Gently press the cloth with a hot iron (use the steam setting if you do not have a water spray bottle) taking care to avoid ironing over the pinheads (plastic pin heads may melt).

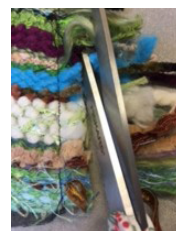


**13.** Remove the straight pins and iron the weaving a second time (yarn side up, still under the pressing cloth). After the weaving is fused to the interfacing, flip it over to the underside. Spritz the pressing cloth again and place it on top of the interfacing and press with the hot iron; gently smooth the iron over all areas to ensure the weaving is fused to the interfacing.

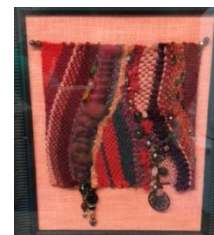


*After the pins are removed, press the front again; Next, flip weaving to underside, cover the interfacing with the pressing cloth and press*

**14.** Secure and finish the edges of your project: Stitch up and down, over the yarns on both ends and cut off the yarn “tails,” or turn edges under and sew or attach a binding for a neat finish.



**15.** Embellish a purse or an article of clothing with your unique creation, display it in a shadow box, or give it as a gift.



**16.** The fabric-covered cardboard can be reused for another pin-weaving project.

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