

## WEAVING WITH A BACKSTRAP LOOM—25 Feb 2017 Demonstration and Mini-workshop with Heather

There are several versions of the backstrap loom. The picture shows the basics. I will be working with one somewhat like that.

A = support cord which goes to a fixed point, B = warp rods (both ends), C = warp support, D = shed stick, E = heddle stick, F = sword/beater, G = stick shuttle, H = backstrap.

To make your own you will need round rods, eg dowels, a smooth flat stick, strap or belt, a clamp to secure the far end, and string. It is useful to have extra sticks, round and flat.

To weave, you will need a shuttle, warp and weft. I recommend cotton for the warp as wool may be sticky but the weft can be whatever you like.

Warp: The thickness doesn't matter, but if your yarn is fine you may wish to double it. Your warp need not be more than 1 metre as there is very little loom waste. Width 10 to 15 cm. Sett is up to you.

Wind the warp with one cross and secure cross-sticks in place until you have finished setting up. As the diagram shows, you can lash the warp to the warp rods rather than just putting the rods through the loops; this is more secure.

It is a good idea to put safety loops on all the rods (length of string from one end to the other) and secure with adhesive tape so they don't slip out. The rest we can do in the workshop.

