

Book Loom

This project gives a whole new meaning to the term “book binding.”

Old books have been used for many artistic creations over the years. They have been altered with paintings and drawings, turned into sculpture with cuts and folds, and bound and stacked together to make furniture.

Here’s a new idea that pairs books with fiber art to make amazing dimensional creations of paper and string.

The steps below show how to turn a book into a loom that is ready for simple weaving. From there, book pages can be manipulated in just about any manner. Punch holes in the pages, then bind, stitch, weave, or knot for macramé or crochet. Cut, bend, or fold book pages to create dimension. One rule applies: no glue!

GRADES 2-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Collect books that are not in use but still in good condition.

Process

1. On a handloom, the long fibers that run the length of the loom are called the “warp” and the thread that travels back and forth across the width to create color and patterns is called the “weft.”

The warp will need to be strung first. This can be accomplished in many ways, but here are two starter ideas.

Process: Page Loom

This weaving is done on a stack of pages that lie flat. Hardcover books work the best. It can be done in the front of the book or at any location within the pages.

1. Open the book and press hard on the binding so that the pages lie as flat as possible.
2. With a ruler, measure from the edge of the page and make a dot every 1/4" to 1/2" along the top of the page. Text can be used as a guideline.
3. Pick up a few pages at a time and with a strong handheld punch, make a hole over each dot. Pick up a few more pages, position the punch in the same location as the first hole, and make another row of punches. Repeat until a section of pages about 1/8" thick has been punched with a line of holes.
4. Turn book around and repeat at the other end, so the page looks like (A).



(A)



Materials (required)

Blick® Aluminum Ruler, 12" (55430-1012); need one per student

Fiskars® Hand Punches, 1/16" circle (58923-1001); need one per student

Maysville Cotton Warp, 8 oz, assorted colors, 800 yds (62800-)

Bendable Blunt Plastic Needle, package of 12 (65103-1009); need one per student

Weaving and macramé fibers, such as:

Darice® Hemp Cord, 205 ft spool, assorted colors (63830-)

Jute Twine, assorted thicknesses (62984-)

Darice® Baker's Twine, assorted colors (61595-)

Classroom Yarn Assortment, 5 lb(65208-1005)

Optional Materials

We R Memory Keepers® Crop-A-Dile™ Hole Punch (63291-5080)

We R Memory Keepers® Eyelets, package of 40 Cool Metal (63292-1140) or Warm Metal (63292-1040)

Fiskars® Hand Punches, 1/4" Heart (58923-1011), Rectangle (58923-1007), or Star (58923-1004)



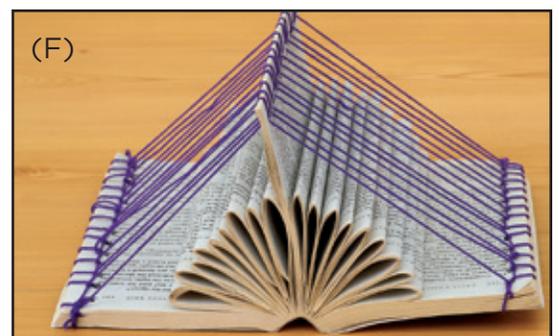
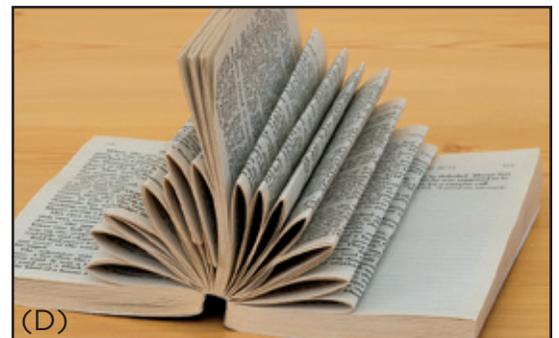
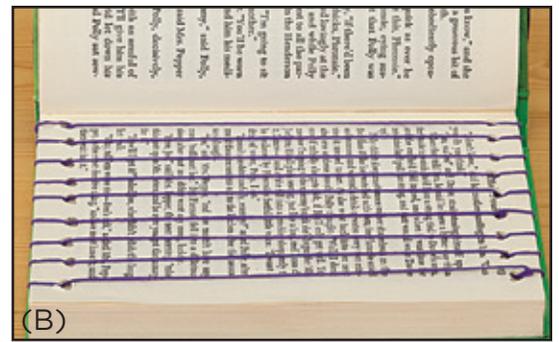
Process - continued

5. Cut a long piece of cotton warp and thread it through the needle. Pull it through the punched hole at the end on the bottom row and tie it around the pages. Then, push it through the corresponding hole on the top row. Pull it around the outside of the book pages and through the same hole. Pull it taut, but not so tight that it bends the pages. Continue to the next hole in line and repeat until the warp fills the page and it looks like (B).
6. The page is now ready for weaving. Use colorful hemp, twine, yarn, jute — any fibers that are available.
7. As options, the book may be opened and two looms created on opposing pages. Some pages may be left in the middle to be cut, folded, or worked into the design; see (C).

Process: Heddle Book Loom

This weaving uses the length of the book to stretch the warp, with pages folded in the middle to form a “heddle,” or guide, for the warp. Hardcover or paperback books can work for this process.

1. Divide the book pages approximately in thirds. Open the book so that one third of the pages lie on the left, one third on the right, and hold the remaining pages upright. From the center pages, bend a few pages in half and crease them back on either side. Repeat with a few more pages on either side. Continue until a few pages are left standing in the middle, about 1/8” thick; see (D).
2. Punch a row of holes as described in step one of the Page Loom process above, only create one row on the far right side of the book, one row on the far left side, and one row on the upright pages in the middle; see (E).
3. String this loom with cotton warp and a tapestry needle. Begin in a hole located in the corner of the pages and tie the warp around the pages, but leave some extra on the end in case it needs to be tightened later. Take the warp through the corresponding hole in the upright pages and through the corresponding hole on the other end of the book.
4. Bring the warp around the back side of the book to the hole next to the side where the warp was begun, and repeat. Pull it taut, but not so tight that it bends the pages.
5. This process requires more cotton warp. Tie pieces together on the back side where they will not be noticed. The finished loom will look like (F).
6. The Heddle Book Loom is now ready for weaving. Use colorful hemp, twine, yarn, jute — use any fibers available.



Options

Along with creating a book loom, students may wish to make a more sculptural piece. Pages may be folded, rolled, stitched, and bound — manipulated in many ways. The book can be a wall hanging or stand upright on an easel.

National Core Arts Standards — Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generalize and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Presenting

Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

Responding

Anchor Standard 7: Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

