

WoolWench and Majacraft present:
Circle Weave Along Tutorial #1

In which we will create a stained glass inspired stash busting Scarf

In this Circle Weave Along (CWAL) we are going to create a woolly scarf using two circular weavings, we will use these for the ends of the scarf, knitting and crocheting between them.

Please use this as a stash buster! It is ideal for any scraps and ends of yarn you have, the design is inspired by stained glass and uses the black stripes as a consistent design element in between every colour change to give the piece coherence.

I have created a materials list and pattern, however these are necessarily vague because very much will depend upon the yarns you have in your stash. I will offer some guides but please feel free to experiment and make your own variations. If you are a crocheter rather than a knitter you can also make the scarf length entirely crocheted instead of knitted.

Whichever way you choose to make this, I will provide measurements you can work to rather than stitch numbers and row counts. The circular weaves themselves will also contain warp and design instructions but again no row counts so you will have the freedom to use whatever yarns you have in your stash!

I have deliberately made this design to be simple for beginning weavers, and the design flexible enough to cope with any yarn choices you have available. We will use plain weave and garter stitch and simple crochet stitches, so I hope everyone can join in! If you are a more advanced weaver/knitter/crocheter please feel free to use this design as inspiration and make it your own! You may wish to add extra embellishments, stitch decoration, shaping, or weave patterns, I would love to see that!



You will need:

A small size circular weaving loom. I used the Majacraft Mini Circle Loom which measures 180mm (7.1")

A weaving needle

Knitting needles suitable for a regular to loose knit with the yarns you are using.

A crochet hook appropriate to the size yarns you are using.

A quantity of bright coloured yarns (do this project as a stash buster and use up your scraps!)

Some black (plied) wool yarn to use as warp and also as stripes between your colours. I used mine doubled to weave with but single to warp with, your warp should be thinner than your weft yarns.

The amounts of yarn you need will depend on the thickness and your needle size, but as a guide. my finished scarf weighs a total of 10oz or 288grams. Some of the yarn I used is Sari silk which tends towards the heavy side.



WARPING

Start with your small sized circular loom (size) and warp it the 'standard' way to make a plain weave circle, using your black yarn:

pattern

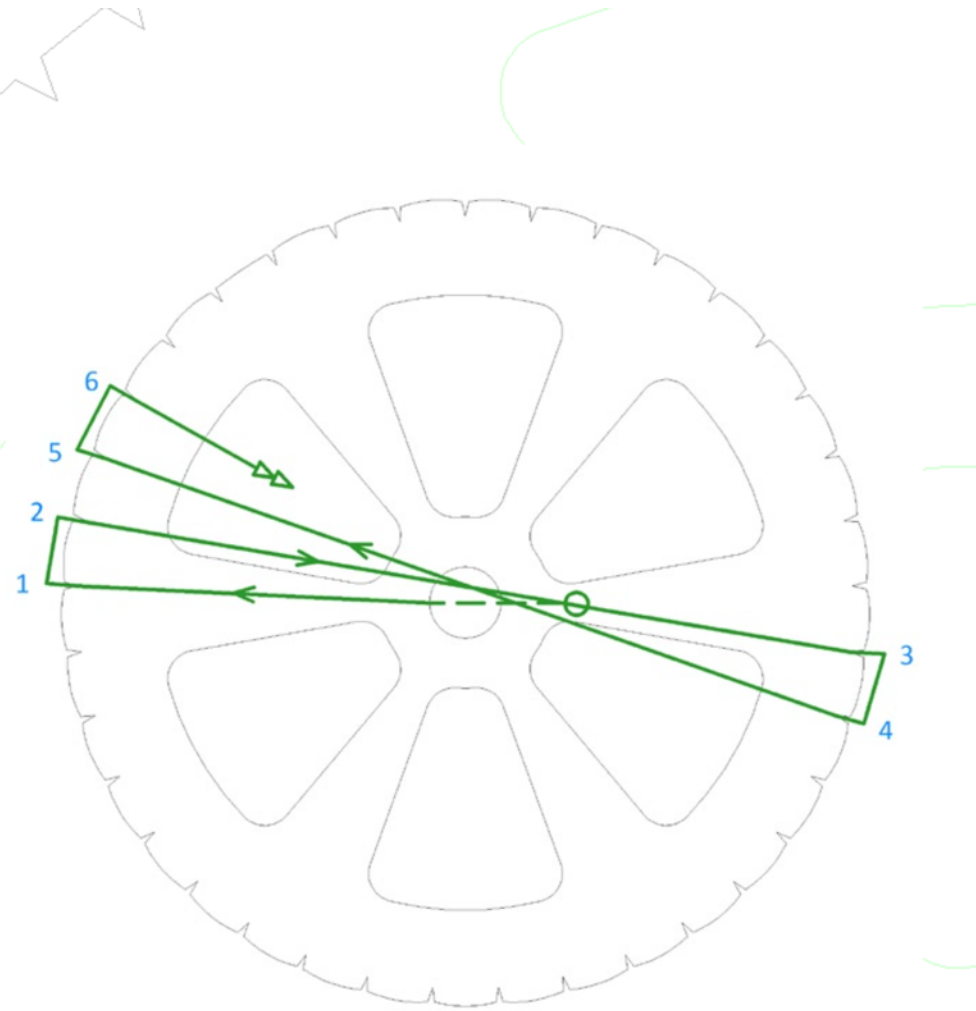
The simplest and fastest way to warp for a solid circular weaving is to take the warp thread straight across the loom, working in one direction around the circle until all the notches are used.

When you have filled all the notches, take the warp thread back through the hole in the middle and secure it at the back. The first 'round' of weaving is then used to tighten the warp threads together in the middle of the loom.

Plain weave simply requires you to go 'under and over' the warp threads with your weaving thread (weft). On each row, you alternate the sequence, so you are going 'over' the warp thread that on the previous row you went 'under'.

When you start weaving around the warp, it is easiest to pick up the warp threads further out from the center, it is clearer which warp is 'next', because in the center you will find they cross over and it is more difficult to find their sequence.

'standard circular warp - 1' shows the start sequence for pattern.

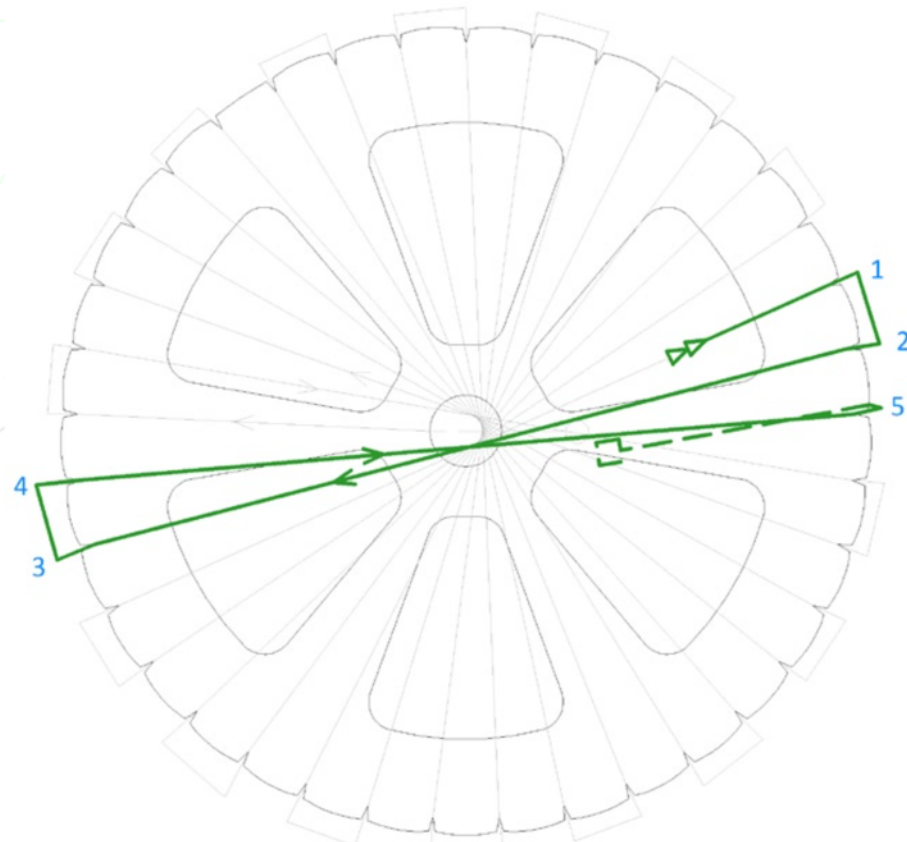


The 'standard circular warp - 2' image shows the end sequence for the pattern.

Finishing with the start and end points of the warp close together means you can tie them together and then secure them into the centre of the warp when you pull up your first weft round.

Techniques for weaving with this warp

- Plain weave, circling in one direction
- Making sections and weaving back and forth, one section at a time
- Clasped weft techniques (weaving two threads, one from each side, then where they meet, wrapping them around each other and returning back the way they came).
- Knotting and gathering warp threads together to make wider gaps



Use a strong, plied wool yarn for your warp, it should not snap easily and it should be finer than your weaving yarns. If you double it later you can use it for knitting in your stripes too. When you warp your loom do not pull the warp thread overly tight, it should be firm and stay in place but not be 'twanging' tight, it will get tighter as you weave and as the loom fills, so if it starts out too tight the end result will pull up into a bowl shape when you take it off the loom. You can find more warping patterns in the free booklet 'Warp Speed', you might want to try some of those for other projects later! It also contains instructions for reading these patterns. Get your free download at http://www.majacraft.co.nz/resources/tutorials/warp_speed_1.01.pdf You may also want to read through my full tutorial on 'Getting Started' here: http://www.majacraft.co.nz/resources/tutorials/weaving_tutorial_sml.pdf (copy paste these links into your browser).

*At this point you should refer to this weeks **video tutorial** where you can see the warping process and the following weaving technique. This is a simple 'plain weave' and requires you to weave under and over an entire round of the loom, followed by the next row in which you weave 'over' each warp thread that you previously went 'under' and also 'under' each warp thread that you previously went 'over'. Do not worry too much if this gets out of sync (it can happen) you can simply skip a warp thread and go either under or over two together. I will also show you a knotting technique in which you knot around each warp thread, this will give you the chance to also start your plain weave sequence over again if you want to.*



WEAVING

Start with your black yarn and weave plain weave, under and over, for at least four or five rounds, pulling in the centre to make it neat and tidy.

One way to make these first rows a little easier is to weave your needle under and over the warp around the middle of the loom (see the video), rather than right up close to the centre. This way you can better see the order of the warps and get a neat weave, if you are working close to the centre you will notice that it is harder to see which thread to choose next.

Now take your first coloured yarn and again, weave **plain weave** for at least 6 or 7 rows. To change colour, simply end your last colour by weaving it back through the warp . You can also knot it if you want to with the next colour, and weave the ends in.

You can and should pull in your first two or three rows tight to pull up the yarns into the centre, but once you have done that, in order to prevent the whole thing curling up when you take it off the loom, you will need to press the weft into the warp rather than pull it in, this is important! You can see in the video that I do this with the tip of my needle. If you pull it in too tight it will do what a weaving on a straight loom would do, it will pull in at the edges - this is great if you want to make a hat or a bowl! But for this project work on keeping your warp firm but not tight in the weave.

You can **change colour** whenever you want, each time you change colour make sure you put at least two rows of black between your colours. You can also see in the video how I change colours, sometimes I will just knot the two yarns together, leaving enough ends that I can weave them in afterwards to keep it tidy. Or I sometimes just weave the last end through the fabric.

You can use plain weave also with the black (under over) or you can try **knotting** it on one or two rows for a slightly different texture and look. This is done by making a single knot around each warp thread, running your yarn around the warp in a loop and bringing your needle back through the loop and tightening it up.

Weave as close to the outside edge of the loom as you can, being careful to 'beat' the weft in place rather than pull it in. When you are finished weaving, gently slip the ends of the black warp loops over the outside edge of the loom to **remove your weaving**.

This week we will aim on completing both circle weavings and remove them from the loom. Next week we will weave in ends and crochet the border around our circles, followed by some knitting (or crochet if you prefer) and shaping to join the circles onto the scarf length we will create.

Our final week will be shaping and attaching the second circle, finishing off, and creating the tassels.

