Recyclable Weaving

Inspired by Anni Albers
Anni Albers (1899–1994) is celebrated for her pioneering wall hangings, weavings, and designs. She is considered the most important textile artist of the 20th century, as well as an influential designer, printmaker, and educator.
MATERIALS

- Pieces of cardboard recycled and cut from a box or heavy cardboard
- Plastic bags for recycling such as the plastic that toilet paper rolls or paper towels are packed in
- Ruler or piece of paper to use as a straightedge
- Glue and/or tape
- Pencil
- Scissors
1. To make the loom (the weaving base) you will have to cut a large piece of cardboard, at least 8.5 x 11 inches. (The side piece of a box works.)

2. With a ruler or other straightedge, lightly draw lines from top to bottom equally spaced. You should make at least 7 lines.

3. Then make little cuts on the bottom and tops of line, about 1 inch in from the top and bottom of the cardboard.
4. Next, cut 2 other small thin pieces of cardboard, the width of the large piece you just cut. These will be glued just above the top and the bottom of the cuts you just made on the large piece. Do not cover the cuts you just made.
5. Cut another small thin piece half the size of the one you just cut (you can also use a popsicle stick or other type of small stick). This is called a shuttle. The shuttle will be used to wrap your materials around for the weaving.
6. Use yarn, string, or plastic to make the warp, which is the base you will thread your other materials through to create your weaving.

7. Wind a piece of yarn or other material down the top and bottom slits, moving across the cardboard.

8. Tape or make a knot on the back to keep the warp in place.
9. Choose your material, yarn, string, ribbon or plastic, and wrap an end around the shuttle.
10. Thread the shuttle, with the material attached, from one side of the cardboard to the other, crossing over and under the warp materials.

11. Keep adding rows over, under, over, under, etc. These rows make up the weft of weaving.

12. You can use different colors or materials to give variety to your weaving. Push each new row up together with the previous row so there isn’t space between them.
13. Make sure when adding new colors or materials to leave the ends and the beginnings of the materials long enough to tie them into knots. (Fill up your loom using as many colors and materials as you would like.)
14. Next, turn over your loom and cut the warp pieces leaving at least a finger length from the top. Then do the same from the bottom. Carefully pull the top pieces out of the slits and tie them into knots. Do the same on the bottom.
15. Tie the side pieces together into knots and leave them loose or turn your piece over and tie these pieces together on the back so you won’t see them.
16. You can also attach a string or yarn to the top for a wall hanging, or combine a few weavings together.

Have fun!!!

Please share your projects with us by posting them and tagging us on

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Cover Image: Anni Albers, *Two*, 1952, Linen, cotton, rayon, 18 1/2 x 40 1/4 in.

Page two: Anni Albers with *Black, White, Gold I*, ca. 1950–60, Photo: New Haven Register

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