



## Building the Loom

1. Take a shoebox and pierce holes.
2. Measure the length of the bead and make holes this distance apart with a thin nail on the narrow sides. Obviously the length of the shoebox will not create a belt large enough to wear. If you actually want to make one to wear use a foam core boards and instead of holes at the end notch the ends and wrap the yarn through the notch (see handout).
3. The foam core should be as long as you want the beaded part on your belt.
4. If you are making a belt to wear you will be placing individual warp threads on the foam core.
5. Leave a tail of yarn at each end for the end wrapped/tie part.
6. Knot both sides of the thread so it does not pull out of the hole
7. Thread an embroidery needle.
8. Lead the thread or string from one narrow side to the other.
9. Moving the needle to the next hole on the same side place the needle through the hole and back to the other side or if you are stringing individual strings knot the end.
10. Continue to follow the directions doing this until you have created the width size of your belt. It should be at least the minimum of two inches.
11. You have now threaded your loom.
12. The long threads should be fairly tight, but should have a little give to make it easy to weave. If the thread sags, tighten them up.
13. Once satisfied, knot off the final piece.
14. Tape both end threads down on the outside of the box. Tape the loose ends if making an actual belt.
15. You have now completed the warp.
16. Work holding the loom so that the narrow part is going left to right. Just like you strung the warp thread.
17. Holes or notches are at the top and the bottom.
18. You will work horizontally across that narrow part of the box.
19. Make another whole or notch..this time on the right hand of your loom to hold the beginning weft thread.
20. Tie the weft thread in a hole at the right side of the loom with a single overhand knot.
21. Leave a 5" tail.

## Weaving the Belt

1. Thread a plastic embroidery needle with the yarn or string you want to use for the weft part of your weaving.
2. Take the first horizontal line on your graph paper plan and thread the colored beads onto the needle just like the plan designates.
3. Pass the needle under all the warp threads and pull until the beads are in place UNDER the warp threads. So remember when you are creating your design on graph paper and then warping your loom you need the same number of weft threads so that there is a weft thread on each end and a weft thread sitting between each bead.
4. Each bead on the weft thread sits between warp threads. Be gentle when pulling beads through.
5. The next step is to then bring your needle back around facing towards the right and pass the needle back through the beads ending up on the right hand side.
6. Now you will string your beads for the second row following your graph pattern.
7. The last time you brought the thread with the beads under the warp thread to the other side and this time you bring the thread on top of the warp thread.
8. Remember that this time is ABOVE the warp.
9. Check that all the beads are in place between the warp threads in the row and turn your needle around and run it back towards the right through the beads.
10. Now carefully continue to repeat this method.
11. Tension should be snug and smooth.
12. Do this until all rows are complete.
13. Be careful when you turn the needle around to run it back through the beads that you do not pull it to tight.
14. You want to constantly check the ends of both sides to make sure they are even and have not been pulled in by to much tension. If they are pulled in your belt will not have a nice even neat finished look all along the sides. It will appear wavy and not as finished as you might like.
15. As you run out of yarn with your weft thread leave a tail on the end of the row and start a new piece of yarn.
16. When you finish you can go back and take the tail and weave it back into the belt with your needle.
17. When you finish you can take it off the loom and tie the end pieces of yarn (two by two in a overhand knot).