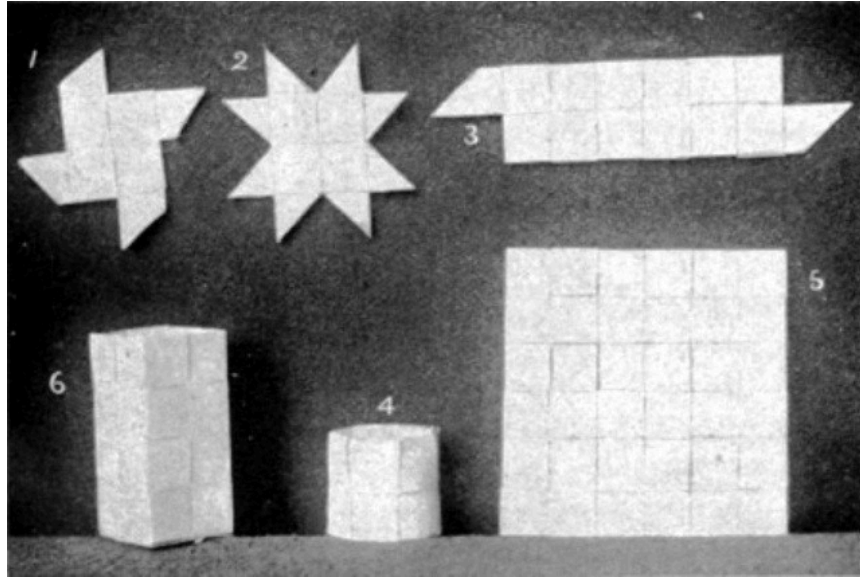


First Steps in Weaving

Forget one slat's duty and the whole mat falls apart to prove it.



From Hand-Loom Weaving (Todd, 1902) · public domain

"Over and under, over and under: each slat depends on the last."

1

Prepare the Slat

Get slats at least half an inch wide from a craft supplier. They are easier to handle if you soak them and cut them to the required length before dyeing. If you would rather not dye them yourself, buy them already coloured.

2

Cut the Mat

Take a six-inch square of felt. Allow a three-quarter-inch margin on all sides, then measure it for nine half-inch strips and mark the lines by snapping a chalked string. Double the mat with the chalked lines outside, cut from the centre, then open it and finish cutting to the margin.

3

Bundle the Slat

Keep the slats in little bundles containing the required number, and secure each bundle with a rubber band.

4

Weave Over and Under

Interlace the slats over and under through the slits to make the mat. Slat can also be interlaced flat on a table into a standing figure, and there the lesson is the collapse: lift it and it falls to pieces, which shows in a forcible way how each slat depends on the others.