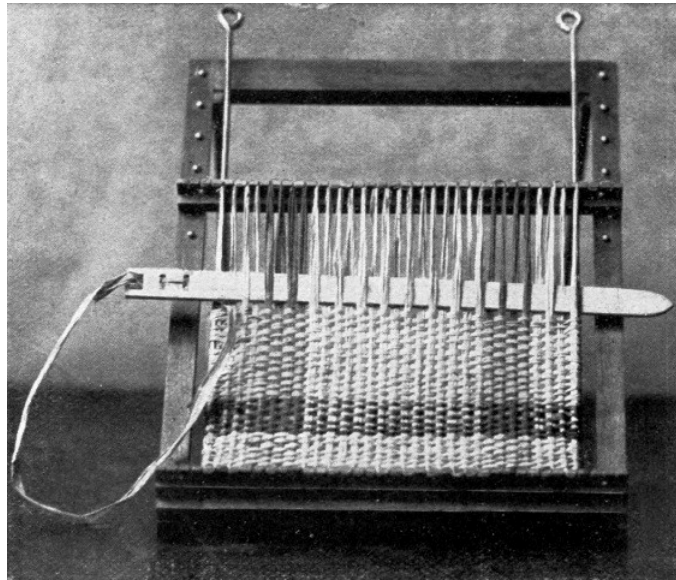


Raffia Mats

Raffia, a warm iron at the end, and something that looks a great deal like real matting.



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

"Three strings a bar, ends woven in, then a warm iron to finish."

1

Choose Your Warp

The warp may be of twine or carpet thread, and in that case weave the mat in natural raffia with stripes of bright colour at each end. Or use a warp of raffia instead, one colour for the warp and another for the woof, which gives you many of the kindergarten designs.

2

Plan The Pattern

If you are following a paper mat pattern, count its strips and begin counting on the loom from the rods. The string that lies on top of a rod does not count toward the pattern; it forms the border of the mat.

3

String Three to a Bar

You can carry the material over the rods as in wool weaving, or finish the edges the way real matting is done. For that second way, string the warp with three strings over each bar instead of one.

4

Weave The Strip

Cut your woof strips several inches longer than the width of the loom. Weave the first strip, leaving a piece at each side.

5

Finish The Ends

Thread a tape needle with one end and weave it in and out of the three warp threads on the rod, then cut it off close to the edge. Finish off every end this way, using a tape needle for all your raffia weaving.

6

Press The Mat

When you take the work off the loom, press the edges flat with a warm iron.

Practise until your fingers remember it. — Widow Maker · wmc.penguinboisoftware.com · a PenguinBoi Network show