

TRANSCRIPT

Weaving Circles

Hi guys, welcome, my name's Felicia from Sweet Georgia and I wanted to record this short little demonstration on how to get started with weaving with a circular frame loom.

Now in the previous videos that we've done I've showed you the techniques for doing plain weave, tabby, for doing soumak braids, for doing all sorts of different stitches with that frame loom weaving technique. Now we have always done it on a horizontal frame loom. And I wanted to show you how could do the same kind of thing with a circular frame loom.

This loom happens to be not really a loom. This loom happens to be an embroidery hoop that I picked up from a local craft store. It was very, very inexpensive. I think the embroidery hoop was like two dollars or something like that but it's just a very simple, very plain bamboo embroidery hoop. So I have one here that I'm gonna show you how to warp up. Now this one is significantly bigger than this one but the same principles apply.

So, what I'm gonna do here is, you'll need your hoop, you'll also need some yarn to use as your warp. I'm using some 4/8 cotton here, 8/4 cotton, and this cotton is just kind of like a fingering-weight cotton. And the idea is that it's not really stretchy, that it would be very, very good at holding its shape and everything. The one that I used here is cotton seine twine, you can also use that it just doesn't happen to be very handy right now so I'm just gonna use this.

And then you'll need something to sort of wrap your warp yarn around, something like small shuttle if you have it, a tongue depressor if you have it, a Popsicle stick, maybe, yeah, just something very, very small. I just happen to have this chibi case, which is like a needle case, a knitting needle case. And so I'm just gonna use this. I'm just gonna wrap my yarn around this and use this kind of like a tiny little shuttle. And you'll need a pair of scissors.

So the first thing I do is I take my embroidery hoop and I just loosen the outside and pop the inside out. So I'm only gonna be warping the inside of this hoop. And then when it's warped then I'm gonna put the outer ring back on it. So the first thing to figure out is how much yarn do you need to warp this.

So looking at this loom here, it looks like there are about, from the top to the bottom, there are about 12 to 15 spokes. So that means that you're probably gonna have about 30 sections all around but since we're winding from top to bottom in all cases, we only need to measure enough for 15 wraps. So what I'm gonna do here is I'm gonna do about the same, I'm gonna hold my yarn up here, and then I'm just gonna wrap 15 times, three. Okay, I'm gonna wrap 17 times just to give a little bit extra yarn and if there's too much I can always cut it off later.

So now I'm gonna take the yarn off the hoop but as I take it off the hoop I'm going to wind it around my little shuttle here.

Okay great, so now that you have all of your yarn wound onto this tiny, little shuttle, take the end of the yarn that you have, and I'm just gonna tie a knot around the hoop.

Okay so it looks like this so far, so now what I'm gonna do is I'm going to wind the yarn around the hoop and I'm going to interlace it so I'm gonna go into the middle with my little shuttle and around the outside of the hoop, like so. And then into the middle and around to the outside of the hoop and then going to the opposite edge. And then into the hoop, and then outside.

I'll do a few so you can see what's happening here. So I'm going into the hoop and then taking the yarn on the outside of the hoop and then coming back in and then putting the yarn inside the hoop again and then coming around the outside. And as I'm warping this I'm trying to go about one inch apart, so I'm trying to position the warp threads about an inch apart.

So this is why you probably don't want a shuttle that is too big for holding your warp threads because you need it to go in and out of this embroidery hoop. If you need to shuffle and adjust you can move your strands around, try to make them evenly spaced, if at all possible, and now, I would probably come back to the beginning to tie these two ends together. But before I do that I'm going to take my yarn and I'm gonna go around the middle and capture this center. So that way all of these spokes are gonna come to one center point.

So I just basically pop my shuttle, this is the beginning of my warp and so I'm gonna pop this right here in between and just tug down and that is going to hold all my strands together, basically. And I'm gonna do a couple more, just so that way I can tie everything up together.

So you can hopefully see that I've sort of tied together the center of my spokes here, just flipping it over and then I'm gonna take my end then take it to the beginning and then tie a knot with my starting thread. I'm just cutting that end of and I'm leaving a little bit of a tail later on, this could either get woven into your piece or maybe you can hide it in between the two hoops. So that is basically your warped frame loom. Now if you want to you can come across, go around and even out any spokes that you have that you wanna move the distance of here. You see that this is slightly off-center, if you want you can work harder to make sure that this is definitely in the center. Any irregularities that you might have with these spokes they are gonna be taken care of once you finally start to weave some different yarns into that.

So the next thing that I'd like to do is to keep all of your warp threads from falling off of the loom. You can put your outer hoop back on. And now that can help hold those warp threads in place.

And now you can basically put your yarn in however you like, you can start by doing tabby, you can start by doing soumak, whatever you prefer. In this case I'm using some Superwash Soft it happens to be held double. What I like to do so that I'm not dealing with an extra end is I've cut this small amount and what I'm gonna do is basically just tuck one end underneath then I'll hold both ends together. And then you can see that the end of my yarn is basically locked in there. And then using this I can just weave over and under, weaving over and under both strands of each spoke.

Now if this was long enough you could absolutely put this on a yarn needle. But I'm just gonna use my fingers in this case. Now in this case because of the number of warp threads that I have, I'm actually gonna go over two spokes so that I can get myself set up to actually do tabby the next round, the next time around. If I go over two then I can weave in like this. So you can see those spokes are straightening out as I've been putting this plain weave in here. It's basically like weaving a header. If you don't wanna put yarn in the middle you don't have to. This is all gonna be part of whatever design you choose to carry out.

Okay so that is two times around the middle. So if you want you can leave this yarn in the back, you can use it later on. If you're done with it for now you can just leave that hanging. And then in the meantime I'm gonna add some spinning fibre in here. So this is some roving, just gonna do a quick little soumak braid. Just splitting up the fibre a little bit. And then I think what I might do is I might just put it around here so kind of like, so kind of like these ones that I was working on.

You don't necessarily need to cover the entire thing, if you want to you can, I just happen to like doing a little bit so that I can see some of these spokes left empty. So for this I might start here and evening these two out. I'm gonna go over two, under one. Over two, and back, over two, and back. Okay, and I' gonna figure out what to do with those ends in a minute. And this one, going to go over two, this is the one I'm gonna go around.

So it might take some massaging to make your soumak braids look very nice. I might tuck these in the back. And to finish these edge I might just tuck it right behind here, and it'll stay in place. Now maybe you don't want it hanging out here, you can push this into the middle. And it'll be a lot poofier.

So this just the beginning of a circular frame loom project, just the very beginning but I just wanted to show you how you could get set up with warping this little guy and starting to put some yarn into it, some fibre into it.

I would love to see what you guys make with this technique. Feel free to post these pictures of things that you've made on Instagram and you can tag it with #schoolofsweetgeorgia. Thank you guys so much for watching, I'll see you in the next one.