



GARDEN PARTY PURSE

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Photos by Matt Graves unless otherwise noted

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Use a pair of pick-up sticks to create texture on the rigid-heddle loom reminiscent of a garden trellis. An asymmetrical flap adds interest, and a twisted cord finishes off this handy bag. Make it your own with an optional pin-loom flower or a bit of embroidery on the flap.



RIGID HEDDLE



PIN LOOM (OPTIONAL)

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MATERIALS

STRUCTURE Twill and plain weave.

EQUIPMENT Rigid-heddle loom, 8" weaving width; 10-dent heddle; 2 pick-up sticks; heddle rod; strong, smooth yarn for making string heddles, 10 yd; painter's tape; 1 shuttle; 2" x 2" pin loom and weaving needle (optional).

YARNS Warp: Grace (100% mercerized cotton; 136 yd/50 g; Patons), Natural, 94 yd. **Weft:** Mill House Medium (100% acrylic; 300 yd/6 oz; Meridian Mill House), Honey Mustard Heather, 65 yd.

Cord: Grace, Natural and Mill House Medium, Honey Mustard Heather, 12 yd each. **Flower:** (optional) Grace, Natural, 4 yd; Mill House Medium, Honey Mustard Heather, 2 yd.

OTHER SUPPLIES Tapestry needle; cord maker (optional).

WARP LENGTH 80 ends 42" long (allows 2" for take-up, 12" for loom waste; loom waste includes fringe).

SETTS Warp: 10 epi. **Weft:** 10 ppi.

DIMENSIONS Width in the heddle: 8".

Woven length: (measured under tension on the loom) 28". **Finished size:** (after wet-finishing and sewing) 7" x 9" with a diagonal flap about 6" long at its longest point plus 1½" fringe and 42" twisted-cord strap.

For pick-up stick basics, see Reader's Guide at LittleLooms.com.

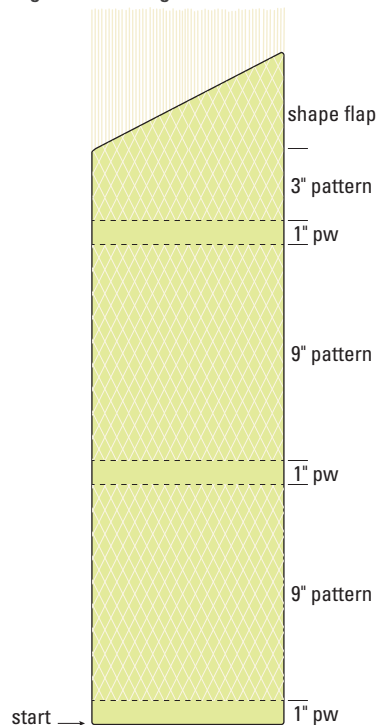
PROJECT STEPS

- 1 Set up your loom for direct warping a length of 42" or wind a warp of 80 ends 42" long. Warp the loom using your preferred method, centering for a weaving width of 8".
- 2 Wind a shuttle with weft yarn. Spread the warp with scrap yarn.
- 3 Insert pick-up stick A following the pick-up stick setup.
- 4 Make string heddles: Using a rigid heddle as a template, tie 19 loops of strong, smooth yarn. Trim ends.
- 5 Set up heddle rod: Pick up the opposite ends from the first pick-up stick, following the setup for pick-up stick B/heddle rod. Place these picked-up ends on string heddles by folding a heddle around each end and placing the string heddle on the heddle rod. Lift the heddle rod to tension the heddles and secure the string heddles on the heddle rod with painter's tape.
- 6 Following the order in Figure 1 and starting from the bottom with 1" of plain weave, weave the fabric, alternating between plain weave and pattern weave. For the patterned sections, follow the weaving sequence.
- 7 Weaving the flap: Continuing the pattern as established, weave across to the last 4 warp ends and bring the shuttle through the top of the warp. On the next pick, reinsert the shuttle and weave back to the starting selvedge. On each pass across, weave 4 fewer warp ends, creating a diagonal edge. Be sure to wrap around the last active end when returning across an incomplete pick. Continue until the last 2 picks are across the first 4 ends only. Leave a tail 4 times the width of the warp. Hemstitch across the flap over 4 warp ends and 3 weft picks, following the diagonal woven edge.
- 8 Remove the fabric from the loom, leaving 2" of unwoven warp at the flap end for fringe. Zigzag stitch across the starting end next to the scrap yarn and trim excess warp.
- 9 Wet-finish the fabric by hand-washing in warm water with mild detergent. Lay flat to dry. Trim fringe to 1½" parallel to the diagonal hemstitching.

WEAVING TIPS

Angela prefers making the heddle-rod shed with a pick-up stick rather than holding the heddle rod. She lifts the heddle rod before weaving pick 4 and inserts pick-up stick B under the lifted ends behind the rigid heddle but in front of pick-up stick A. She removes pick-up stick B after pick 6 of the repeat.

Figure 1. Weaving order



Pick-up stick setup

Pick-up stick A: 1 down, [1 up, 1 down] across, ending 1 down.

Pick-up stick B/heddle rod: 1 down, [1 down, 1 up] across, ending 1 down.

Notes: Pick-up sticks A and B pick up opposite slot ends. The last slot end on each edge is not picked up. Push pick-up stick A to the back of the loom when not in use.

Weaving sequence

1. Up + pick-up stick A.
2. Down.
3. Up + pick-up stick A.
4. Up + heddle rod/pick-up stick B (see Weaving Tips).
5. Down.
6. Up + heddle rod/pick-up stick B.

Notes: Start and end the weaving sequence with a down pick to transition neatly to and from plain weave. Be sure to catch the selvedge ends.

Assembly

10 Fold the starting end of the fabric to the wrong side of the fabric at the point where the plain weave changes to pattern. Fold the zig-zagged end under. Stitch in place by hand or machine.

11 Fold the bag right sides together, matching the 9" lengths of pattern. Stitch along both side seams. Press the bottom corners to a point and stitch across $\frac{1}{2}$ " from each point to create a square plain-weave bottom. Turn bag right side out.

12 Cut four 3 yd lengths of both the warp and weft yarns and fold each in half. Prepare a 4-ply twisted cord using 2 doubled yarns in each ply. Alternate the two colors of plies to make the twisted cord. Wrap a length of yarn tightly around the cord several times at least 2" from the end and tie it off to keep the cord from untwisting.

13 Lay the twisted cord on the seam of the bag, placing the wrapped portion 1" below the top of the bag. Sew the cord to the seam. Use several wraps of the warp or weft yarn as a decorative finish covering about $\frac{3}{4}$ " of the cord where it attaches to the bag. Measure 42" or desired length of the strap and sew the other end of the cord to the opposite seam. Trim the cord to 2" from the stitching. Ravel the cord below the stitching to create a tassel.

Flower (optional)

14 Following the loom manufacturer's instructions, weave a 2" square in Honey Mustard Heather. Weave a second 2" square using doubled Natural. Weave in ends. On each square, pull the 2 center threads that cross in the middle of the square to gather the square into petals.

15 Place the Natural square inside the Honey Mustard Heather square and pull the Natural loops through the center of the Honey Mustard Heather square. Tie the Natural and Honey Mustard Heather loops on the back of the two squares.

16 Cut an 8" length of Honey Mustard Heather. Wrap the yarn around your finger 6–8 times and pull the end through, as if making an overhand knot with several wraps.



Tighten the knot. Thread each end on a tapestry needle and stitch the knot into the center of the flower. Tie the tails on the back of the flower.

17 Place the flower on the bag flap and pull the tails through the

fabric to the wrong side. Tie the tails on the back of the flap to secure.

Tying with a bow will allow you to remove the flower and change the embellishment on the bag if desired. *