



PINOCCHIO'S SUSPENDERS

Joan Sheridan

Photos by Matt Graves unless otherwise noted

Project originally published in *Easy Weaving with Little Looms* Winter 2023

If you have an enchanted child in your life, then he or she needs a pair of suspenders. Did you know that one of the themes of the Pinocchio story is that you must work hard to get what you want? It's a good message for anyone, especially weavers. This fun one-warp project can be sized to fit anyone from Pinocchio to Geppetto.



INKLE LOOM

PINOCCHIO'S SUSPENDERS

Joan Sheridan

RESOURCES

Sheridan, Joan. "Making Double Heddles for the Inkle Loom." [youtube.com/watch?v=im8tIcUZhzM&t=20s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im8tIcUZhzM&t=20s).

MATERIALS

STRUCTURE Warp-faced plain weave.

EQUIPMENT Inkle loom; belt shuttle; 23 heddles. **Note:** Joan likes to use #20 or #30 DMC Cébélia or Heddle Cord (available at heritagespinning.com) for making heddles.

YARNS Warp: 8/4 unmercerized cotton (1,680 yd/lb; Brassard), #5156 Burgundy, 30 yd; #5213 Cayenne, #3161 Jaune Or, and #1244 Olive, 20 yd each; #83 Noir, 22 yd. **Weft:** 8/4 unmercerized cotton, #83 Noir, 26 yd.

OTHER SUPPLIES Sewing thread in black and a color to match the elastic; heavy-duty sewing machine needles; fabric glue that is flexible and clear when dry; spray starch; suspender hardware (available online and at craft stores); small pieces of thin leather or faux leather for back piece; 5" length of 1" elastic in a color that matches the band.

WARP LENGTH 45 ends 88" long (allows 7" for take-up, 13" for loom waste).

SETTS Warp: 40 epi. **Weft:** 11 ppi.

DIMENSIONS Width: 1 1/8". **Woven length:** (measured under tension on the loom) 68". **Finished size:** (after wet-finishing and sewing) 1 1/8" x 21"-33" adjustable to ends of clamps.

PROJECT STEPS

Weaving

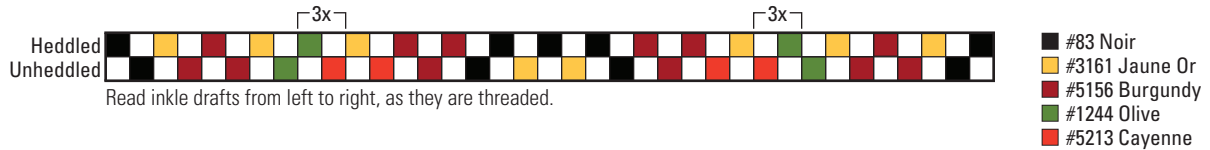
- 1** Wind a warp of 45 ends 88" long on your inkle loom following the draft in Figure 1. Check for accuracy and correct any errors.
- 2** Wind a belt shuttle with Noir. **Note:** Joan used weft the same color as the selvages to create a solid-color edge.
- 3** Weave at least 68" at 11 ppi. A pair of suspenders requires 68" woven, but Joan wove the full length of the warp for practice and "just in case."
- 4** Remove the band from the loom. Wet-finish by hand in warm water with mild detergent. Hang or lay flat to dry.

Assembly

- 5** Using a moderate amount of spray starch, spray both sides of the band and allow it to soak in so that no liquid remains on the surface. Press the band on both sides using a pressing cloth. The spray starch gives the band a more finished look.
- 6** Cut two lengths of band 29" each. Cut one end of each length straight across. Cut the second end of each length at an angle to match the top portion of the center-back piece, Figure 2 (see photo). To prevent fraying while assembling, apply a tiny amount of glue to all band ends and pinch to flatten but ensure the



Figure 1. Draft



ends do not flare beyond the width of the band. Allow to dry.

7 Cut a piece of elastic $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long and insert it into the waistband clamp. Fold under $\frac{1}{2}$ " and sew across the elastic just below the fold using matching thread.

8 Cut two pieces of leather (or faux leather) using the center-back template in Figure 2. Lay the elastic and the angled ends of the band on the leather piece in the position they will be sewn, with the angled ends close to each other in the center. Apply glue inside the sewing line to hold the pieces in place. Once you are sure the elastic and straps are in the correct position, add more glue on top, keeping the glue away from the edges, and carefully cover the straps with the second piece of leather. Check to

see that nothing has shifted, then put a heavy object on top to apply pressure. Let dry.

9 Sew around the leather piece about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge using a longer stitch than usual. **Sewing tips:** Use a stitch length of 3. Adjust your sewing machine so the needle starts in the down position. Set the stitching speed on your machine to be as slow as possible. Practice a couple of times first; the corners are tricky. Stitch evenly and slowly, maintaining the $\frac{1}{8}$ " distance from the edge.

10 Following package instructions, install hardware on the front of the suspenders (one length adjuster and one clamp on each side). Make sure to orient the hardware to match the clamp attached to the elastic. *

Figure 2. Center back template

