Instructions for the BRIO Loom

Words to Know

LOOM - A device for holding threads, called warp, taut and firm. These warp threads are raised or lowered to form a shed.

WARP - The yarns running lengthwise on a loom

WEFT - Strands of yarn or other material that are passed crosswise between warp yarns to create fabric. Also called filler or woof.

SHED - The opening through which the weft shuttle is inserted to create the interlacing of warp and weft — or fabric. Moving the lever on the head shaft opens and closes the shed.

SHUTTLE - The stick that carries the weft or filling strands through the shed.

BEATER - The moveable frame that holds the reed. Pulling the beater forward pushes the weft strands snugly into place. Also called the batten.

SELVEDGE - The finished edge of the weaving. Your weaving will have two selvedges.

BRIO Loom

Your BRIO table loom is a delightful way to learn the art of weaving. You'll enjoy hours of fun while creating something lovely to use yourself or give as a gift. Belts, pot holders, rugs, scarves, ties, and headbands are some weaving ideas!

Once you've learned how to weave, look at weaving books for new ideas. Your loom works well for a tapestry weave or a tapestry inlay.

Before You Begin

The only assembly needed is to unfold and set the BRIO loom upright, then secure with the side braces. Your loom comes all set for weaving. The way to success is to read all instructions and get acquainted with the loom before you begin.

1. Set the thread-wrapped shuttles aside.
2. Look at the labeled diagram above as you locate each part of your loom.
3. Read the Words to Know.
4. Explore how the loom works: Grasp the lever (1) on the head shaft and move it gently towards you, then away from you. Notice how the warp threads (2) alternate rise and fall, forming a space called a shed (3) each time the lever moves. By passing the shuttles (7) through these two sheds, you can weave a fabric.
5. Notice how the first row of weft threads weaves between the warp threads, and how the shuttle was passed under the last thread, then back over it and through the second shed to start the return path for the second row. Follow the weft threads with your eye until you understand how the weaving progresses.
6. Read all remaining instructions before you start.

Your Weaving Choices

Your loom arrives with a partial weaving on it. Some thread ends extend off the edge. These will need to be woven back into the rows after you take the weaving off the loom. A crochet hook or a large-eyed yarn needle will help you do the job. To continue the partial weaving already on the loom, it is best to cut the threads, separating each shuttle from the weaving itself, and leaving ends of 1.2 inches (3 cm) to weave back into the fabric. Read the section entitled Changing Colors before you begin.

If you wish, you can remove the colored weft threads of the weaving sample and begin anew, using the warp threads already on the loom. If you choose to begin anew, go to the section entitled Weaving the Header before you start.

Weaving Step-by-Step

(a) Begin with a chosen color. Open the first shed by pulling the head shaft lever (1) towards the front of the loom.
(b) Insert your shuttle and pass it all the way through the shed opening (3) in the weft threads. When you start with a color, leave about 1.2 inches (3 cm) of thread ends extending beyond the warp. You will weave this end into the fabric on the next shuttle pass to pack it firmly in place. As you pass the shuttle, let the thread form a loop to help keep the fabric edges from drawing in as you weave.
(c) Close the shed opening by pulling the head shaft lever back to the starting position. Then pack or "beat" the weft thread by pulling the beater (4) forward. This pushes the newest weft row snugly against the previous row.
(d) Move the beater all the way back. Then turn the lever on the heald shaft towards the back of the loom to open the second shed. Now make the extended thread ends from the first pass of the shuttle and insert them back into the existing shed opening with your fingers. The thread should wrap around the shuttle tongue. Now pass your shuttle through the shed opening (loosening the loom) and pull the beater forward to beat everything in place.

You’ll see your hand-woven fabric taking shape as you repeat the steps just performed: Switch the lever, pass the shuttle through the shed, and pull the beater. Return the beater, switch the lever, pass the shuttle through, and pull the beater. Experiment to learn how firmly to beat the weft threads to produce an even, firm fabric, and remember to pack or "beat in" the threads ends so when you change colors. Remember that weaving is a skill, and practice helps!

**Moving the Weaving Forward on the Loom**

As the fabric gets longer, moving the warp forward creates the space necessary for the shuttle to pass through the shed. You want to advance the warp to the weaving itself to 2.5 inches (6.5 cm) from the reed in order to maintain an adequate shed opening. If you wait too long to advance the warp, you also get more “draw in” or pulling in from the sides of your fabric.

To advance the woven fabric over the breast beam (12) and eventually around the cloth beam (3), do this:

(a) Grasp the warp beam (6) and turn it back very slightly to loosen the beam. When the brace loosens, lift it up so the beam can turn freely.

(b) Grasp and slowly turn the warp beam toward the front of the loom to reduce pressure on the warp as you need. Make sure that some of your weaving remains on the top warp so you can continue your project. Secure the rear brace by pushing into place.

(c) Go to the front of the loom and turn the cloth beam until the warp threads are taut. (No need to lift up the brake on the front racket; it will turn and hold automatically.) Continue passing the shuttle, changing colors (see below), and advancing the warp until your weaving is as long as you want it. Then follow the steps for Finishing.

**Changing Colors**

To change shuttle colors in your weaving, follow these steps:

1. Cut the threads you are working with, leaving a 1.2 inch (3 cm) end extending beyond the warp. This end will be woven into the fabric on another pass of the shuttle.

2. Take your second color and begin at the opposite edge of the fabric from where you cut the threads. (For example, if you cut the color thread on the left, you will start the new color on the right.)

3. Open the correct shed. If the correct shed is open, your weft thread will be encased by the warp thread. If the incorrect shed is open, all warp threads will be parallel and your thread will be loose enough to float free.

4. Insert the shuttle, leaving a 1.2 inch (3 cm) end extending beyond the warp. Then continue to weave as described in Weaving Step-by-Step. Weaving and weaving in the ends on the next pass of the shuttle.

5. Each time you change to a new shuttle color, cut the ends and weave them back in. This makes a smooth, clean unbroken edge. **Important Tip:** If you cut threads on one edge, you must start the new color on the opposite edge. You need to alternate to balance the thread. If you don’t alternate, your weaving will be bulky on the side where all the cut ends are woven into the fabric.

When your shuttle runs out of thread, re-wrap it with the new thread. (Be careful not to wrap the thread on the shuttle too tight.) When you start weaving with the new shuttle do not close the shed, insert the shuttle to the same shed as you ended on. Let the ends extend about 1.2 in. (3 cm). Remember, you will wrap those ends over the final warp thread and back into the open shed to be packed into the next row of weft, thus securing the new weft thread into your weaving.

**Finishing**

When your woven fabric reaches the desired length, it’s time to cut it off the loom and finish the ends. Cut the warp threads at the edge of the back beam with a scissors. You will have 38 warp threads. Pull the warp threads out of the loom by moving them toward the front edge of the loom, through the beater and through all the slots and holes. You will finish the back edge of your weaving before you remove the fabric from the loom. Finish the edge tying pairs of threads in an overhand knot that is tight to (right next to) the fabric. If you have trouble getting tight to the fabric, place a pin inside the knot and use it to slide the knot into place. Remove the pin and repeat on each succeeding knot.

After all the fringe has been tied, release the brake on the front ratchet by rolling the cloth beam (3) forward and lifting up the brake (14). Roll the cloth beam toward the back of the loom to unroll the fabric. Use a scissors to cut the warp threads at the stick. Tie the threads in pairs the same way you did at the back of the fabric. Trim the fringes even. Your piece is now finished!

**Starting a New Weaving**

In all loom weaving, the loom must first be prepared or "dressed" with a warp so you can pass weft strands back and forth through the shed to weave fabric. Your Brio loom was already "warp and" when you got it. When you finish your weaving and the loom is cleared of all warp threads. Follow these simple steps to set up a new warp for your next project:

**Materials:** Use a 12/6 cotton or a 10/2 pearl cotton, available at a craft or yarn store, for the warp. You may also use package cord that is fine enough to go through the reed. Knitting yarns are too stretchy to use for warp. Use cotton or linen thread, or anything with a hard finish that's not stretchy. You choose the color! You can use any yarn, thread, or 1/4 inch cloth strips you like for the weft.

1. Decide the width of your fabric by counting out the corresponding number of slits in the reed (9). Five slits in the reed equal one inch (2.5 cm). For example, if you want a weaving 6 inches (15 cm) wide, you'll need 30 slits. Make it a little wider than what you want your finished weaving to be, because the weaving process causes the width to "draw in."

2. Decide the length of your finished piece of weaving. For example, 1 yard (90 cm). Add additional length to equal 20 percent of the finished piece. For example, if your piece is 1 yard (90 cm) when finished, add another 8 inches (20 cm) when you cut each of the warp threads. If your piece is 6 inches (15 cm) wide, you will need to cut 30 threads, each 41 inches (110 cm) long. The extra length on the warp threads is for fringe and loom waste. **Tip:** On this loom, you don't want a warp of more than two yards in order to ensure consistent tension on the warp threads.

3. Make sure that all of the warp threads are parallel to one another as they lay on a work surface near the loom. Place the loom at the top of the threads. Start at one side. One by one, thread the warp threads through the reed (30), taking care to keep them in order and to center them. That is, if you are using 30 threads, put 15 threads to the left of center and 15 threads to the right of center. Next, thread through the red plastic heald plate (9). Put one thread in a hole, the next in a slit, and so on. This will provide the different sheds that make the weaving possible. Again, keep threads in correct order, placing 15 threads to the left of center and 15 to the right. Pull the threads to the back beam and tie pairs of threads to the stick for the back warp beam. Use a square knot and keep the threads orderly and evenly spaced along the stick. **Important:** Threads must be parallel at all times and must never cross.

4. If you are a helper: hold the threads in a bunch at the front of the loom, allowing equal tension. We recommend separating the threads with heavy paper as you carefully roll your warp threads onto the warp beam. Stop rolling the beam when approximately 6 inches (15 cm) of the warp threads remain in front of the reed. Then the threads release evenly and your tension is better preserved.

5. Fasten the warp threads in pairs onto the stick (11) in front of the breast beam (12), using a square knot for each pair of threads. Make sure that all the warp threads are pulled with equal tension, and make sure your knots are secure and firm.

6. Now the loom is ready for your next weaving project!

**Weaving a Header**

A header is a section of temporary weaving that provides a firm surface to push against when you pull the beater to pack or "beat" each new row of weft. We recommend you weave a header before beginning with your chosen colors. For the header, use scrap yarn. You may also use cotton rags cut in strips 1/4 inch wide. Weave the strips in with your fingers, or wrap an empty shuttle and weave with the shuttle. Make the header 2 inches (5 cm) wide. Now you are ready to start weaving with your chosen colors!
**BRIO loom**

**BRIO WEBSTUHL**

**Le métier à tisser BRIO**

**Telar BRIO**

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**BRIO LOOM**

This little loom is not only a toy, but also a tool which can teach you the rudiments of the art of weaving. Before you start:

Look at the picture of the loom which gives you the names of the various parts. By turning the lever on the head shaft (1) toward you, you will see that the warp threads (2) rise and fall alternately, forming a "shed". Then turn the lever away from you and you will see how the second shed is formed. With these two sheds, the warp thread that you wrap on the shuttle (3), you can weave a fabric. But beware of too much thread in the shuttle or it will be difficult to get the shuttle through the shed.

**Step by step**

1. Turn the lever (1) on the head shaft toward you. Insert the shuttle with the warp threads (2) through the shed. The first shed is now open. You can now see the warp threads (2) and the second shed is formed. With these two sheds, you can weave a fabric. But beware of too much thread in the shuttle or it will be difficult to get the shuttle through the shed.

2. Open the shuttle (3) and insert the warp thread (2) through the shed. The first shed is now open. You can now see the warp threads (2) and the second shed is formed. With these two sheds, you can weave a fabric. But beware of too much thread in the shuttle or it will be difficult to get the shuttle through the shed.

3. Insert the shuttle (3) and close the shed. The second shed is now open. You can now see the warp threads (2) and the first shed is formed. With these two sheds, you can weave a fabric. But beware of too much thread in the shuttle or it will be difficult to get the shuttle through the shed.

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**Step by step**

1. Turn the lever (1) on the head shaft toward you. Insert the shuttle with the warp threads (2) through the shed. The first shed is now open. You can now see the warp threads (2) and the second shed is formed. With these two sheds, you can weave a fabric. But beware of too much thread in the shuttle or it will be difficult to get the shuttle through the shed.

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