

## DIY Leashes

These leashes are useful when you have a frame loom where only one shed is open, and you have to finger pick or needle weave in the opposite direction.

### You will need:

1. 2x 7.5cm (3 inch) G clamps. You don't need very strong, heavy ones as they are only used for bringing the top leash rod forwards: inexpensive clamps are fine.
2. 2 pieces of dowelling, at least minimum 10mm diameter and the width of your frame (edge to edge). The thickness is not crucial and will depend on the width of your frame, although you might struggle with a broom handle! One piece of dowel is used as the main support for the heddles so if your weaving is very wide your dowel will need to be quite sturdy. The second dowel can be thinner as it is just used as a guide when setting up the discarded.
3. Masking tape.
4. Warp - the length of warp you need to make the leashes depends on how wide your piece is. Needless to say, it takes far more warp than you would expect - although you could probably calculate how much warp is needed for each back shed and work it out if you wanted to! However, you can tie additional lengths to your leash warp and can re-use the leashes as well, so nothing is wasted. I would suggest taking about 10 metres of warp and see how it lasts.....
5. Small spirit level.

Your frame should be warped going over the top and bottom so you have a natural open shed. You can tension and weave your bottom edge after making the leashes. Make sure your frame is securely fixed.

*Note: It is easier to do this if your frame is vertical but I have shown the frame lying down in some photographs to make it easier to see.*

### Step 1

Fix the clamps either side of the outside of your frame about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up with the main body of the clamp on the outside of the frame and the screw pointing towards you.



### Step 2

Rest the thicker dowel on top of the clamps – this is the one that will be under most tension in use. Using a spirit level, check the dowel is level then tie the dowel firmly to the clamps on either side between the body of the clamp and the screw handle. This will be the one your leashes hang from so needs to be secure.



### Step 3

Using the masking tape and again, checking it is level, temporarily stick the second length of dowelling directly to the frame about 150mm below the first piece. This dowelling is just used as a guide to get all the leashes the same length at the bottom (the photo shows the frame lying flat to make it easier to see).

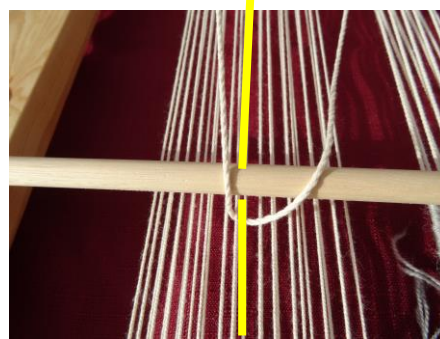


### Step 4

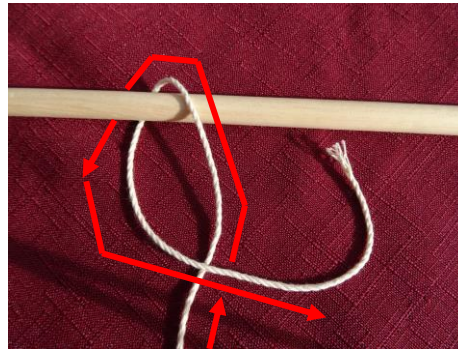
Start at the left hand side of the top dowel and tie your leashing warp to the dowel to secure it.

Make your leashes:

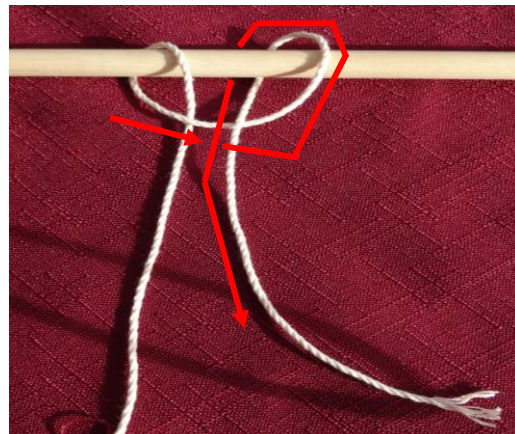
- a) Bring the leash warp down over the front of the lower dowel, go between two front warps, pick up the back warp (left to right), back up between the same two front warps, over the lower dowel and head back up to the top. You should have made a loop around one back warp.



- b) Bring your warp up to the top dowel. Go up the front and over down the back of the dowel, then across left to right in front of the leash you have just brought up from the lower dowel. (I've photographed the top leash dowel off the loom to make it clearer).



- c) You need to do two hitches so go over the top dowel again as before but this time go between your first loop and the one you have just made, exiting in front of the loop. Take your warp back down to your lower dowel.



d) Start again from a) picking up all of the back shed warps only. It is worthwhile looking at the back of your warps occasionally to check you have picked them all up - it's easy to miss one - and also not crossed any warps.

If you run out of warp (and it takes a surprising amount!) just tie in a new piece near the top dowel but try not to join it where it will get tangled up with your half hitches.

### Step 6

Take out the second, lower, dowelling (the one with the masking tape) and voila! - you have leashes!

To use the leashes, insert your hand into the gap between the warps you are working, slide your hand up to the leashes on the bar, hook your first two fingers over the 'loop' and pull it out towards you – this will 'lift' the back warps towards you.

You can easily move the G clamps and dowel further up to the top of your work if you are running out of room.

If you are working on a small area and the leashes are irritating you, I use a big spring clip to get them out of the way.

### Floating leashes

If you have an area to weave where you will be using the same group of warps for several centimetres, you can set up some simple leashes without using dowels.

Work out how many 'back' warps there will be in the area you want to work in and cut the same number of lengths of warp roughly 15cm long. Hook each one around the back warp, bring it forward and then knot them together in a clump – you should do several clumps if your design is quite wide.



When you need to weave through the back shed, just pull them forwards. Simple!

These leashes can be unknotted and reused.