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JULIO TUBAL

Dressing The Varpapuu Table Loom

MODEL KOTHE

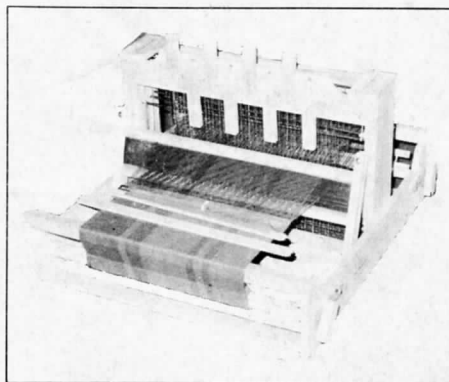


Photo: Pekka Hirvi

OY VARPA-LOOMS LTD. FINLAND

There is always room for a VARPAPUU "KOTHE" LOOM

The Varpapuu "Kothe" Loom is a new type of table loom construction, that allows you to weave with ease and comfort. Professionals and industry have designed and studied sample weaves using Kothe loom, amateurs and hob-bists have found enjoyment and inspira-tion using it, and beginners have found satisfaction when learning weaving by using it. The ease in weaving makes this

loom also ideal for the handicapped and children.

The harnesses raise and lower with a light touch of the levers, which are located in the front of the loom (see the diagram on page 3).

When the loom is completely as-sembled with legs (see front cover) it gives the appearance of a floor loom.

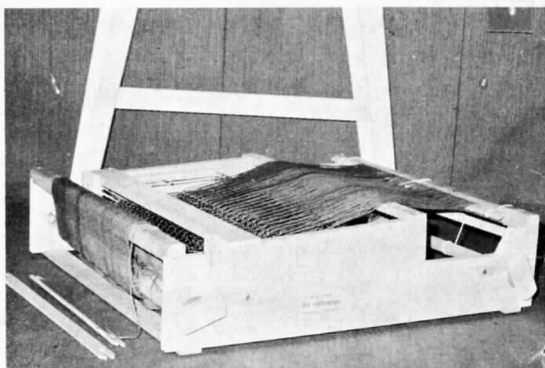
The loom can be folded even with the warp on and stored easily in a closet or under the bed.

Release the harnesses castle by using the lever indicated in the picture 2.

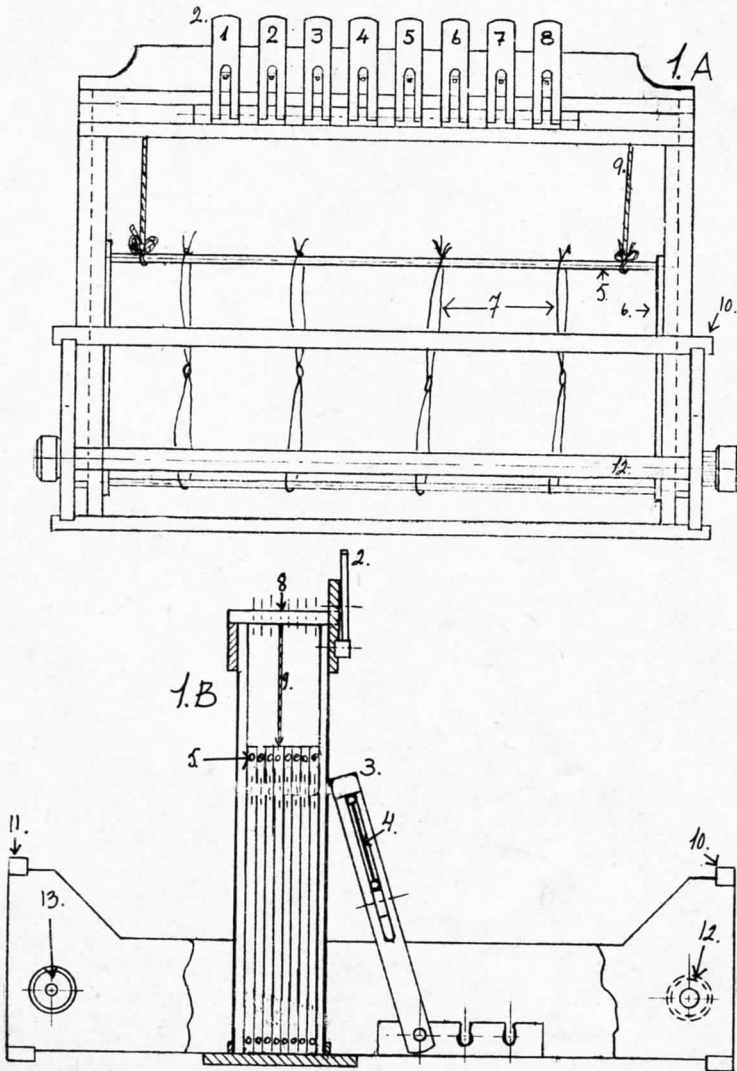
Reduce the warp tension, remove the beater and lie it flat in the bottom of the loom. Lower all the harness levers so that the warp is in the raised position, then fold the harness castle forward until it lies in a flat horizontal position.

Varpapuu Kothe Loom is available in the weaving width 60 cm (23") with 8 or 4 harnesses.

Outside width	76 cm (36")
Depth	80 cm (31")
Height	51 cm (20")
and when folded	23 cm (9")
The floor space needed	
with legs	95x85 cm
Shipping weight	13-17 kg



Structure view



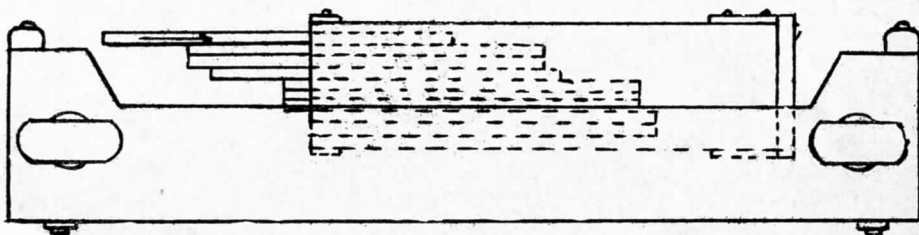
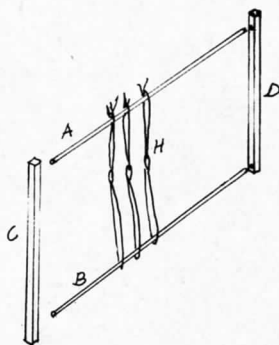
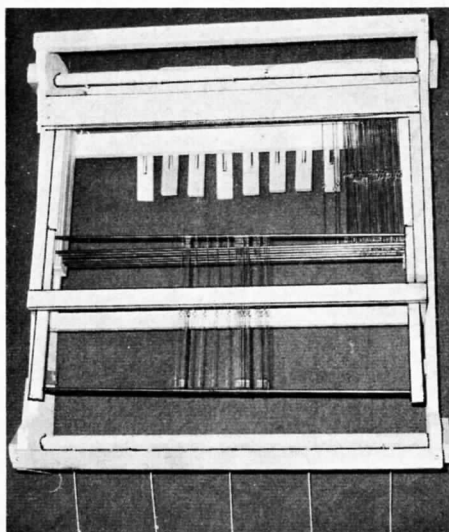
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Harness castle (A front view, B side view) | 7. Heddles (string, metal or plastic) |
| 2. Levers, for harnesses 1-8 | 8. Holes for the cord |
| 3. Beater | 9. Tie-up cord |
| 4. Reed | 10. Front beam |
| 5. Metal bar of the harnesses | 11. Back beam |
| 6. Harness side piece, wood | 12. Cloth beam |
| | 13. Warp beam |

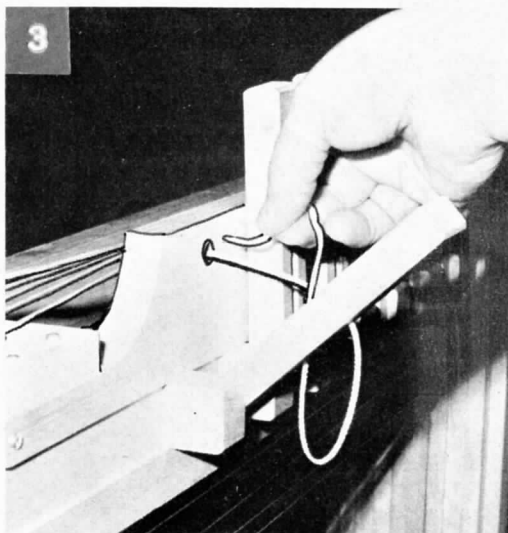
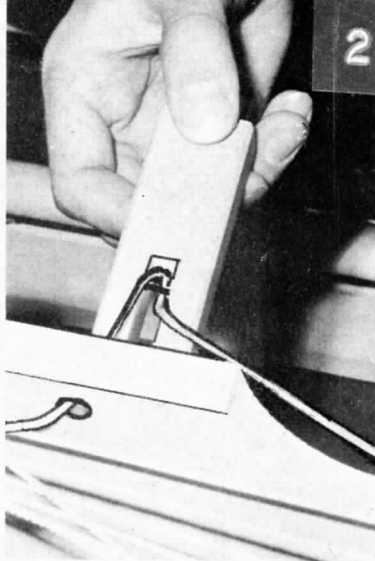
To assemble the harnesses:

The harness is made up of two metal bars (A+B) and two pieces of wood (C+D). The metal bars are made to hold the heddles.

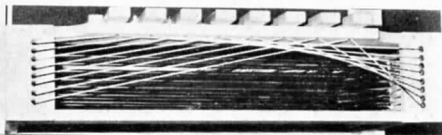
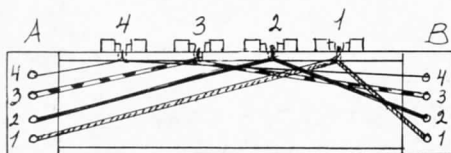
Place the Kothe loom on the table. Unlock the harness castle and lower it to the horizontal position. Assemble all the harnesses with the necessary heddles needed and slide them up through the bottom of the harness castle. Notice that it is very difficult to add any more heddles afterwards when the harnesses are already tied-up.

Return the harness castle to its upright position and lock. The bottom of the loom has to rest on a table.





TIE-UP of the harnesses



Strong linen or nylon cords are used to tie-up the harnesses to the levers.

Begin tying the back harness, harness No. 1, first and then proceed according to the diagram and picture above.

Take a cord about 120 cm (48") long, tie it to the metal rod on side A (see also the structure views of the loom, page 2). Come up through hole 1, side A, and cross to the lever hole 1.

In the picture 2 the cord goes through the lever hole 1, and loops around the metal pin in the lever, and then returns through the same lever hole, as in picture 3.

From the lever the cord proceeds to the side B (see the diagram again), down through the hole 1 and ties up to the metal rod on the side B.

The same way tie-up the other harness, proceeding in order from 2 to 4 or 8, as illustrated in the diagram.

Attention: when tying the loom, the bottom of all the harnesses should be resting on a table and the top of all the harnesses should be level with each other: so when you are weaving and press a lever (or levers) down, the shed opens evenly.

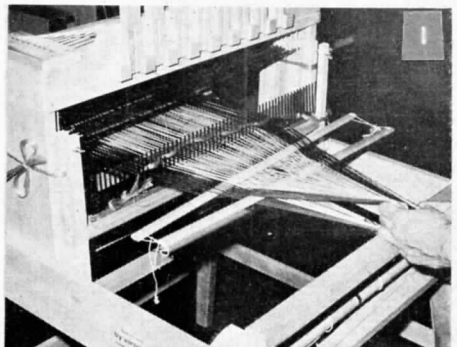
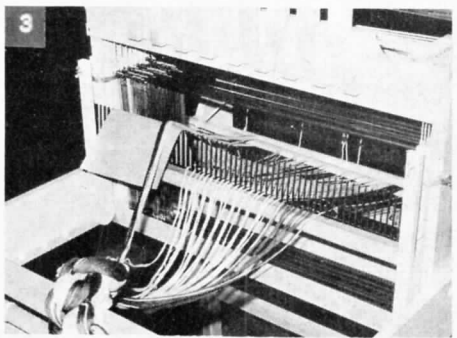
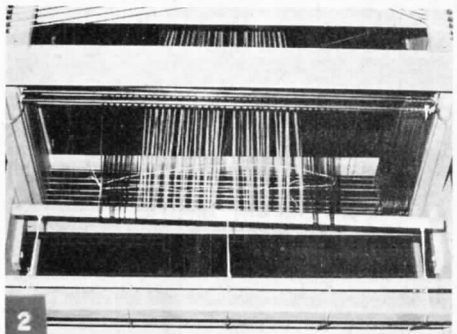
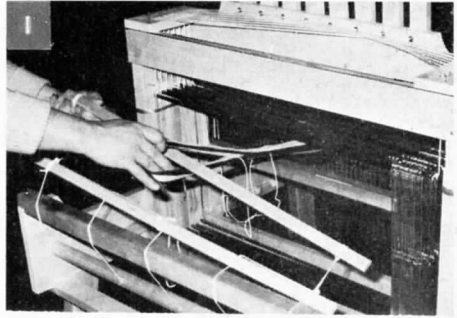
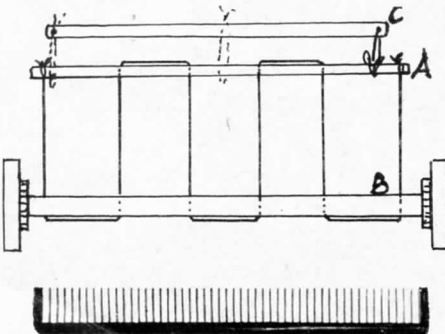
Dressing the loom

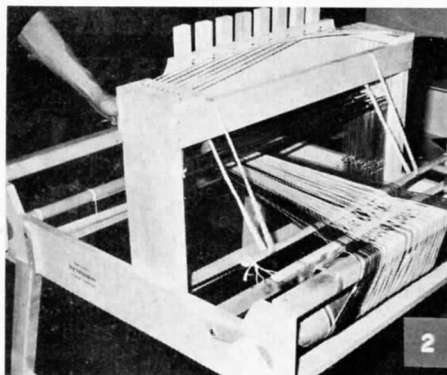
Take a cord (about 2 m) and thread it through the back beam (B) and apron stick (A) according to the diagram below.

Next place the raddle in the beater and tie it to the castle. If you do not have a raddle, you can easily make one by using nails and a wooden stick: space the nails 1 cm (or 1") apart.

Place the warp on the table or on a chair at the front of the loom. Take the end of the warp over the front beam, over the raddle, through the center of the harnesses and then take the end loop of the warp and slide this on the holding warp stick (C) which will be tied to the aprons stick with 3-4 cords. Place the cords so that the warp is equally spaced between them.

Rest the warp on a piece of flexible paper and start raddling from the right to the left. Take the first group of pairs according to the number of the threads per cm/inch in the fabric you are planning to weave, and place them between the nails of the raddle. Make sure not to separate pairs, and start on the right point of the raddle so that the warp will be in the center of the loom. Take the next group of warp threads and go on until the warp is completely raddled. When finished cover the raddle with the upper part of the beater or use a string to hold the warp.





After raddling start to wind the warp on the warp beam: It is possible for one person to wind the warp alone by holding the warp tightly with one hand and winding with the other, but it is easier to do it if you have somebody to help you.

Wind the warp approximately three times around the warp beam. At this point it is advisable to start winding a layer of warp sticks or a continuous piece of wrapping paper between the warp, to give a smooth surface to each new layer of warp being wound around the beam.

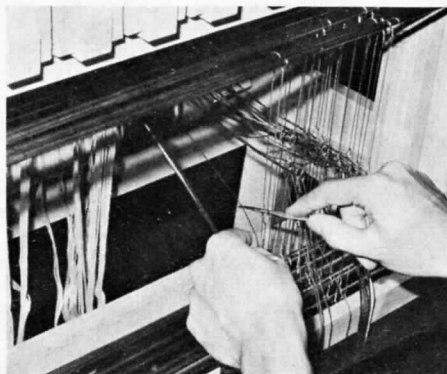
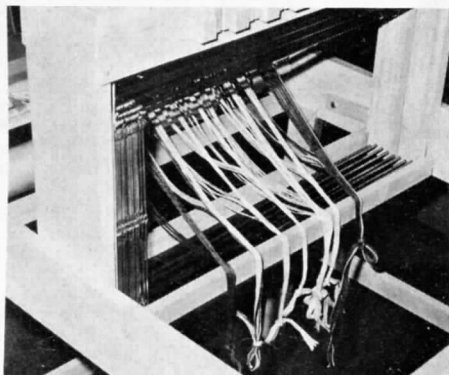
Wind until the end of the warp is near the raddle (picture 1) and then slide the cross sticks (lease sticks) carefully through the cross. Remove the raddle, move the cross sticks to the back of the castle and tie them according to the picture 2.

Threading the heddles

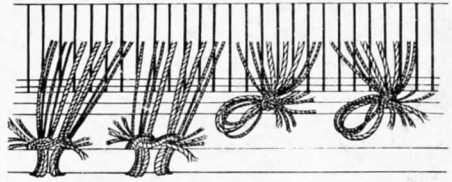
Cut across the loop of the warp to remove any knots made when warping. Tie the warp in sections using slip knot which is easy to undo.

When threading the loom it is important to sit in a comfortable position. Begin threading heddles from the right to the left. If you have metal or plastic heddles use a small crochet hook to pull the warp ends through the eye. If you have string heddles use your fingers.

Remember to start with the 1st thread in the cross and with the 1st harness. Select the first thread from the cross and thread it through the eye of the heddle. The order of your threading depends on the pattern and weave. In the straight threading the first thread is put on the harness 1, the second thread on the harness 2, the third on the harness 3, the fourth on the harness 4, and so on until all harnesses have been used once. Then the sequence is repeated in the same order until the warp is all threaded. Straight threading is easy to use for different weaves, because in a Kothe table loom each harness works independently.



Threading the reed



Place the reed into the beater, then place the beater into its working position. Take the fabric width to be woven and center it in the reed.

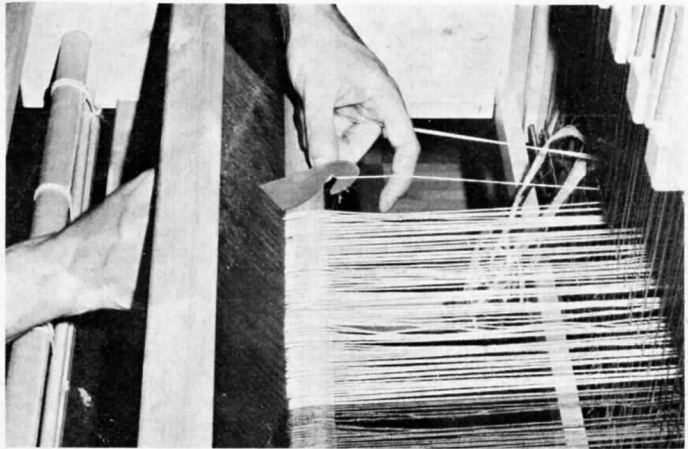
Begin drawing the warp ends through the dents of the reed with a reed hook, as seen in the picture. After reeding retie warp ends into groups so that they do not fall back out.

After finishing reeding, tie up the aprons stick to the cloth beam the same way you did the back beam (page 6). Untie the cross sticks from the castle and release the back beam and pull the

warp forward until the warp can reach the front apron stick. Begin to tie the warp to the apron stick:

Select a group of threads, comb out slack and tie this group on the side, and then another group on the other side. Adjust the apron stick so it is straight. Tighten the front apron stick and begin tying the remaining groups of warp end in the middle and using bow knot.

Tighten the front beam and check the evenness of the tension. **AND START TO WEAVE!**



If you have any questions concerning Varpapuu Looms, please turn to: