

Craft Kit 41: Plain Weaving



SHENEQUA

Wove

April 1–May 22, 2022

108 CONTEMPORARY

Art. Craft. Design.

Welcome to 108 Contemporary!

We are a non-profit gallery in Tulsa, Oklahoma that specializes in contemporary craft. From April 1 through May 22, 2022 we have an exhibition called *Wove*, by artist SHENEQUA. Let's look at the exhibition before you make your own silhouette inspired by the pieces we see there.

On the way we'll ask ourselves some questions. There are no wrong answers! When you view fine art and craft, your experience will be unique and personal. Perhaps the person next to you will have different answers to the same questions. By hearing each other's perspectives, we may find new and exciting ways to interpret each work.



Citation/caption: Univers Light
Condensed 14pt

SHENEQUA

Multidisciplinary Shenequa Brooks is known by her professional name, SHENEQUA. She has always had an interest in fabric and patterns, so she says learning to weave was a natural progression of her interests.

She was born in the British Virgin Islands, in St. Thomas, and grew up in Miami, FL. The festival of *Carnival* is a hugely important part of most Caribbean cultures, and several of SHENEQUA's weavings are reflections of the colors and textures in *Carni*



Watch a tour of the exhibition here: <https://youtu.be/LGVOQXMCznw>

What is Weaving?

Weaving is “the craft of forming fabric by interlacing threads.”

Every culture in the world has a weaving tradition. Some weave threads into cloth, some weave grasses or vines into baskets, and some even weave metal!

Take a moment to look up weaving in other countries and cultures. Do you see similarities? Do you see differences?



Tropics by SHENEQUA

Weaving Terms

Every style of weaving has three things in common:

- Loom: the frame or machine on which the woven material is made
- Warp: the threads on a loom
- Weft:

On the next slides, see if you can identify the loom, the warp, and the weft.



Loom

Weft

Warp

Wu Liangming weaving a flower
belt on backstrap loom



Ghanian man weaving kente
cloth



Woman weaving in Mexico



Woman weaving silk in Uzbekistan



What makes SHENEQUA's weaving unique?



Can you tell what material she used as weft?

Let's take a closer look on the next slide.

What's the weft?

- Clue 1: SHENEQUA talks about her aunt running a hair salon, and how she frequently had new hairstyles as a child
- Clue 2: Some of SHENEQUA's fondest memories are of sitting for her sister, T'Keyah, to get her hair braided.



My Hair My Crown



- What is the Crown Act? Why might it be important to people with naturally kinky and curly hair?

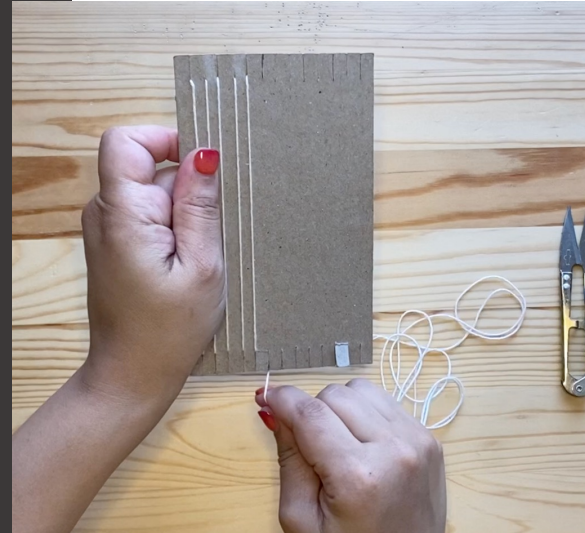
Plain Weaving

- Let's make a weaving inspired by SHENEQUA
- 1.29 has more space in between each line and looks airier and nicer, but it takes up a lot of room and isn't good for text-heavy kits.



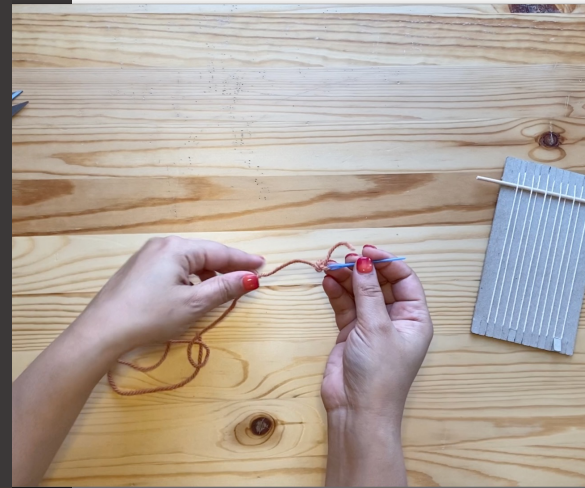
Set Up Your Loom

1. Wrap the thin warp thread around loom and through the notches, leaving enough thread to tie the ends together on the back.
2. To use the dowel as a shed stick, weave the dowel through the warp in an under-over pattern. This will create a gap, or “shed,” between warp threads.



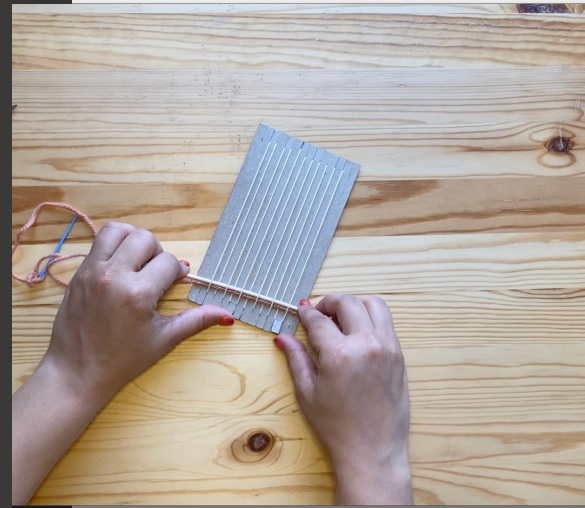
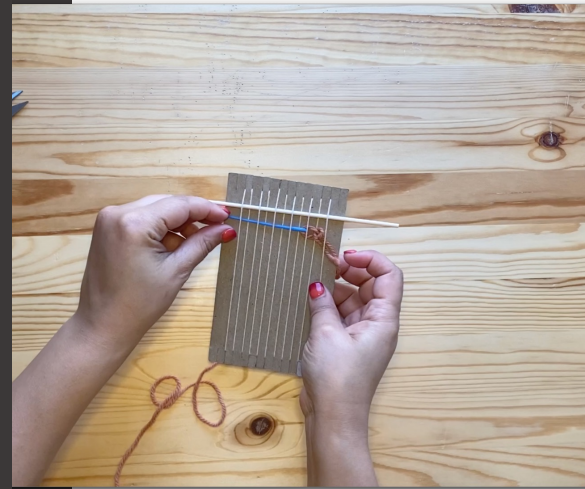
Ready your weft

3. Cut yarn into pieces. The strands don't need to be all the same length, but each should be at least 18 inches long.
4. Thread 1 strand of yarn through tapestry needle and tie simple knot to secure the thread to the needle



Plain weaving

5. Pass needle through the shed and pull your yarn all the way through the loom. Leave a short tail of yarn on the side where you started. This is the beginning of your weft..
6. Use your needle or the slide the shed stick to press your yarn to the bottom of the loom. Secure the tail end of your weft by tucking it through the warp threads in reverse order (an over, under pattern).



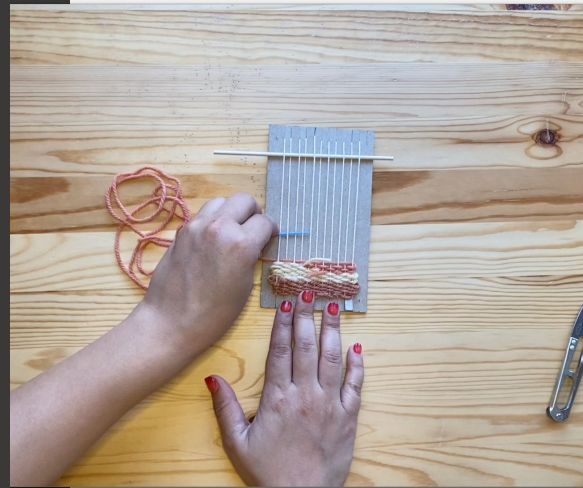
Plain weaving

7. To work your weft in the other direction, pass the needle through the warp threads in an over-under pattern, pulling the yarn in the same way as you did in Step 5. Be careful not to pull too tight! Pulling your yarn tightly around the edges of the warp will make the sides of your weaving concave.
8. Repeat Step 5, minus leaving a tail, and then Step 7, using your needle or the shed stick to comb your weft so that it stacks neatly at the bottom of your loom.



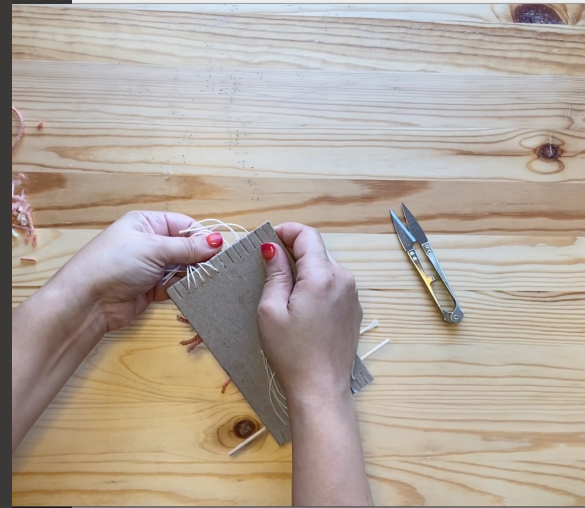
Plain weaving

9. Add new yarn by tying ends together with a square knot, then repeat Step 4 with the new yarn. Tuck any tails into the weft, or pull them out as a feature!



Finish and hang your weaving

10. Tuck the tail your last strand into the weft, weaving in the opposite direction to secure it.
11. Turn the loom over and cut the warp threads in the middle of board. Carefully pull your weaving off the loom.



Finish and hang your weaving

12. To hang your weaving, tie pairs of warp threads at the bottom in pairs and with a simple knot. Tie pairs of warp threads at the top around the shed stick with a square knot and trim or tuck the ends.
13. To use your weaving as a coaster, tie the top ends of your project in the same way as the bottom.
14. Show everyone. You're a fiber artist!



More Resources

- Watch SHENEQUA talk about her exhibition here:
<https://youtu.be/Syz0JMxlq7g>
- See a video version of the craft kit instructions here:
<https://youtu.be/5lUrtizEe9Y>
- Find more free craft kits at 108contemporary.org/craft-kits
- We'd love to see your finished weavings—tag us
@108contemporary on Instagram!