

Woven Pouch



How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

There is a long tradition of spinning and weaving along the Derwent Valley. This activity links to the cotton spinning at Cromford Mills, Masson Mill, the weaving of the products along the valley and with the production of wool products at Smedley's, Lea Mills. Have a look at the pictures of the weaving looms, and read about the history of Arkwright's Water Frame Inventions.

You will need:

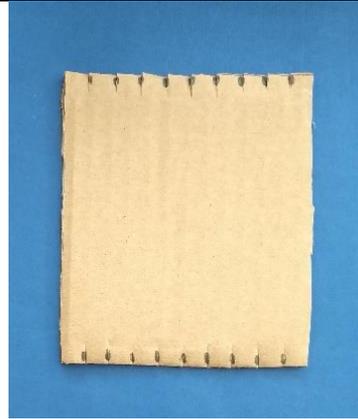
- wool
- scissors
- tape
- craft sticks
- pencil
- needle
- cardboard, a thick piece is best
- other colours of wool
- string



How to have a go:

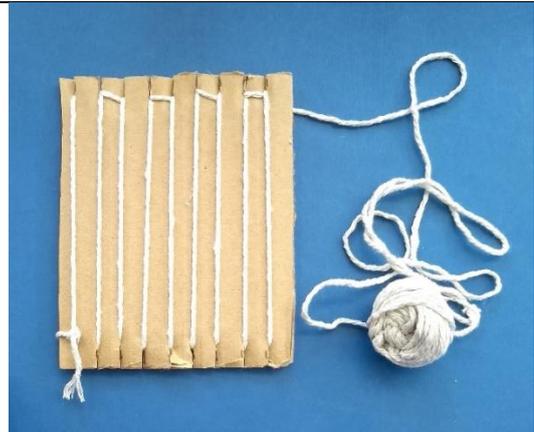
Step 1:

Cut your cardboard into a rectangle 12cm x 10cm and mark 9 little lines along both short ends. Snip notches at each little line.



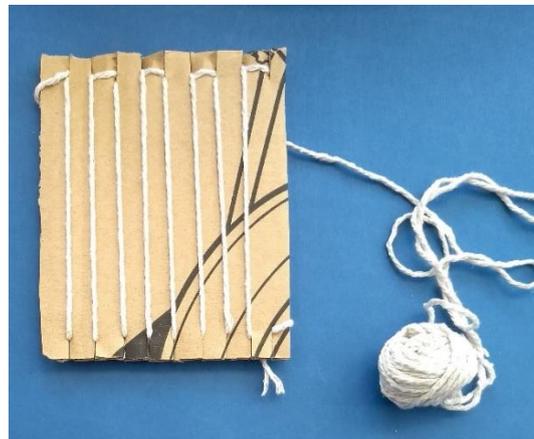
Step 2:

Cut a length of string and knot it at bottom corner of the cardboard. Wrap the string up and down the card to form the warp, hooking it around the notches on the front and the back in turn. Make sure you have 9 strings on the front (shown in this photo).



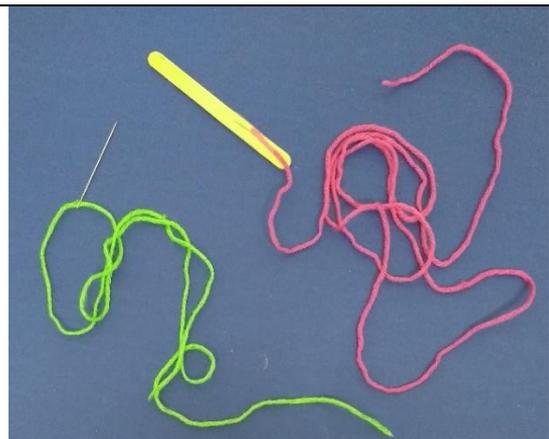
Step 3:

And 8 strings on the back (shown in this photo). You need an odd number for the weaving to work.



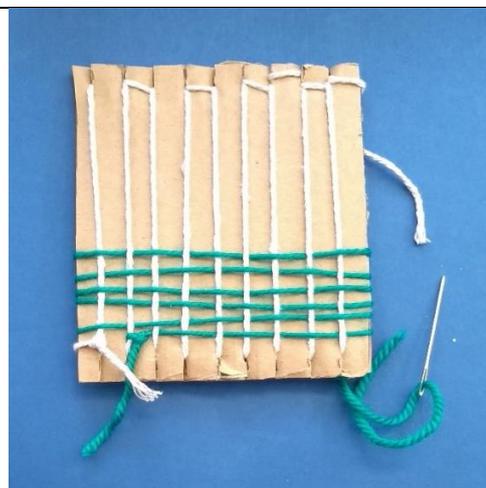
Step 4:

Choose a colour of wool to start your weaving. You can use a craft stick as a needle by taping your wool onto one end or you can use a needle.



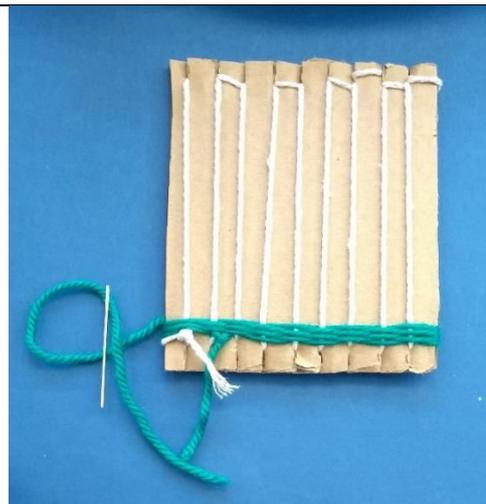
Step 5:

Knot the end of the wool to one of the strings at the bottom. Weave in and out of the warp going across the front and around to the back of the card in a circle.



Step 6:

Push the wool down as you go along.



Step 7:

Try different colours. Knot the new colour wool and carry on weaving.



Step 8:

Keep changing the colour of the wool until you reach the top.



Step 9:

Bend the notches forward and backwards. Unhook the warp loops from the notches at the top.



Step 10:

Slide the card out to form your pouch.
Sew in the loose ends.

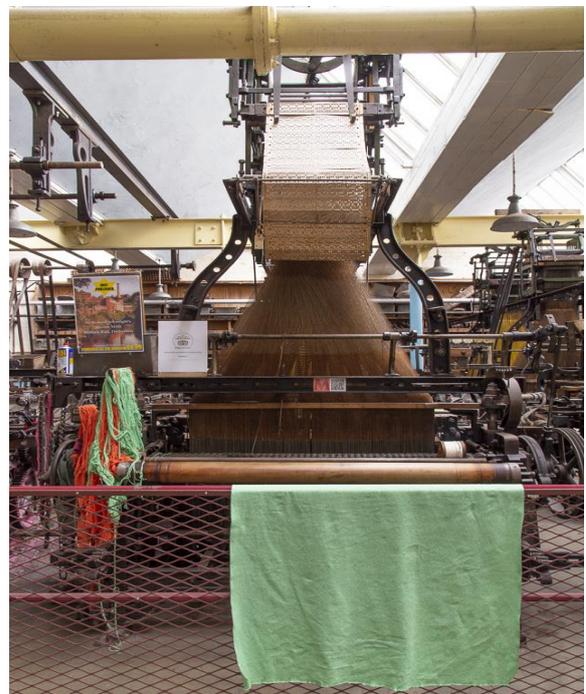


Step 11:

Turn the pouch inside out so all the knotted ends are inside.



Woven Pouch Information Sheets



Images of Weaving Looms from Masson Mills
Courtesy of Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Partnership

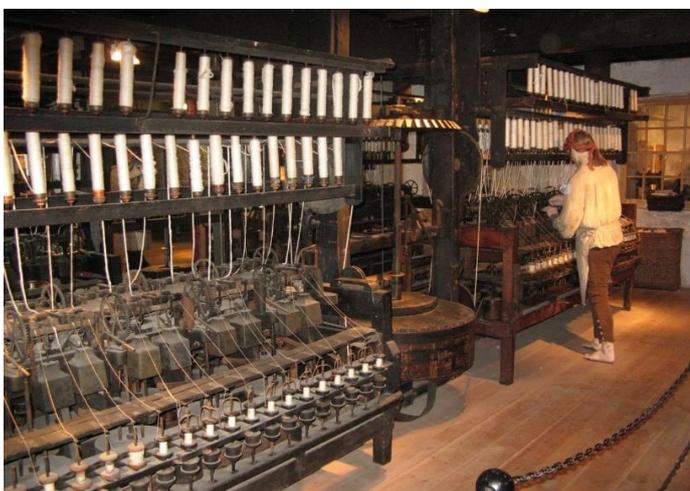


Image of water frame spinning machine
Courtesy of Adrian Farmer

Richard Arkwright's Water Frame Invention



Richard Arkwright

History and Development – Water Frame Loom

The development of the Arkwright water frame made available the first continuous spinning process which could be operated by machine minders rather than skilled operatives.

Arkwright's first patent, which he obtained in July 1769, was for a machine which spun yarn by means of rollers, flyers and bobbins. The cotton was "drawn" by pairs of rollers, each successive pair moving faster than the preceding one, with twist added by bobbins and flyers. The front pair of rollers was weighted by lead weights hooked over the top roller. This prevented the twist running back up the roving and forcing the rollers apart. The top roller was covered with leather and the bottom one fluted so that the cotton was held firmly as it passed between the two.

The production models used the basic drafting head shown in the patent drawing mounted side by side on a wooden frame and driven from a water wheel by gearing, wooden line shafting and belts.

Joseph Wright's portrait of Sir Richard shows his subject and, by his side, the invention on which his fame and fortune were based. In selecting the drafting head (the roller device), as the icon of his subject's achievement, and in painting it so accurately, Joseph Wright demonstrated a genuine understanding of the Arkwright spinning process. The production models of the water frame varied in size from four spindles to the ninety-six spindle machine, an example of which, from Cromford Mill, is preserved at the Helmshore Higher Mill Museum in Lancashire. The factory masters found it an advantage to have frames of more than one size so that they could produce yarns in varying degrees of thickness, known in the trade as counts, in appropriate quantities according to the demands of the market.

Extract taken from Derwent Valley Mills.org – history and development

Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we'd love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12th October 2020.

Post us your work – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you'd like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

Postal address:

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Send us a photo – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

Social Media – If you use social media use #DVMWHS Creativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:



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Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!