

# AVL HOME LOOM with Compu-Dobby III

## ASSEMBLY & OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

WIDTH: \_\_\_\_\_

BATCH #: \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL #: \_\_\_\_\_

APRIL 2002

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# INTRODUCTION

AVL Looms was formed in 1977. Jim Ahrens, an experienced engineer/designer/weaver, designed the original looms. He has been weaving, designing, and building handweaving looms for over fifty years and is considered by many weavers to be the greatest handloom designer in this country.

Following in Mr. Ahrens' legendary footsteps are the next generation of designers at AVL. Our team is lead by Matt Taylor and Kim Mitchell. Their combined imagination, ingenuity, and engineering/designing skills make this group an unbeatable combination. The design team, along with the other talented and qualified staff at AVL, work together to produce the finest handweaving looms and accessories available in this country and according to some of our customers, the world.

## **PREFACE**

Learning to warp and weave on an AVL Home Loom with Compu-Dobby III will be a rewarding experience for beginning and experienced weavers alike. The efficiency of the design, along with the sturdy construction and trouble-free operation will ensure your weaving time to be enjoyable.

Please read both the loom set-up and weaving sections, even if you are an experienced weaver. There may be little hints and helps that are contained on the following pages that you may not have come across before.

If you are a beginning weaver, please refer to the glossary of terms on page 12-1 for any unfamiliar words you encounter.

Enjoy your new loom ..... here we go!

# HOME LOOM INSTRUCTIONS

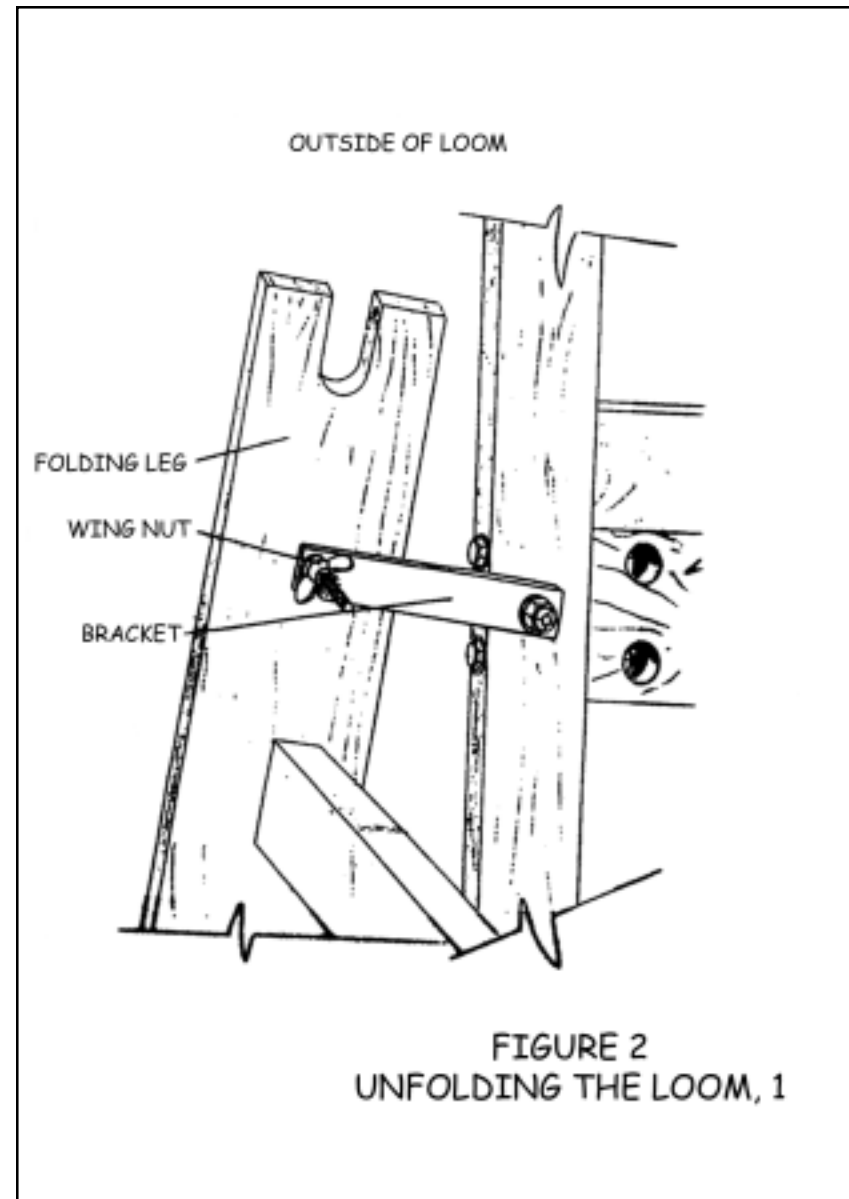


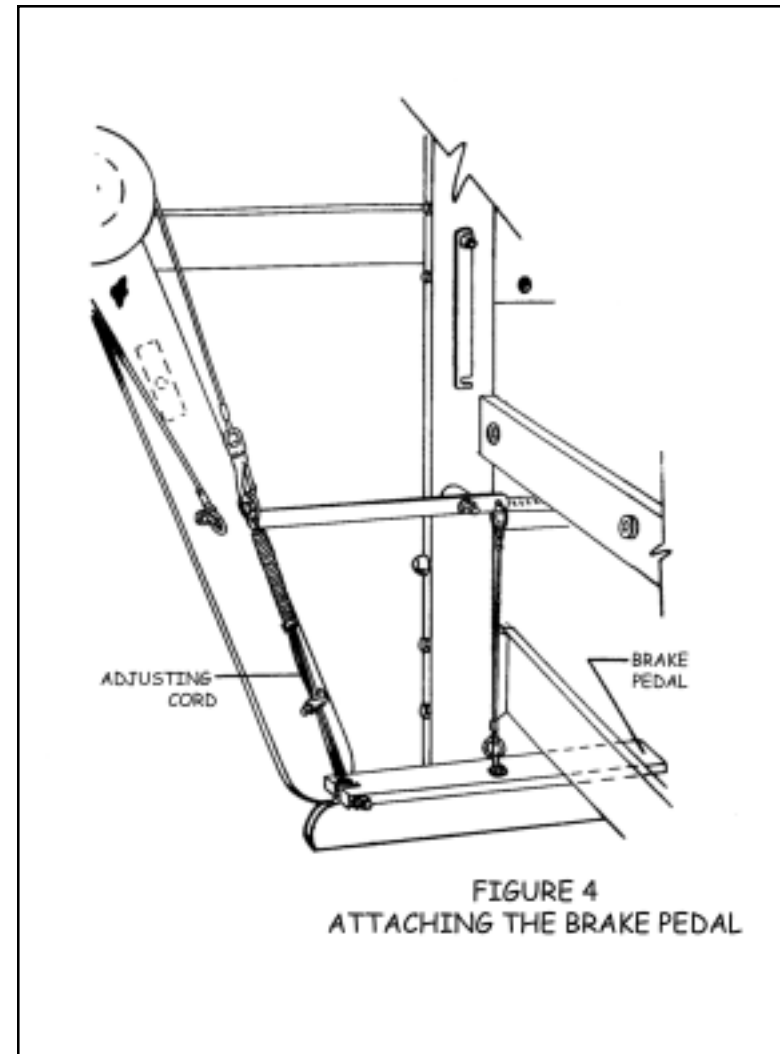
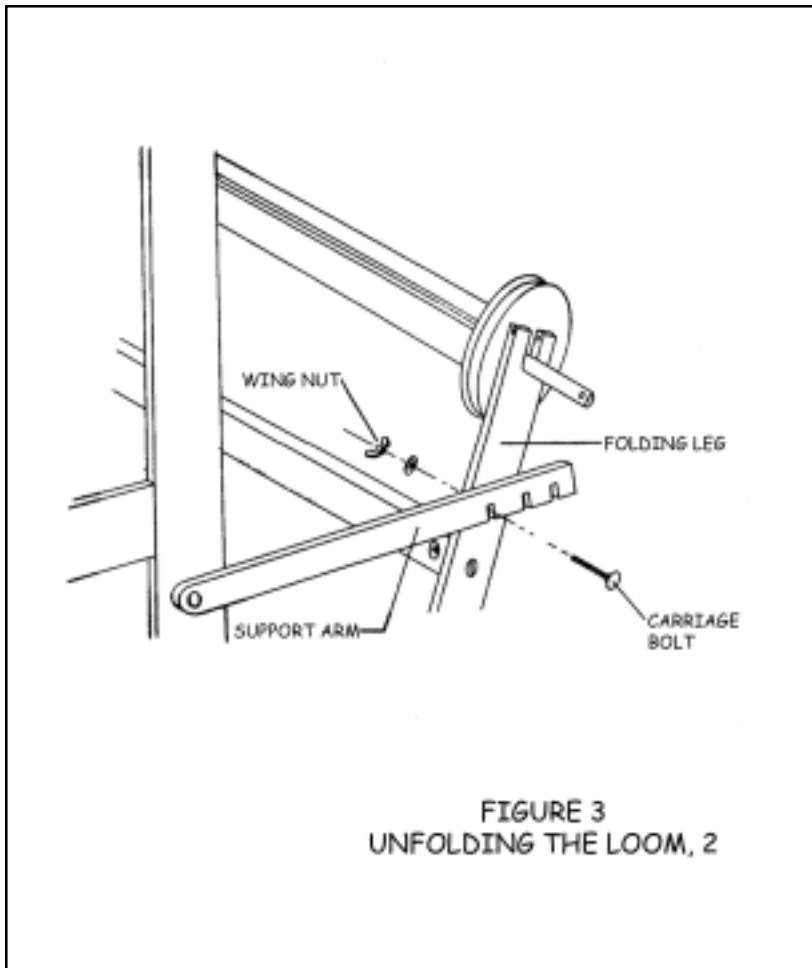
**FIGURE 1  
FULL LOOM**

The AVL Home Loom with Compu-Dobby III has been assembled at the AVL factory in either an eight harness configuration. It is nearly ready to use as it comes from the box. Use the following instructions to assist you in setting up your new loom.

## LOOM SET-UP

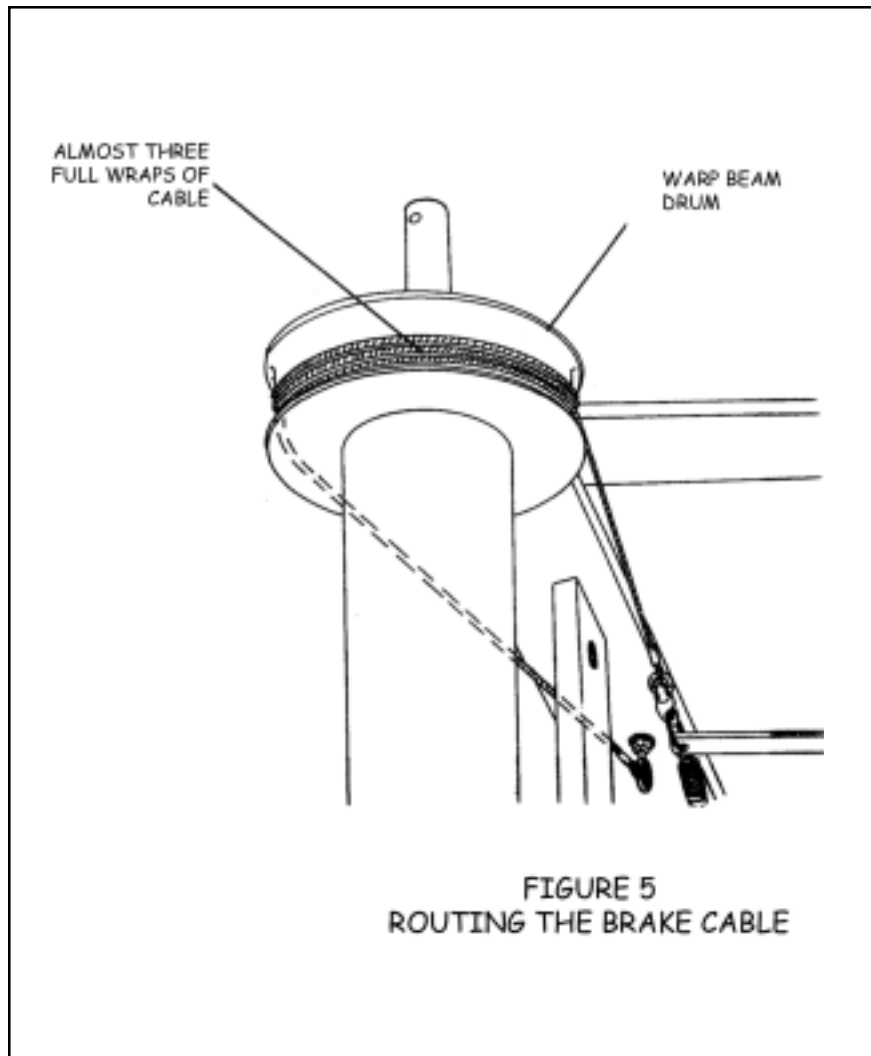
- 1.) Remove the loom from the shipping box by opening the flaps at either end of the box. Slide the entire loom out of the box, including the wooden packing base the loom is attached to.
- 2.) Remove all tape and packing materials from the loom.
- 3.) Remove accessory box(es) from the loom. If you received three accessory boxes, one of them is a bench, which has assembly instructions packed with it, the other is the Compu-Dobby III.
- 4.) Remove the loom from the wooden packing base.
- 5.) Release the folding legs at the rear of the loom (as shown in Figure 2) by loosening the wing nut from the carriage bolt on each side of the loom. Unfold the loom, holding the rear portion in place by swinging up the wooden support arms at either side of the loom and attaching them to each folding leg, using the same carriage bolts that held the loom in the folded position. Notice that there are slots in three positions on each support arm (as shown in Figure 3). Any of the three positions may be used to attach the loom at this point. This is an adjustable feature which allows the loom to accommodate a large amount of warp build up. With very long warps, weaving should start in the furthest back position, gradually moving to the next two settings as the warp is woven off. If you plan on using a raddle while warping the loom, use the position shown in Figure 3.



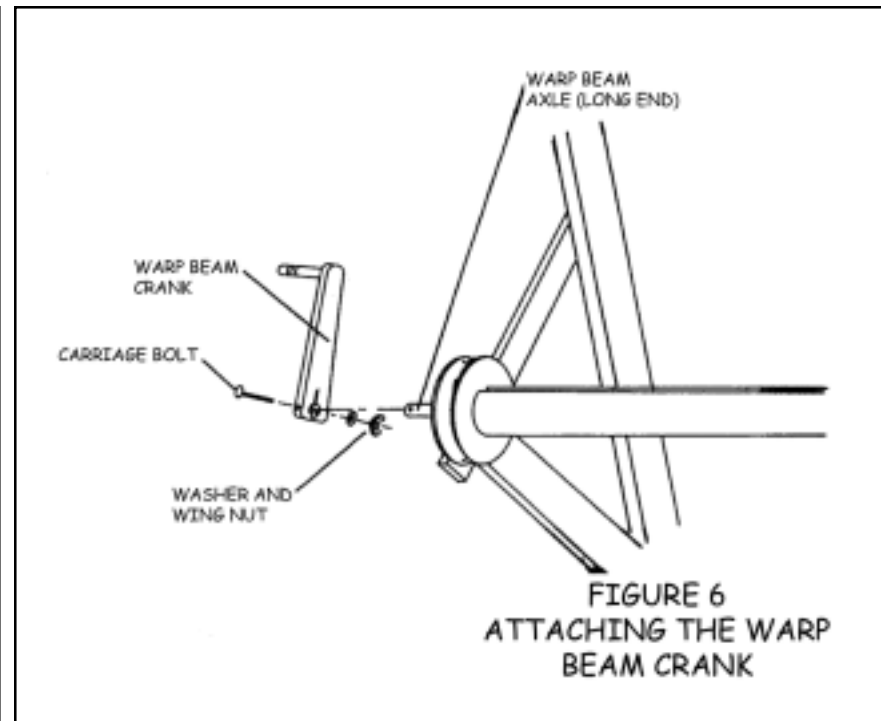


- 6.) As shown in Figure 4, attach the snap at the free end of the warp beam brake cable to the steel ring at the end of the steel brake lever. To make sure the brake cable is routed correctly, check it against Figure 5.





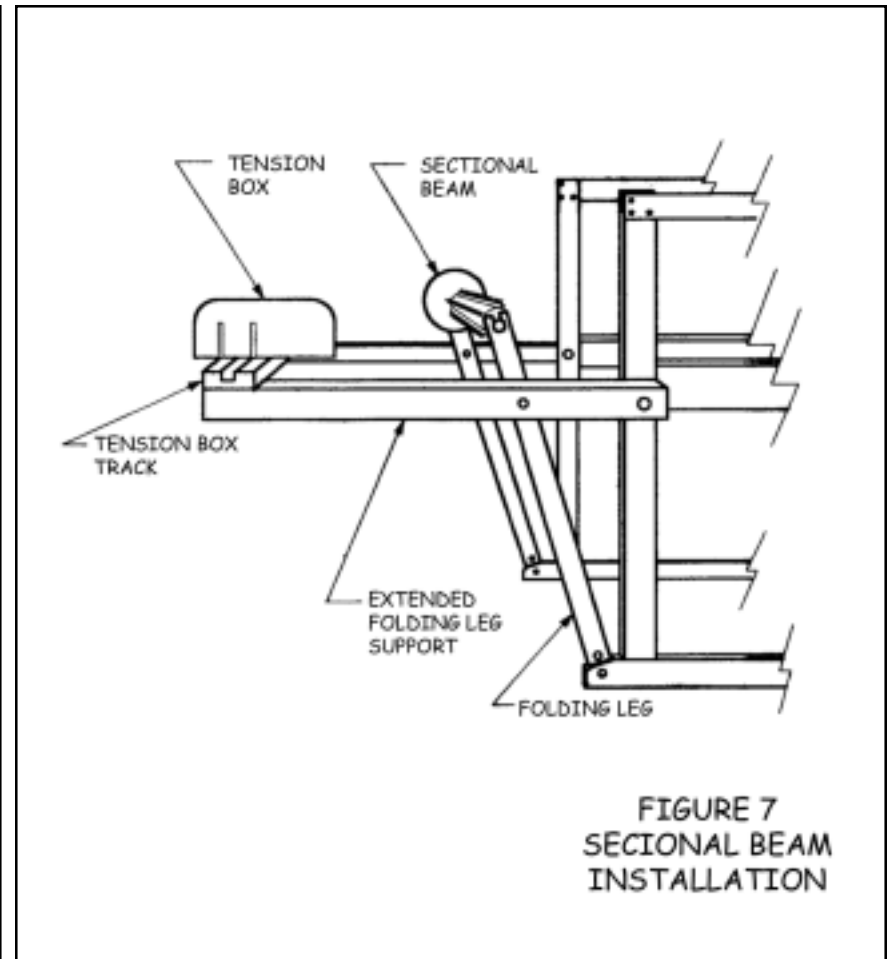
7.) If you have not already done so, open the accessory box that came with the loom. Locate the warp beam crank and attach it to the warp beam at the rear of the loom (as shown in Figure 6).



8.) *Sectional beam tie-up.* If you have ordered a sectional beam and tension box, begin installation by locating the following parts (if you haven't ordered a sectional beam, proceed to step 15):

- sectional beam
- warp beam crank
- brake cable and tie-up
- tension box track
- extended folding leg supports (2)
- tension box hardware pack
- track support legs hardware pack
- track support legs (2)
- tension box

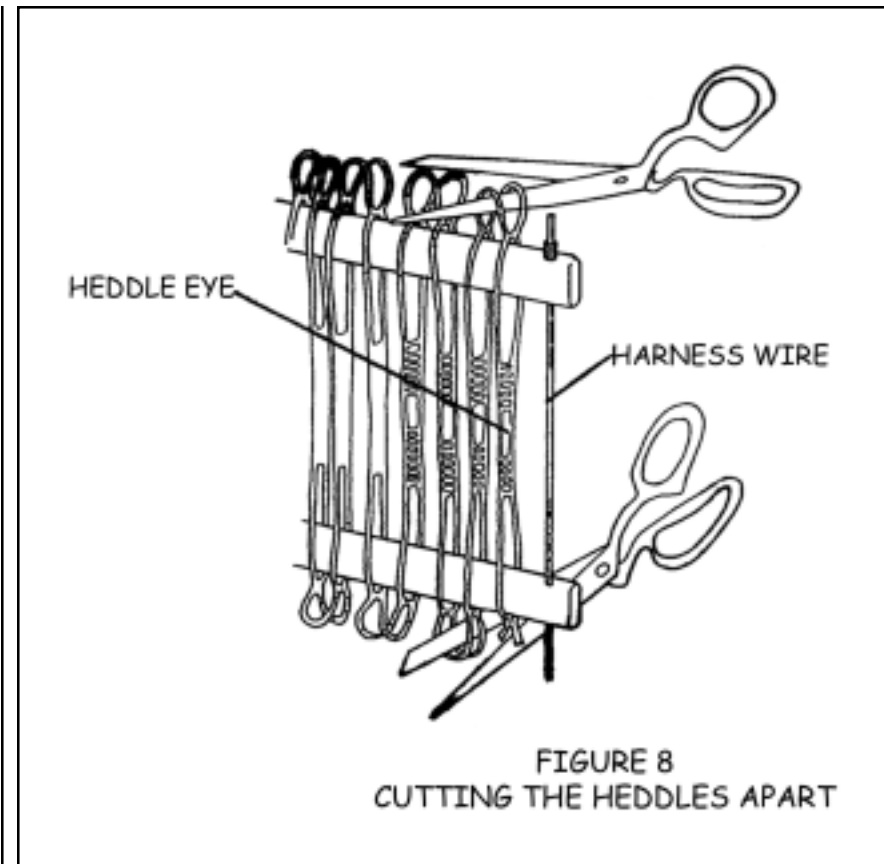
- 9.) Remove the folding leg support arms saving the bolts, nuts, and locking levers.
- 10.) Attach the extended support arms (see Figure 7) and secure to the folding legs. (Be sure to insert the bolt from the outside, through the support arms and castle side, then slip the locking lever on as before. Next, screw on the nut).
- 11.) Secure one folding leg to each support arm with the washers and nuts to the inside.
- 12.) Mount your tension box track to the top rear of the support arms with the lengthwise groove facing up.
- 13.) Mount the warp beam crank to the drilled end of the sectional beam axle (see Figure 6).
- 14.) Attach the brake cable. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, attach the snap at the free end of the warp beam brake cable to the steel ring at the end of the steel brake lever. To make sure the brake cable is routed correctly, check it against Figure 5.



- 15.) At this point, your loom should be nearly ready for warping. Make certain that you have unstrapped the beater and harness frames from their shipping configuration. For looms equipped with polyester heddles, continue to step #16. If your loom has metal heddles, skip on to step #17.

- 16.) Your loom has been shipped with the polyester heddles in place on the harnesses. They are bundled together in groups of one hundred, with two bundles on each harness frame. On eight harness looms there are two groups of fifty heddles each on the rear four harnesses. The twist ties should now be removed and the heddles can be spread across the harnesses. As you do this, you will notice that all of the heddles in each bundle are connected to one another at either the top or the bottom of the heddles. These connecting loops can be cut (as shown in Figure 8) to make threading easier. Feel free to move heddles from one harness to another. If you want an even distribution of heddles on the eight harness loom, you can remove fifty heddles from the front four harnesses and add these heddles to the rear four harnesses.

Feel free to place heddles on either side of the screweyes on the harness. The loom will actually perform at its best with some heddles located to the outboard side of these screweyes, but no closer to the ends than necessary.



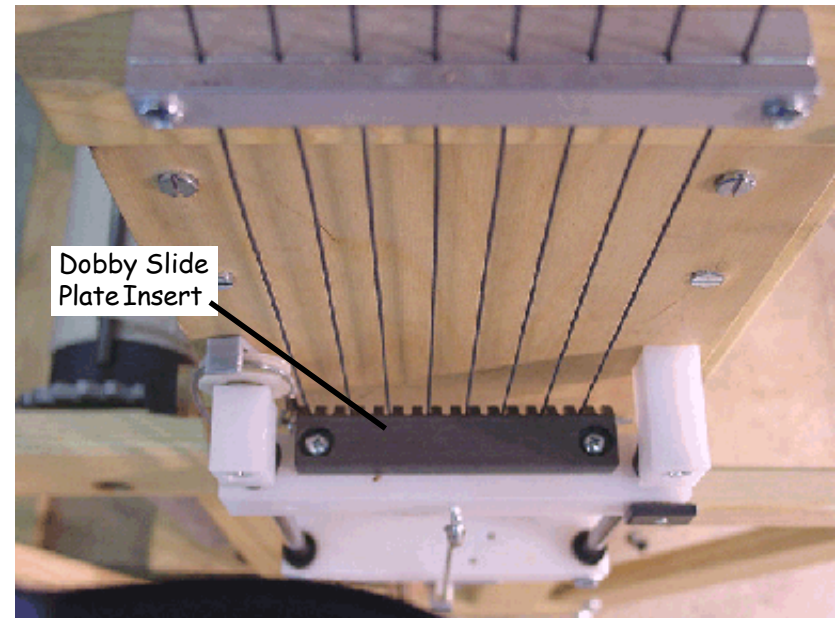
**NOTE:** Another hint to make threading easier: while you have your heddles spread out, you can mark just above the eye of each heddle with a colored pen. You can use four different colors of pen and mark all of the heddles on each harness with a different color. You will find that during threading, this will make it easier to tell which heddle belongs to which harness, thereby reducing the chance for threading errors. If you do choose to color code your heddles, make certain that the ink from the felt pens you use is color fast and will not wear off onto your warp material.

## COMPU-DOBBY III

The Dobby board with cables will arrive installed (see Figure 9). Make sure that when you look down the cables, each cable is in its correct position on the dobbie slide plate insert (see Figure 9a).

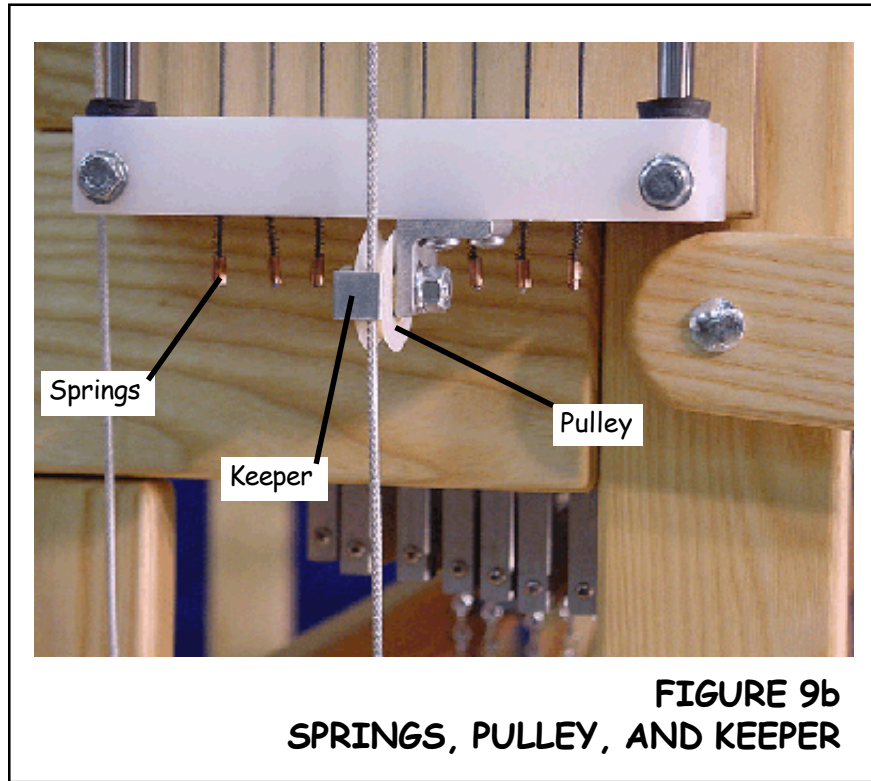


**FIGURE 9**  
**DOBBY FOR COMPU-DOBBY III**



**FIGURE 9a**  
**CABLES IN DOBBY SLIDE PLATE INSERT**

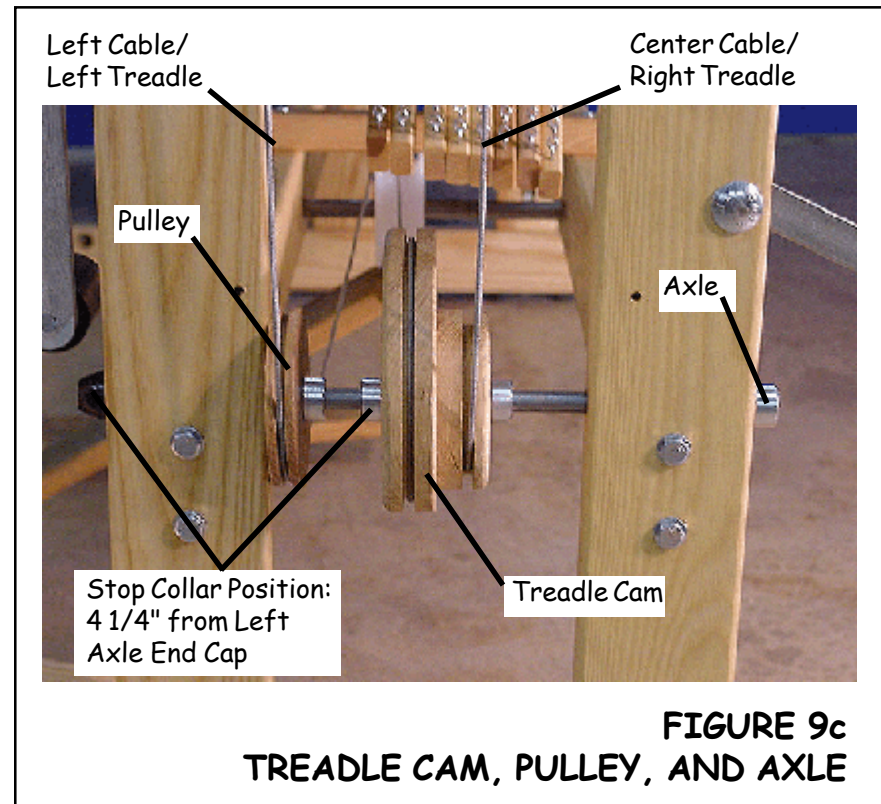
Each of the cables should have a little tension. If there is not enough tension on the cables, locate the small springs at the end of the cables, below the bottom stop block of the dobbie set up (see Figure 9b). Simply stretch the spring a little to give the cable more tension.



Also below the bottom stop block is a pulley. It is important that the pulley keeper is in the correct position to hold the cable in place, but not put any friction on the cable or pulley (see Figure 9b). If need be, loosen the nut and bolt holding the keeper and adjust its position; retighten the bolt and nut.

Check that all the bolts and screws holding the dobbie set up to the back board are tight.

The cable that runs down from the center of the dobbie is attached to the right side of the tear drop shaped Treadle Cam. The cable should run down straight and center. The other cable on the Cam attaches to the right treadle. Check measured placements and set up with Figure 9c.



The cable that runs down the left side of the dobbie feeds through the pulley (far left on the axle). This cable attaches to the left treadle. Check measured placements and set up with Figure 9c.

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The black Compu-Dobby III solenoid box will arrive with a board attached to its back. Unscrew the four black thumb screws and set the wood board aside.

Take the Compu-Dobby III and thumb screws over to the doobby set up. Note the four barrel nuts in the doobby set up backboard. Make sure that the groove in the barrel nuts is horizontal. Now, slide the Compu-Dobby III box over the doobby set up and hold it in place while you line the side holes of the box up to the holes in the doobby backboard. Insert each of the four thumb screws through the holes and into the barrel nuts. Tighten each on.

### **Serial Cable (RS-232)**

The serial cable, generically called an RS-232, is different depending on whether you have a Macintosh or IBM computer. In either case, one end will have a male connector with two rows of pins, nine in all. The connector at the other end will be clearly different and may be male or female.

Find this cable and push the pin end into the port that is front lower middle of the Compu-Dobby III box.

Use your small blade screwdriver to run the side screws in. These provide strain relief.

Allow the free end of the cable to hang for now. Later, you'll connect it at the rear of the computer.

### **Power Cord**

You've one cord remaining, the power cord.

Connect the single prong into the port (front lower left) of the Compu-Dobby III box. Let's wait a bit before we add power.

### **Set-Up Your Computer**

If you haven't already, set your computer up at the right side of the loom. Once you make the necessary connections, you can move it to a position you find most user-friendly.

Leave the computer unplugged for the moment.

You're going to plug the free end of the serial cable (RS-232) into a port on the back of your computer. You left this cord hanging from the second port on the Compu-Dobby III.

First, you need to locate the serial port on the back of your computer. Here's what to look for:

- Most recently manufactured, name brand, PCs are configured with one 9-pin external serial port (always a male port).

Older PCs will usually have two or more external serial ports, 9- and 25-pin. The 9-pin port is used for the mouse. The 25-pin port is available for other peripherals, including your Compu-Dobby III.

When we take your order, we try to establish which configuration you have so that we can provide the right cable. If you did not receive a serial cable that corresponds to your particular port configuration, please call AVL Customer Service. Unless you have access to a full-service computer store, it's unlikely you'll find the cable you need. One decided advantage of rapid change in the computer industry is the difficulty we all have in staying current with the latest trends.

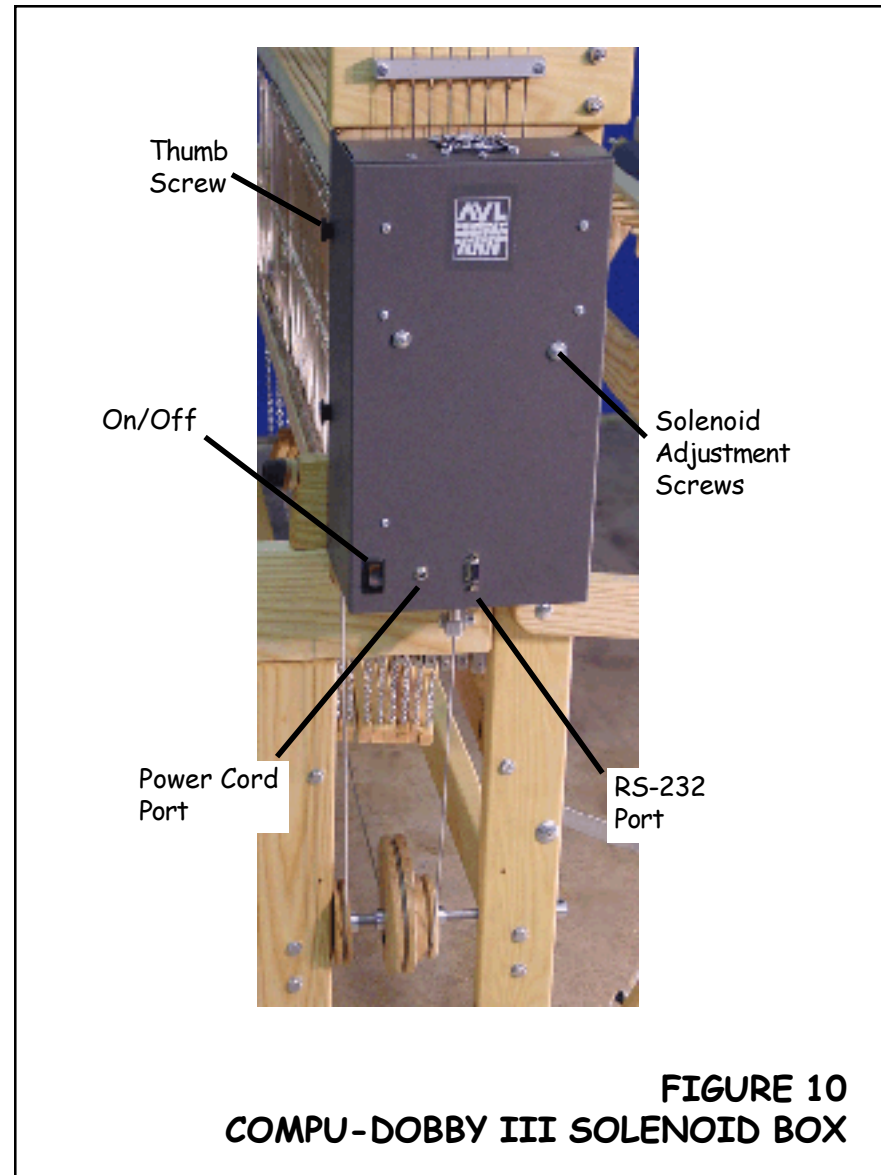
We have supplied you with an adapter from 9 to 25 pins, so if your computer has a 25-pin port, it will still work.

- Newer Macs use USB ports. You'll need a serial-USB adapter to connect the Mac to the Compu-Dobby III. We recommend the Dual Adapter from KeySpan or the Belkin adapter.
- Older Macs usually have two serial ports. These are round and contain holes for eight pins and are labeled modem or printer -- you may connect to either.

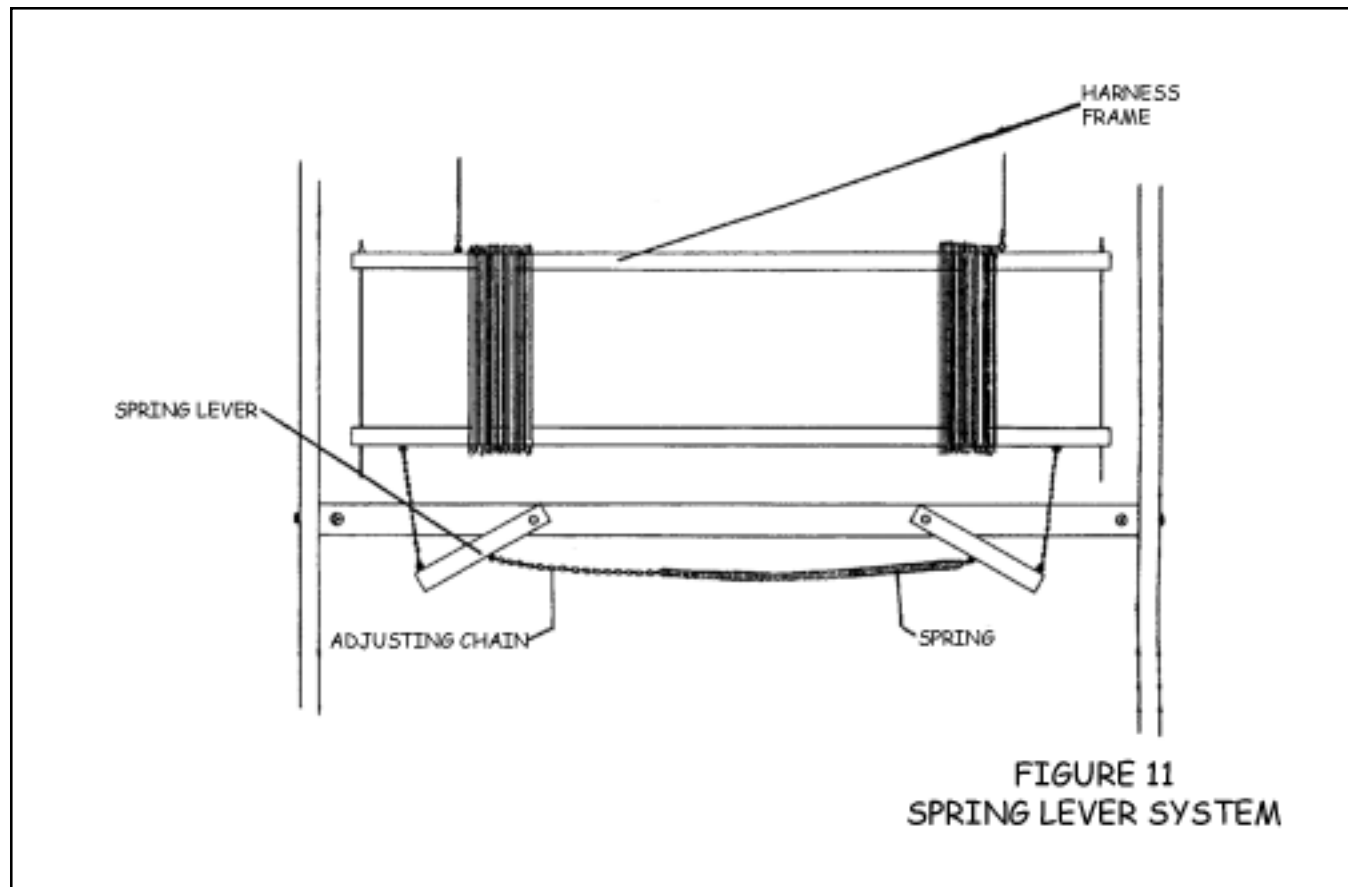
If you have a Macintosh system, you'll be asked to specify which port you connected to. This happens later and you'll be prompted by your weaving software.

### Adjusting the Solenoids

If you find that the solenoid do not push the corresponding cables, then a small adjustment is needed. Locate the two screws on the front of the Compu-Dobby III (see Figure 10). Loosen them slightly. Now, from above the Compu-Dobby III, look down the cables to where the solenoids are. Make sure they are lined up with each of the cables. Slide the Compu-Dobby III box to the right or left for alignment. When aligned, retighten the screws on the outside front of the box.



- 17.) Before proceeding to the weaving section, you should take a minute to see that all the harness cables and treadle cables are seated in the correct pulleys and are routed properly.
- 18.) One last thing to check is the spring lever system. This system is located directly underneath the harnesses and is made up of two rows of wooden levers with springs and chain between them. The purpose of these spring levers is to hold the unraised warp ends in the lower position, thereby giving you the best possible shed or opening to pass your shuttle through. Each set of spring levers is adjusted by tightening the spring that is between them. This is done by simply tightening the chain that is attached to the spring. Generally speaking, the tighter the warp tension, the tighter the spring lever tension should be. You may also find that harnesses with a high number of warp ends will require a somewhat higher spring lever tension as well. You will know when you have achieved the proper amount of tension when the unraised warp ends all lay flat against the shuttle race. For now, just make sure that all of the chains and springs are hooked up properly. Each harness frame should be attached to the set of spring levers below it (as shown in Figure 11).





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# ADJUSTMENTS

Once your loom has been set up and warped, you should make the following adjustments before you start weaving.

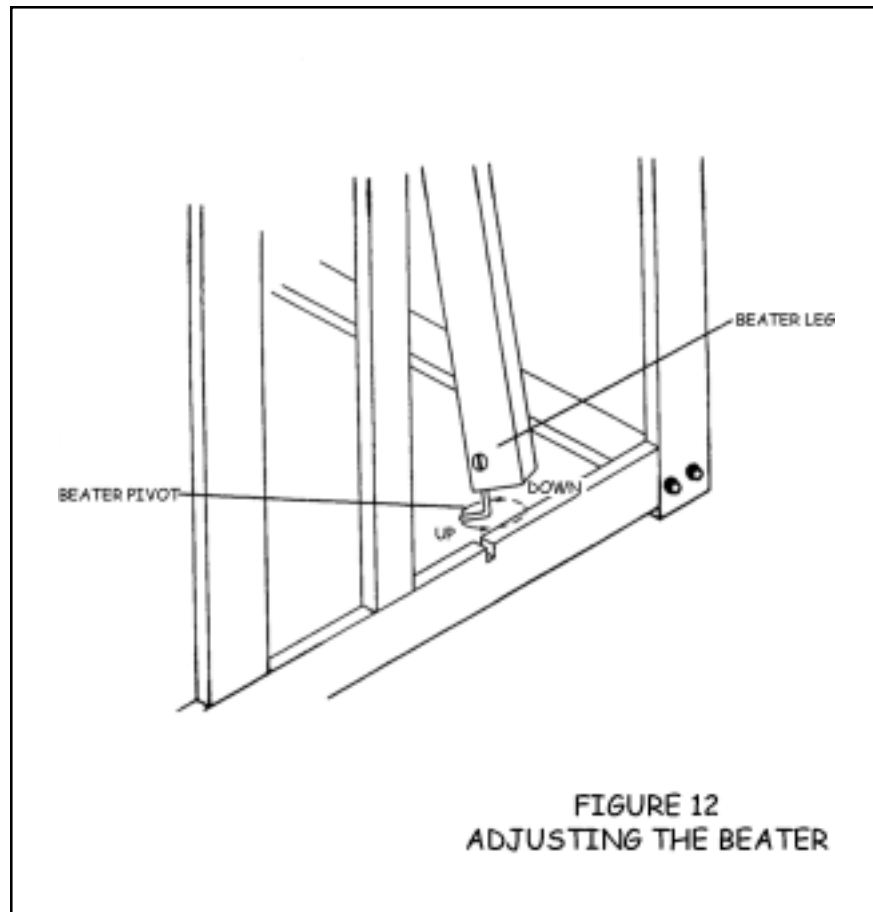
## **Warp Tension** (refer to Figures 4 and 5)

The warp tension is determined by the combination of how you advance the warp with the cloth beam handle and when you let up on the brake pedal. The only adjustment you need to make here is to be sure that the brake adjustment cord is set tight enough so that the warp beam will fully lock when the brake pedal is in its upper (not depressed) position. It is good practice to tie a simple knot or bow tie around the plastic cord clamp once you have set the tension. This way you will be certain that the cord will not slip and your tension will remain constant.

**NOTE:** The brake adjustment cord should be loosened whenever you wind the beam backwards, such as when you are winding a warp onto the beam.

## Beater Height (refer to Figure 12)

The height of the beater is adjustable to compensate for different weaving situations. Each leg of the beater can be lifted and the steel pivots can be screwed into or out of the bottom of each beater leg, thereby changing how close the top of the shuttle race is to the warp. You should always make this adjustment while the warp is under tension and the beater is swung away from the weaver. Once this adjustment is made, make sure that the steel pivots are put back into their notches at the bottom of the loom.

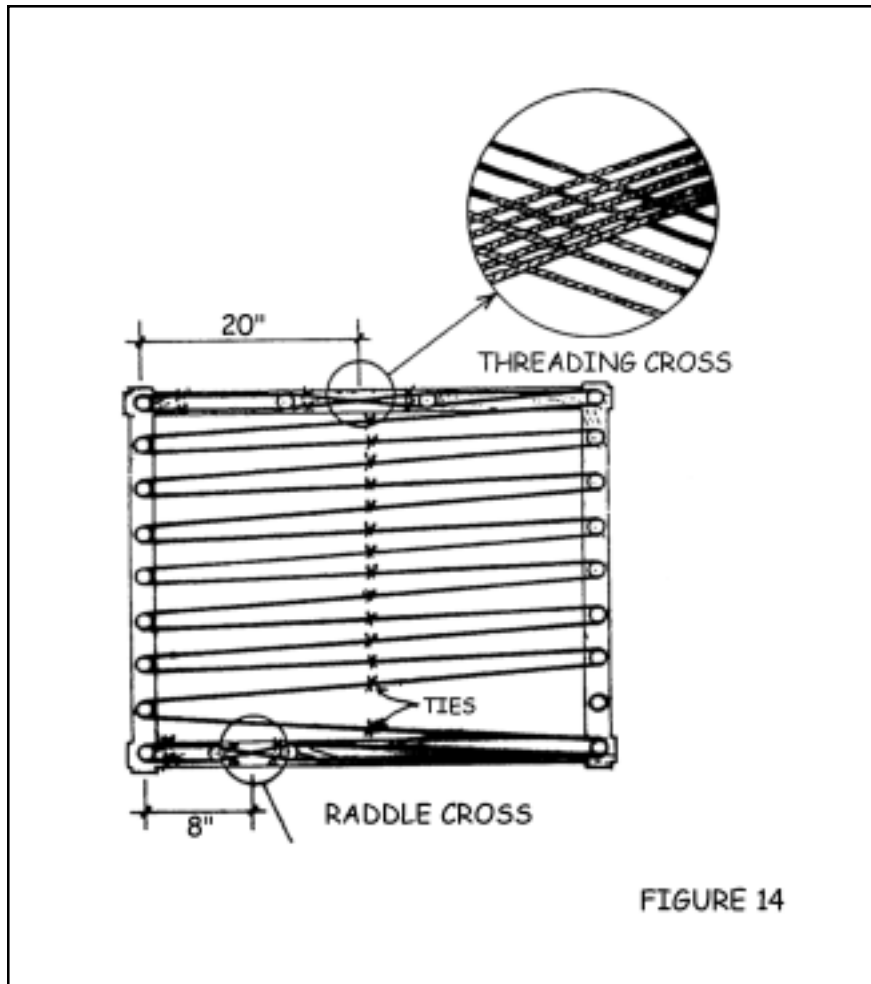


## Spring Levers

The springs of the spring lever return system should also be adjusted for positive harness return, i.e., the harnesses stay all the way down in the depressed position and require the least amount of effort for lifting. This will vary according to the weight of the warp. In general, lightweight, less dense, looser tensioned warps with a smaller weaving width will need very little spring tension to assure positive harness return. Heavier, denser, tighter tensioned, and wider warps will need more spring tension. Attach the spring to the spring lever hooks, if you have not already done so, using the last link in the chain to attach to the other hook. To tell if the harnesses are returning all the way, open several sheds by working the treadles. Watch the unlifted harnesses. If the tops of their heddles become loose and tend to move around, then spring tension should be increased, but just enough to get the harnesses to stay down and no more, or your treadling effort will be made greater than it has to be.

To adjust the spring tension, simply unhook the spring and then rehook it one chain link shorter. This tightens the spring and makes it pull down harder on that particular harness. Test the warp again by doing some more treadling and if more spring tension is still needed, try one or more chain links less. Under unusual conditions (perhaps a very tight rug warp), two springs on some or all of the harnesses may be necessary. If all the springs are set the same, the back harnesses will have a looser tension than the front. This is because the back spring levers and their hooks are longer since the back harnesses travel farther when a shed is made. Accordingly, in some cases, the back spring levers might have to be adjusted shorter to give the same tension as the front ones. The important thing to remember is that the system is designed so that it can be "fine tuned" for each particular warp, so experiment with it. In general, for most medium tensioned warps, you will find that a lot of adjusting will not be necessary.

# WARPING THE PLAIN BEAM



If you have ordered only a sectional beam, proceed to the section titled "Warping the Sectional Beam".

Various warping methods can be adapted to the AVL loom. However, we recommend the following method in which the warp is first wound on to the plain beam with the use of a raddle. Please study this method and try it. We have found that it aids in getting a uniform warp tension, especially when dealing with long warps of twenty yards or more.

## CREATING TWO CROSSES

To begin, wind the warp on a warping board or reel. Make sure you put in two crosses:

- the threading cross
- the raddle cross

In the threading cross, each thread crosses the next thread in opposite directions. In the raddle cross, groups of threads cross each other. The number of threads in a raddle group can be determined by the number of ends to be placed in each section of the raddle or by the number of threads you are holding in your hand while winding the warping board.

## SECURING THE CROSSES

Before removing the warp from the board or the reel, secure the crosses. Use four ties to secure each cross. These ties go on each side of both pegs holding the cross.

It is usually a good idea to use different color threads for the ties on the tops of the pegs and another color to tie the bows underneath the pegs. By color coding your ties, you are less likely to twist the warp later.

## REMOVING THE WARP FOR THE WARPING BOARD

Remove the warp from the warping board by chaining or by winding on the kitestick. Start from the threading cross and proceed to the raddle cross.

Since the capacity of the warping board is limited, for wide warps you will end up making a number of mini-warps and taking them off individually.

## ATTACHING THE RADDLE

Now secure the raddle to the back of the loom. If you have an AVL raddle, simply slip it into the set of holes in the back of the rear vertical members.

## WINDING THE APRON AND ATTACHING THE WARP

Put your apron on the beam with velcro and wind your beam in the warping direction so that your apron is wound on the beam.

Put the metal rod through the apron. You can put your warp section onto that rod or you can attach another one with the warp.

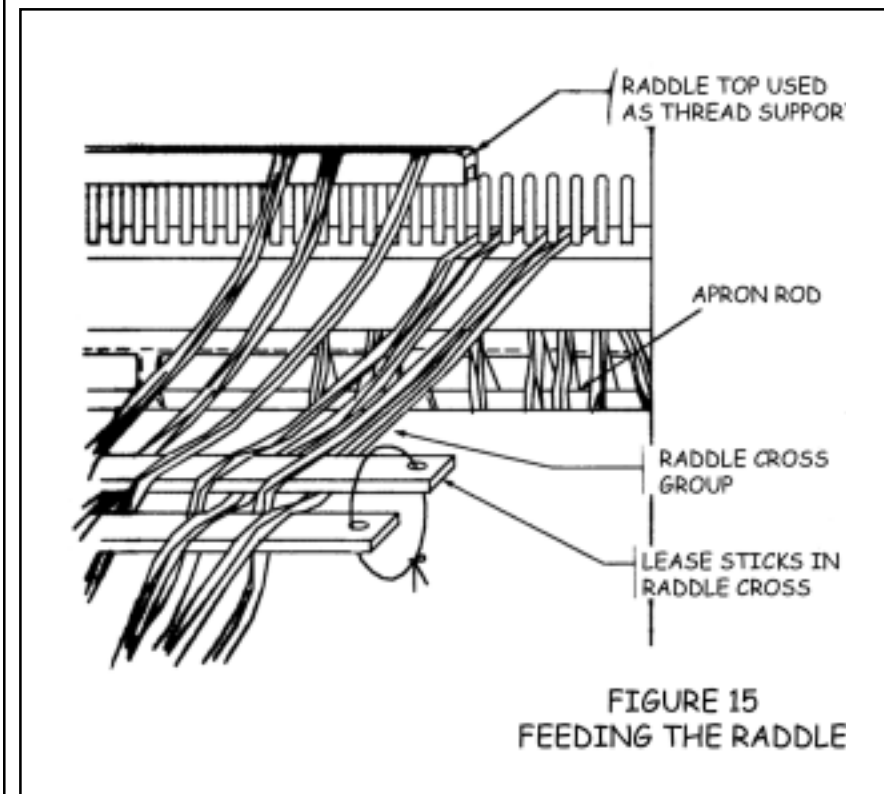
## STICKS IN THE RADDLE CROSS

Place two lease sticks in the raddle cross and secure together with string through the holes in the ends of the sticks. Now remove the ties from the raddle cross and spread the warp out on the sticks.

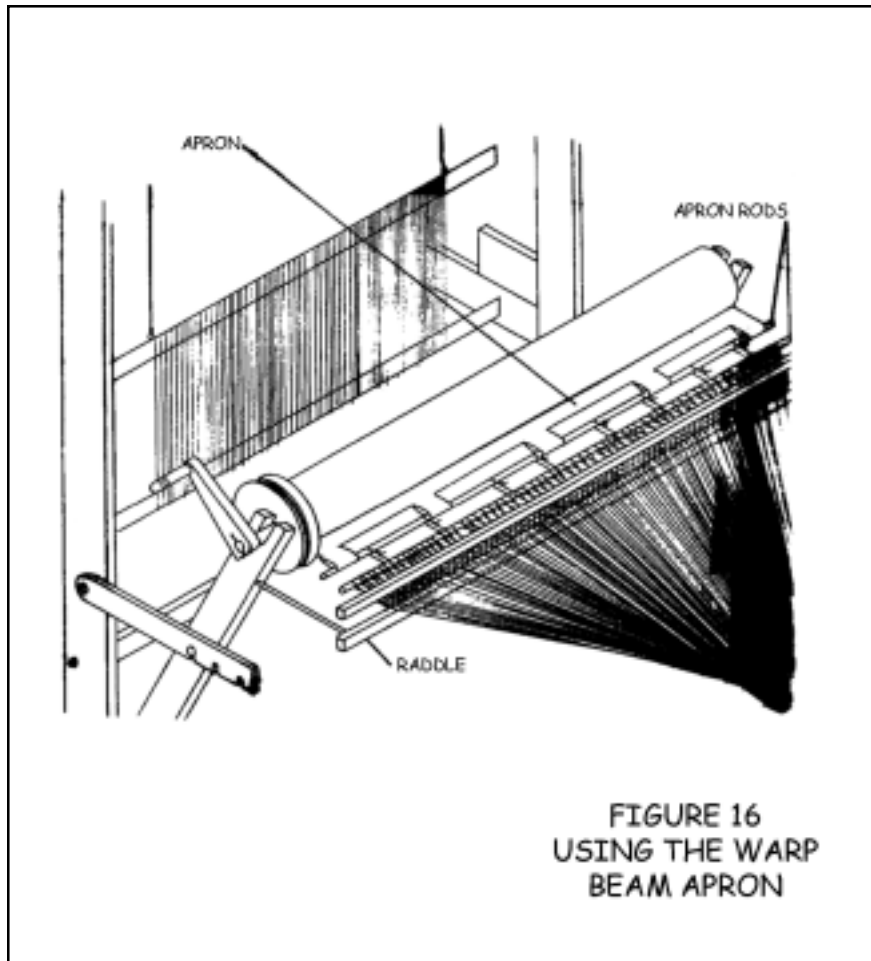
Measure the center of your raddle to use it as a center of your warp. The warp threads should either go through the middle of the raddle.

## FEEDING THE RADDLE

To feed the raddle, distribute yarns through the raddle by dropping each raddle cross group into a dent in the raddle.



If you are using an AVL raddle with a sliding cover, slide it on after the raddle is threaded and secure it with two or three cord ties so it can't come off. Remove the raddle cross sticks when this is completed.



## PREPARING THE PAPER

Prepare the paper for winding between the warp layers. Again, for the most professional results, and fewer tension problems, we suggest that the warp be as smooth, tight, and compact as possible. This would mean not using corrugated paper or sticks as they will make the warp too fat and/or lumpy. Corrugated paper is just too soft and the warp can never be wound tight enough with it. Heavy wrapping paper works well; seventy pound craft paper is good. If you are going to be using smooth, slippery warp yarns like fine linens or perle cottons, the edge yarns are going to need extra help in order not to slip off themselves. To do this, cut your paper four inches wider than the warp width and then fold over the edges an inch on each side. Be sure the warp is wound between the two folded edges not overlapping them.

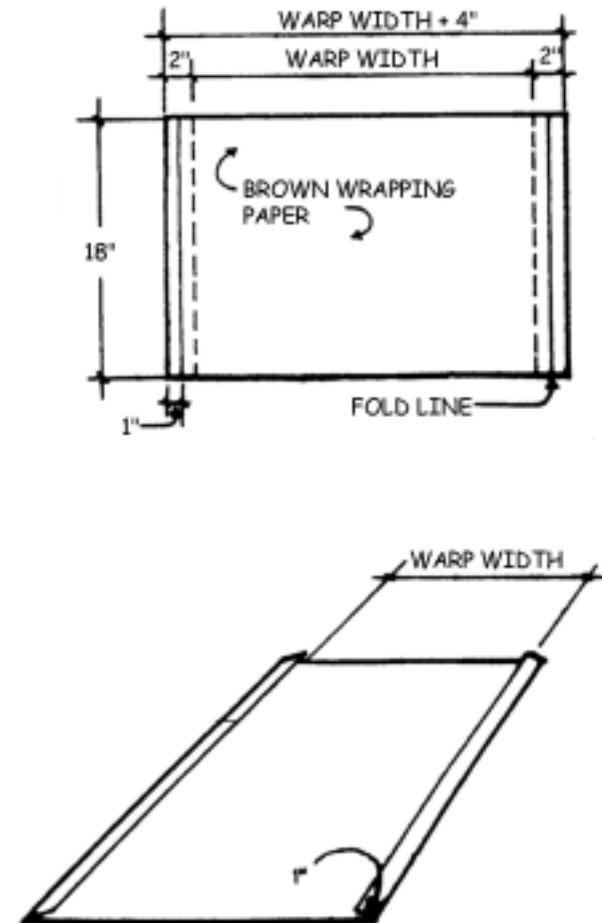
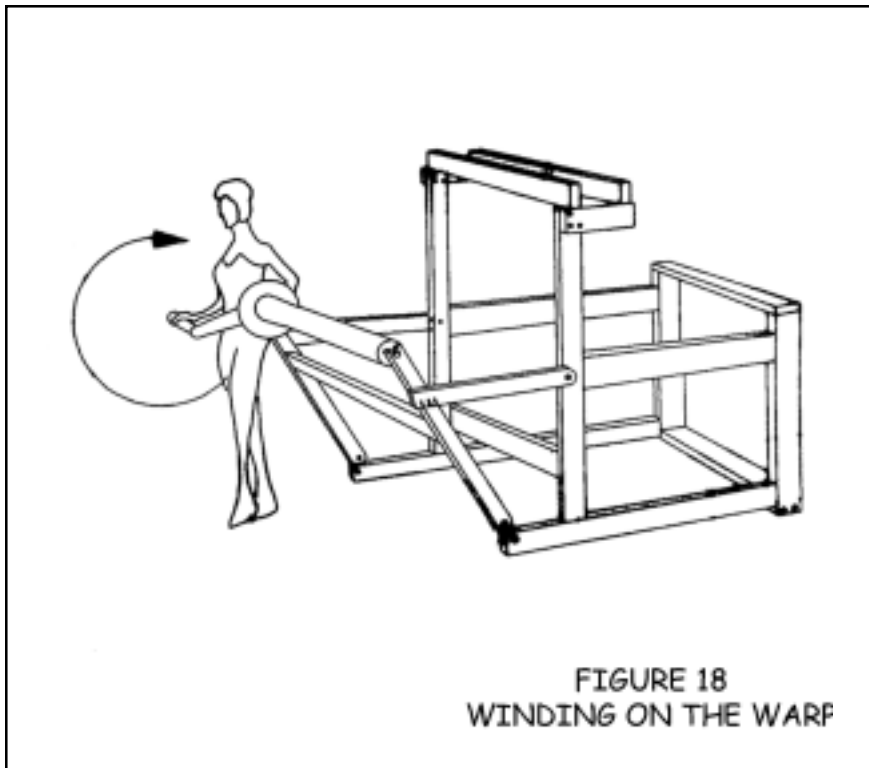


FIGURE 17  
PREPARED PAPER WITH  
FOLDED EDGE

## WINDING THE WARP

When winding the warp on from the back, i.e., with the warp spread out in back of the loom, turn the crank in a clockwise direction so that the warp comes in from the bottom.



Remember, wind the warp on **tightly** under a lot of tension. This will vary with each warp material, but a good rule to remember is that the tension of the wound on warp must be greater than the tension during the weaving operation. You will need one person to hold a warp under tension on the back and one person to wind the warp on the beam using a handle. The person winding the warp can also insert the paper. For a wide, heavy warp, several helpers may be required.

If you have to do it yourself, you can use the jerking method. Make one turn around with your beam crank and then go to the back of the loom and jerk one section at a time to make the warp that is already on the beam tight. The idea of this method is that the warp does not need to be under tension all the time, but the part that is on the beam has to be tight. Make another turn, go to the back of the loom and jerk all the sections again and so on. If you have a wide warp, you might need to do up to ten jerking motions after each turn.

## THREADING CROSS

When you come to the end of your warp, insert lease sticks in your threading cross.

Now remove the ties from each individual threading cross and spread the warp out on the sticks.

## REMOVING THE RADDLE

When the warping is completed, free the warp from the raddle. If you have an AVL raddle, first untie the security strings, lift the raddle top off, and remove the warp from the raddle. Afterwards, replace the top on the raddle and leave it in its place on the back of the loom if so desired as it will not interfere with the weaving process. Then be sure to bring the end of the warp around the separation roller so that it now travels into the loom.

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# WARPING THE SECTIONAL BEAM

The AVL sectional beam is designed to be warped in sections with the use of a tension box. The yarn travels directly from cones or spools which are mounted on a rack behind the loom, through the tension box, and onto the beam. Throughout the warping process, the tension box automatically keeps a constant and uniform tension on the warp. Not only does this system save time, but it makes it possible to wind on very long warps which would never fit on a warping board or reel.

## SECTIONAL BEAM CALCULATION

First, you must calculate the number of spools or cones of yarn you will need. Each section is wound onto the sectional beam separately, therefore, you'll need to have one spool or cone for each end in that section (if your section is 2" wide, with sixteen E.P.I., that would be thirty-two spools or cones of yarn).

To prepare for sectional beam warping, we need to calculate:

- a) how many spools we need to wind
- b) how many yards do we need to wind on each spool
- c) total yardage for the project

### a) NUMBER OF SPOOLS?

Sectional beaming requires the use of as many spools loaded with thread per individual section as your planned sett in the reed dictates.

To calculate the actual number of spools required, we need to know:

- how many EPI are we going to use in the fabric
- what SIZE will we have to use in the fabric

If your warp is set at 24 epi per 1", you will need 24 spools for a sectional beam with 1" sections or 48 spools for a beam with 2" sections.

Therefore we can say:

$$\# \text{ OF SPOOLS} = \text{EPI} \times \text{SIZE OF THE SECTION}$$

### c) TOTAL YARDAGE?

If it is a single color warp or if a color sequence is repeating in each section, the same spools or cones can be used to wind all the sections needed for the warp.

$$\text{TOTAL YARDAGE} = \# \text{ OF SPOOLS} \times \# \text{ OF YARDS PER SPOOL}$$

### b) NUMBER OF YARDS PER SPOOL?

To calculate the number of yards per each spool, we need to know:

- the LENGTH OF THE WARP
- NUMBER OF SECTIONS on the beam

We calculate the number of sections by dividing the WIDTH OF THE WARP by the SIZE OF THE SECTION. If the warp width is 40" and we are using 2" sections, our number of sections is 20.

All together, we can say:

$$\# \text{ OF YARDS PER SPOOL} = \text{LENGTH OF THE WARP} \times \# \text{ OF SECTIONS}$$



---

It is important to make these calculations in advance so that you can purchase your yarn in spools or cones corresponding to the amount of yardage needed on each. Sometimes this is not possible and you will need to wind your own spools from yarn that is in larger packages. For doing this, you will need empty plastic spools, a bobbin winder (preferably electric), and a yardage counter. These items are available from AVL.

## **LOOM PREPARATION**

To prepare your loom for the use of the sectional beam, see pages 2-7 and 2-8 of this manual.

## **EXTENSION CORDS**

You might want to make a permanent set of extension cords to use when warping the sectional beam. Extension cords are also called apron cords and have the same function as the apron on the plain beam. They give you "reach" from the warp beam and allow you to weave every possible inch until the end of the warp touches the last shaft you are using. Make them out of a strong non-stretchable linen or cotton cord. You will need to make one extension cord for each section in your sectional beam. For each extension cord, cut a piece of cord. Take the two ends of the cord and knot them together. Measure to make sure that they are long enough to reach all the way to the harnesses. All extension cords should be exactly the same size.

When measuring the length of the cords, also check to be sure that when the cords are wound on to the beam, the end of the loop and any knots in the cords fall between the crosspieces of the sectional beam, not on them. A sectional beam is usually not solid. It is a frame that has metal pegs. That way you can keep the warp smooth on the beam without going over the knots of threads.

## **FEEDING THE SPOOL RACK**

Next, place a spool or cone rack about five or six feet behind your loom. Place the spools or cones for the first warp sections on the cone rack.

Make sure you put each thread through the metal eye on the spool rack so the threads do not get tangled.

When arranging the spools on the spool rack, it doesn't matter whether you go top to bottom or bottom to top, the important thing is to be consistent in vertical columns and to place the spools in the order that the threads are in the warp.

## **ADJUSTING THE TENSION DEVICE**

Before winding the sectional beam, loosen the brake adjustment cord (this is a white nylon cord with a black cord-stop - see Figure 4). Simply press the button on the top of the cord-stop and slide it up and down the nylon cord until the tension is sufficiently released to be able to wind the warp.

## **TENSION BOX**

The tension box is an essential warping tool which:

- a.) Puts threads under tension.
- b.) Spreads threads to the proper width.
- c.) Makes thread-by-thread lease.

## TENSION BOX HEDDLE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTION

If this is your first time to use a tension box, you need to install heddles on the harnesses.

Your tension box is delivered with one bundle of one hundred heddles. These are held together with twist ties. Leave these on for now. Refer to Figure #7W to familiarize yourself with the tension box and its parts. Push down on one of the harnesses until it stops. This causes the other harness to go up. You will use that later for making a threading cross. Right now we'll need to use it to help in the assembly of the heddles to the harnesses.

- a.) Remove the "heddle retainer" of the harness that is up, using a phillips head screwdriver.
- b.) Notice there are four twist ties holding the heddles together. Separate the top two. Insert the top bar (of the harness that is up) into the space created by pulling apart the twist ties. Insert the bottom bar (of the harness that is up) into the space created by pulling apart the bottom two twist ties, making certain that the heddles aren't twisted. Now remove the twist ties.
- c.) Count off fifty heddles and cut the loop at the top between the 50th and the 51st heddle.
- d.) Now put the four twist ties back on the fifty heddles that were the last to go on the harness.
- e.) Remove these fifty and reattach the "heddle retainer".

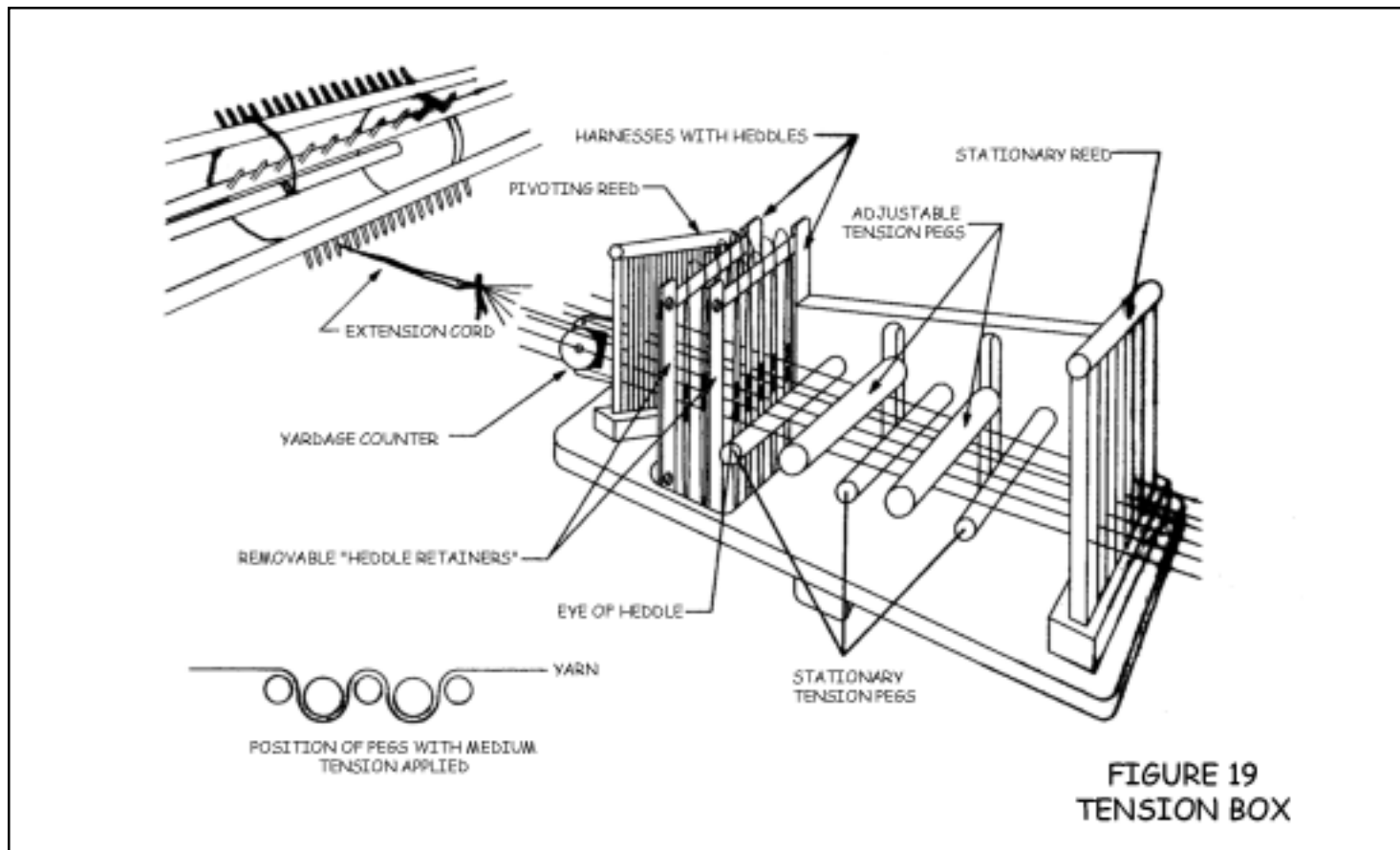
- f.) Now push down on the harness that is up, making the other harness come up.
- g.) Remove the heddle retainer.
- h.) Pull apart the top two twist ties and insert the top of the harness (which is up) into the space created. Pull apart the bottom two twist ties and insert the bottom of the harness into the space created.
- i.) Reattach the heddle retainer.

## THREADING THE TENSION BOX

The best way to thread the tension box is to take one thread from the cone rack and thread it all the way through all the parts of the tension box, then the next thread all the way through. It works best to use the threads from the rack in a vertical order rather than a horizontal order.

Now let's go through the sequence for threading the tension box. First, move the two adjustable tension pegs up above the stationary pegs or

remove them completely. Now sley the thread through the rear (stationary) reed section using a sley hook. Since this reed is eight dents per inch, you will divide the E.P.I. into eight to find out how many ends will be in each dent (with sixteen E.P.I., put two ends in a section). If your E.P.I. does not divide equally by eight, you can either vary the number of ends in each dent (with twenty E.P.I., alternate two and three ends in the dents) or thread the dents a little wider than two inches (with twenty E.P.I., put two ends in each dent; with forty ends, the reed will be sleyed 2 1/2" wide).



Next, bring the thread straight through the tension peg section in-between the larger adjustable tension pegs and the smaller stationary pegs or just above the smaller stationary pegs if you have removed the larger ones.

Next, thread the end through the two sets of heddles. The first thread goes through the front set of heddles and the next thread goes through the rear set of heddles. Repeat this alternating heddle threading for the rest of the ends. The heddle system will be used later to create the threading cross.

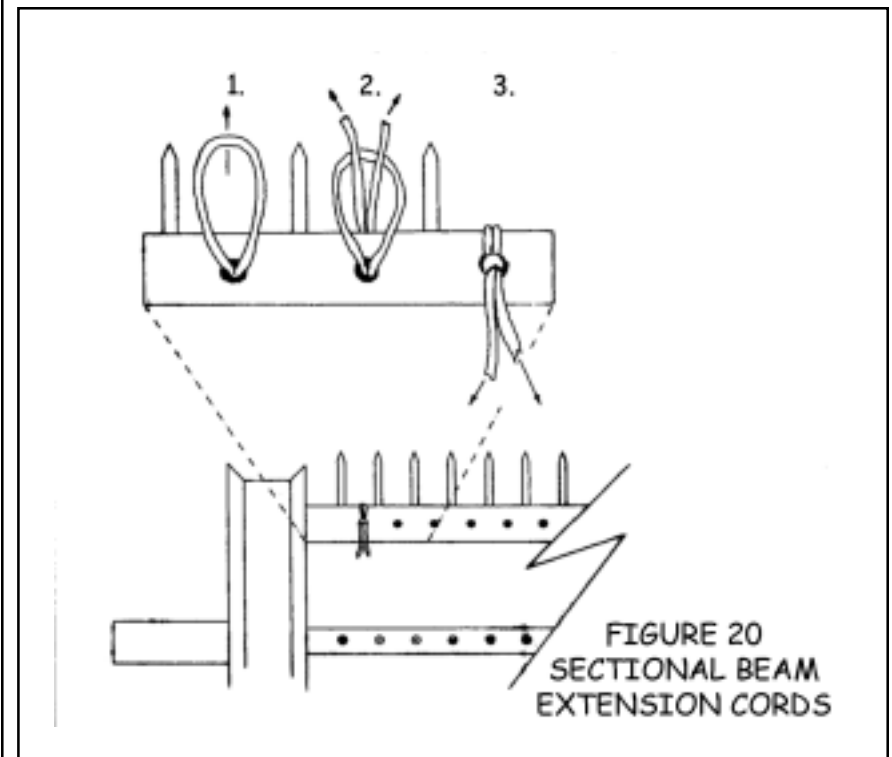
Now thread the end through the front pivoting reed. Here you have a choice of using an eight dent or ten dent reed. Pick the one that can be sleyed evenly and as close to the desired section width. If you can not get the exact width of the section, sley your reed slightly wider. This will make it just slightly wider than the space between the pegs. The section will be narrowed down by pivoting the reed. Never sley the reed narrower than the section on the beam. There is no way to expand it. After the tension box is completely threaded, the larger pegs are moved downward to apply tension. The further down they are moved, the more tension will be applied to the yarn. This is an adjustable system as different yarns require more or less tension. With a heavy wool the pegs may only need to be moved half way down, whereas with a fine silk, the pegs may need to be moved all the way down and the yarn wrapped an extra time around one of the stationary pegs to get the proper tension. Once you have adjusted the tension correctly, do not change it during the winding of the beam, as long as you are using the same type of yarn.

Once the tension box has been threaded, it is not always necessary to rethread it. If you need to change spools or cones, simply tie the new ends on to the old ends just before the rear stationary reed, then gently pull on the old ends until the new ends have come all the way through the box.

### WINDING THE WARP

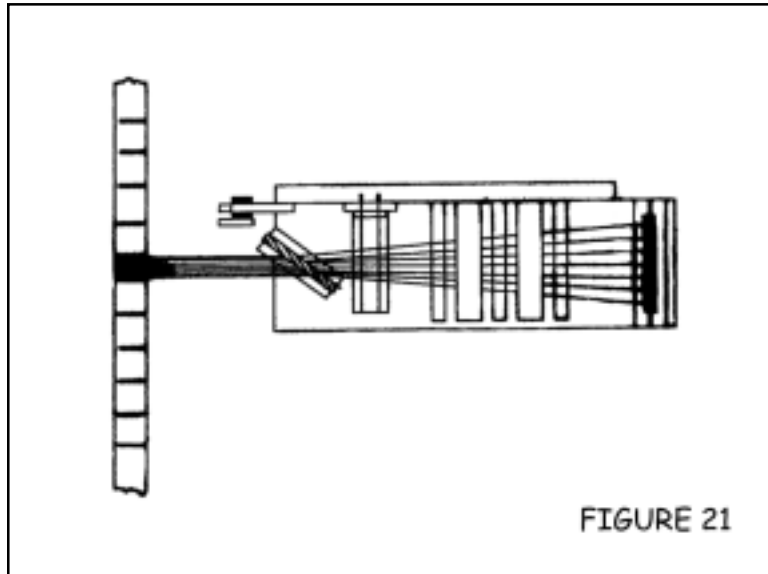
Before you start winding the warp, attach the extension cord to the beam and the section of the warp to an extension cord, tie an overhead knot in the warp threads from one section and slip that knot into the opening of the larkshead knot you created in the extension cord.

Pull it tight.



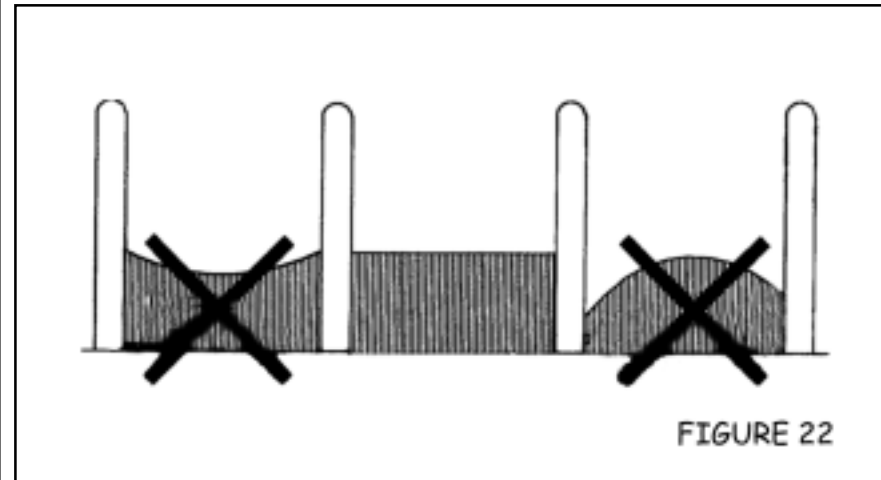
## ADJUSTING THE SIZE OF THE SECTION

Line up the tension box approximately behind the section you will be winding. Now wind about one yard onto the beam. As you wind, you will need to fine tune the placement of the tension box along the track. When it is centered properly, tighten down the wing nuts under the tension box. At this point, you can pivot the “pivoting reed section” so that the yarn comes close to, but doesn’t quite touch, either the peg to the left or the peg to the right. Now tighten the wing nut under the pivoting reed. This shouldn’t need to be readjusted until you are using yarn of a very different size.



Extra care to correctly center and adjust the width of each warp section will result in more perfect tension while weaving.

Make sure that the threads are going on to the beam in flat layers. If you notice that warp piles up at the pegs, the section of the warp is too wide. If the warp falls down at the pegs, the warp section is too narrow.



If any of the above is happening, go back and pivot the front reed on the tension box again until you get perfectly flat layers. This is very important, otherwise you will end up having different length threads in one section, since the circumference of the beam within the section is not going to grow evenly. Therefore, you will end up having lots of tension problems.

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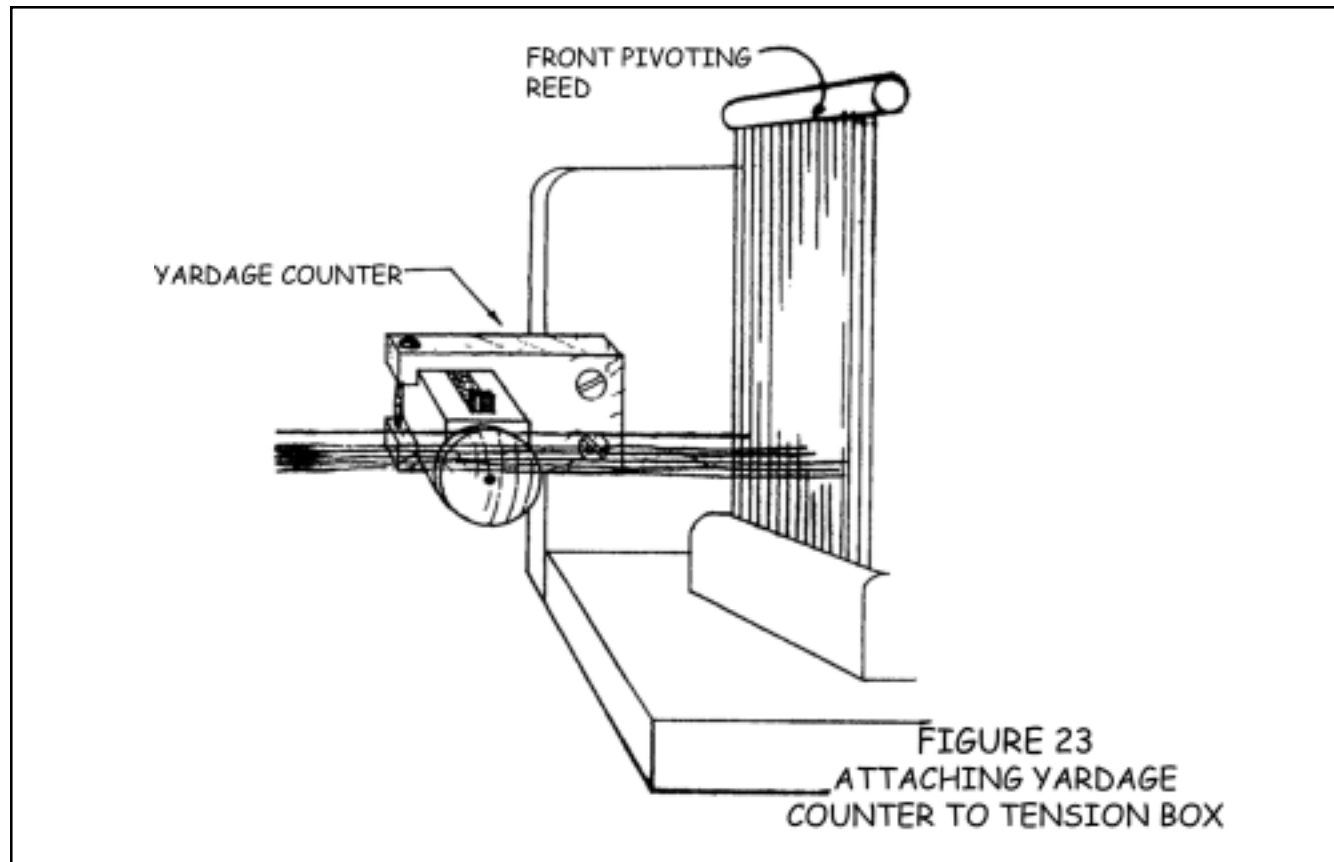
## COUNTING TURNS OR YARDAGE

To determine the length of the warp you are putting on the beam, you need to count either turns, revolutions, or yards.

To count turns, you can do it in your head, but it is more reliable to use a digital or mechanical revolution counter.

Counting revolutions even with a digital counter will still give the approximate warp length only, because the circumference of the beam will increase slightly with each rotation. This is called beam build up.

To count yards with a yardage counter while warping the sectional beam, you need to place the yardage counter at the front of the tension box. You should use an extra thread for measuring yardage, because if you use one of the threads from your warp section, that particular thread would have a different tension once you start weaving. The extra thread you use for measuring purposes only can be reused for each section.



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## CREATING THE CROSS

When there is about a half yard left to be wound onto the beam, it is time to make the threading cross. Simply push on the rear heddle frame of the tension box, making half of the threads go up and the other half go down.

Now slip in an eight inch piece of contrasting thread (called a marking thread) through the opening (called a shed) created between the threads above and the threads below. Locate this marking thread about half way between the tension box and the separation roller.

Now push on the front heddle frame, making the other half of the threads go up. Now take one end of your marking thread and bring it through this shed. The two ends of the marking thread should now be together. Tie them in a bow knot. Wind the rest of the first section on, cut the ends, and secure to the wound on thread using a rubber band over the pegs.

Continue winding all the sections in the same manner by moving the tension box along its track.

## INSERTING STICKS IN THE TREADING CROSS

When all the winding is complete, remove the rubber bands, unwind a few feet of warp, and slip one lease stick through the path created by the upper portion of each marking tie. Now slip another lease stick through the path created by the lower portion of each marking tie. Secure the lease sticks together, leaving about two inches between them, using masking tape or string through the end holes of the lease sticks. Now bring the lease sticks, with the warp ends, around the separation roller so that the warp travels towards the harnesses.

## READJUSTING THE TENSION

Now tie the lease sticks from the top of the loom so that they are at eye level when you are in your threading position.

To keep the warp from slipping forward during the threading process, pull the ends of the white nylon brake adjustment cord to increase warp tension. Adjust the cord so there is a slight drag against the beam as it rotates. The final warp tension adjustment will be made later.

---

## COMBINING PLAIN AND SECTIONAL WARPING

If you are winding a very fine warp, say forty ends to the inch or more, and do not have or do not want to wind a lot of spools or cones, it may be more convenient to wind separate warp sections on a warping board or reel and go from there directly to the sectional beam. If you decide to do this, however, your warp will be limited in length by what will fit on the warping board or reel. If you choose this method, follow these steps:

- a) Calculate number of threads for each section on your sectional beam.

On the warping board or on the warping reel, make “baby warps” for each section on your beam (if you are using a warping board, you will be limited in length).

Make crosses at each end: raddle cross on one side and thread-by-thread cross on the other.

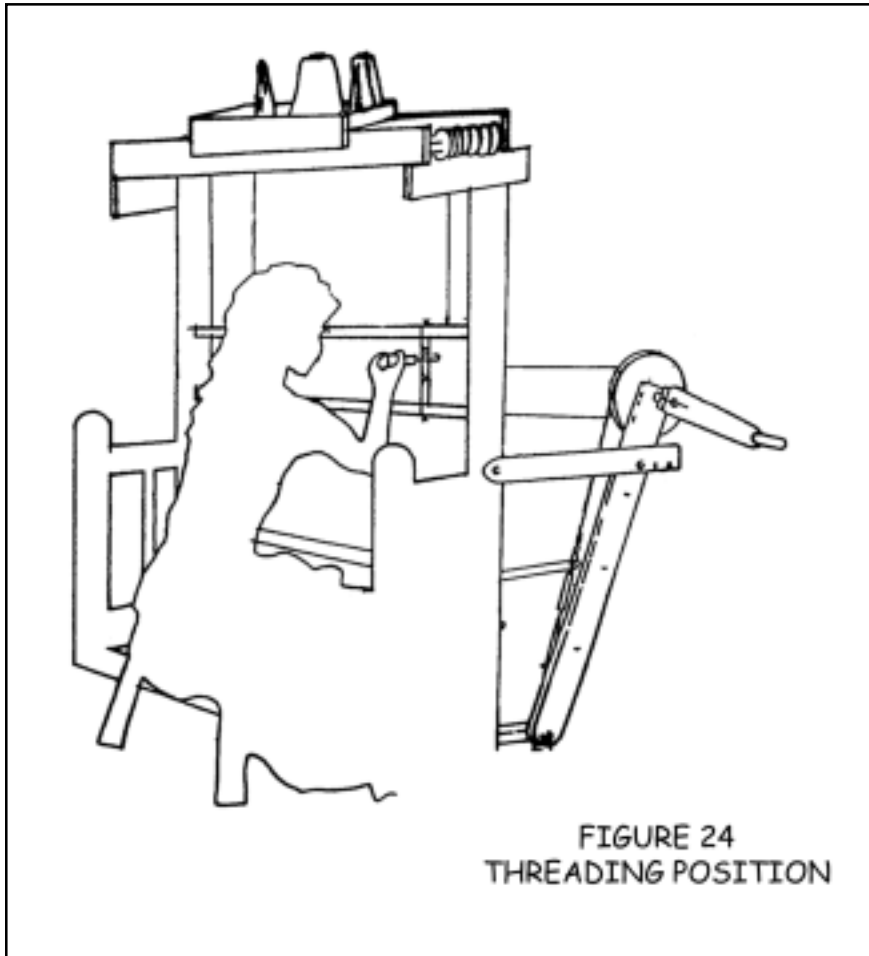
- b) Take the warp off the board or reel by taking off the thread-by-thread cross first.
- c) Put the warp threads from a first “baby” warp in the raddle, making sure that threads are spread evenly and that they are creating flat layers when wound on the beam. Put the raddle top on or secure warp threads with rubber bands.

Instead of a regular raddle, you can put a mini-raddle in place of the front reed on the tension box. In this case, the tension box is used only for guiding threads into the sections. You do not thread threads in the tension box through the harnesses nor through the back reed and you do not adjust tension with the pegs.

- d) Attach each baby warp to the extension cords and proceed as in regular sectional beaming procedure.
- e) Since you are not using the tension box for tension, be sure to keep it taut manually.
- f) When you come close to the end of the section, take the reed cover off and continue winding the rest of the baby warp.
- g) Secure that section to the beam and continue to the next one.



# THREADING, SLEYING, AND TYING ON



## PREPARATION FOR THREADING

To prepare for threading, tie the threading cross sticks up to the rear harness pulley support with lengths of string so that the cross is in a comfortable and visible position for threading. Now cut the warp end loops (if you are using the AVL plain beam warping method) so they will be ready for threading. Unfasten the chains from the bottom of the lower harness sticks so that the heddles will move easily.

The important thing in threading is your comfort. Take the time to position everything so that your body feels at ease while threading.

Lift out the beater. Remove the breast beam by unscrewing the fasteners with the allen wrench provided. Place a stool on the floor. Position yourself so that the eye of the heddle is at your eye level.

---

## HEDDLE PREPARATION

Choose the approximate number of heddles you wish to use. If you have planned a narrow warp, make sure you leave some heddles at the far sides of the harness sticks between the hooks and the ends of the harness sticks. For balance, there should be approximately equal numbered groups of unused heddles on both sides of each harness. In some cases, such as a very wide warp with a lot of unused heddles on the ends of the harnesses, you may need to tie each group of unused heddles into a tight bundle with tie tapes or string to keep them from falling off the ends of the harness sticks or you may need to take heddles off the loom. In the first six months of using a new loom with polyester heddles, the heddles stretch out to adjust to the harnesses and the heddles on each harness get stretched out to different sizes. For this reason, we do not recommend removing heddles from the loom for six months. When heddles are removed, they should be marked so they can be returned to the same harnesses. For the same reason, once the heddles have been on the loom for awhile, it is not a good idea to switch heddles to different harnesses. Mixing them up once they have been stretched could affect the evenness of the shed. What some weavers do with wide warps, in order to avoid having to take off extra heddles, is to distribute the unused heddles among the threaded heddles as the threading is taking place.

## THREADING THE HARNESSSES

Now insert the threading hook through the eye of the first heddle you wish to thread. Hook the first thread and pull it out through the heddle. Continue with the threading until all ends are threaded through their respective heddles. In a plain weave, the threading sequence will look something like this: 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2, 1, ..... meaning that the first thread will go through a heddle in the fourth harness, the second thread will go through a heddle in the third harness, the third thread through the second harness, the fourth through the first harness, and so on .....

## REPLACING THE BEATER AND SLEYING THE REED

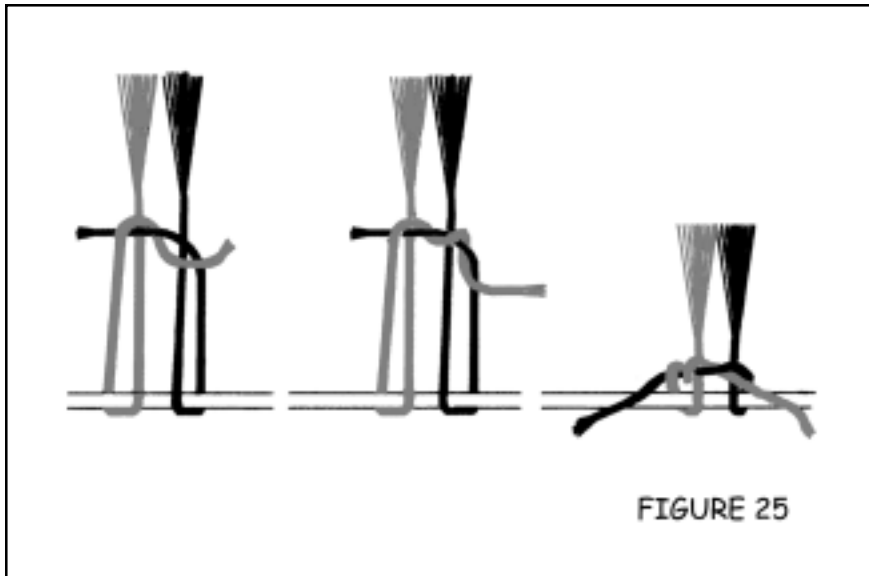
Now replace the beater making sure the metal height adjuster is seated properly in the slot. Sley the warp ends through the reed. Some weavers start from the right side, some from the left, some in the middle ..... but in all cases, be sure to measure accurately before starting so that the warp will be centered in the reed. Weavers have various ways of positioning the reed for sleying. The AVL Home Loom comes with a pin located on the left side of the loom that can be placed through the frame of the loom and into the left beater leg, thereby holding the beater in the middle position. You may then wish to remove the top of the beater and slant the reed away from you, to further assist you in the sleying process.

Make sure the cloth beam pawl is disengaged from the cloth beam ratchet. (You'll find these at the right end of the cloth beam .... when the cloth beam can move freely in either direction, then you know the pawl is properly disengaged.)

## TYING ONTO THE APRON

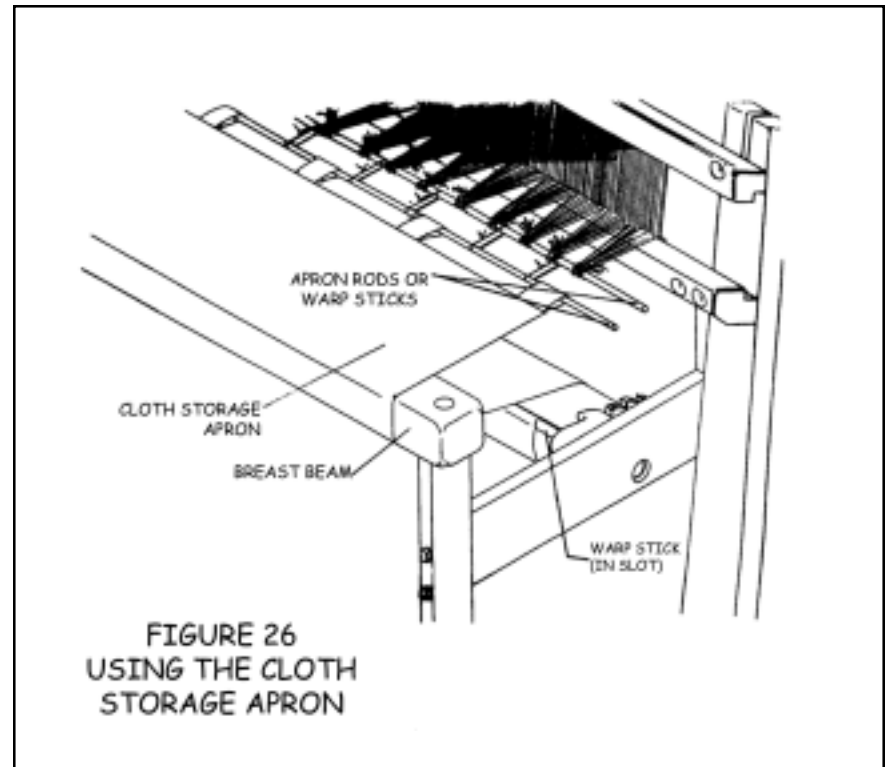
Attach the apron to the beam and wind the cloth beam up (so that the apron is winding up on the top surface of the beam) until the notched end of the apron is about ten to fifteen inches from the beater (when it is in its "back" position). Now engage the cloth beam pawl.

Insert the apron rod into the apron notches. Now tie the ends to the metal rod. Starting from the middle, bring a first bundle toward you over the apron rod, then around and under it. Divide it in half and bring one half up on each side of the bundle. Use the ends to tie a surgeon's knot. It is the same as the first tie you make tying a shoelace, except you loop the end twice through. This kind of knot is very good for readjusting the tension.



Start with one section in the middle, then the far right and the far left outside ones. Work your way in.

By now, the sections that were tied first are quite a bit looser than the ones tied last. To correct this, you do not need to untie the knots; simply grasp the ends and pull them away from you, then re-tighten the knots. Repeat this until all of the sections are at approximately the same tension.



Now pat the warp between the reed and the apron rod left to right and right to left. If the warp tension feels even, increase the warp tension by lifting up on the cloth beam handle until you reach the desired tension. Now pat the warp again, if it feels even, from left to right and right to left, continue to the next section. If not, release the warp tension (by stepping on the brake release pedal) and retighten the loosest sections.

---

## TYING ON TO THE OLD WARP

A new warp can be tied on to an old warp, thus eliminating the threading and slewing process if the new warp introduced into the loom uses the same threading pattern and EPI as the last warp. This process is especially good for production weavers, as it saves time. It also takes less concentration and there is less chance of making mistakes in threading.

The tying on process starts when you are finishing the last warp on the loom. Before you cut off the fabric, make sure to leave enough unwoven warp to extend one foot behind the harnesses, through the heddles, and about six inches past the reed when the beater is in its rear position. Now open two opposite tabby sheds and insert lease sticks into these sheds behind the harnesses. Secure the sticks together with tie tapes through the holes. Now carefully cut the fabric from the loom and tie bundles of warp coming through the reed together so the yarn can't slip through. Cut the warp in back (leaving one foot past the lease sticks) and also tie bundles of yarn together for security.

Now, after winding on the new warp, you can sit on a small stool placed in between the harnesses and the back of the loom and tie corresponding yarns from the two sets of lease sticks together. An overhand knot works well. This may seem slow at first, but you will work up a faster rhythm with some practice. A good goal to reach would be to tie 200 to 250 ends together an hour.

When all ends are tied together, go to the front of the loom and gently pull on the bundles of yarn going through the reed to pull the new warp through the heddles and reed. Then tie on to the apron.

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# WEAVING PROCEDURES

## WEAVING

With everything properly adjusted, weaving is an easy and enjoyable process. Sit up straight and comfortably at the loom so that your body remains stationary while your arms and legs work the loom. Simply press down on the treadles in the sequence determined by the pattern of your weaving. Now throw the shuttle. Catch the shuttle with the opposite hand, then pull the beater forward with a quick wrist movement while closing the shed.

## ADVANCING THE CLOTH

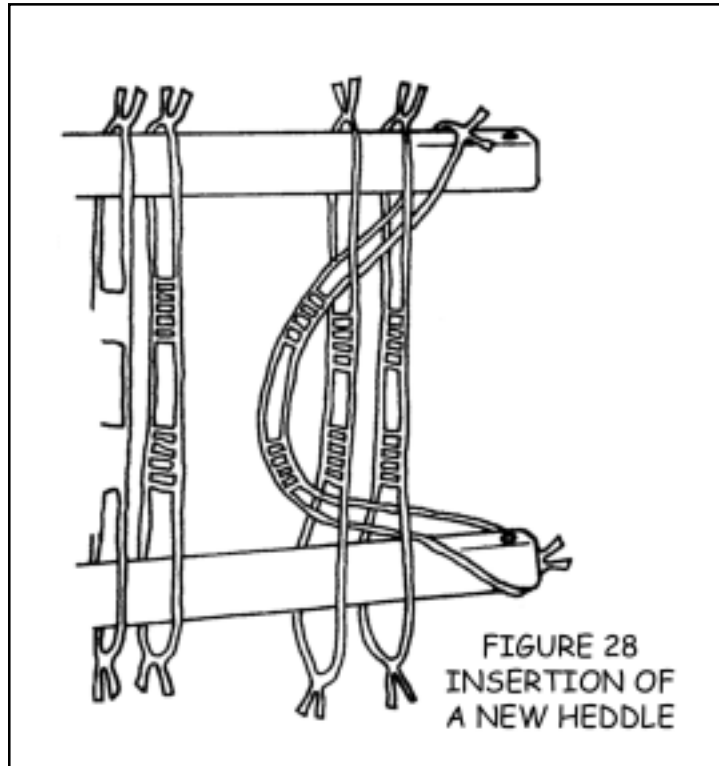
To advance the cloth, you simply put the beater in its forward position (toward you), depress the brake pedal, and pull up on the cloth beam handle until the fell of the cloth is about three inches from the breast beam. Now let go of the brake pedal and continue winding up the cloth beam handle until the desired tension is reached.

## THREADING ERROR

In case of a threading error, use the following method for insertion of a new polyester heddle:

- a.) Remove the harness wire from the nearest end of the harness and slip the top loop of the new heddle around the top harness stick and bring it through the top loops of all the heddles until it reaches the place needed.
- b.) Take the bottom of the new heddle through the bottom loop of all the heddles, around the bottom harness stick, and back through the bottom loops of all the heddles until it reaches its place.

- c.) Replace the harness wire.



### STARTING WEAVING

At the onset of weaving, first weave in one inch of a strong, medium weight weft with a tabby weave. Check the tabby weave for errors. Any errors in the threading or sleying will show up here and it is an excellent time to make corrections. Then weave in two thin lease sticks on alternate sheds followed by another 1/2" of tabby weave. Cloth strips should not be necessary as the two woven in lease sticks will even out the warp for you. Now change the Home Loom tie-up, if so desired, and proceed with your planned weaving.

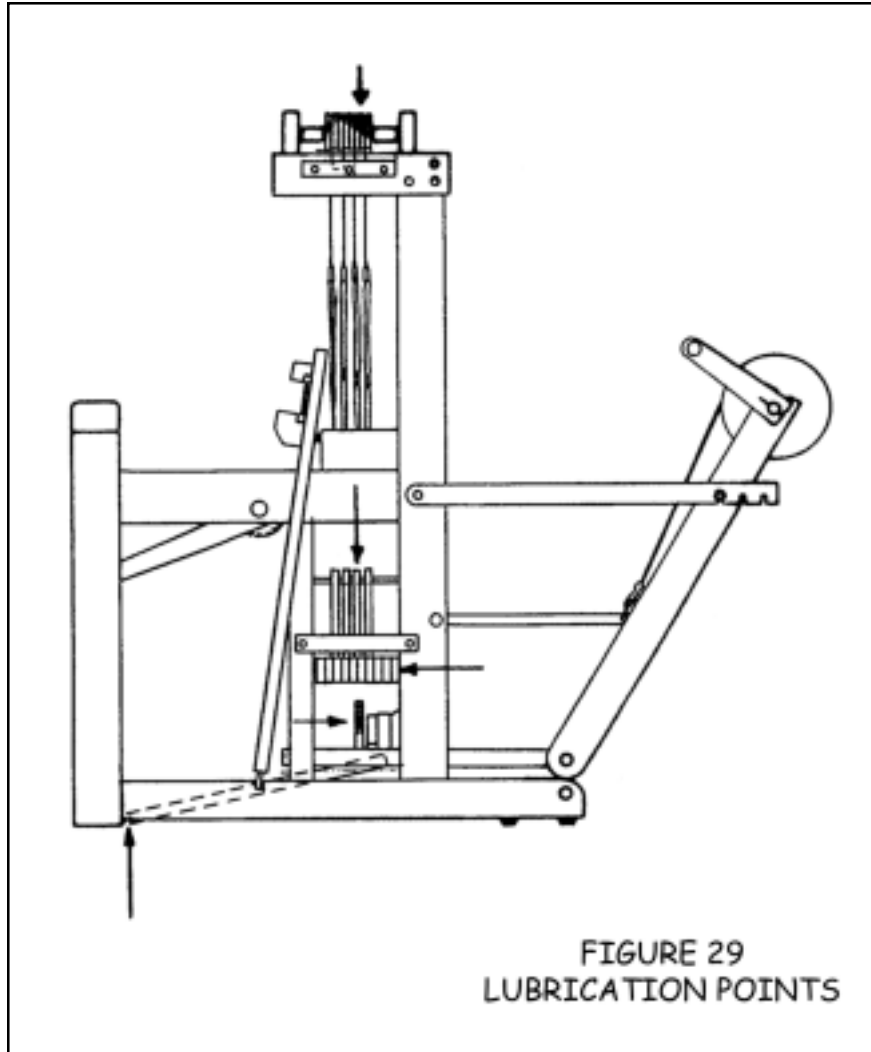
### SAMPLE WEAVING

For sample weaving, if you wish to remove part of the weaving from the loom before the entire warp is woven off, use the following procedure:

- a.) When the piece to be removed has been woven, weave one inch of tabby.
- b.) Weave in two lease sticks followed by 1/2" of tabby.
- c.) Start new weaving and weave until the lease sticks are wound 1 1/4 times around the cloth beam (or about 18").
- d.) Unwind and cut off the piece to be removed just below the tabby hem and woven-in lease sticks as above.
- e.) Place the two woven in lease sticks flat on the front cloth beam making sure they are centered and parallel to the roller.

Wind the weaving back on the cloth beam holding the lease sticks in place until the weaving winds back over itself and holds itself in place. Take up the tension by using the ratchet handle.

# MAINTENANCE AND LUBRICATION



## LUBRICATION

The AVL Home Loom has been designed and built to deliver many years of trouble free service. A minimal amount of maintenance will be required to insure that your loom will continue to perform properly (refer to Figure 29). The arrows show the points on the loom which should be oiled occasionally. Any light grade lubricant, such as sewing machine oil, WD-40, or Tri-Flow teflon lubricant can be used. Make certain that you never lubricate the brake cable or cord, especially where it makes contact with the brake drum as this can cause tension problems.

## FINISH

The AVL Home Loom has been finished primarily with semi-gloss, water resistant lacquer. It should require no maintenance other than an occasional dusting or application of furniture polish, if you wish to do so. Minor touch up of a damaged lacquered finish can be accomplished by simply applying a small amount of clear fingernail polish to the damaged area. Larger repairs, should the need ever arise, should only be attempted by a qualified repair person. Most of the lathe turned (round) parts, as well as the harness sticks, have been finished with a natural Danish oil. These parts, as the lacquered parts, require no special treatment.

# TROUBLESHOOTING

The AVL Home Loom, by design, is simple and uncomplicated. You should experience very few problems with it. If you do experience any difficulty, consult the following troubleshooting chart. If the problem persists, do not hesitate to contact an AVL service representative for additional assistance.

## TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

PROBLEM	REASON	SOLUTION
1.) <b>Too many harnesses raise.</b>	a.) Incorrect tie up. b.) Tie up cords tangled. c.) Harnesses hanging up on each other.	a.) Check side tie up cords. b.) Untangle cords. c.) Untangle harnesses from each other.
2.) <b>Not enough harnesses raise.</b>	a.) Incorrect tie up. b.) Broken tie up cord. c.) Broken or misrouted treadle cable.	a.) Check side tie up cords. b.) Replace cord. c.) Check cables.
3.) <b>Shed not large enough.</b>	a.) Beater adjusted too high. b.) Cloth too close to harnesses. c.) Unlifted harnesses "floating" or not being held all the way down.	a.) Lower beater. b.) Advance warp. c.) Tighten spring lever at adjusting chain. Reduce warp tension.



PROBLEM	REASON	SOLUTION
4.) <b>Harnesses catch on one another.</b>	a.) Heddles catching on adjacent harness.	a.) Spread out bundled heddles.  Increase spring lever tension.
5.) <b>Heddles fall off end of harness sticks.</b>	a.) Heddles too close to end.	a.) Move heddles inward.  Remove extra heddles.  Increase spring lever tension.  Tape last heddle in place on harness stick.
6.) <b>Brake not holding tension.</b>	a.) Incorrect adjustment.  b.) Brake drum glazed or oily.  c.) Spring worn.	a.) Tighten adjusting cord.  b.) Remove cable and clean drum and cable.  c.) Repair or replace spring.
7.) <b>Brake not releasing tension.</b>	a.) Incorrect adjustment.  b.) Dirty brake drum.  c.) Cord crossed on drum.	a.) Loosen adjusting cord.  b.) Clean drum and cord.  c.) Check routing of cord.
8.) <b>Loom squeaks.</b>	a.) Needs lubrication.	a.) Check lubrication chart.

PROBLEM	REASON	SOLUTION
9.) <b>Treadles difficult to operate.</b>	a.) Lifting large number of harnesses.  b.) Harness or treadle cables routed improperly.	a.) Lubricate loom.  Reduce spring lever tension if possible.  b.) Check routing of cables.  Make sure all cables are on pulleys.
10.) <b>Large warp build up alters shed size.</b>	a.) Folding legs need adjustment.	a.) Adjust folding legs so that they are being held in the outer or center slots on the support arms (see Figure 3).

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# GLOSSARY

**APRON:** A piece of canvas attached to the warp and cloth beams to which the warp ends are tied.

**ATTITUDE:** A state of mind or feeling. Everything works better with a good one.

**BEAM, BREAST:** The beam at the front of the loom between the beater and the cloth beam over which the web passes to the cloth beam.

**BEAM, CLOTH:** The front roller on which the cloth is wound as it is being woven.

**BEAM, WARP:** Beam at the back of the loom around which the warp is wound.

**CHAIN:** Warp as taken from the warping board or reel chained to shorten and prevent tangling.

**DENT:** A single space in a reed or raddle.

**DOG OR PAWL:** A catch fastened to the side of a loom to act as a brake for a ratchet wheel. It allows the ratchet to only rotate in one direction when the pawl is engaged.

**DRAW-IN:** The difference in width between the warp and the web of the fabric. Excessive draw-in often occurs when shuttle tension is too tight.

**E.P.I. (ends per inch):** The number of warp ends per inch.

**FELL:** The edge of the weaving between the woven and the yet-to-be-woven sections. The last shot.

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**HARNESSES:** Frames on which heddles are hung.

**HEDDLE EYE:** The opening in the center of the heddle.

**HEDDLE:** Made of either polyester or steel, the heddles hang from the harnesses and provide eyes through which the warp ends pass.

**HUMOR:** That quality needed in order to be successful at trying new things.

**LEASE STICKS:** Two thin sticks used in the cross or shed to keep the warp threads in order.

**LOOM WASTE:** The length of thread that lies between the fell and the end of the warp plus the knots at the beginning of the warp along with any other unusable warpage.

**P.P.I. (picks per inch):** The number of weft shots per inch.

**PICK:** A single shot of weft thread through the shed.

**RACE, SHUTTLE:** The bottom cross piece of the beater on which the shuttle runs back and forth.

**REED:** A comb-like piece set in the beater to separate warp threads and used to beat threads together to form the web.

**SELVAGE:** The edges of the web. (Also spelled **selvedge**.)

**SET:** The number of warp threads threaded per inch through the dents in the reed. (Also spelled **sett**.)

**SHED:** Opening in the warp formed when the harnesses are raised through which the shuttle is passed.

**SLEY (noun):** The number of warp ends per inch drawn through dents in the reed.

**SLEY (verb):** To draw threads through dents in the reed with a sley hook.

**THREAD (noun):** A twisted fiber.

**THREAD (verb):** The act of drawing twisted fibers through the eye of a heddle.

**WARP:** A system of threads running lengthwise in the loom across which weft threads are passed to form the web or cloth.

**WEB:** A piece or section of woven cloth.

**WEFT:** Threads woven across warp threads to form cloth.