



LESSON 21 LEVEL C WEAVING

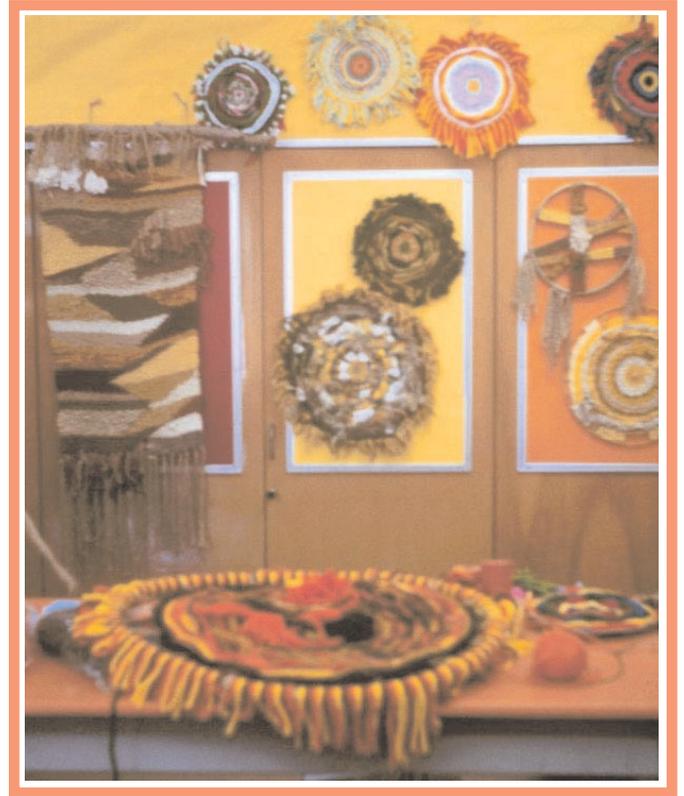
WEAVING IN CIRCLES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

exploring weaving on a round loom

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: a heavy duty paper plate about 21 or 23cm. (8" or 9") or heavy cardboard circle; tapestry needle (optional); scissors; assorted colors and textures of yarn; masking tape; (Optional: flexible reed, from crafts supply store; beads; feathers; seed pods; etc.)

TIPS: To avoid tangles in your yarn, put the yarns in a cardboard box with a lid. Punch holes in the lid and thread a different yarn through each hole. Keep a scissors handy to cut off lengths as you need them. If reed is to be used (see Optional), soak the required length in water for an hour or two to increase its flexibility before removing the weaving from the paper plate.



A Display of Round Weaving

GETTING STARTED: Have you heard of Arachne, (Ah-rack' nee) the Greek maiden who was turned into a spider because of her skill at weaving? Or Spider Woman, the Navajo "mother of all weaving"? You may have seen the amazing webs of orb (circle or sphere) spiders in the garden. You, too, can

weave in a circle. You can create a beautiful web of harmonious colors and a variety of textures.

1. Cut an *uneven* number of slits, maybe 21 or 23) about 5 mm. (1/4") deep, around the rim of a sturdy paper plate or cardboard disk.
2. Fasten the end of a ball of string or yarn on the back of the plate with masking tape. Wrap this warp yarn from side to side across the front of the plate, catching it in the slits. Do *not* criss-cross the back or you will not be

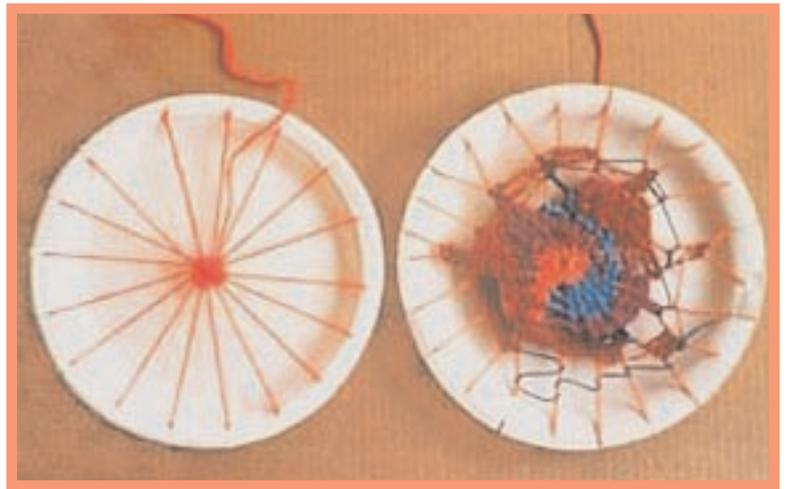


able to take the finished piece off the loom. (See example.)

3. Thread a blunt needle with 30 or 40 cm. (12" or 15") of this same warp yarn, (Or use your fingers.) Pinch the warp yarns together where they cross in the center. Wrap the yarn on the needle around them to pull them tight. Then begin to weave under-over in a spiral. Go around the plate several times.

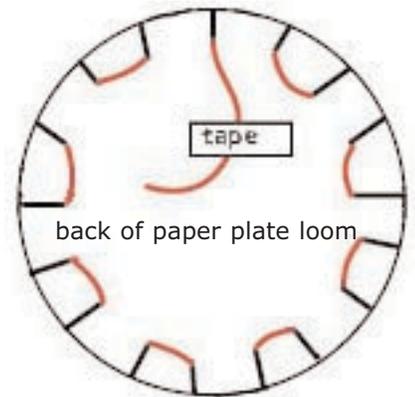


Kari Age 10



Work in Progress

4. Now, reverse the direction. Work back and forth on just a few warps. Run the end of the weft down a warp toward the center and clip it off.



5. Choose a length of yarn of another color and texture. Start from beneath the previous weaving and work on some different warps.

6. Use your imagination! Pull groups of warps together and treat them as a single warp for a while. Or wrap some

together with a coil of weft yarn. Leave "holes" and tie in some beads or bells, pods or shells.

7. (Optional: Cut a flexible reed an inch longer than the circumference (the distance around the edge) of the plate. Thread it through each pair of warps. Remove the warps from the plate as you go around. Fasten the ends of the reed together with masking tape. Adjust the the warps to keep the weaving taut. Hang your circle weaving from a string, alone or as part of a mobile

CLEAN UP: Straighten your yarn box. Save or discard your paper loom. That's it! Unless you left snips of yarn around. You know what to do about that.

TALK ABOUT IT: Weaving intended for some functional use, such as clothing and upholstery, is usually made with predictable patterns in lengths which can be cut and sewn together. Decorative weaving can be much more free. Which kind of weaving would you choose to do for a hobby? Why?

MORE IDEAS: Make several more circle weavings of different sizes and designs. Find some dowels or sticks. Make a mobile of your weavings.

CONNECTIONS: Weaving was “invented” even before pottery in the American Southwest. The earliest pots found by archeologists have woven basketry “prints” on their surfaces. The wet clay must have been formed in or around the ancient baskets! Find out about some of these early kinds of weaving in Ancient America and elsewhere, in other parts of the world.

