

Weaving Stick Sheep



Please note – these are fun and quick to make, but not particularly robust, so though they could be made by children, they are not suitable as toys.

Weaving Sticks

The weaving sticks I have come in a set of 5 with a threader. They are about 6mm in diameter, with a soft point at one end and a flat bit at the other end with a hole for the core yarn (warp) – easy to make from dowelling if you have the tools, but also fairly inexpensive to buy. The hole at the end is quite small, so I've added loops of fine cotton warp to mine so that I can use any thickness of yarn for warp.

Weaving

You weave in and out of the sticks as you would on a peg loom, and slide the weaving down onto the warp as it grows. You need to be careful not to pull the weft too tight as it makes it difficult to slide down, particularly if you are only using two sticks.

SHEEP

For the sheep you need 7 pieces of yarn for warp about 28 inches long – 5 for the body, 2 for the head / tail, and more yarn for weft – it doesn't take a huge amount – the sheep in the photo weighs 7gms.



Body

Thread the warp onto each of 5 sticks so that each thread is doubled, and tie the ends from adjacent sticks together at the bottom (otherwise the weaving will slip off!). Weave about 7 inches, then cut

your weft, sliding the weaving down the sticks and down to the knots at the bottom. Cut the warp off the sticks and knot securely, close to the weaving. Thread the ends into the weaving and trim – I use the threader for this, but a darning needle is just as good.

Head and Tail

Thread your remaining two lengths of warp onto two sticks, doubled as for the body, and tie the ends together – I tend to use a reef knot as it lies flatter, and allows the loops of the weaving to curve in to give a rounded end to the tail. Weave about 7 inches, cut the weft, slide the weaving off the sticks and down to the knot at the bottom; cut the warp close to the sticks and knot close to the end of the weaving (don't trim!) – again I would use a reef knot, as it means the ends are sticking out sideways ready to be made into horns. Thread in the ends at the bottom and manipulate the weaving to give a rounded end to the tail.

Making Up

- Lay the head / tail piece across the centre of the body piece with about an inch sticking out for the tail (1)
- Roll the body piece in from both sides (2)
- Take a length of your weft yarn and secure with a few stitches – do the back first, then I usually take the thread through to do the front rather than breaking off and rejoining
- With the sheep on its back roll the rest of the head / tail piece inwards to make a head – use the remainder of your sewing up yarn to secure. (3 and 4)
- Twist the pairs of warp yarns (now at each side of the head) together and make horns (or possibly ears!)
- Weave in any remaining ends and that's it complete.

