

Part 8 Finishing the weaving - Video 32-35

How to deal with the final yarn end

Keep weaving until it becomes difficult to do any more without mistakes. Eventually, the yarns will not make a proper shed and it is more trouble than it is worth to keep going. You will be left with about 12 inches/30cm of warp that cannot easily be woven.

When you finish weaving, there will be a tail end of weft yarn to deal with. As at the start, you do not want this to be in the final row. Weave the last full shot therefore then take the yarn off the shuttle. Use your fingers to make a space between the final row and the one before it. Then hand weave the tail end into the gap in between them, much the same as you did with the tail end of yarn at the start of the weaving. It is a little fiddly but worth the effort for a much tidier result.

How to get the weaving off the loom

Slacken the tension on the warp a little so that the yarn is not so stretched. Put the heddle into the resting position at the rear of the heddle stand.

Cut the warp near the back of the loom with a large pair of scissors, so that the remaining warp yarn attached to the weaving is as long as possible. The fringe is going to need trimming anyway and it is good to have a margin for error.

Pull the warp threads out of the heddle and throw the weaving over the loom towards the back. This makes it easier to untie the threads at the front, as the weaving does not get in the way. Pull out the strips of paper or card in the header one by one.

Cut the loops at one side of the woven header. Then pull each thread out by the loop on the other side. There will be two actual ends as well as the loops and it helps to pull these out first. Hold the weaving firmly whilst you pull and give the yarn and weaving a little wiggle as you pull, if needed.

Now to untie the half bows. Carefully find the two shorter ends of the first bow and pull these together to undo the bow. Getting this right will save a lot of time and grief so it is worth the effort.

Take the two lots of threads now coming from the knot in each hand, keeping the right hand ones to the right and the left hand ones to the left. Now pull them towards the loom, away from the stick they are tied to. This will loosen the knot and make it very easy to untie.

Washing the weaving to 'bed it in'

It is usually best to wash the weaving after making the knots for the fringe and doing any fringe twisting.

Wash the weaving in hot water with some detergent and give it a good squeeze in the water, then either pat dry in a towel or spin dry in the washing machine, using the spin only programme. You can stop the spin cycle before the end and wait for the washing machine door to open.

Making a simple fringe

A fringe can be made by tying small groups of warp threads together. For this use an overhand knot, as shown in the accompanying video. Overhand knots have the advantage of ensuring all the ends face the same way, making a neat fringe, and are also a non-slip knot. It helps to make a large loop when making the knot as it is then easier to position it exactly right.



Group wall hanging project showing a tied and twisted fringe.

Using a fringe twister

A fringe twister is a gadget which makes it easy to create a twisted fringe. It has two or four small clamps in a wooden block. The two clamp one is easier to use, cheaper and adequate for most things. Clamp two lots two warp ends (e.g. two groups of two yarns each) into each of the clamps and twist both at the same time until the yarns are tightly twisted.

You will notice that the fringes in the pictures below have already been tied with an overhand knot before twisting. This is not essential but does make it neater. It is yarns from the same knot that are twisted together for this type of fringe, although there are other variations.

Remove the yarns from the clamps and hold the ends of the fringe so they cannot untwist. Then carefully twist them back in the opposite direction until the twist is balanced and does not want to undo any more. Tie a knot in the end.



Fringe showing overhand knots (above) and a fringe twister in use (below).

