How to Make a Weaving

With artwork from Weaving Instructor, Mimi Smith and examples from students Susan Thayer and Beth Fox.
2009 Creative Workshop

Photos by Larry Merrill

How to...the Process Show, is a product of the Creative Workshop of the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester.
Step 1: Choose your project...
Determine the function of your finished piece.
Will it be a scarf, table linen, a wall hanging?
Step 2: Plan your project...
Your weaving will have a warp (vertical pattern) and a weft (horizontal pattern).

Decide the width, length, and symmetry of your design.

*Remember, the colors/textures of the yarn will affect the overall design.

Weaving in process by student Susan Thayer.
Step 3: Organize and arrange your warp

Wind your warp to the appropriate length using a warping reel. As you wind your design, you will pay attention to tie in the right places, preventing tangles.
Step 4: Layout/Wind your warp on the loom...

Wind the warp onto your loom and thread it through the heddles (vertical wire pieces inside loom), be careful of the proper tension.

Put the warp through the little spaces in the reed (inside the beater).

Tie the warp onto the front bar to complete the “dressing” of the loom.
Step 5: Weave your weft...
Choose the weft to complement the warp, wind the thread onto a shuttle and start weaving. After you have woven a bit, stand back and marvel at the symmetrical and beautiful weaving you have made!

Weaving in process by student Beth Fox.