

# Paper plate weaving

**Step 1:** Check your paper plates and if they are a little flimsy, glue 2 or 3 together (I glued 3 together to get enough stiffness)

**Step 2:** Marking and threading your warp

1. For a circular weave cut an uneven number of notches around the edge of the plate (17-21 is about right). Cut the notches to about 2cm depth into the edge of the plate
2. Hold your warp yarn and thread from the back of the plate through the first notch, then pull it across the front of the plate and thread through the opposite notch on the other end of the plate. Your first warp thread should now be across the plate.
3. Next, thread the warp across the back of the plate so that it comes out onto the front of the plate in the notch next to the one you have just threaded it through, now pull the yarn across the front of the plate again, inserting it in the notch opposite (to one side of your very first thread).
4. On the back of the plate it will look like stitches running around the edge of the plate. Carry on until you have used up all the notches. Don't worry if all the threads do not quite meet in the middle, you can sort that out at the end once they are all attached.
5. Once you have threaded through all the notches you should have one thread without an empty matching notch. With the front of the plate facing you, take this last thread to the centre of the plate and gather all the threads together and tie your loose thread around them to keep them tight and to give you a nice spiral pattern.
6. When you have finished the back of your plate should look like this.

**Step 3:** Weaving

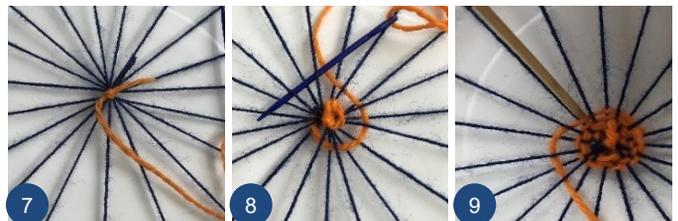
7. Take your first colour (this is your weft), cut a length of about 30-40cm and thread it through your needle. If you don't have a needle you can still weave by winding your yarn up into a little ball. Knot your thread to the centre of you warp and you are ready to start weaving.
8. To weave, wind your weft thread over and under each alternate warp thread.
9. Start quite loosely and push the threads into the centre, gently pulling more tightly as you go (if you have something slim and pointy to do this with it helps - a pencil with do, or a knitting needle).
10. As you build up your rows you will be able to tuck your starting knot end into the weave to hide it.
11. After this, you simply keep weaving round and round.
12. You can change colours by simply cutting off one colour and introducing a new one. Tuck the cut end of the first yarn and the starting end of the new yarn under the weaving and, remembering to keep to your over and under pattern, carry on with the new yarn. You will have to be careful not to pull too hard so that the new thread does not come out on the first round, but after that the tension of the weaving will keep the new colour secure.

Remember you don't need to just use wool – you can use strips of paper, beads, fabrics. Once you get used to the weaving you can also make more imaginative patterns such as trees, and semi circles. You can even paint your plate before you start to give a pretty background. There are lots of videos on YouTube to give you ideas if you find you like this sort of thing..... enjoy.



## You will need:

A pack of paper plates, scissors, glue, various yarns (any sort will do), and a blunt needle



**Step 4:** Taking the weaving off the plate

Unhook the warps carefully from around the plate and sew them into the back of your weaving. You can do this by either:

- If you have enough length you can catch them together and run a thread through the loops to keep them in place, then just catch the bundle with a stitch into the back of the weaving. Pick up the threads carefully so that your stitch does not show at the front.
- If you have woven to the edge of the plate you will need to carefully catch each warp loop into the back of the weave with a stitch. Again, do this carefully so your stitch does not show on the front.