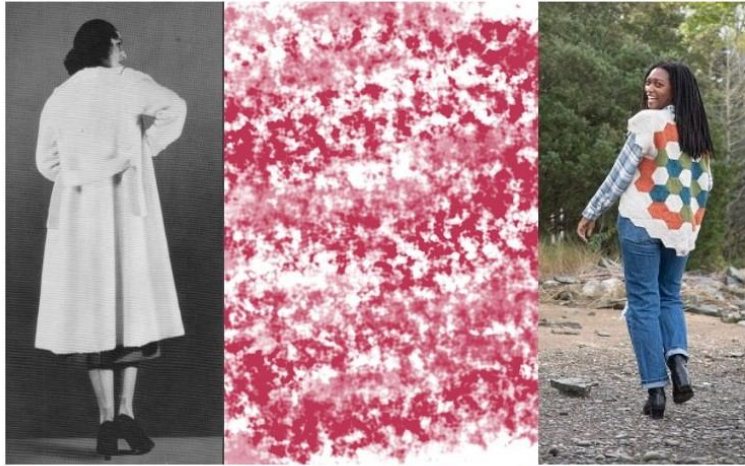


Pin-Loom Garment



Weaving Challenge 2023

Project Planning Guide

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This project guide is made available free of charge to all who would like to participate in the Pin-Loom Garment Challenge 2023. Use the guide to plan your project and track your progress.

You can use this planning guide to make any pin loom garment, whether you start with a pattern or start from scratch.

Find more info about the challenge on the [texasgabi blog](#). Join and contribute to the discussions in the [Pin Loom Weaving Support Group on Facebook](#) or on the [Pin-Loom Garment WAL 2023 Ravelry discussion board](#).

While you prepare and work on your garment project, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss your project: gabi@texasgabi.com. Also, I may update the guide from time to time if I see that it can be improved, your feedback will help!

Ready? Set! Go!

Phase I: Plan Your Project

First, decide what you want to make, and set yourself a schedule ...

Pattern Ideas

If you are not sure what to make, check out the Pattern Resource Guide on the [TexasGabi.com blog](https://www.texasgabi.com/blog).

Materials

Start with any of the three components “garment/loom(s)/yarn(s)”, then fill in the other two.

For example, you have the loom(s), and next you need to look for projects that you can make with those looms and find some yarn. Or, you have some pretty yarn that you want to use ... see which loom(s) work with that yarn and if you have enough to make a certain project. Or, you have a project that you’d like to make, now find the loom(s) and the yarn to make it happen!

Garment	What to do ...	Your Answer
Garment pattern	If you have a pattern, write the name and source down here. If you use your own idea, start a folder and put all notes and sketches together.	
Garment size	Determine the size that you want to make. Ask if you need help.	
Modifications	Write down if you want to make any changes to an existing pattern, for example, you want to make a cardigan, but want to add pockets.	

Loom(s)	What to do ...	Your Answer
Loom(s) that you have	Write down any looms that you have and want to use.	
Loom(s) that you will need	Write down loom(s) that you will need to obtain to make your project.	

Yarn(s)	What to do ...	Your Answer
Yarn(s) that you have	Write down any yarn(s) that you have and want to use.	
Yarn(s) that you will need	Write down any yarn(s) that you will need to obtain to make your project. Find resources and compare prices ... make, trade, shop ...	

Yarn Requirements

The next step is very important. It requires a little bit work, but it will pay off in the end. A pattern that you bought may already provide you with the information, but it's always good to check and include any changes that you are considering. Based on the pattern that you have chosen, and the size that you want to make, calculate that you have enough yarn for your project! The first row is an example ...

Yarn	Yarn Color	Number of Weavies Needed	Yarn needed for one Weavie	Total Yarn amount needed	Do you have enough?
<i>My 3-ply handspun</i>	<i>The dark Jacobs</i>	72	8 yds	576 yds	✓

Extra Yarn! Write down an estimate for crochet borders, straps, pompoms ... anything that means "more yarn" is needed:

Other Materials and Notions

Write down any buttons, zippers, fabric liners, elastics, ribbons, ... that you plan on using for your project. Other tools that you will need (like a sewing machine). While those items may not be needed right away, it's good to think about those from the early beginning.

Sample Weaving

This step will confirm that the materials that you have chosen will all work together. Weave a sample on each loom and use each color at least once. Weave pattern samples if you plan on using pattern weaves.

Sample your joining technique! Often 4 weavies are enough to sample a joining technique, and you can re-use that sampler as a mug rag while you work on your project.

Block all your samples!

It sounds like a lot, but you want to find out early if your project will work. You don't want to spend 60+ hours on weaving and assembling, only to find out that your yarn is not colorfast. Or that the color you want to use for joining really doesn't go with the rest, or that the pretty yarn you used will not felt ... will felt ... will shrink ... will stretch ... will scratch ... will not show the pattern ... will ... not do what you expect it to do.

If you are not familiar with blocking, you can watch the video "Introduction to Blocking" on YouTube: https://youtu.be/k_K5KhhUv6o

Take some pictures of your samples and share those. Keep the samples that you made at least until your project is done.

Timeline

It is a good planning step to think about how you want to work on your project, even if the initial plan might change due to unforeseen things that may happen.

For the weaving, find out how long it takes you to weave one weavie on each of the looms that you plan to use, then calculate how much time you will need for weaving:

Weavies (per loom, color, pattern) needed for the project	Time to weave one weavie	Time needed for weaving the project (time x weavies)

Add up the numbers in the right column to find out how much time you will spend weaving in total and write it down in the next chart.

Then, I recommend that you double that time to estimate how long it will take you to complete your project (it is my experience that assembling and finishing a project takes about the same time it takes to weave; experiences may of course vary, and it also depend on the materials that you use as well as the garment that you make).

TOTAL TIME NEEDED FOR WEAVING (that's the total from the right column in the previous table)	
X 2 (to add time for assembly and finishing)	
ESTIMATED TIME NEEDED TO MAKE THE GARMENT (convert to hours if you have used minutes so far)	

Next, let's think about when you will be able to spend the time to work on your garment project and find out how many weeks it may take for you to finish your project.

If you plan to participate in the Pin-Loom Garment Challenge 2023, the last day to submit a photo of your finished garment for the prize drawing is November 23rd, 2023. If you just want to make a garment on your own, don't worry about this date.

Copy the time that you estimated in the previous chart into the first field below.

Now think about how much time you might have to work on your garment project. Do you think you can spend half an hour every day on weaving? More? Less? A few hours on the weekend? Write that down in the second field below, then do the math ...

Copy the Estimated Time Needed to make the garment from above. Convert to hours if you haven't done that yet:	
Estimate the time you will be working on your garment every week, in hours:	
Divide the first number by the second number to find out how many weeks your garment project will take:	

Does the weekly goal seem realistic to you? Do you have enough time to finish in November? Do you have a "buffer" in case you can't stick to the schedule?

Take a look at the calendar to see when you might be finished with your garment. Again, these are just estimates because life will happen! It will give you a good idea and may help you stay on track, though.

If everything works out, I will be done with my garment:	
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If you feel comfortable with the answers, you're ready to start!

Phase II: Make Your Garment

I highly recommend that you record your progress, which will help you to keep on track, give you a place to write down notes that otherwise might get lost, and to create a diary and useful reference for when you look back in a few years.

Add to this document, start a little notebook, chat on Facebook or Ravelry, and if you are on Ravelry, I can highly recommend that you track your progress using a Ravelry project. If you post on social media like Twitter and Instagram, please use the hashtag #PinLoomGarmentChallenge2023

Again, I will be happy to assist you as needed.

Wishing you the best of success,

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Notes