TECHNIQUE:

Weave a Mat

Time Required: 30-60 minutes

Materials:
- Smooth, tightly-twisted cotton or linen warp yarns
- Sturdy, woody plant materials such as the stems of cat tails, ornamental grasses, and goldenrod
- Garden shears
- Measuring device
- Loom
- Bobbins (2 for each notch on the loom)

Tips:
- Warp yarns can be of any fiber but they should be strong and smooth to prevent breakage and pilling (fuzzy balls). In keeping with the project's plant theme, cotton and linen are suggested.
- Try both green and dried plant materials, but expect that some will change over time.
- If you prefer to purchase items to use as the weft, consider plant stakes, dowels, bamboo skewers, or wooden chopsticks.
- If you are working with a large loom, it is both fun and practical to weave with a partner.

Mat Uses:
- Fence or windbreak
- Patio screen
- Walls for a structure
- Floor covering
- Window blind
- Wall hanging
- Placemat
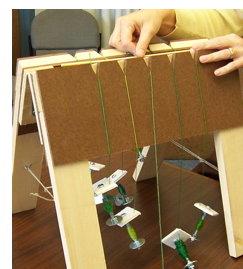- Earring holder (loop style)

Instructions:

1. Wrap yarn around bobbins. Yarn length should be twice the length of the finished mat.

2. Remove leaves or outer sheath and cut plant materials to appropriate length.
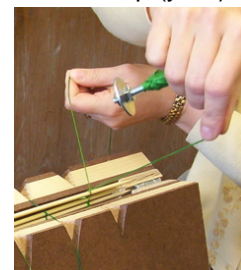
3. Knot the yarn ends of two bobbins.

4. Place this yarn into two parallel notches so that the warp lies across the loom and the bobbins rest on either side of the loom

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until all the paired notches are filled.

6. Place the first weft (plant stem or stalk) across the warp yarns.

7. Working with paired bobbins, pass the warp (yarn) over the weft (plant stem) so that the two bobbins exchange places.

8. Repeat step 7 until all warp yarns across the loom have been used.

9. Repeat steps 6-8 until your mat is the desired length. Note that the finished mat will grow from the middle of the loom toward the floor.

10. When the mat is complete, wrap the warp ends around the last weft a couple of turns and tie a secure knot.

11. Cut the warp ends to release the mat. Leave extra warp length if you want to finish the end of your mat with fringe.