

Kromski Fiddle

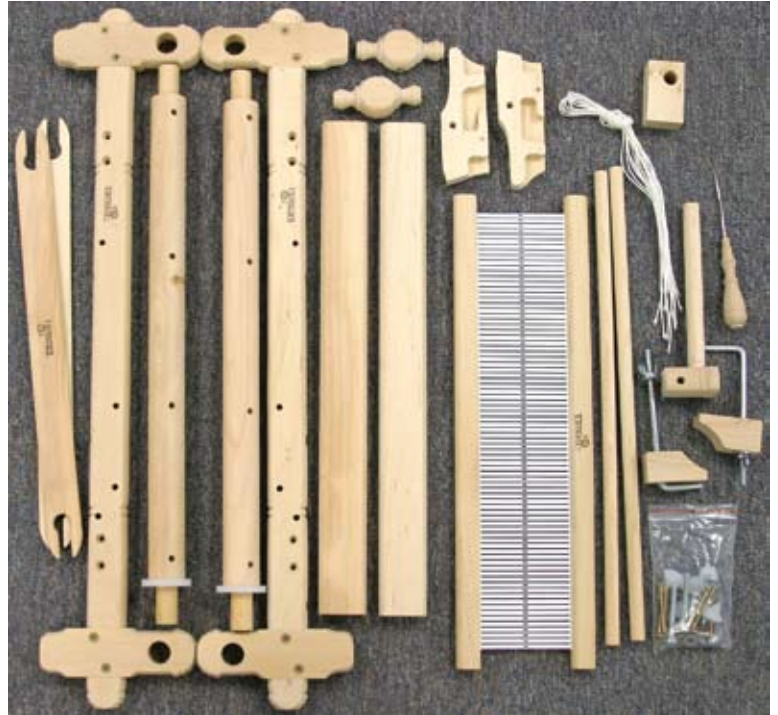
Rigid Heddle Loom

Assembly Instructions

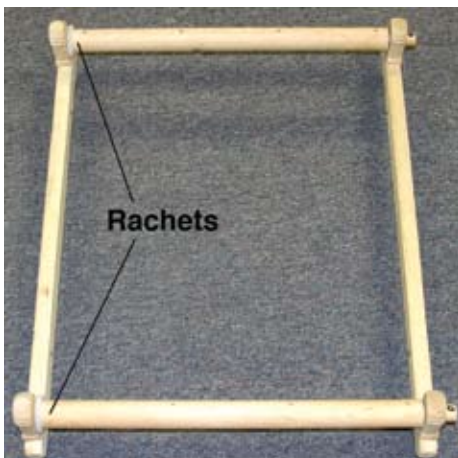
You are about to embark on a type of weaving that has been practiced for thousands of years - weaving with a rigid heddle loom. With the Kromski Fiddle, you will be able to create interesting and varied projects that will spark your continued interest in the art of weaving. If this is your first loom, you will find your efforts quickly rewarded; if you are an experienced weaver, you will find that your Fiddle can take you to a new horizon of weaving. Have fun.

Assembly - putting your loom together is easy. Some parts have been assembled already; others just require a screwdriver. Proceed with the following steps and refer to the pictures. It is easy. (these instructions are available as a color PDF file by going to this site: <http://www.newvoyager.com/fiddleinstructions.pdf>)

Step 1 Review the picture showing all parts that are found in your box. Lay the parts out and examine. You will begin by positioning the two beams into the large holes on the side frames. The front and rear beams are **different**. See the next picture for details



Step 2 Arrange the side frames left and right; the Kromski logo on each is located to the outside and towards the front. The ratchet end of each beam will be on the left side of the loom. The teeth of each ratchet should point "in" towards the other beam. The picture left shows the rear beam on the left and the front beam on the right. The pawl will not lock the beam if you reverse the beams.



Step 3 Position the 2 cross supports between the side frames. Match the numbers for correct assembly and be sure the large holes on the supports are under the support. Secure with 8 screws and tighten.





This is how your loom should look at this time. Side frames in place, secured with cross supports. Note that the beams are positioned with the ratchets to the left side.

Step 4 Attach the handles to the right side of each beam. A hole has been pre-drilled near the end of each beam. Be careful not to overtighten the screw; the screw head needs only to be slightly below the wood surface.



Step 5 Now you secure the 2 pawls to the side frame. Use the 2 pan head screws for this step. Tighten the screw until the pawl will rotate with just a small amount of resistance. Do this front and rear on the left side frame. The pawl should engage the ratchet and hold it when the beam is rotated “in” towards the opposite beam. If this is not the case, your beams need to be switched.

Step 6 You are almost done. This step has you attaching the 2 heddle blocks to the side frames, left and right. The picture at right shows the left heddle block in position. There are two possible locations on each side frame to attach the blocks; you should use the front position. The rear position is available should you ever want to work with 2 heddles on your loom. The hardware used is a carriage bolt, washer and wing nut; position the washer and nut on the outside of the loom.



Step 7 Place the heddle on the heddle blocks using the middle or neutral position..

Sit back; you are done.

Additional Information

Preparing your beam dowel ties to be used when “dressing your loom” Included with your loom is a set of nylon strings that will be used to secure the beam dowels to the front and rear beams; your warp is then secured to the beam dowels. Follow these instructions to prepare your loom for warping (if you are more comfortable with some alternative methods, feel free to use them; or experiment). Proceed as follows:

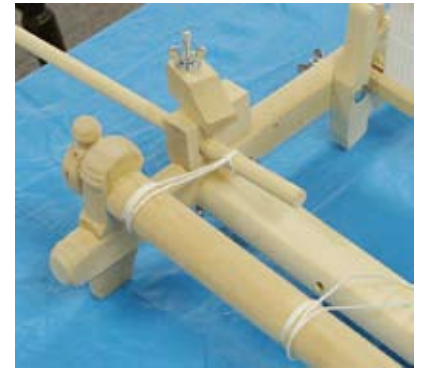
You will be preparing the strings by joining the two ends of each to make a loop. Begin by learning and practicing with one string how to join the ends of these strings into a loop. It is not difficult and will result in your loom being easy to warp. Here’s how.

Light a candle. Holding an end in each hand, bring the ends into the flame for a short period so that the ends begin to melt (should an end catch on fire, just shake to extinguish). While the two ends are melted, line them up and butt them together in a manner that causes a small bubble to “bulge up” where the two ends have been pushed together. CAUTION - this joint will be hot. Hold for several seconds, allowing the joint to begin to cool. You can test the strength of the joint by trying to pull it apart (after it cools). It should be difficult to break.



Now trim each string so that all strings are exactly the same length. Repeat the process you practiced above so that you have all the strings made into loops of equal length.

Thread the loops of strings through the holes that are located along the length of the rear beam. Do them all the same way. Thread the end of the string loop through the front of the loop as it protrudes through the hole in the beam. All the loops should be positioned identically along the beam.



Using the Kromski Warp Helper - This is a simple device that will make warping your loom easier and will result in an even warp. Position the Warp Helper (block of wood, clamp and dowel) on the side as seen in the picture. Make a slip knot with the first dowel tie (as seen in picture) and slide on the dowel. As you bring your warp from the front of the loom and through slots in the heddle you will loop the warp material around the beam dowel; if you are warping having used a warping board, the loops just drop on the dowel; if you are warping from a peg you will warp around the dowel and back to the heddle. Slide the dowel through the hole from the outside in. Extend it to a length that puts it behind the area of the slots you are threading, plus 4". As you add more warp ends on the dowel you will need to slip on the remaining dowel ties as you come to them along the length of the back beam. Push more dowel through the helper block as needed. You can mark your heddle to know when each dowel string must be added to the dowel.



Work your way to the other end of the heddle, concluding with the last dowel tie. Now your warp should be evenly spaced along the dowel and dowel ties placed in order as well.

Front beam - repeat the above instructions for the front beam. When you get to the point of tying the warp to the front dowel you will create an overhand loop with each string and slide the dowel through each along the length of the dowel (this will be identical to the rear beam).



Learning to Weave

Weaving is one of the oldest crafts. Learning how to weave is not difficult and there are many ways to proceed. Weaving on a rigid heddle loom is not much different than weaving on larger table or floor looms that have harnesses/shafts. Preparing a warp and dressing your loom is perhaps the most important part of weaving and while the process is well documented in any weaving book, it will be an important first step that must be accomplished correctly before you throw your first shuttle. How should you proceed?

Almost all libraries will have books on weaving and these will show all the important steps you must take. Check for topics about warping, tensioning, how to use a shuttle, advancing your weaving and finishing. All these topics will be used on your Fiddle.

The internet will offer a variety of resources for weaving. Type "warping a loom," for example, in a search engine and you will find the most important topics that will allow you to prepare your loom. Here is an example site with good information about warping: <http://www.allfiberarts.com/library/aa00/aa031600.htm>

You may also want to join a chat group on the Internet where you exchange information and present questions.

Finally, you will want to talk to the people that sold you the loom. They will offer you a variety of resources that will make your weaving experience fun. They may offer classes or know of weaving groups that you may want to join and learn the craft. Because the Fiddle is a small loom you should be able to bring the loom into the store and receive help. Additionally, you should ask about books and videos that you can read or view to learn how to weave on the Fiddle. Any general purpose weaving book will help, but there are a few that deal with rigid looms in particular. Here are some titles:

General Purpose Weaving Books

- *Learning to Weave* by Deborah Chandler
- *The Magic of Handweaving* by Sigrid Piroch

Rigid Heddle Books and Videos

- *Hands-on Rigid Heddle Weaving* by Betty Davenport
- *The Ashford Book of Rigid Heddle Weaving* by Rowena Hart
- *Rigid Heddle Weaving* (video) by Betty Davenport

The video is a great way to learn to weave if you are proceeding on your own. It is comprehensive and you benefit by seeing all the steps being done "live" rather than with a series of pictures.

You might also want to print a copy of this document; it is instructions for a "first project" for the Kromski Harp loom, but it is a perfect project for the Fiddle as well: <http://www.newvoyager.com/harpuse.pdf>

Your Kromski loom dealer will also have everything you need for your projects: yarn, shuttles and accessories.

BE SURE TO VIEW OUR RIGID HEDDLE VIDEOS ONLINE AT www.newvoyager.com

**If you have any difficulty in putting your loom together, contact your retailer or call
New Voyager Trading (the N.A. distributor) at: www.newvoyager.com**