

Make a Guatemalan loom!

Materials

a roll of string, pieces of colored yarn, two pencils, scissors

Instructions

1. To make the loops and sticks for the ends of the loom, cut a length of string as long as two pencils, and tie one end to the eraser end of a pencil.
2. Hold the pencil with one hand, with your fingers lined up down the pencil, below the knot. Loop the string around your pinkie finger with the pencil, then pull the string through once more to hold the shape of the loop.
3. Loop the string around your ring finger with the pencil, then pull the string through once more to hold the shape of the loop.
4. Repeat the same step for your middle and pointer fingers, until there are four loops formed by your fingers. (You can also take your fingers out of the first two loops, and move them down two spaces at a time, so that you can make as many loops as you like.) Tie a knot on the pencil after the last loop, and pull it tight.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 on the other pencil.
6. Cut a string that's about four times the length of your forearm, this will form the strings on the loom.
7. Place the pencils about 6 inches apart with the loops facing in to each other.
8. Tie one end in the middle of the first loop on one of the pencils. Then thread the string through the loops, back and forth from pencil-to-pencil, keeping the pencils about 6 inches apart. Tie the end of the string to the last loop.
9. Cut one last piece of string that's about a foot long. Tie it to one of the pencils on each end, outside the loops and loom. Loop it around something firm, and you can now pull the bottom pencil back and forth until all the strings are of equal length.
10. To make a miniature *tejido* or *weaving*, thread the pieces of colored yarn up and down through the loom, and leave an inch or two out to each side. With each string, weave the opposite direction from the previous string. Be sure to pull each string tight, and push it downward on the loom before adding another.

