Have Weaving, Will Travel
The Schacht Zoom Loom: the pin loom with a difference
Our all-new Zoom Loom is ready to go with you anytime, anywhere. This honey of a little pin loom has been redesigned for comfort and ease of weaving. With the help of John Mullarkey, a weaver in St. Louis, we have added broad sides that are easy to hold. In addition, sloping interior edges effortlessly guide your weaving needle, a handy slot holds the beginning of your yarn without knotting, and molded-in instructions contribute to making the Zoom Loom an efficient and comfortable loom you’ll find a pleasure to use. If you’ve ever woven on a pin loom, you’ll love our new interpretation of an old favorite.

We are also pleased to announce that the Zoom Loom is made right here in our Boulder, Colorado factory. And yes, all those 93 pins are inserted by hand! Look for Zoom Loom projects beginning in April on our Schacht blog, Violet Rose. We’ve teamed up with Constance Hall of Dyeology who is designing projects both simple and complex. You’ll also find swatches featuring your favorite yarns, as well as ideas from our enthusiastic staff of weavers.

In this issue we’re sharing our beginner projects included in our instruction booklet. All three are great for new Zoom Loomers and designed by our in-house Zoom Loom expert Denise Renee Grace. You can see Denise in our Zoom Loom video on YouTube at youtube.com/user/schachtspindle.

We’ve started shipping the Zoom Loom, so ask for it at your favorite Schacht dealer. Retail price: $39.00.
Included:
1— 4 x 4 Zoom Loom
1— 6” weaving needle
1— 3” tapestry needle
Instruction booklet with 3 patterns

Join the Zoom Loom Club
Get inspiration and share your excitement with the Zoom Loom Club on Ravelry (ravelry.com). Here, you’ll find project ideas for using your Zoom Loom and other enthusiastic weavers.

Find out more at schachtspindle.com
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As the Whorl Spins
Which Whorl Should I Use?

Sometimes we receive emails from spinners who aren’t sure which whorl (some spinners call them pulleys) they should use for a particular type of yarn. We generally quote our friend and fellow Boulderite, Maggie Casey, and reply, “it depends”. That is, it depends on the kind of yarn you want to spin and how fast you treadle. Generally, though, you’ll want to use a smaller-diameter whorl for yarns with a lot of twist. In other words, the finer the yarn, the smaller the whorl. That said, we should explain ratios.

You’ll usually see ratios written like this: 7:1. This means the flyer or bobbin will turn around 7 times for each turn of the drive wheel. So, the bigger the ratio, the faster the flyer or bobbin turns.

If you feel that you are not getting enough twist then you can try treadling faster or switching to a smaller whorl. Likewise, if the yarn is getting away from you, or your yarn is kinking up, chances are you need to switch to a slower whorl.

Below are some rules of thumb to help you choose the right whorl for the job at hand.

Our Extra Slow Speed Whorl is slow, slow. We call it “the pancake”. Choose this for very thick, low-twist yarns and novelty spinning. You may need to tie a longer drive band when using the Extra Slow Speed Whorl.

We suggest our Slow Speed Whorl for beginning spinners because it slows the wheel down but is not as slow as the Extra Slow Whorl.

Our Medium Speed Whorl (included with Ladybug, Sidekick and Matchless wheels) is good for medium diameter wool fibers, flax, and some silks. It is an excellent choice for plying. We like to think of this whorl as a good basic all-purpose whorl.

The Fast Speed Whorl (included with Ladybug, Sidekick and Matchless wheels) can be used with fine, short staple wools, angora, line flax, silk and cotton.

Our High Speed and Super High Speed whorls are excellent for all finer fibers, especially when a fine, high-twist yarn is desired. A High Speed Bobbin should be used with these whorls if spinning in double drive mode on the Matchless, Ladybug or Sidekick. It is not needed for Scotch tension.

We do not recommend the Extra Slow Speed and Super High Speed Whorls for the Ladybug or Sidekick Spinning Wheels.

Find out more at schachtspindle.com
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Zoom Loom Projects

We have designed three projects for the Zoom Loom that are pre-tested, simple projects that ensure success. Get Zooming with these easy-weave projects.

Zigzag Scarf
Designed by Denise Renee Grace

**Difficulty:**
Beginner

Our first project, our Zigzag Scarf, is woven with sport weight wool—a very good choice for a first project because of its elasticity and weight.

**Finished size:** 7.5" x 65"

**Yarn:** Brown Sheep Nature Spun Sport Weight: Bougainvillea, Lemongrass, and Turquoise Wonder are used for the squares and Snow is used for stitching the squares together.

**Quantities:** One ball of each is more than enough. Just 8 yards are needed per square.

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**Number of squares required:** 30 squares, 10 of each color.

**Instructions:** Weave all of the squares and sew in the tails. Assemble the squares as follows using the contrasting white yarn.

Sew the squares together in pairs:
- 5 of Lemongrass and Bougainvillea
- 5 of Turquoise and Lemongrass
- 5 of Bougainvillea and Turquoise

After you’ve sewn the pairs, sew them together as shown in the diagram, offsetting the pairs by half a square. Sew all pairs together.

**Finishing:** Gently hand wash the scarf in warm water and a small amount of soap, agitating to lightly full. Rinse and lay flat to dry. Steam press as needed.

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Modular Placemat
Designed by Denise Renee Grace

**Difficulty:** Beginner plus

This project woven of cotton yarn familiarizes you with the difference between weaving a wool yarn with stretch (as used in the scarf) and a cotton yarn with no stretch. The key to success is to wind the layers very loosely—looser than you think wise. The looser winding technique compensates for the lack of stretch in the cotton yarn.

**Finished size:** 11.5" x 15"

**Yarn:** Classic Elite Seedling in Cool Olive, Deep Saffron, and Persian Rose.

**Quantities:** One ball of each color. There are sufficient quantities for weaving a set of placemats.
Number of squares required: 12 squares, 6 of Persian Rose, 3 of Deep Saffron, and 3 of Cool Olive.

Instructions: Wind your loom very loosely and weave as usual. Sew in the ends.

Assembly: Sew the squares together using our checkerboard pattern as shown, or create your own.

Finishing: Hand wash the assembled case in warm water and a bit of soap, agitating to felt. Rinse and lay flat to dry. Steam press if needed.

Final Assembly: Make an 18" cord. Thread a large-eye yarn needle with the twisted cord. Hold the button in place on the flap (figure 4) and sew down through one hole then up through the other hole. Tie the cord in an overhand knot and trim the ends, leaving the knot on top of the button. When you cut the twisted cord, knot the cut end to keep the twist in the cord. Repeat for the button on the body of the case. Tie the remaining cord underneath the button on the body of the case. To close the case, loop the cord around the buttons in a figure eight.

Number of squares required: 18

Weaving: Use the heavier yarn to wind the first three layers on the loom, then cut the yarn off and secure it to a corner pin with a slip knot. Weave the final layer using the lighter yarn. Weave in all yarn ends.

Assembly: Sew the squares in a 3 x 6 grid, arranging the colors randomly. Orient your fabric vertically (figure 1). Fold up the bottom third so that it overlaps the top third by about half a square to form the case (figure 2). Sew the sides together (figure 3).

Tablet/E-Reader Case
Designed by Denise Renee Grace

Difficulty: Advanced beginner

Two yarns are used for this project, a heavier weight worsted yarn (12 wraps per inch) is wound on the loom (making up 3 layers). A finer, worsted weight yarn is used for weaving it all together.

Finished Size: 8.25" x 10.75"

Yarn: Lamb’s Pride Worsted in Orange Creamsicle is used for winding the first three layers; Knit One Crochet Too Ty-dy Wool in color #3767 is used for weaving.

Quantities: 1 skein of each yarn is more than ample.

Notions: 2 decorative buttons, cording for fastener

Weaving: Use the heavier yarn to wind the first three layers on the loom, then cut the yarn off and secure it to a corner pin with a slip knot. Weave the final layer using the lighter yarn. Weave in all yarn ends.

Assembly: Sew the squares in a 3 x 6 grid, arranging the colors randomly. Orient your fabric vertically (figure 1). Fold up the bottom third so that it overlaps the top third by about half a square to form the case (figure 2). Sew the sides together (figure 3).

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