



*E-news - coming to you monthly!
Each issue includes a project,
helpful tips & Schacht news.*



Project

Southwest-Inspired Mug Rugs

by Nora Schacht

I used 3 textile techniques to create this set of mug rugs. It started with Spinzilla 2014; I got back into spinning when I participated with the Schacht team, spinning over 6,000 yards. After plying the yarn, I decided to try [Kool-Aid dyeing](#) to create vibrant colors. Finally, I warped my Cricket Loom to create these sturdy and handsome mug rugs.



Finished size: 5" wide by 5" long, including 3/4" fringe at either end.

Structure: Weft-emphasis plain weave.

Equipment: Schacht 10" Cricket Loom, 8-dent heddle, 2 shuttles. Optional: Rotary cutter, T-square, and self-healing mat for cutting fringe.

Warp Yarn: 2-ply Encore acrylic worsted weight yarn in purple.

Weft Yarn: 2-ply handspun wool yarn, between a sport and worsted weight, unsweetened Kool-Aid dye.

Warp length: 3 yards which allows for eight 4" coasters, with 8" in between coasters for fringe tying, and 20" loom waste. If using hemstitching instead of knots, secure the weft between coasters and allow for 2" between coasters.

Total warp ends: 48

Width in reed: 6"

Ends per inch: 8

Picks per inch: 11

Dyeing: Both skeins were about 4 ounces (or one Schacht bobbin full of 2-ply yarn). Orange is 3 packets of Orange Kool-Aid, and blue is 3 packets of Blue Raspberry Lemonade Kool-Aid.

Pour Kool-Aid into a pot with 10-12 cups of water and stir until dissolved. Wet skein and place in dyepot. Slowly bring up the heat until the water boils.

Immediately turn down the heat and allow the water to simmer until the dye bath is clear. Turn off the heat and allow the water to cool before removing the yarn. Gently wash in warm water with mild detergent. Rinse the skein and hang until dry.

Weaving: Leave at least 4" for fringe and then start weaving. Each mug rug is slightly different. I varied the blue stripes between 2 rows and 4 rows, and kept the orange stripes the same at 5 picks per stripe. After each coaster measured a little over 4", I advanced the warp 8" before starting the next coaster. (At least 4" is needed at the end of each coaster for the overhand knots.)

Finishing: Remove from the loom and cut the coasters apart. Tie overhand knots along the edges using 4 warp ends per knot. Soak the coasters in warm water in the sink, then rinse in cool water and lay flat to dry. When almost dry, steam press with a press cloth. Trim the fringe to 3/4".

Get connected: Visit schachtspindle.com for helpful hints, project ideas, product manuals and information. Follow our blog, like us on Facebook, pin us on Pinterest, visit Schacht groups on Ravelry, follow us on Twitter.

What We're Loving Now: Small Looms

It's spring break. Where's your loom? Quite possibly it's in your carry-on bag ready for a little in-flight over and under.

The Schacht Mini Loom

We're loving both the Schacht Mini Loom and the Zoom Loom for their petite-ness. The Mini Loom is just the thing for making little tapestries. Its 6.5" x 8.5" size is easy to hold in your lap to weave. The Mini Loom comes with everything you need to weave: 2 shuttles, 1 little beater, 1 weaving needle, and even yarn. We also like to pack a knitting needle which we interlace over and under across the top of the loom to simplify shed making.



Schacht Mini Loom Weaving Kit, Retail \$41

A few features of the Mini Loom may go unnoticed but really enhance its use. First, the pegs that hold the warp are set at 7 ends per inch, which is a closer sett than similar types of looms and makes a denser weave. The pegs themselves are hooked on the back side so that the warp yarn doesn't slip off during weaving, especially as your weaving approaches the top of the loom. Tie-on holes on the sides of the loom mean that you have a tail of warp yarn that you can weave into the web to secure it when you've finished weaving. Even the little hand beater is comfortable to use with teeth that are spaced just right for the warp sett.



Book Shelf

This book belongs in every spinner's library. It is especially useful to new spinning enthusiasts who have mastered spinning and now are ready to spin with a purpose. *The Spinner's Book of Fleece* will prove to be a valuable resource for finding the right fleece for the project at hand.



The Spinner's Book of Fleece
by Beth Smith

Beth Smith, an enthusiastic spinner and teacher, writes in an accessible style. She explores why you want to use raw fleece (and it is a convincing argument), how to buy a fleece, and then helps you understand what kind of yarn to spin for which purpose, whether it's knitting, crochet, or weaving.

The bulk of the book explores different types of wools: fine, longwools, downs and down-type breeds, multicoated breeds, and other breeds. You'll know just what to look for in each type of fleece, how to wash and prepare it, and techniques for spinning it.

You'll fall in love with the beautiful sheep and appreciate the excellent step-by-step and sample photography.

—Jane Patrick

The Spinner's Book of Fleece: A breed-by-breed guide to choosing and spinning the perfect fiber for every purpose, by Beth Smith. North Adams, Massachusetts: Storey Publishing \$29.95

What We're Loving Now: Small Looms, continued

The Mini Loom is not only great for trying out techniques, but also for making finished projects. Here are two recent ones: The first is our white-on-white Winter Escape Tapestry which explores free-form tapestry using shades of white yarn. You'll see a ghiordes knot fringe along the bottom edge, raised soumak outlines, and spaces with exposed warps. We used the loops at the top of the weaving to hold a knitting needle for hanging.



Winter Escape Tapestry

Our other example, our Spring Hope Tapestry, tries out textural techniques in spring green, blue, pink and orange. We used ghiordes knots for a long fringed bottom, then explored picked-up loops in white using two yarns together. We boarded this section with mega loops in blue wool roving. Little dots of



Spring Hope Tapestry

New Cricket Bag

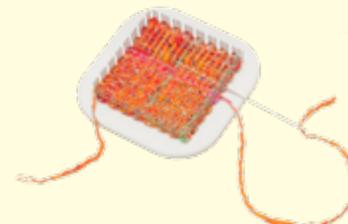
We have a new fabric design of our hand woven Guatemalan fabric. Our Rainbow bag is eye-catchingly cheerful, sturdy, and so well suited to taking your Cricket Loom along.



ghiordes knots cut close to the surface dot the top of the weaving. We turned the top down for a tidy hemmed finish.

The Zoom Loom

You can pop the Zoom Loom into your hand bag. We have taken this handy little loom



Schacht Zoom Loom, Retail \$39

on numerous plane trips with no problems with security at all. We've also found people are curious—you'll find that as you weave while you wait for your flight you'll also be striking up conversations with your fellow travelers.

What we love: Making squares on the Zoom Loom during the trip for a project that we'll assemble when we

return home. You'll be surprised how many squares you'll be able to complete in little snatches of time. Weaving one square takes 12-15 minutes—you'll find that your weaving speed increases with each square.



Savie's Blankie, featured on Schacht Spindle Blog; instructions on our website

You can find a lot of project ideas on our website at schachtspindle.com/zoomloom. Search [our blog](#) for "mini loom" for more projects.

We'd love for you to share your travel weaving adventures with us, as well as what you accomplished on vacation. Just share it with us on our [Facebook page](#) or pin it on [Pinterest](#).

RESOURCES: *Pin Loom Weaving* by Margaret Stump and *100 Pin Loom Squares* by Florencia Campos Correa are recently published books on pin loom weaving. Check out pinloom-weaving.com and malarkycrafts.com on the web.