

Rigid Heddle Stand

by Betsey in Michigan

Side pieces of stand are a modified 'square', leaving length at bottom for feet, and length at top to fit in loom. The length from front to back is determined by the size of the RH loom. Small sections of wood have been added to hold the side rails of the loom at a comfortable weaving height while sitting. There is a 'stop' on the front (near the blue tape) to keep the loom from coming off the stand front while beating in weft. No stop was required for the back. The front stops are custom made for each type of RH loom. Side stops and front stops are on this stand, with the side bars of the loom resting on the extra vertical pieces.

Keep placing the RH loom on the stand parts, to make sure that there is a tight fit, and that there is room for the heddle to go up and down without making contact with any part of the frame. The knobs/wing nuts for advancing the warp should not be obstructed. Notice that the front side piece is cut away for the knob here (above left corner of blue tape).

Note that at least two nails are in each join, set diagonally to eliminate 'torque'. The wood pieces were also glue before being nailed together. This makes a very sturdy base for each side.



A front piece was made, with slots that accommodate the side rails. The length of the front piece is determined by the width of the RH loom to be used, once it is inserted in the frame. Three of these pieces are cut at the same time, so they are all the same length with the slots in the same place.



The back section consists of two bars with slots that fit over the side rails. (These were cut at the same time as the front bar.) If left this way, the loom will sway from side to side. We added a thin piece of luan board, making sure that the bars would fit properly with the board in place and were square. Two boards could also have been used instead of the luan board, spaced out in a square pattern. The luan board seems to hide ‘extras’, like baskets of rags, etc. during demonstrations.



We painted most of the stands black, so they would not be the main feature while demonstrating weaving on the looms. The black stands ‘disappear’ – a practice used by museums and art galleries to draw attention to the artwork.

These stands lay flat in a vehicle for transportation and take up less space. They are easily assembled. Because each stand is custom made for each loom, every stand part is marked with colored tape, and the corresponding loom has the same color tape. With the tape on the inside, it is not visible to the public.