

Glossary of Inkle Weaving Related Terms

For those new to weaving – especially the inkle weaving world – the buzzwords can be a stumbling block. We at Kairos Inkle Looms appreciate that situation, and have made an effort here to reduce the possible confusion of these buzzwords. The following weaving terms have been written to apply to inkle band weaving.

To also help understand both the definition and its application to an inkle loom, you'll find at the end of the glossary a two-page picture of a Kairos inkle loom with 'call-outs' that match up with referencing numbers/letters included with some of the definitions.

Balanced Weave – A weave structure in which both warp and weft show equally

Beat – The firm pushing of the weft thread into position in the warp to allow the shuttle to pass through.

Draft – A chart – a pattern – that denotes the order – from left to right – in which the warp threads are to be placed on the loom.

Down Shed – The shed opening created by pushing the open (unanchored) threads downward

End – A single warp thread

EPI – Ends per inch: the number of warp threads per inch

Fell or fell line – The exact point where warp turns into woven fabric, the edge of the last row woven and the place that you will pass your next weft

Float – A warp or weft thread that doesn't interlace in every – other order and rises above the background, usually an intentional decorative effect, but can also be a mistake

Heading – A short piece woven before and after the main weaving, often of waste yarn

Heddle – (Also may be called leash). Inkle looms typically use string loops as heddles. These serve to separate the warp threads into two layers by anchoring one alternating set, allowing you to move only the 'unheddled' (unanchored) set to create a shed opening to pass your weft through.

Heddled threads – (H) Those warps (threads) which pass through the heddles (alternates with unheddled threads)

Inkle – A linen band or drawstring (an old English word)

Loom waste – You will not be able to weave the entire length of your warp. This is the amount of warp left unwoven at the end of your band. It can be used for making into fringes, or cut off and discarded or saved for other uses.

Pattern (chart) – the graph on which the structure of design is diagrammed

Pegs # 1 – 10 – They are the dowel rods which protrude from the frame and are what the warp threads are wound around

- #1 – Starting Warp Peg The one in the front of the loom where you begin warping
- #2 – Top/Front Warping Peg
- H – Heddle Peg – The one bar to which the string heddles are affixed
- #3 – Back bar – The one where all warps meet and continue into the same path after either alternately going through a heddle and over the top bar, or going unheddled and under the heddle bar
- #4 – Tensioning Peg That part of the loom which slides to allow you to adjust the warp tension. It is the peg which moves back and forth in the slot in the base
- #5 – 9 – Warping Pegs – Any or all of these will be used to hold the warping threads and allow you to have a shorter or longer warp

Pick (Row, shot) – A single row of weaving created by one pass of the weft through the shed

Ply – Two or more strands of threads twisted together

Pickup – A patterning technique which requires picking or dropping individual threads (or possibly a few threads together) out of their normal sequence. The pattern formed by this action will be more complex than plain weave. The resulting band will have some threads which appear raised.

Plain weave – The result of the natural process of weaving in which the threads are alternately lifted and lowered. Designs are created according to the order of the warp threads on the loom. Woven surface of the band will be flat.

Selvages – Right and left edges of the band

Shed – The opening between the two layers of warp threads where you pass the weft through.

Shed Opener – A Kairos-invented levering action device that is used to open either the UP shed or DOWN shed opening without reaching in with hand and fingers to perform this action.

Shuttle – (Also sometimes called a stick shuttle or belt shuttle.) Tool used to hold the weft thread and pass it from one side to the other during weaving. Usually made of a flat piece of wood with notches in both ends. Can also be used to beat.

Take up – The percentage of the overall warp length which, which shortens during the weaving process as the warp is woven over and under each weft. Because of take up, the length of the warp after weaving is shorter than before weaving. The heavier the threads used, the greater the take up

Tension – the degree to which the warp is tightened and stretched during weaving

Sliding Tensioner – That part of the loom which moves to allow you to adjust the warp tension. It is the peg which slides back and forth in the slot in the base and is the paddle (flap) which pivots on a metal bolt

Unheddled (Open) threads – (U) Those warps (threads) which *do not* pass through heddles (alternates with heddled threads), which allows them to be moved up and down to create the shed opening

Up Shed – The shed opening created by lifting the open or unheddled threads upward.

Warp-faced – A woven fabric or band in which only the warp (not the weft) shows as part of the design. Inkle looms are made to create warp – faced bands

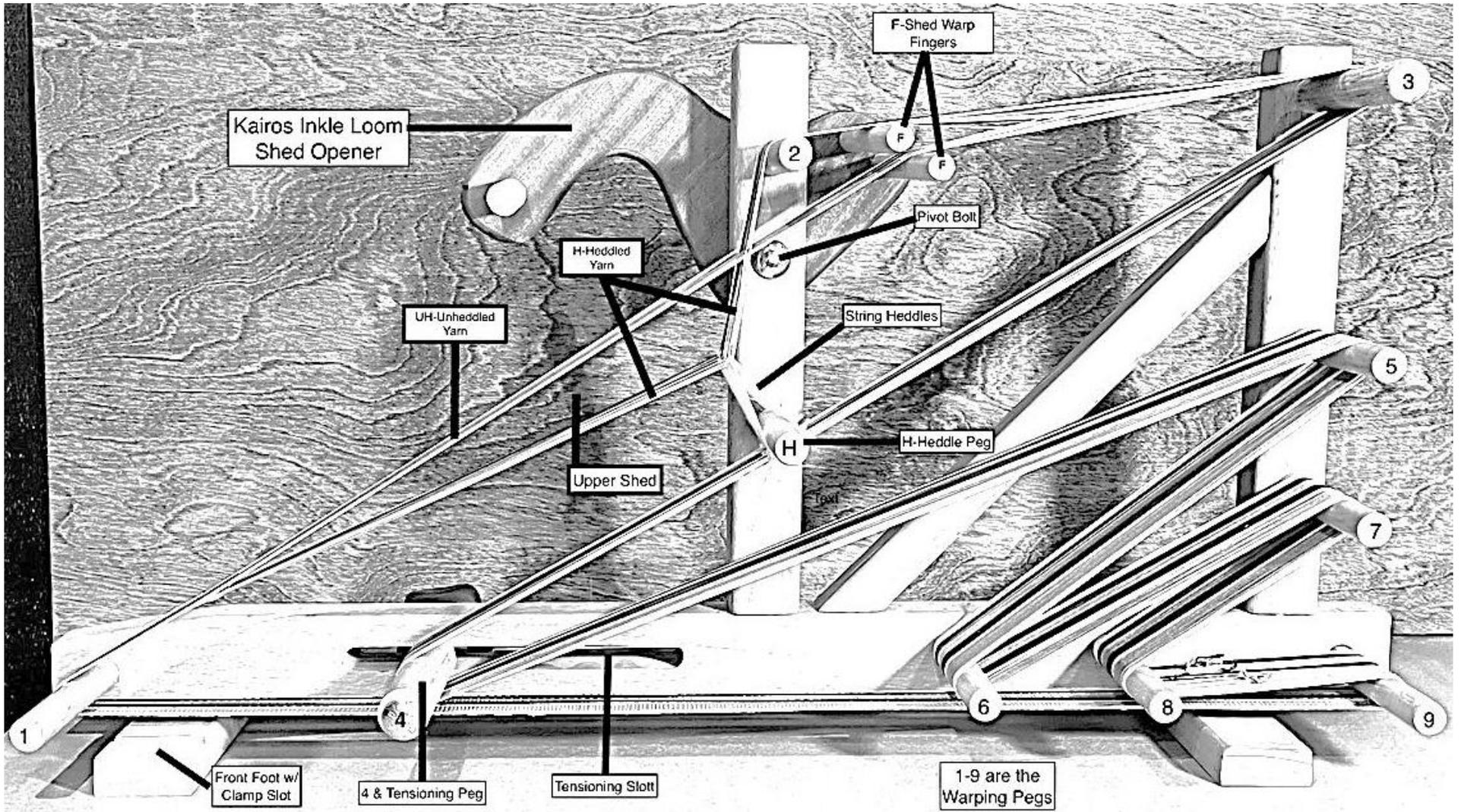
Warp – The threads you put on your loom when setting it up to weave. They run in a continuous loop around the loom. The word ‘warp’ typically refers to the entire of threads, while a warp thread is one thread within the warp itself.

Warping (up) – To attach a set of weaving yarns to the loom. In the case of the inkle loom, this set of yarns are run around a set of pegs in the loom.

Weft – The thread (normally wound around a shuttle) which you pass back and forth during weaving

NOTE: If you believe other words should be included in this Glossary, we invite you to email the word(s) to Richard@KairosInkleLooms.com.

Right side of loom:



Left side of loom:

