Circular Weaving
Setting Up Your Warp Threads

What you’ll need...

- Small or medium embroidery hoop, inner and outer rings
- Twine
- Scissors

1. Set the outer ring of the embroidery hoop aside. Use a slip knot to secure your twine to the inner ring of the embroidery hoop. Leave an inch or two of twine free and don’t cut the excess, you will need it to secure your last warp thread later.

2. Bring the twine under the hoop, up through the middle, and over the hoop on the opposite side from your starting point. Bring the twine around and under the hoop, keeping it tight enough that it doesn’t slide around on the hoop.

3. Bring your twine under your first warp thread, up through the middle again, and over the hoop to the right of your starting point. Leave about ½ inch of space on the small hoop, or ¾ inch on the medium size hoop.
Once again, bring your twine under the existing warp threads then over the hoop on the opposite side. Continue this pattern, keeping your spacing as consistent as you can. (Don’t worry if they’re not perfectly spaced though, you can adjust your warp threads a bit later.)

When you reach the last open spot, wrap your twine over the hoop as you have been doing. Bring it under your warp threads. Then, instead of bringing it up over the opposite side of the hoop, bring it up through an opening between pairs of warp threads.
6 Wrap your twine over and around the mess of crisscrossed threads in the middle, bringing it back down between a pair of threads on the other side. As you pull the twine taut, the warp threads will start to neaten up. Choose a different gap between threads and wrap your twine around the middle a second time.

Notice that where you started there is only one warp thread instead of two. Bring your twine over to your starting point to make a complete pair of warp threads and tie it off using the end of the twine from your slip knot.

8 Adjust your warp threads if needed so they are evenly spaced. Then secure them in place with the outer ring of the embroidery hoop. You’re now ready to start weaving!
What you’ll need...

- Warped Loom (see instructions “Setting Up Your Warp Threads”)
- Yarn
- Wool Roving
- Plastic Needle and/or Small Paperclip
- Scissors

Getting Started

- Start your circular weaving in the center. The warp threads in the middle are very tight, so start with yarn rather than the thicker wool roving.
- Plastic needles work well for guiding your yarn, but may be too long to maneuver at the tightest spots in the center; I tied my yarn to a small paperclip to begin.
- Use a slipknot to secure your yarn to a warp thread on the back side of your loom as close to the center as you can.
- Because the warp threads are so tight in the middle, start with a simple weaving technique, such as the plain weave.
Plain Weave

- A plain weave is a simple pattern of weaving your yarn or wool roving over one pair of warp threads, then under the next. Continue on going over, then under, then over, etc.

- You can create some variation by changing how many warp threads you go over or under at once. In the sample, the green yarn is woven over two pairs of warp threads at a time, then under one, over two, under one, and so on.

- You can also weave using the individual warp threads instead of treating them as a pair. In the middle of my weaving, I wove under the bottom warp thread of a pair, then over the top warp thread of the same pair, under the bottom thread in the next pair, over the top.

- For a looser look, you can also just weave over and under the top warp threads in each pair. In the picture, the wool roving is woven under the top warp threads only.

Changing Yarn

- You can add a new piece of yarn by simply securing it to a warp thread on the back of your weaving wherever you want it to start, just like you did with your first piece.

- For a continuous look, you can tie a new piece of yarn to the old and just continue your pattern. If you do this, make sure the knot ends up hidden on the back side of the weaving.

- When you are sure you’re done with a piece of yarn, secure it to a bottom warp thread with a slip knot and cut off or tuck in any excess yarn.
Changing Direction

- If you want your yarn or wool roving in only one part of the weaving instead of going all the way around, you can easily change directions.
- When you get to the place where you’d like to change directions, simply wrap the yarn around that warp thread and continue weaving in the other direction.

Rya Knots

- Rya knots can be used to create a fringe. Make sure you know which part of your weaving is the top so that the fringe will fall the correct way.
- Each rya knot will need 2-4 equal length strands of yarn, depending on the weight of the yarn.
- Select two pairs of warp threads. Place your strands of yarn together over the pair of warp threads. Bring the ends of your strands under the warp threads and back up through the space between the warp pairs.
- Tug the ends and adjust the knot until it looks how you want it.
- If necessary, use a scissors to trim the ends to your desired length.
- NOTE: Rya knots can look a bit loose on a circular weaving. Putting a few rows of plain weave next to them helps to keep them secure.
Wool Roving

- Gently tug apart a section of wool roving of whatever width you’d like. As you tug the wool roving, you can see where it will want to separate.
- You won’t use a needle for the wool roving, just your hands.
- Leave the tail unsecured on the back of your weaving. You’ll tuck it in once the wool roving is where you want it.
- Weave the wool roving using whichever technique you prefer. Since the warp threads in our small weavings are pretty close together, it’s easiest to use a plain weave.

Wrapping the Hoop

- When you’re done weaving, remove the outer ring of the embroidery hoop.
- Choose a piece of yarn to wrap around your hoop. You may choose more than one piece, if you like.
- Use a slipknot to secure your yarn to the hoop. Leave a bit of a tail and adjust your yarn so the knot is near the inside back of the hoop where it won’t be visible.
- Using your plastic needle, start wrapping yarn around the hoop. If you run out of yarn or want to change colors, just tie the new piece of yarn to the end of the old piece and adjust the knot so it won’t be visible.
- When you get back to your starting point, secure your yarn by tying it to the tail you left when you started wrapping.