

THE WELL-STOCKED WORKSHOP BASKET

by Weavers of Orlando Guild

A big three-day workshop is coming up and you've warped your loom and are ready to go. Often, in the instructions sent by an instructor, there will be a list of everything you should bring to the workshop. But, sometimes there may be a note: "bring the usual workshop stuff". I thought it might be helpful to outline what "the usual workshop stuff" is, in particular for the unseasoned workshop attendee.

THE "BASKET"

The "basket" can be a market-style basket with swing handles, or it might be a canvas bag, a box with handle (such as a tomato box), a plastic utility carrier, etc. The key is to select a carrier that is durable since you will be using it over and over for years. Keep it stocked and ready to grab as you go. All you will have to add for each workshop will be items unique to that particular session.

THE BASICS

- pen, pencil, paper, graph paper
- scissors
- measuring tape
- t-pins or large head pins
- shuttles, with bobbins already wound
- extra warp
- extra weft
- material to use as spacer, such as leftover chunky yarn, thrums, strips of card-board
- weights for problem warps
- something to label your sample, such as masking tape, computer labels, hang tags
- reed hook and heddle hook
- tapestry needles
- a few tying cords, such as shoe laces
- post-its or index cards for notes to put on your loom
- colored pencils or markers
- Fray-check or fabric glue such as Sobo

ALSO CONSIDER

- Bobbin winder
- c-clamps
- screw-driver and pliers or wrench (especially if your loom tends to be older and/or have problems.)
- Extra shuttles (I keep a couple of 6" flat shuttles)
- WD-40
- a couple of dowels about 12"
- Always keep items like scissors, extra wound bobbins available at loom, so in round robin workshops, others do not have to scrounge when they get to your loom.
- If you have questions about another persons loom - ask them!! Treat everyone's loom & equipment as if it were yours.
- Be sure to leave the loom you are working on ready for the next person. Be sure the bobbin is full enough for the next sample, your sample has enough separation between the last and next for a good cutting line.