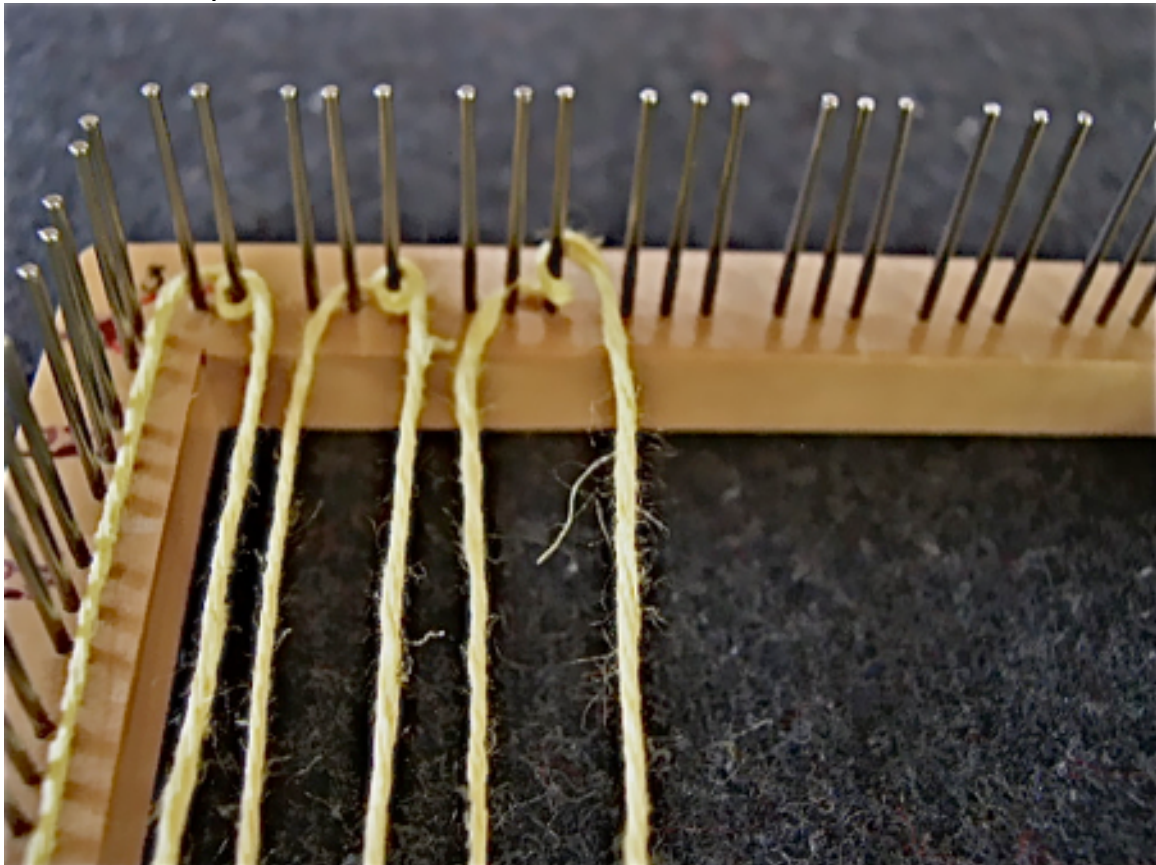


Leno Weave on the Frame Loom

This technique for adding length to the frame loom warp may keep you from bending or pulling the pins out of your loom, or breaking your needle, and it will allow you to use some weaving techniques that would otherwise be impossible. I invented this “fix” while weaving leno lace with linen on a 4”x6” loom. Heck, I can’t even do 4’x6” *plain weave* in linen without this remedy. That’s to be expected. Linen has NO elasticity. And plain weave takes up more yarn than a patterned weave. You can always weave the weft looser, but what about the warp which is already on the loom and getting tighter with every woven row? Add some length to that warp!

I suggest you practice this on a plain weave piece before attempting the leno weave and you can use the plain piece for the back of your soap bag.

Here’s what I did. Begin as usual, but every time you wrap the warp around pins **at the top of the frame, make an extra loop around one pin** before continuing to the bottom of the frame. At the same time, keep the warp wraps (layers one and three) relaxed and loose. Layer two, the first weft wrap should be normal tension.



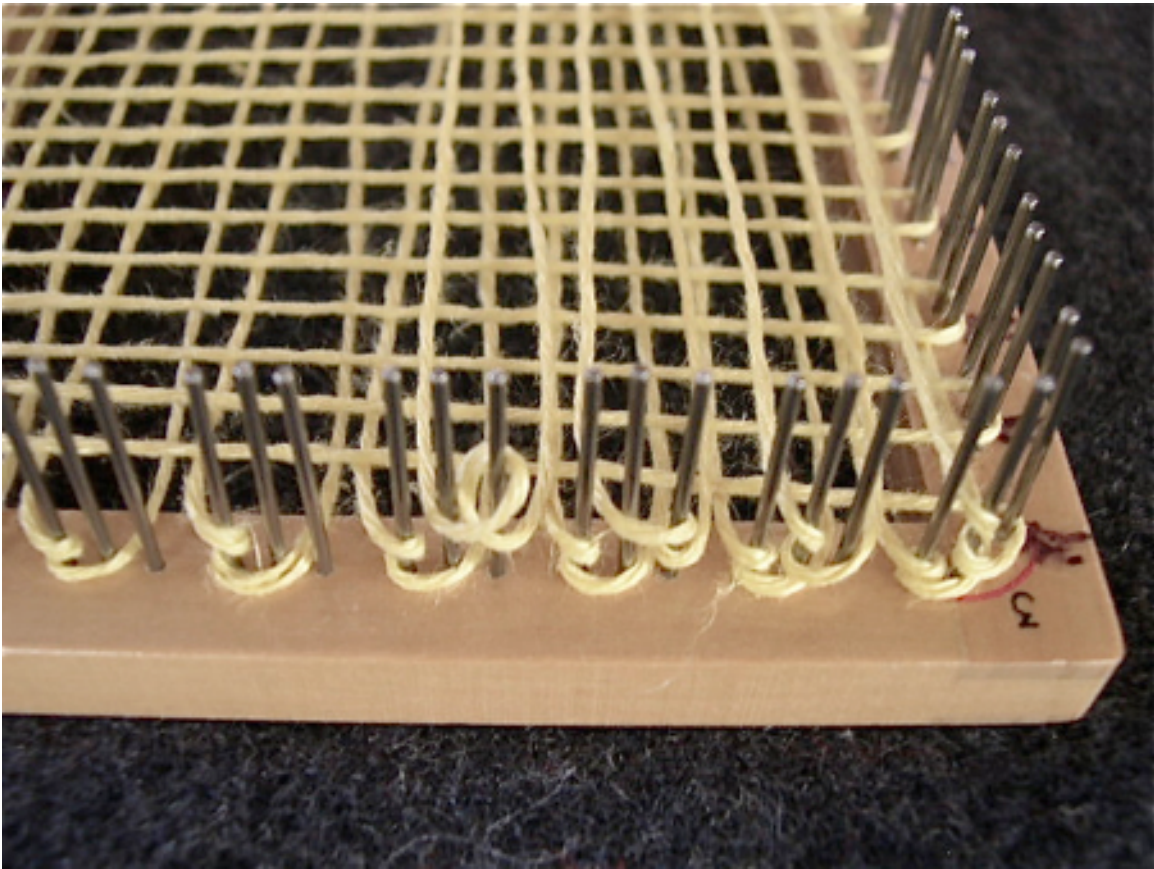
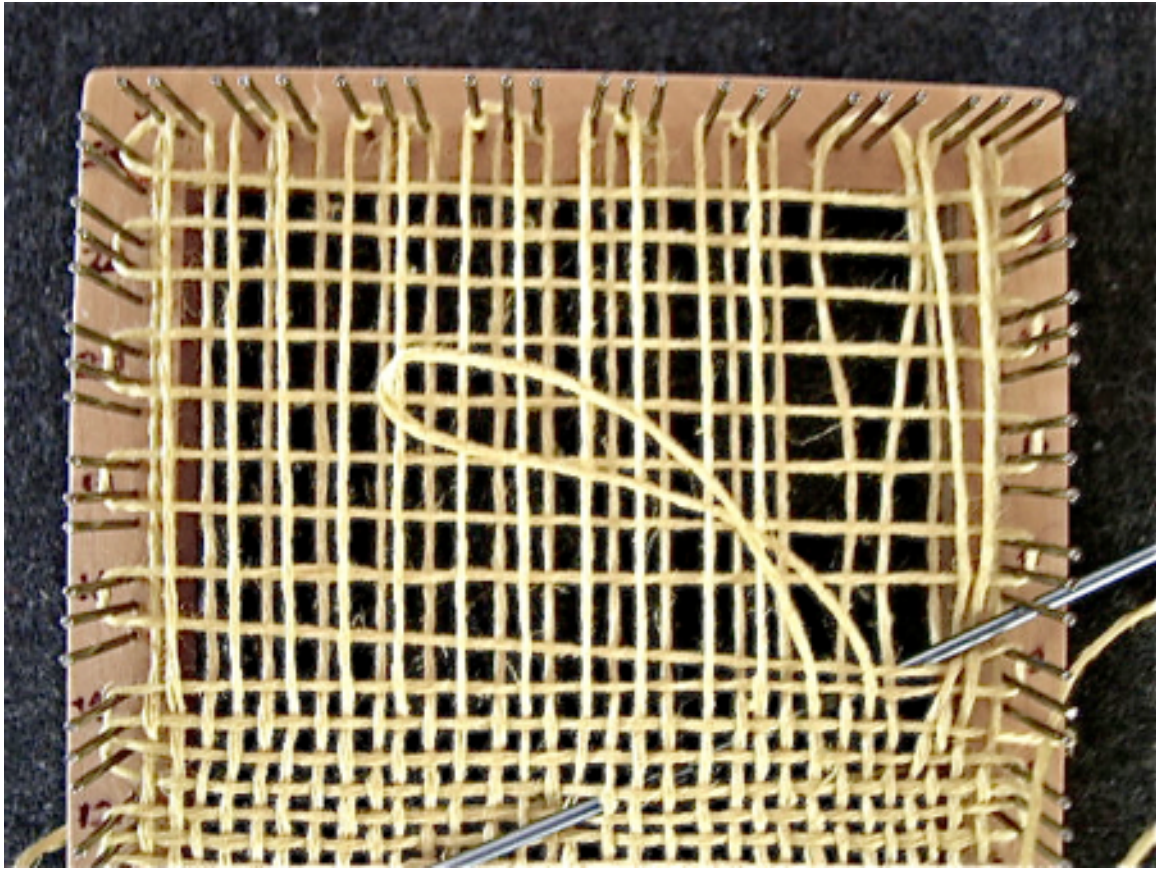


Photo above shows the third layer of yarn, illustrating how the loops appear at the top of the loom.

Measure yarn for weaving length and weave as usual to about half the length of the loom. By now the yarn is starting to get tight, and it's time to unleash those extra loops at the top.

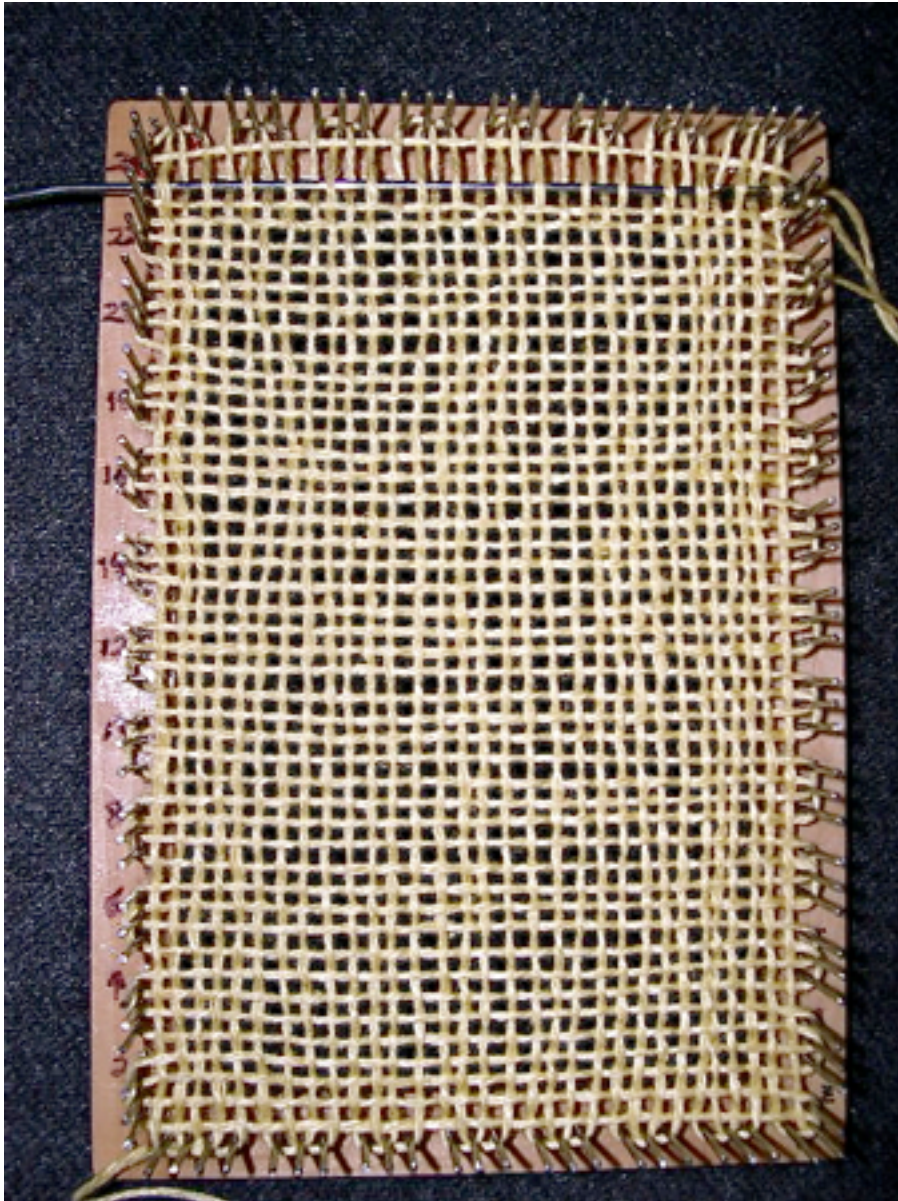
Anchor your weaving needle at the bottom. Keep an extra needle or double pointed knitting needle handy in case you need a third hand. Beginning at the upper right corner, lift off the last two top loops.

Rehang the bottom loop on its pins, then the upper one. This is exactly what you do when you accidentally lose some loops while weaving. Only on purpose this time.



Work across loom in this manner, anchoring the loose loops with your needle if you worry about them popping off. Don't forget that the very last loop, which goes around the corner, needs a loop before being repositioned. Look at it carefully before you remove it.

After another woven row or two, the newly loose loops will fall right into place and you'll have enough warp length left to make the finish without pulling out the loom pins—or your hair.

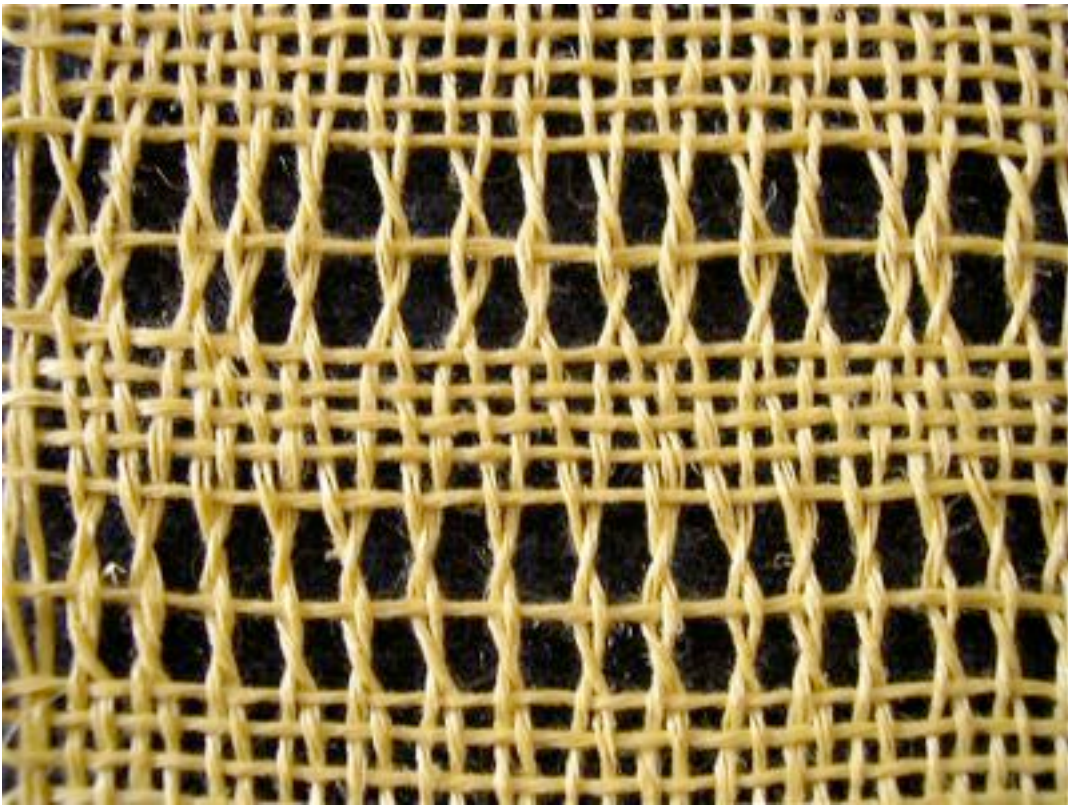




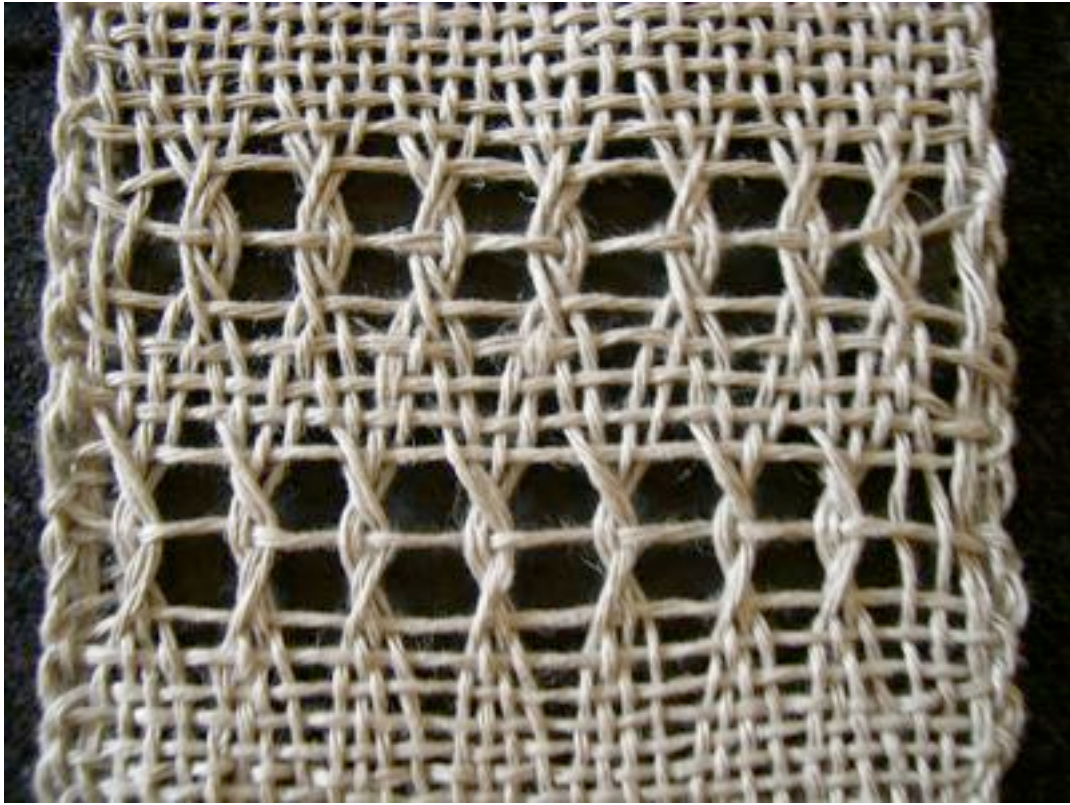
These soap bags, made with Euroflax sportweight linen on the 4"x6" Weavette™ loom, are fun and easy to make. They are a great vehicle for experimenting with patterned weaves. Two rectangles are simply joined by a running stitch on three sides. Leave enough yarn at the beginning of one rectangle to sew the seam. I use a battery-powered hair braider to twist the cords. Overtwist two individual strands and then ply the opposite direction. It can be done by hand but the hair-braider does it in a fraction of the time.



If you haven't already experimented with adding length to warp, do that before attempting leno lace on small looms. It shows up best in a stiff yarn like linen or hemp and the twist looks nicer if the warp is somewhat relaxed. At the same time you're adding length to the warp (vertical threads), skip a row of weft while wrapping the second layer (horizontal thread). I did this twice, skipping only one row at a time. You should wrap FIVE pins. I skipped rows 14 and 19. The blue arrow in the photo shows where I made a mistake and only wrapped four, but that was corrected when I started weaving. Skip an even number of rows total, which will allow your weft to end up in the correct place at the end. You could experiment with leaving only one strand between rows of leno. That works, too. Just a different look.



Weave plain weave up to the skipped weft section. Then use another needle or small knitting needle as a tool to pick up and twist two (or more) adjacent warp threads. From the right, use the tool to pick up a bottom warp thread; go over the next top warp thread; rotate the back end of the tool 180 degrees to the left. What you see above is after rotating the tool. Slide the weaving needle into the space where the tool is; remove the tool and proceed across the loom. You may weave the first and last thread or two in a regular fashion, or not—whatever works for you.



This example is double leno.

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