Tie One On!

Actually: Tie more than one on! The two scarves on page 15 are woven on the same threading but on different warps. The second warp was "tied on" to the first, thread by thread.

This might seem like a time-consuming process, but it takes less time than threading from scratch. Moreover, you don't have to worry about whether or not the threading is correct—you've tested that with the previous warp.

There are several reasons to tie on. One is that you ran out of warp before you ran out of ideas. Another is: You want to weave the same thing but in different colors. Especially with a narrow warp as for these scarves, tying on for many different-colored pieces is fun and rewarding.

Here are easy steps for tying a new warp to an old one.

Wind the new warp

Wind the new warp with the same number of ends as the old one. It's a good idea to check these numbers carefully. If you are missing ends or have extra ones after you've tied on, you'll know something is wrong somewhere, and you can correct it. Tie a choke tie about 20" from the cross end of the warp (Photo a).

Take the new warp to the loom

Cut the loops of warp at both end pegs and take the warp to the loom. Place lease sticks in the cross and secure them to the loom so that you have easy access to the ends of both warps (Photo b).

Tie the ends together

Starting at the right if you are right handed or the left if you are left handed, take the first end from each warp and bring the two ends together (Photo c). I usually pick up the old end in my left hand and bring the new end to it with my right hand. Then tie the two ends together in an overhand knot (Photo d). Determine a length of knot tails that you intend to keep relatively consistent, mine are usually about 1" long. Continue, tying each knot so tails are about the same length (but not worrying compulsively). Listen to music or a book on tape and enjoy the process; no thought is necessary.

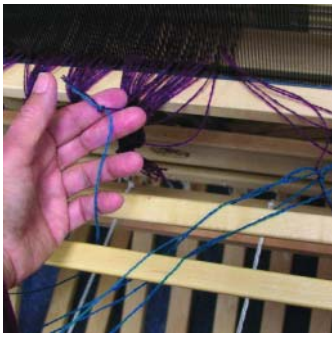
Take knots through reed and heddles

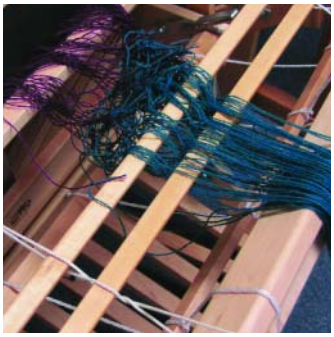
When all the knots are tied (Photo e), remove the lease sticks. Pick up the warp chain at the choke tie and pull firmly; all the knots will straighten up like good soldiers. Remove the choke tie and turn the beam so that the knots are about 1" from the reed. Then pick the warp threads up in groups (about 1" worth) and move them up and down to jiggle the knots through the reed. Do this in the middle of the reed where the teeth are most flexible (Photo f). When the knots are all through the reed (Photo g), turn the


a. Tie a choke tie


b. Place lease sticks in the cross

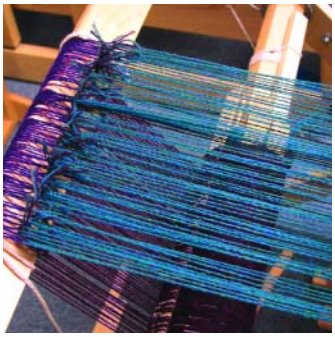

c. Bring ends together


d. Tie an overhand knot


e. Repeat with all warp threads


f. Shake the knots through the reed


g. Move the knots to the heddles


h. Beam the warp

For complete weaving instructions for these soft, fulled scarves, visit handwovenmagazine.com.

beam so that the knots move to about 1" in front of the heddles. Then jiggle them through the heddles the same way as through the reed.

Beam the warp

When the knots are all through the heddles, continue winding (Photo h). The old warp will wind around the warp beam until the knots arrive and the new warp begins winding on. Pack the layers as the warp winds around the beam just as you always do. If you use heavy, smooth paper or sticks, the knots should not cause any irregularities. When the ends of the new warp reach the reed, tie on the warp as usual to the front apron rod, and you're ready to go!

Some tips

An overhand knot is probably the easiest and most secure knot to use for tying on. It is also bulky. Be sure that the dents of your reed can accommodate the knot before you start tying. A 15-dent reed, for example, will not accept knots made by tying together two ends of Harrisville Shetland.

A weaver's knot is just as secure but less bulky. This knot is well worth learning to use, but it is much easier to learn if someone shows it to you than by trying to follow a diagram.

If you finishing tying the knots and you have an end from the new warp left over, go back and look carefully for any ends of the old warp that you might not have tied. You don't want to to add a thread after the warp is beamed and look at it dangling off the back beam for the length of the new warp!