

# Weave a Square

Colonists made cloth from wool sheared from their sheep or from the linen fibers of flax plants.

Sometimes neighbors would weave for each other taking, in return, extra corn and apples as payment. As towns grew, weavers set up shops. People took their wool to them to be woven into cloth.

Traveling weavers stayed with a family while they did the weaving. Colonial looms were big and made from wood. Here's how to make a little one from cardboard. You can make a potholder or hot pad on it.

## Materials

1 12 by 12-inch piece of cardboard  
(use the thick kind, from grocery boxes)

Pencil

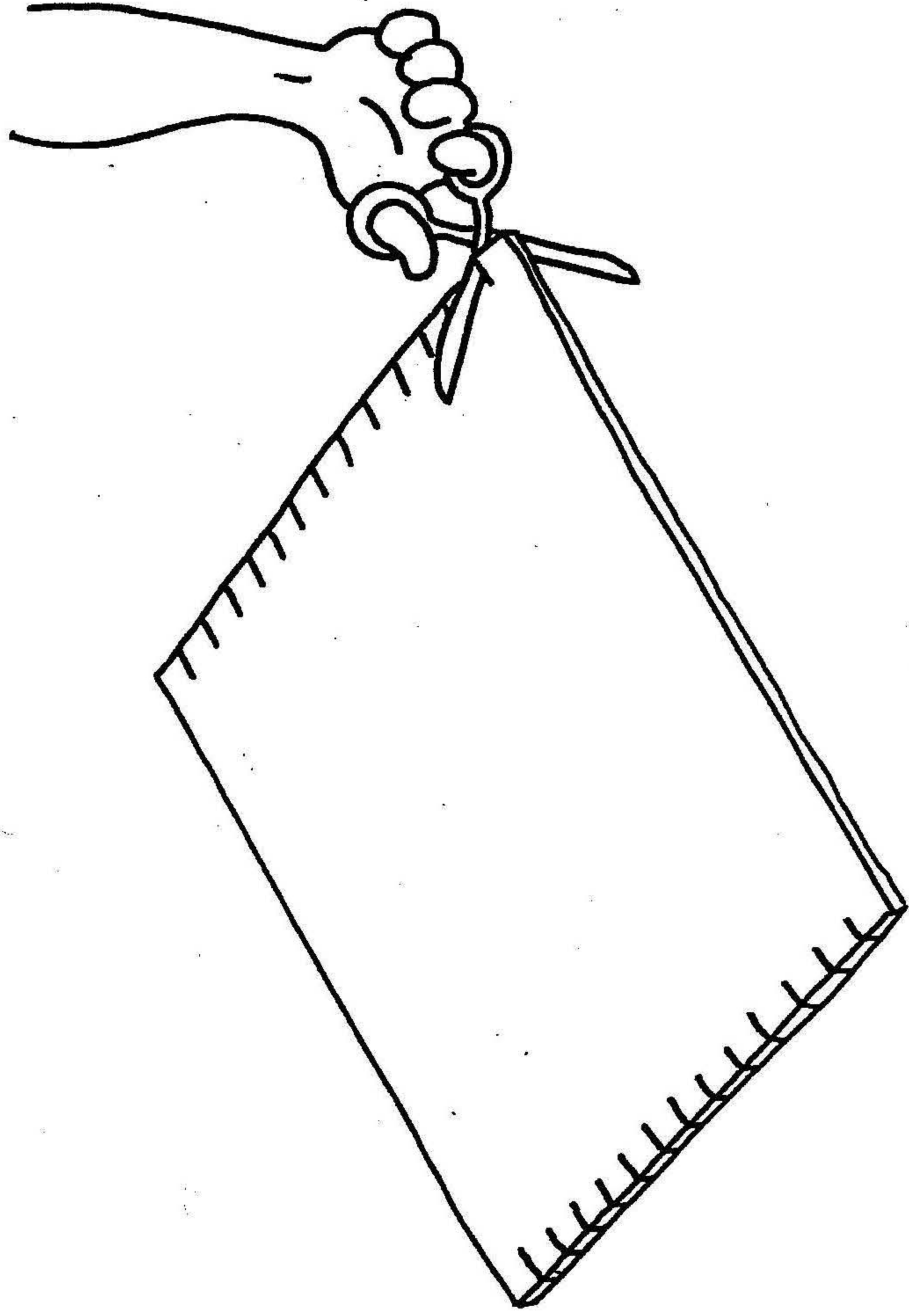
Ruler

Scissors

10 yards of yarn (rolled in a ball, it's easier to work with)

Measure and mark slits along two opposite edges of the cardboard. Make the slits about 1/2-inch deep and 1/2-inch apart. Use the ruler to keep them even. Count the slits on each side and make certain you end up with an uneven number of slits. (This uneven number will make an even number of tabs.) Cut the slits with scissors.

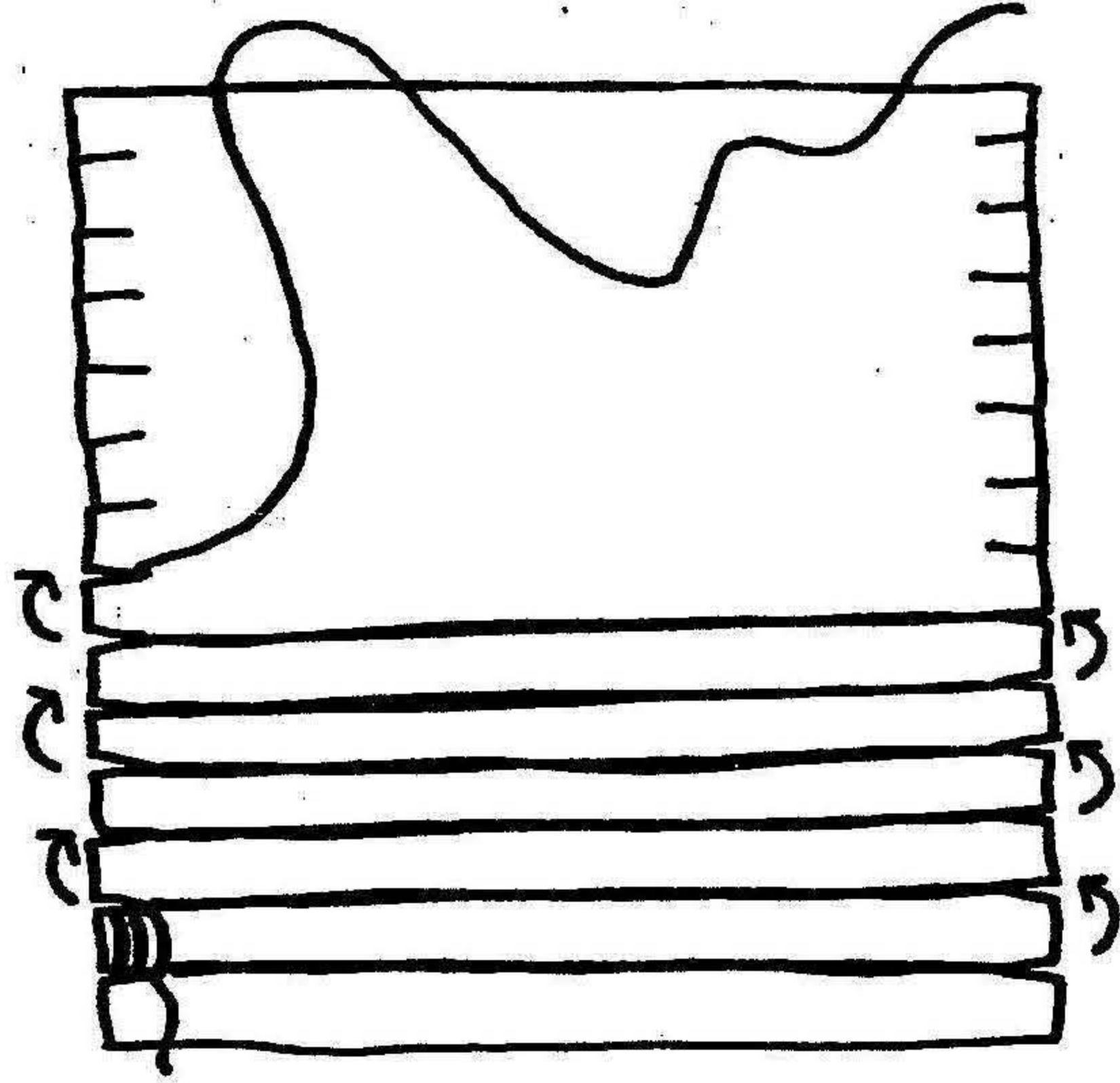
Thread the *warp* by pushing the end of the yarn firmly into the



first top left slit. (Weavers use the term warp to refer to the yarn that runs up and down on a loom.)

Bring the yarn around the tab and wind it 3 times. Pull a length of yarn to the bottom slit, going around the tab next to it and coming up at the slit. Keep doing the same thing, until the yarn has stretched back and forth behind the slits. Wind the last tab three times. Cut the yarn from the ball of yarn.

Now make the weft. (Weft is what weavers call the crosswise threads that are woven between the warp threads.) Cut several pieces of yarn 16-inches long. Start

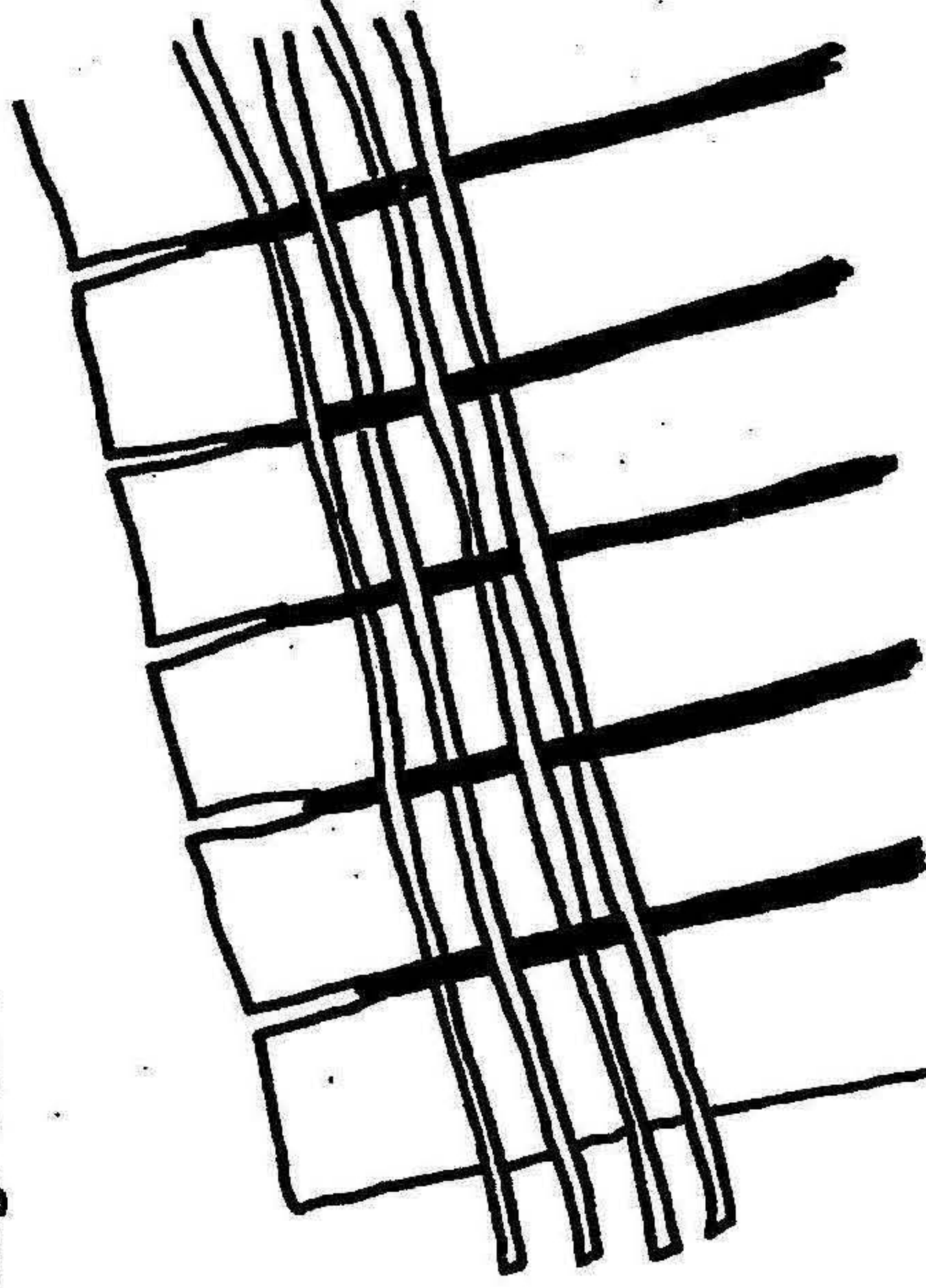


*Wrap the warp yarn back and forth around the slits.*

at the top of the loom and weave the yarn over the first warp, under the second, over the third, and then under. Keep making the over-under pattern.

When you get to the other end of the loom, pull the yarn so there is an even amount sticking out on both sides of the square. Start the next weft piece going under, then over. Keep adding more weft pieces, weaving them opposite to the last in the over-under pattern.

Keep going until the whole loom is covered. Then carefully tie each pair of yarn ends at the sides in knots. Bend the loom, so the weaving can be popped off the tabs. Pull the loom off the weaving.



*Weave the weft yarns in and out to make a pattern.*