

## Rag Rug Tote Workshop

You will be weaving on your own loom for this workshop. It should be warped when you arrive and the weft prepared and ready for weaving. I will be bringing my loom and weft for anyone who doesn't have a workshop loom. We will have sewing machines available too so you can complete your bag during the workshop.

Below are recommendations for warp, weft, and handles. You can also add a button for a closure if desired. If you have any questions before the workshop, please contact me at [hiltont@ameritech.net](mailto:hiltont@ameritech.net).

### **Loom**

We'll use plain weave for the workshop so only a 2 shaft or rigid heddle loom is required. See the note at the end on size to determine if your loom is wide enough.

### **Warp**

I use rug warp at 12 epi. Alternatives are 8/2 (doubled), 5/2, or 3/2 cotton. If you use 3/2 cotton, you probably want to open the sett up to maybe 10 epi. A 2 yard warp will be long enough to weave a couple of small bags. If you're going to use strips in the warp, remember that they will be horizontal stripes on the bag.

### **Weft**

Rag strips should be 1" to 2" wide. I prefer smaller strips for totes (1") and they would be better for the lighter beat of smaller workshop looms. If you like a thicker weft, you can always use two 1" strips. It will beat in better than one 2" strip. A couple of yards of fabric will give you enough 1" strips (at 4 ppi) to make a couple of bags on a 20" loom. You can use multiple strands of yarn instead of fabric.

Weft before and after the rag weft is thinner. I use the same yarn as warp, but doubled.

### **Handles**

Options for the handles include braided handles and D rings.

For the braided handles, make sure you have weft sections long enough to be used in 2 picks plus the braided part of the handle. You'll need 3 of these lengths for a 3 strand braid. If you want a thicker handle than the regular weft will provide, it's okay to use a thicker weft.

D rings can be woven into the tote and handles can be attached afterwards.

### **Tote Bag Size**

The height of the finished tote will be half the width of your warp. If you want a flat bottom to your bag, then the height will be less. I highly recommend you make paper samples in advance of the workshop so you'll know the best dimensions, including the handle length and where the handle will be placed on the bag.