

speedweave 101: what, why, how

Sam Blickhan, visible mending enthusiast and hater of throwing clothes away
@snblickhan on Bluesky



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what is it



Science Museum
Group. "Speedweve"
Darner. Y1989.101
Science Museum
Group Collection
Online.

Accessed 18
September 2024.
<https://collection.science-museumgroup.org.uk/objects/co8407098/speedweve-darner>.

darning loom: general info

parts of a mending loom:

- disc (wood)
- hooks (metal)
- bands (rubber)



most common number of hooks is 10 or 14

hooks can be rotating or fixed

number of hooks will impact:

- what size hole you can mend
- what gauge of yarn you can use

recommended yarn: whatever is closest to the garment you're mending! sock yarn for socks, etc.

- realistic option: whatever you have on hand!

loom variations



smallloom.com (14 hook)



Alexonver via Etsy (28 hook)



Speedweave via Etsy (10 hook, fixed)

why do it

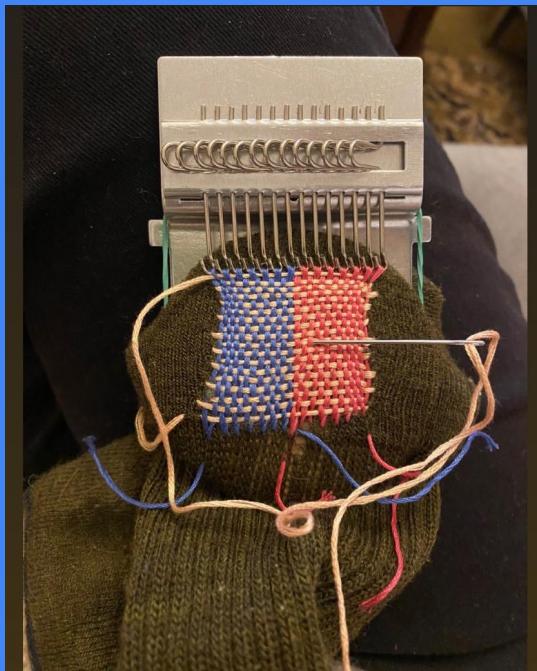
it's fun!



it's comfortable!



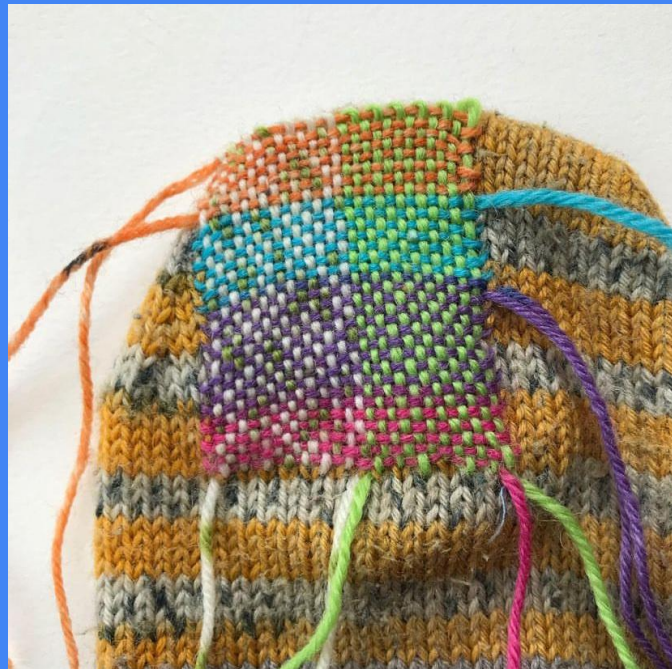
it's forgiving!



my first attempt
ca. 2023



@roberta.cummings
on Instagram
September 30, 2020



“what if the patch doesn’t hold, or another hole forms near the patch?”



@worthmending on Instagram:

Linking patches one beside the other is my current #VisibleMending obsession. Possibly because you get to break the One Big Rule of mending: “only stitch in where the fabric is strong.” Just stitch your next patch not into the garment, but into the previous patch! It works best on threadbare spots, but you can still do it over holes too.

how does it work



what you'll need:

- a darning loom
- rubber bands
- yarn (or embroidery floss, shown here) in at least 2 colors
- darning needle (or yarn needle)
- a hole that needs mending

step by step:

1. place the disc under the fabric to be mended
2. align the hook piece with the disc on top of the fabric (set into the groove of the disc)
3. use rubber bands to hold the hooks and fabric in place around the disc (set into the groove)
4. stretch fabric if needed so it lays flat
5. (optional) draw patch boundaries with tailor's chalk or other washable mark
6. thread needle and attach warp yarn at bottom patch edge with a small stitch, leaving a tail
7. loop yarn around the first hook, and attach at the bottom edge with another small stitch
8. zigzag like this until warp is full
9. thread needle w/ contrast color and attach at bottom corner
10. set hooks; starting with under, weave under-over through warp threads and attach at opposite side with a small stitch
11. flip hooks and weave opposite direction, this time over-under
12. use needle to push weft rows down as needed
13. continue until you're almost to the hooks
14. remove rubber bands and gently lift hooks off the project
15. use threaded needle to secure the top of the warp threads with small stitches
16. bind off loose ends in preferred fashion

learn more:

Instagram:

- @visible_creative_mending
- @ministryofmending
- @roberta.cummings
- @worthmending

YouTube:

- slow stitch club (uses OG Speedweve)
 - [short, no talking](#)
 - [long, with talking](#)
- Snuggly Monkey (uses modern loom)
 - [Getting Started with a Speedweve Loom](#)

- r/visiblemending community on Reddit
- [Spin Off magazine](#)
 - Especially Kate Larson's piece:
<https://spinoffmagazine.com/visible-mending-with-a-darning-loom/>
- Flora Collingwood-Norris, *Visible Creative Mending for Knitwear* (2021)
- follow #dhmakes on Bluesky!