

# SPEEDWEVE FOR MENDING

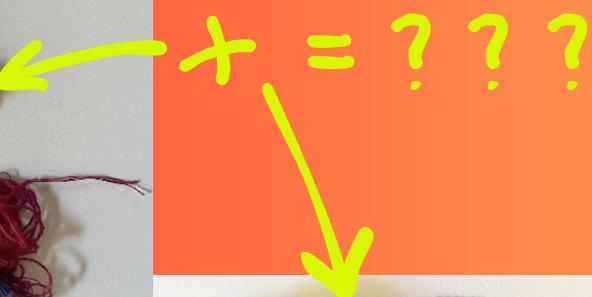


#DHMAKES METHODZ ZINE #1



FROM A 10/15/2024  
TALK BY SAM BLICKHAN!  
→ ZINE-IFIED BY  
AMANDA WYATT VISCONTI

# What's this all about?



The talk format was “an informal, chill overview of a craft method you dig”. So Sam introduced the speedweve as:

“A fun, weird little gadget that I really like using, I'm okay at, and will show you how to also be okay at”

- SAM BLICKHAN



(Cover graphic of Speedweve mending loom is based on a photo by Alexonver on Etsy.com.)

# What is a speedweve?



(Photo: Science Museum Group. "Speedweve" Darner. Y1989.101 Science Museum Group Collection Online.)

A speedweve is a **darning/mending tool** that makes it easier to create a woven (interleaved vertical & horizontal threads) patch covering unintentional holes in fabric (e.g. heel of sock).

To use one, you'll need:

- a darning loom
- rubber bands
- yarn (or embroidery floss) in 2+ colors

- darning needle (or yarn needle)
- a hole that needs mending

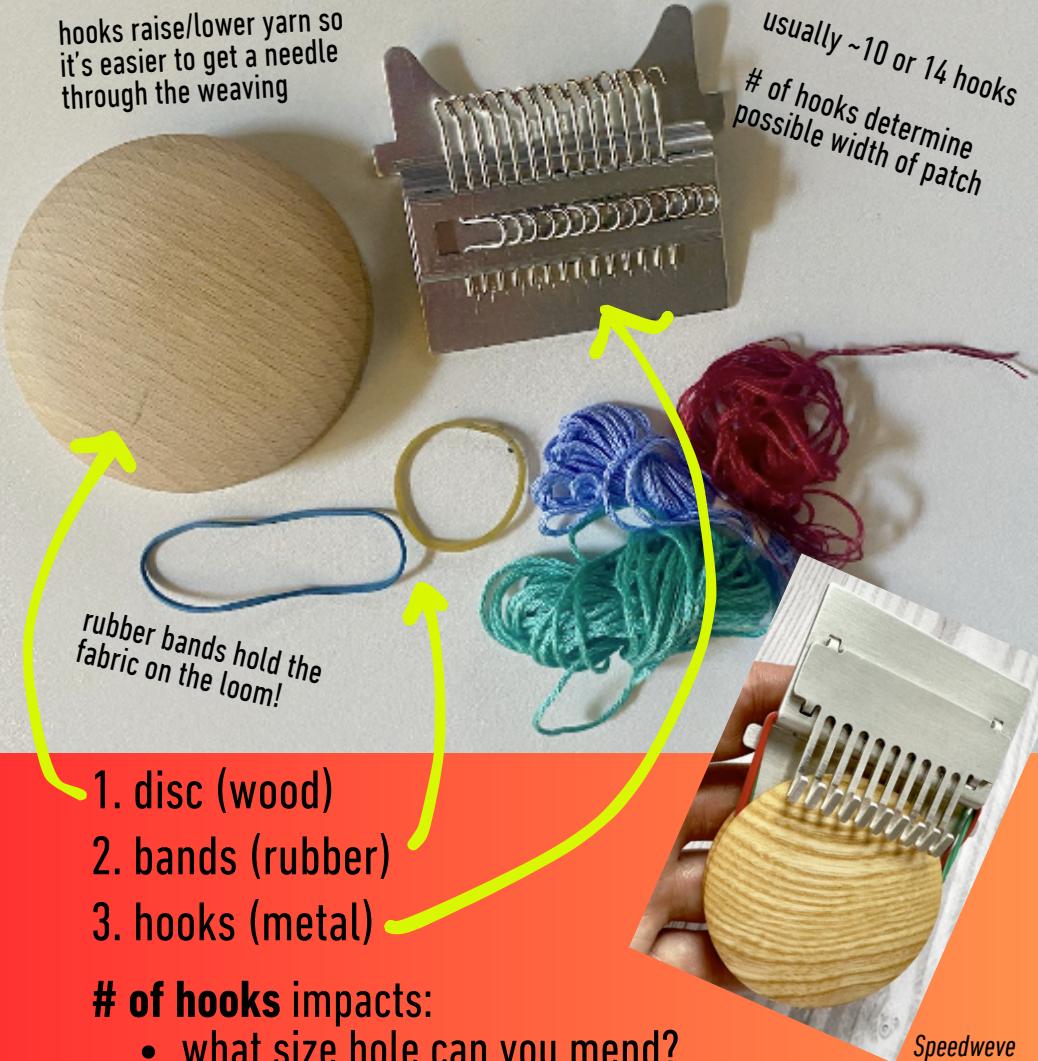
Just make sure  
needle is long, so it  
fits across whole  
loom width!

Different color yarn  
for warp vs. weft  
makes weaving  
easier to see/do

# Parts & Pieces

hooks raise/lower yarn so it's easier to get a needle through the weaving

usually ~10 or 14 hooks  
# of hooks determine possible width of patch



**# of hooks impacts:**

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

**Recommended yarn:** whatever is closest to the garment you're mending! Sock yarn for socks, etc.

**Realistic yarn (lol):** whatever you have on hand

# Why speedweve?



## What thread color/type?

- No requirement to match the surrounding fabric!
- Will you be annoyed by feeling of different thread vs surrounding fabric?
- Wool felts (stitches set in!) when washed

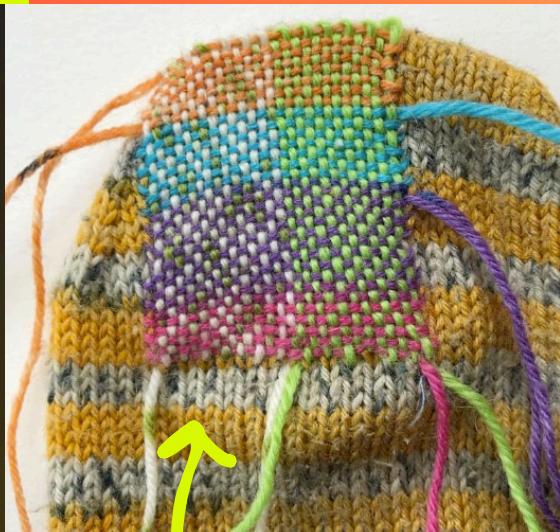
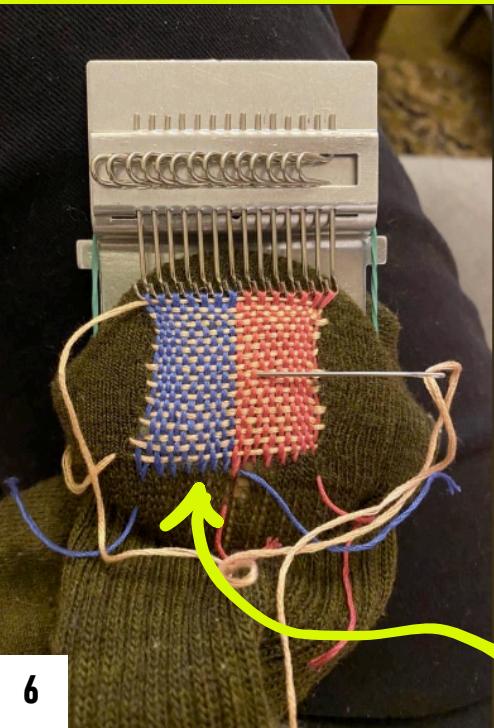




# Comfortable! Forgiving!

*"I was forever throwing out socks that got holes in the heels—the way I'd mend them previously was pull them together, fold, then stitch on them. Horrifyingly uncomfortable... I could feel it when walking on them.*

*Whereas because this makes a flat patch, it gives you a wider surface area so you don't notice it as much." —Sam*



@roberta.cummings  
*on Instagram*

*Sam's 1st attempt, ca. 2023*

# Not just for socks!



start

*Both work & photos are by Kate Watson ([bsky.app/profile/loreandordure.com](https://bsky.app/profile/loreandordure.com)).*

finish

An example of work shared on Bluesky via #DHmakes!

Follow [TinyURL.com/DHMakesFeed](https://tinyurl.com/DHMakesFeed) to see the latest cool crafting & making work.



# Learn more about speedweve

## Via Instagram

- [@visible creative mending](#)
- [@ministryofmending](#)
- [@roberta.cummings](#)
- [@worthmending](#)



## Via YouTube

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

## Further resources:

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



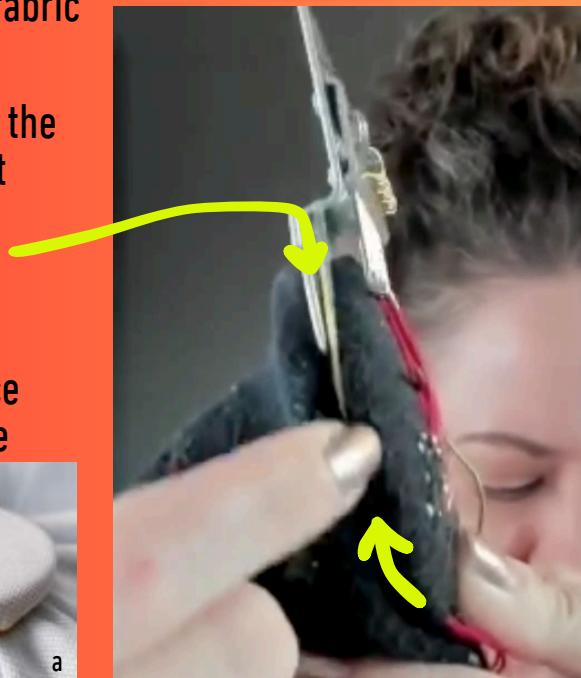
Also, follow [#DHmakes](#) on Bluesky!

# Step by Step Speedweve

Photos mending charcoal fabric are stills from Sam's talk; lettered photos = footnote credits. Sam recommended skimming, then watching YouTube videos for detailed steps if you are ready to try a speedweve.

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)



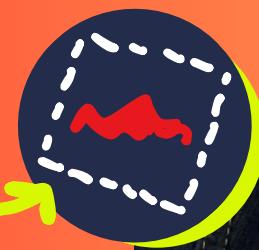
3. Use rubber bands to hold the hooks and fabric in place around the disc (set into the groove)



a

3a. Stretch fabric, if needed, so it lays flat

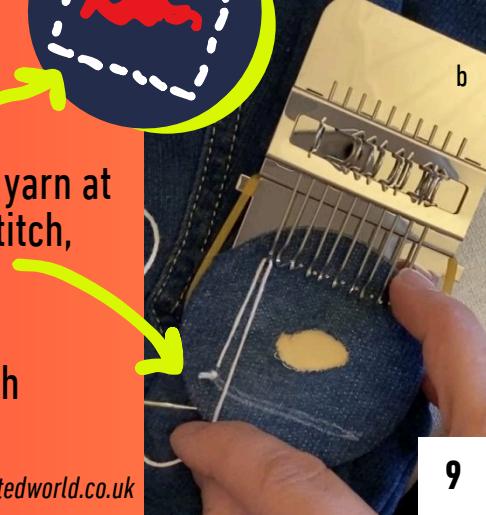
3b—optional. Draw patch boundaries with tailor's chalk or other washable mark



b

4. Thread needle and attach warp yarn at bottom patch edge with a small stitch, leaving a tail

5. Loop yarn around the 1st hook, and attach at the bottom edge with another small stitch



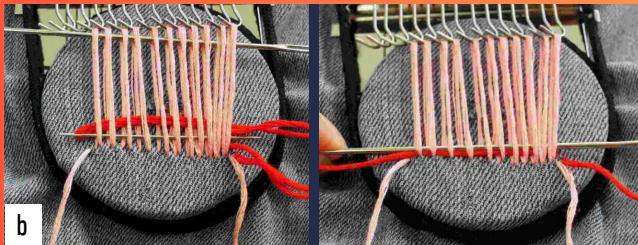
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# ...More Step by Step...

6. Zigzag up to each hook and back down, until warp is full

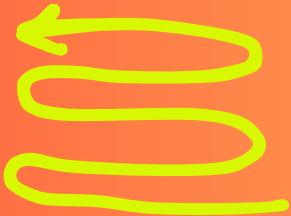
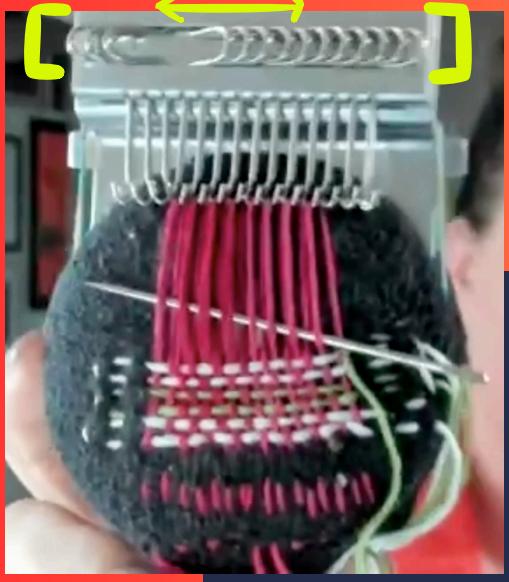


7. Thread needle w/contrast color and attach at bottom corner

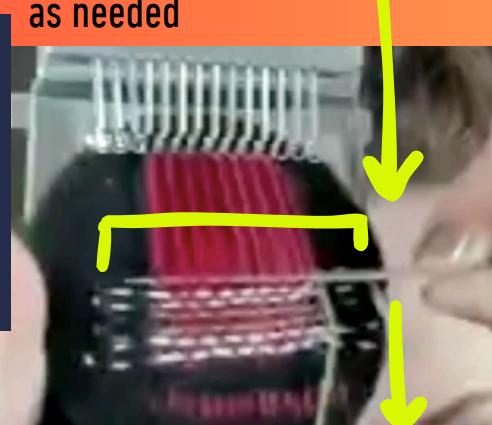


8. Set hooks; starting with under, weave under-over through warp threads and attach at opposite side with a small stitch

9. **Flip hooks** other way & weave  
opposite direction, this time over-under



10. Use needle to  
push weft rows down  
as needed

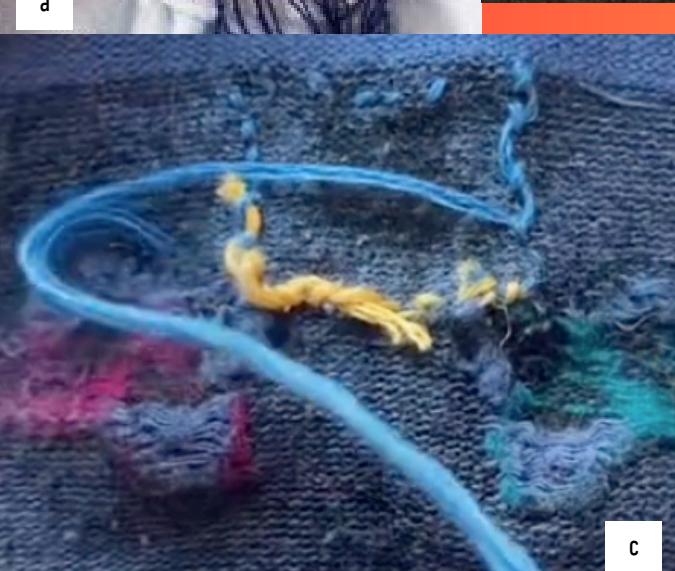
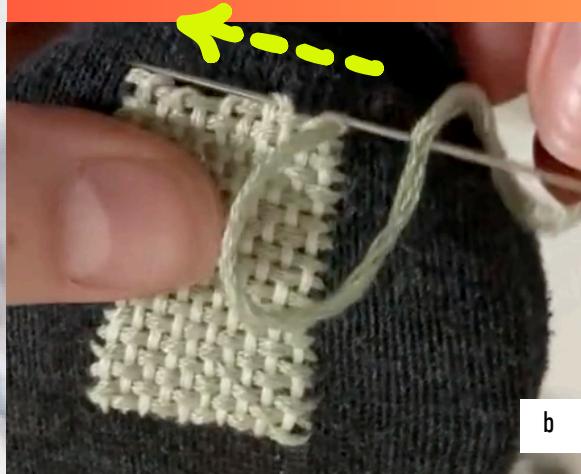


# ...More Step by Step

11. Continue, until you're almost to the hooks
12. Remove rubber bands; gently lift hooks off the project



13. Use threaded needle to secure the top of the warp threads with small stitches



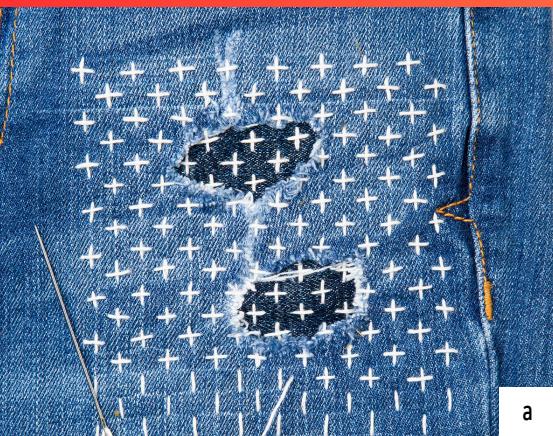
14. Bind off loose ends on back of cloth in your preferred fashion (for example, knot off; or sew through a few tacking stitches)

# Q&A

*"It looks really fancy. And yet, when you learn how to do it, you're like, oh, really? That's it?" —Sam*

## Q. What material does speedweve work better/worse on?

**Avoid:** jersey (too stretchy, doesn't hold patch well); anything silky or swishy (stretch factor too different); thicker fabric like heavy denim (other mending techniques work better, such as sashiko)



**Great for:** knitwear  
(already has conjoined  
yarn to weave into)

## Q. As you're building the patch, you aren't picking up any underlying fabric?

**That's correct.** You're only picking up the edges of the fabric and none of the fabric underneath most of the patch. Basically, the patch is sitting on top of the hole, and it's connected at the edges—which keeps the hole from widening past patch's edges.



# What if the patch doesn't hold? Or another hole forms near the patch?

@worthmending on Instagram:

"You could end up with a  
Ship of Theseus Sock!" -Sam

- “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.”



# What is

# #DHMAKES ??????



**DH** = digital humanities (*using or building digital tools like websites, code, VR to explore humanities areas like culture, history, art, ethics; or using that humanities to critique tech*)



**Makes** = craft, art, makerspace types of creative work \*



## #DHmakes is

- folks in digital humanities, libraries, academia, & otherwise doing learning-work, who
- craft/make (including outside work, as a hobby) &
- share about it online!

## #DHmakes posts have looked like:

sharing works-in-progress, fails, public figuring-out how to use some method/project

Crafts & textiles  
belong in  
makerspace &  
making!

encouraging sharing  
“this is my hobby,  
not my job” crafts, even if  
you usually post about work

I made/am  
making a thing!

How do I get  
started w/this  
method?

Anyone want to  
collaborate  
on a thing? →

Explicitly celebrating, amplifying,  
encouraging, welcoming folks to the  
**#DHmakes community**  
(digital humanists or not!)



**Sound cool? Please join us—we're friendly!**

You do *not* need to already know a craft, or “be good at” one.



## What kinds of making/crafting?

All of them! Especially work that often gets left out, when folks picture makerspaces.

[TinyURL.Com/DHBluesky](https://tinyurl.com/DHBluesky)

to join Bluesky  
(if you’re not on yet),  
then tag #DHmakes!

#DHmakes often **tags craft-y work** related to:

- culture & pop culture
- history; & trying out historical craft practices
- data visualization & embodiment, including personal data
- queer/feminist/critical tech, social justice
- expansive definitions of making that assert awesomeness of areas like fabric arts, cooking, fashion...
- zines

***So far, folks have collaborated on:*** Zoom crafting hangouts, a long-distance collaborative craft project, cowriting a journal article & a blog post, conference sessions... and these #DHMakes talks/zines!

*(tl;dr? the goal is community! 🧶 ❤️ 🧶)*

# SPEEDWEVE FOR MENDING

#DHMAKES METHODZ ZINE #1



10/15/2024 #DHMAKES Methodz Talk & slides by **Sam Blickhan**.  
Zine-ification of those by **Amanda Wyatt Visconti**.

**CC BY-NC:** Please *do* copy, print, share!

**Cite this zine:**

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#DHMAKESMethodz-1-Speedweve-Blickhan

DH  
MAKER  
SPOTLIGHT



Used this to try mending? Please use Bluesky to send me a photo!

**Sam Blickhan!**

**Dr. Samantha Blickhan** (she/her) is a #DHMAKES enthusiast & speedweve enjoyer. She's also the Co-Director and Digital Humanities Lead for [Zooniverse.org](#), where she guides strategic vision for Zooniverse Humanities efforts, and leads research & development of new tools & resources to support GLAM and Humanities crowdsourcing projects. You can follow Sam at [bsky.app/profile/snblickhan.bsky.social](#).



to Sam for teaching us about the speedweve!