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## **Kids Weaving** with Kelly Wilkinson

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

Today we have a really awesome project. We are going to do some weaving! Weaving! We're going to do some weaving. And weaving may be intimidating because it usually involves a loom and warp and weft and a shuttle. But we're going to strip it right down to its essentials today. And we're going to make bracelets, necklaces, things to hang on the wall. This is terrific for car rides or summertime or any time you want to keep these little hands busy.

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- Here is what you need to get weaving. First, for the loom, we're going to make it out of cardboard, it shouldn't be too thick. Anything that's in your recycling bin. - Sort of like five pieces of paper stuck together. - Sort of like five pieces of paper. You are also going to need a pair of scissors, and some scotch tape. For the weaving itself, any kind of yarn will work, but this nice, fat yarn is good and fast, especially for kids. And worsted weight is nice and sort of slippery, so you can get it moving back and forth, and weaving nice, and smoothly. But any of your scraps of yarn will work. Any kind of colors you want. You need needles as well. These are great plastic sewing needles for kids, or you could use a yarn or tapestry needle, which has a nice big eye, and a blunt end. If you want to turn your weaving into jewelry, you can use some cord, or leather to string your weaving into a necklace. And if you want to make a cuff or bracelet, you'll need a button, and the shank buttons work best.

### **Chapter 3 - Weaving**

#### Set up loom

- Let's set up our loom out of cardboard here. These ones are already ready to go. In weaving, you have a warp thread and a weft thread and the warp is the one that runs vertical, so vertically across the loom. So our little cardboard loom, I'm gonna show you how to make this. Owen's and mine are already made and we're gonna make Ada's here. So cut your cardboard to whatever size you want your project to be. Ada's gonna make a nice big weaving here that we can hang on the wall. Owen and I are gonna make little cuff bracelets so our cardboard's smaller. And you want to just cut slits into the top and the bottom of your cardboard evenly. If you want, you can use a ruler to mark lines, but I'm just gonna eyeball it here and cut about a half an inch apart here, all the way across the bottom. - You mean the top? - [Woman] Well, this one, you can change 'em out, so this could be the top or the bottom. And then the same thing. - [Owen] It's the top. - [Woman] Just looking and lining it up. You think this, you want this to be the top? - [Owen] Yeah. No, bottom. - [Ada] No, I think that should be the top. That should be the bottom. - [Woman] Well, this is yours, Ada, so you are the one that gets the final word. - That's the top, that's the bottom. (Owen mumbles) - [Woman] All right. So after you get that part done, hold on, hold on here. We gotta set up the yarn. - [Owen] Yes. - [Woman] Yeah? Owen is our master weaver here. He is, oh, what color did you want to use? Sorry. We are gonna go for all things bright and sparkly here with this thread, this yarn. So start in the top left corner here. And you just wanna scooch that down. - [Owen] Tape it. - [Woman] Tape it. And then you're gonna start at the top and go straight down to the corresponding slit down here

and then-- - [Ada] And then you just cross. - [Woman] Exactly, you just cross it behind the back, there across that puffin face. And then right back up, and all the way across. Thank you. And you want this to be, you don't want it to be so tight that it bends the cardboard. You want it to be on here, you know, reasonably taut, but you don't want it to be so tight that it starts to curl or bend the cardboard. How's it looking? What do you think? - [Owen] Yeah I think that's good. - [Woman] Make it a little more? Do you want some more? - A little more, yeah. - [Woman] I was gonna go all the way across. - Yeah, that's good. - [Woman] Cool. And then-- - [Owen] Don't do too much. - [Woman] Too much? - [Owen] Too much. - [Woman] I think that's a good amount. And then you just cut your yarn at the back and tape that into place. - [Owen] I wanna... - So we are ready to pick out our color yarn that we want to weave with and get weaving.

### Weave

- Owen over here is not going to thread his yarn, he's just gonna use his hands and weave back and forth, so we're gonna tape it to make sure that it stays in place. Our master weaver over here is gonna cut a piece of tape, do you want to do it? Tape that onto the back to make sure it doesn't go anywhere, and then he is ready to go, and there's a little weaving mantra that Ada and Owen know, and it goes like this. - [Kids] Up over, down under. - Up over, down under. So when you're weaving, I'll show you on Ada's with a needle, we're gonna thread the needle, this is an awesome needle that Ada uses for embroidery, and cut off a length of yarn here. - [Ada] I think that's good. - That looks good. And then, you start, and you just alternate all the way across, you go under one yarn and over the next, over under over under, shimmying all the way across here. Under over or over under I guess, I don't know. You can weave your ends and weave them in at the end, but it is easier, especially with kids to secure that end of the yarn. So we've got that in place there, and we've traveled all the way across one, and the only tricky thing here is that every time you end and you're traveling back across in the other direction, if you end it by coming under that last yarn, you want to start by going over the next one down, and then you just travel again all the way across. And pull it, and you don't wanna pull so tight, you wanna leave your ends nice and hanging out, a little bit of slack there, otherwise you'll just be working in and in and in, and tightening it as you go. So you wanna take that one over? Nice job over here. I am going to set myself up too. Ooh, I'm going to have to Owen style with no needle, 'cause that yarn. This is awesome yarn, it's like a big fat slurpy udon noodle or something. It's perfect for this. And if you did this at all, I mean who didn't really, this will be muscle memory just charging back into your brain of being a kid and doing this. Owen, that looks awesome. - Should I do a, should I do a ... - Do another color? - Yeah. - Yeah, I think we could switch colors. So then when you're working your way across, you just want to every so often just snug those yarns up into the next row above it, and you can see it's creating this really cool basket weave pattern. You can see it really distinctly with this yarn, if you use a thinner less thick yarn, it's a really flat and even woven surface. And then if you wanna change colors which I think Owen is ready for something new, do you wanna change colors Owen? - [Ada] I am. - [Owen] Yeah. - You guys both are? New colors for everybody. What color do you want? - Ada's. - The pink? - No, Ada's -- - Oh this gold, okay. So all you need to do again, I would say with kids, just tie a knot, it's really the simplest thing to do, I can show you on mine if you want to leave your ends loose and then you weave it in at the end, but for now -- - Cut. - Yes, I'm going to cut yours. Can I borrow this for a second? Thank you. So then we just snip off where we're done here and just make a really simple knot here. And then cut a length of the new color you wanna use, and you are ready to go. I think I'm gonna change colors too. So I'm gonna leave my tail so I can show you later how to

change that up. I'm gonna go for this pink. If you're gonna leave your tails to weave in, you just thread your yarn here with a new color, and then you start exactly as before, if this last one we finished going over, so the next one we wanna start going under. And then when you pull it through, just leave a couple, few inches of yarn there and then we will come back and weave those in, and then just over under over under all the way across, snugging it up. There is something just awesomely satisfying about how repetitive this is, and just watching this, it's like we're creating fabric here. Isn't it? - [Ada] Yeah. - It's really cool. Owen was the one who reminded me about weaving, 'cause he just did this in preschool, so we were weaving up a storm this last weekend. How's it going Owen? - Good. - Do you need help over there? - Yes. - Let's see what you got. I love that actually, it looks like this really cool work of art. - It looks like it's crossed right there and -- - I know, it looks sort of like a tiki torch doesn't it? - Yeah. - What do you wanna, you don't like it like that? - [Owen] Yeah. - You don't like it like that, no? So I think you just went a little tight here, we just need to spread these guys out a little bit. And then if you messed up or crossed threads it's really not the end of the world, you just keep going. Yeah? - The end of the world. - Keep going, what? - It's the end of the world, Mom. - No it's not, it is not the end of the world if you mess up. - Yes it is. - No way, it is hardly the end of the world. So you just wanna keep your edges with some kind of consistent tension if you care about those things.

## **Chapter 4 - Finish projects**

### Finish

- I have our buddy here that I was working on before, so I can show you how to weave in the ends when you're done. I'm done with this guy. This is gonna be some awesome, rocking, woven cuff, so cut the last tail here and then you just go one-by-one and pick up these tails and you just weave them in along the side. If you were a knitter, this would be very familiar to you, you want to, this one's coming from the back, so I'm just gonna go through some of these bumps along here where I've been weaving, it's a kind of fat eye, so I'm gonna pull it through. - [Girl] It's sort of like embroidery. - [Instructor] It is sort of like embroidery. And then you can just cut that after you've woven it through. And you do that with all of these guys. I can use a smaller needle for this one. And again, I just come and I shoot through here and you can go up and back a couple of times if you want, you're just securing this in place. So, we pull it through and then cut it. Hey, you finished too, huh? - [Girl] I didn't. - You didn't? Well, you're working on a piece of art over there. You will just continue weaving in your ends all along here, all along the sides, it gives a really nice, finished look. It might seem laborious, but it's actually a process I strangely enjoy, the process of just weaving in the ends there and making it look all nice and pretty and tidy. So, when you're done with that. You're ready to take it off the loom and I think Owen is almost close to being ready to take it off the loom and I have another one of these guys. - I am. - You are, okay, let's do that. So you just take off the taped-down yarn here. And then you can just slide these out. And then we have where we started here and we're just gonna knot these, we're just gonna tie these guys up. Knot them so our weaving doesn't fall apart. - [Owen] And then you can cut them off. - And then, exactly, we can cut them off. Hold on a second, let me finish knotting this guy. Oops, so I should've left a little bit of a longer tail here. Let's just knot that off and then you can, Owen, you want to leave these guys here? Or do you want to cut it, don't you? Careful, nice. Hold on, we've got to knot this guy, why don't we just give this a knot and then, Owen you can cut that guy, cool. Do you want to turn it into a little cuff? Wait, I don't think we should cut that one. Do you want to cut that little edge what we knotted there? Let's see it, let's see if it fits, we can add a button and make it a cool, awesome, super-power

cuff. What do you think? - [Owen] Like a Superman-cuff. - Yeah. And let me show you another way you can take it off out of the loom, I have this other finished thing. So, same thing, you just un-tape it here, slide it off, and then with these warped threads, you can pull them so the bottom ones just snug up there and you want to just work your way across pulling them. So that warped thread, that bottom thread there closes up. And then, I kind of got fancy and used this middle part as a button loop, well, that's not really fancy, I should say I got really simple and used that as a button loop, so I'm going to knot this off at the back and then turn this into a cuff. Owen you want to give me a little snip? Snippity snip. Woo, bold. So, what you want to do if you have a cuff is, I'm using these original threads here as the button loop on that side. And then on the other side, I'm going to find my buttons, actually, maybe I'll use that guy. Just make it super 70s. And then, I'm gonna attach it here with some yarn. Can you cut me a length of this? Thank you. You do want to make sure that whatever needle you're using will be able to pass through that, so actually I need to use this needle and this yarn will be too fat, so I'll just grab any other color here. Thread it up. And then, you want to see which side is your front, and make sure you're attaching it to the front. And then, I'm just gonna really simply send this through and leave a tail on both sides. I'm gonna send it through again through that shank for good measure. And then, cutting assistant, please. Careful, snap! Awesome! Okay, what do we have, Ada? We've got ourselves-- - A bracelet. - A bracelet! Let's see if it fits. - [Ada] I think it will. - I love how macrame 70s-tastic looks on you. You want yours too, Owen? - Can you untie it after? - Yeah. So, for this one, you also don't have to bother with a button, you can just tie it with a piece of thread and that way you can take it off if you don't want to wear it, you can use it as a bookmark when you're not wearing it on your wrist. And so you just tie this through here, in a nice loop. - [Owen] That would look really good like that. - Oh, that would look good. So, we've got a couple of different ways to close up a cuff, if you did just like Owen did the other day and just made this on the loom, you can hang it just like this, you can take it off the loom and hang it on a wall, you can also cut a mat and keep it on this loom, but just frame it, so you can hang it on your bedroom wall. And Owen also thinks it would look really cool with a button in the middle which is really true. - I do. - Or Ada, that was Ada's idea. So, we have all of the basics of weaving and a whole bunch of projects you can do. You guys, remind people one more time how you do it? - Up, over, down, under. - Up, over, down, under.