

Notes for Twining Students:

This hands-on class features one or more projects that will require a portable loom frame which we, the instructors will provide, and various fiber materials which you, the student will provide.

Some fibers include:

Jute twine- a good choice for a natural feel and color.

Hemp twine- similar to jute, may be more expensive.

Sisal- Inexpensive, but stiff to work with, and rough textured. Not recommended for beginners.

Cotton macramé cord- 3 mm is the most useful size. Select twisted cord, and avoid woven sash cord. Good color choices. Can be expensive.

Yarns- Cotton, wool, synthetic, all are possible. Choose yarn with a bulkier weight and avoid fluffy materials that will collapse under pressure. Great color choices.

Scrap rag- A really good option, especially for weft cords, is any workable scrap rag you have available. Patterned fabric can add a really interesting texture to the look of the project. Synthetics may be suitable. Avoid any stretchy fabrics. Colors are endless.

Recycled materials- I've had extensive experience with plastic grocery bags. This free material, when used properly, can produce surprisingly good results.

When choosing your fibers, consider these factors:

Size. The smaller the diameter, the finer the result, but the longer the twining project will take to complete. Cord that is too big may produce a crude, clumsy result. Average size is 3mm cotton macramé cord. Any fiber that approximates this should be fine.

Flexibility. Stiff fibers like hemp can be great for the vertical warp threads, but difficult to work with for the horizontal weft cords.

Colors. Natural fibers like jute have limited color options, while cotton macramé cord comes in a variety of colors, and cotton rag offers endless choices.

Durability. Some yarns may be too delicate to stand up to regular use.

Cost. Prices range from Hemp and cotton twine (expensive) to cotton rags (may be free scrap). We strongly recommend you try to use materials you already have on hand. Free is good!

How much fiber will you need? That's always difficult to predict- it completely depends on the finished dimensions you choose for your projects. It's better to bring too much supply than not enough. Also, feel free to combine different materials together in the same project.

We recommend starting with conventional materials in your first project and after you've learned the basics, experiment with some of the more exotic materials and combinations in subsequent projects. A good example of a first project would be a 6" x 8" simple bag twined using 120 yards of 3mm cotton macramé cord, at a cost of around \$10.00 from Amazon.

We will be starting our first session with our looms ready to go, so you'll really need to bring some fibers to start with. If you have any questions about your choice of fibers, please don't hesitate to email us at mdea1732@gmail.com.