

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR LARGE AND SMALL FLOOR LOOMS

### I. UNPACKING

In most cases you will have already unpacked your loom. Remove all strapping tape carefully and check that everything has arrived safely. The loom is completely assembled and only the heddles must be added before weaving.

### II. UNFOLDING

The treadles are not in the weaving position during shipping. They are folded inside the base and need to be pulled out. The blocks mounting the treadle pivot bar turn on the bolts holding them. Just turn both blocks (simultaneously) to the front of the loom. This will line up the screw eyes on the treadles with the lamms. Remember this position for future use in folding and moving your loom.

The hinges must be tightened in place before weaving. They are supposed to attach to the castle by coming up from the bottom. It is necessary to do it this way to allow the weaver to lock first one hinge, then the other. If the hinges came down, you would have to be on both sides of the loom at once to insert both simultaneously, or the second hinge could not be swung into place. If you don't believe this, or would like the hinges to come down anyway (on smaller models it isn't impossible to reach both sides at once) just switch the hinges from the left side of the loom with those on the right. Unscrew the wing nuts of the exposed bolts on the castle sides (not quite all the way off). Be sure to pull the washer out with it. Swing the hinge up, lock the groove onto the bolt, and tighten the washer and wing nut down against the hinge. This hinge is extremely sturdy and will stay put and not break under any tension you can put on the loom.

At this point many people will want to try the feel of the loom and immediately tie up a treadle to a lamm and press down. Sometimes, depending on what size of loom you have, which harness you tie up, and how high you tie the treadle, you may wind up treading the harness right out of the top of the castle. This sometimes results in serious doubts about the loom and a frantic phone call to me. You can save the call if you look closely and see that when the harness is treadled out of the castle it has raised over 6 inches. There is never any need to treadle a harness more than 4-5 inches to get an excellent shed, and in fact no warp will allow the harness to rise this much. In short, don't get excited. The loom is OK and when a warp is on you will get an excellent shed and the harnesses will not pop out.

### III. HARNESSES AND HEDDLES

The harnesses lift right out of the castle for heddle changes. When returning them, care must be taken to maintain them parallel to the castle wall so they drop down smoothly. The stainless steel heddle bars run in the tracks, avoiding the friction of wood on wood. It is recommended that you mark the harnesses in some way as you remove them so they can be replaced in the same way. Although most harnesses are interchangeable, occasionally a harness will run better in one position than another, and the jacks are tuned to the harnesses in the positions they are shipped. A few pricks with an awl on the upper rear corner of the harness will not show and can indicate top and position number.

To add heddles, pull out the harness and slide the heddle bars to one side until you can add heddles inside the harness frame. They can be moved across the heddle bar supports to any position on the harness. The heddles are aligned on the string and should be slid directly off the string onto the heddle bar to avoid tangling. Heddles have a top and bottom indicated by paint on one end.