



**WINDHAVEN  
FIBER&TOOLS**



## **THE ACCORDION**

**THE MANUAL**

# *Introduction to the Loom*

Thank you for taking our new loom into consideration and purchasing one! We hope that you will find it to be a wonderful addition to your fiber arts world. Whether you are a beginning weaver, excited to try out new weaving styles or an experience fiber artist that wants a sturdy, easy to use and adaptable loom to take your weaving to the next level, we think you will love the Accordion loom from Windhaven Fiber and Tools.

Our looms are all hand made in our little homestead farm shop in Alvordton, Ohio. Our main craftsperson is Maggie Chekal. She hand crafts each and every loom and tool that we sell. We have helpers to sand and finish the looms as well to help with packing and mailing, now, because we just have had so many orders of looms and tools over these first two years, it's amazing. She has made over 400 looms in less than a year and a half and has many fans of her work all over the country and even internationally! You now own another little bit of her crafting history! And we thank you very much! Enjoy!



## How the Loom was Designed...

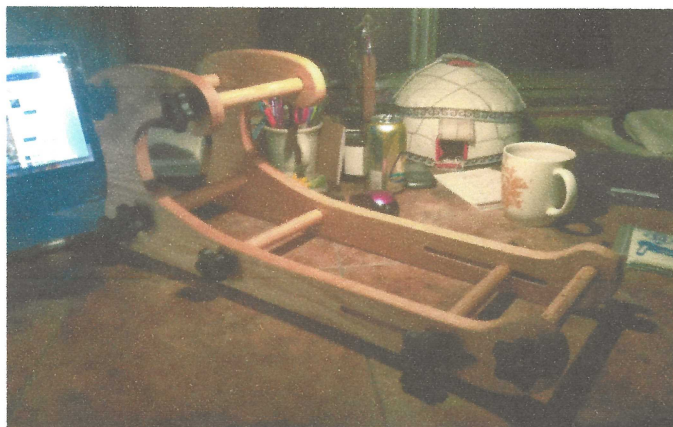
Here at Windhaven Fiber and Tools, we create weaving looms and tools that help fiber artists create! And we make our products from quality hardwoods with hand made care and attention. We love to engineer a product that makes sense, something that we really think about and make work well. Sometimes, that means changing how a tool is shaped or the way it works and hopefully, making it better.

We have designed several very distinctive inkle and card weaving looms and are very pleased with how they are received. We spent over a year testing our first set of inkle looms. We wanted to make sure they were perfect! And, we think they are!

One day, we were packing some orders for our regular, one sided looms and we had a right handed and left handed Harp loom on our shipping table. Well, they got pushed together and they matched up perfectly, creating a wide, double sided inkle loom! We just looked and pondered and the Accordion was born! We had wanted to make a double sided inkle loom but were just not sure how to go about it. Seeing the two together, we knew that the Harp shape would be the perfect shape to work with.

What we didn't realize is just how wonderful that shape could be and all the types of weaving it could do!

We asked Maggie to make up a sample. A prototype. And we brainstormed over that sample for awhile. At first, it just had wingnuts holding the sides together. Then, we tried some round wooden knobs and finally, the lovely star knobs. We tried different lengths of rods and just tested and tested this loom for over six months! And all that time, we didn't breathe a word



about it to anyone. It was that special! And, we really wanted to make sure it would be a worthy thing. And, it was.

The Accordion was named because of the fact that it goes in and out! We have quite a few looms and if we didn't have a trade name for each, it would be hard to know what we were talking about... "No, the small inkle, not the medium or the larger or the floor or the card weaving small... and so on! Maggie loves music and musical instruments. Our first loom, looked like a minstrel's lyre on it's side! We called that one the Minstrel. And then with future looms, we just started to called them names of instruments. It makes life much easier around the shop! She now has a line of shuttles named after fish! We see a theme here.

The Accordion was designed to give all weavers the tool to learn many styles of weaving, on one loom, without breaking the bank. We love that our tools and looms are quality and hand crafted, but very reasonably priced. We want more and more people to enjoy and learn to weave and spin. We love hearing about how people love our tools and that they will become heirlooms to hand down to their future weaving people. It's the way all fiber tools once were. We want to bring that tradition alive again.