



Museum of Childhood

The V&A Museum of Childhood is the UK's National Museum of Childhood. It is the largest institution of its kind in the world. Its mission is to hold in trust the nation's childhood collections and to be an international leader in engaging audiences in the material culture and experiences of childhood.



Weave your own: bag or mat

Inspired by the collection

This activity was inspired by Perfect Co-ordination, a woven piece of carpet by Malcolm Temple

You will need:

- Plastic bags in different colours (recycled)
- Thick card (recycled)
- Scissors
- Tape (optional)



1: Mark a piece of thick card with lines, 1-2cm apart. Make a 2cm cut in to each line at the top and bottom. This is your cardboard loom.



2: Cut plastic bags in to strips 20cm **longer** than your piece of card, and some that are 10cm **wider** than your piece of card.



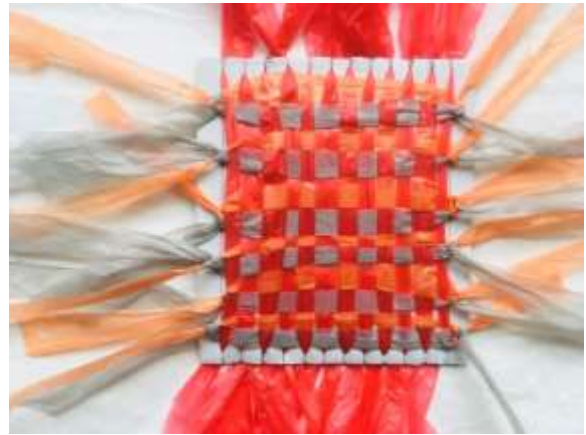
3: Thread an even number of long strips of plastic through the cuts in the card, leaving 10cm at the top and bottom. These are called the warp.



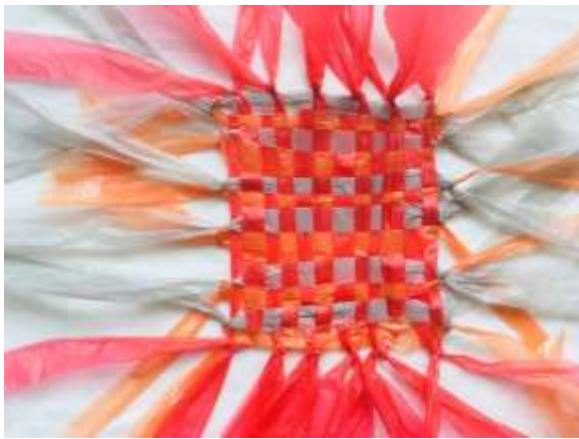
4: Weave the plastic threads 10cm wider than your card under the odd numbers and over the even numbers. These threads are called the weft.



5: For the second line, weave the plastic thread under the even numbers. Repeat step 4 followed by step 5 until your loom is full.



6: Tie all of the weft threads at the sides together in pairs, starting with row 1 & 2, row 3 & 4 and so on. Repeat on both sides



7: Remove the first 2 warp threads from the card, and tie them together. Repeat until you have reached the end, and repeat on the other side.

8: Here is your woven piece of fabric! What could you make from it? Perhaps it could be a coaster or mat.



9: Experiment with different colours, and materials to create different effects.

10: You could tie two together to create a basket or bag!