

## Hi, I'm Emily!



I'm an internationally exhibiting artist and weaver based in the Republic of Cyprus. With more than a decade of weaving experience, I've had the privilege of collaborating with companies like Virgin Voyages and Bonfire.com. Throughout this time, I've remained deeply committed to the art of weaving, which has garnered recognition in the form of workshop scholarships and acceptances into residencies like the Winter Residency at Penland School of Craft and the Pentaculum Invitational at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. It's been incredibly rewarding to see my work featured in online publications and

magazines such as Little Looms Magazine, as well as podcasts like the Long Thread Podcast and The Fiber Artist Podcast.

Over the years, I've devoted considerable research to circular weaving in particular. This passion culminated in the publication of my book "Amazing Circular Weaving" in 2022, co-published by <u>Abrams Books</u> (US) and <u>Search Press</u> (UK). With the release of the first book on the topic of circular weaving, I have been humbled to see how weavers around the world are continuing to expand on my research through their own innovative approaches to the craft.

It is my hope that you not only enjoy this tutorial but that you find inspiration in circular weaving! Please let me know how your weaving goes!

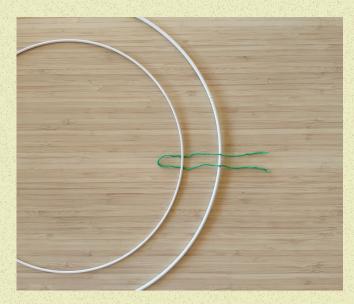
Happy Weaving!

**Emily Nicolaides** 

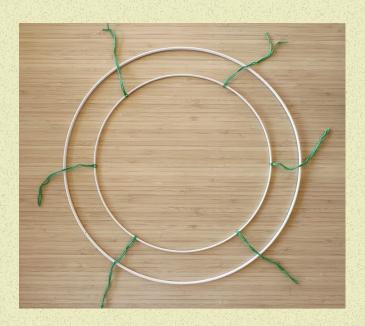


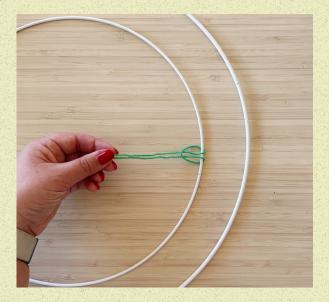


## Let's get started!



Step 1: On a tabletop, place the smaller hoop in the center of the larger hoop. Using a non-stretch, strong cotton yarn, measure and cut six 10-inch lengths of yarn. These are called supplemental ties. The color doesn't matter as these pieces of yarn will be cut off later. Fold one in half and place it under the smaller of the two metal rings, with the looped end toward the center.





**Step 2:** Thread the two cut ends through the looped end and pull to form a lark's head knot on the smaller metal ring. You have attached your first supplemental tie.

The Warp: In weaving, the warp is the first step in the process and provides structure to the cloth. In this tutorial, we're going to use an open-center warping technique.

Don't worry about getting a particular number of warps for this project.

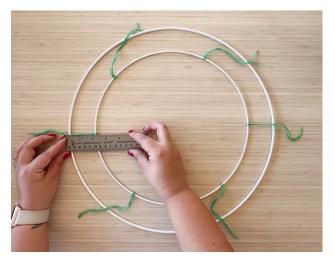
**Step 3:** Repeat this process for the five other supplemental ties at roughly equal distances apart. The supplemental ties will suspend your ring in the center of your hoop. Think of them like scaffolding as they will only be used temporarily and removed when no longer needed.



**Step 4:** On the right side, separate the two ends placing one underneath the outer hoop, and one on top. Repeat on the left side. Then pinch the two ends together on either side. Pull the two supplemental ties taut and visually center your ring in the middle of your hoop.



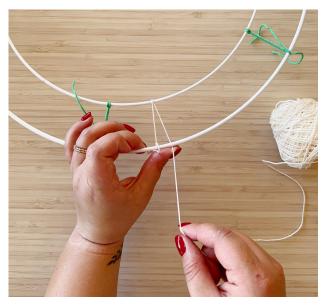
**Step 6:** Repeat this with the other four ties. The remaining four ties will be much easier than the first two as your ring is already suspended at the center.



**Step 5:** When the ring appears centered, pinch as close to the edge of the hoop on one side. Let go of the other side. Tie a loose overhand knot where your fingers are still pinched. You want the knot to be a little loose as you may need to adjust the placement. Then gently pull the untied supplemental tie on the other side to suspend the ring. Using a ruler, measure the distance between the hoop and ring on either side. I aim to get the measurement within a ¼ inch of difference. When you get the ring more or less centered, tie a double knot on the other side and tighten your first knot.

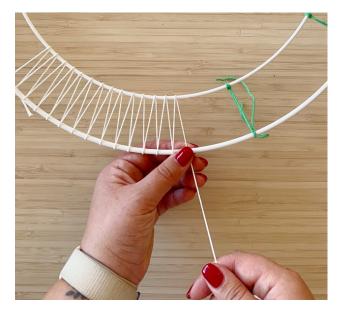
Note: Take your time here and adjust your first knot as many times as you need to.

This step takes a bit of practice and it gets easier the more you do it.



**Step 7:** Now that your supplemental ties are in place, tie your strong cotton warp yarn onto the outer hoop. Pull the knot tight. Then lead your yarn towards ,the center, through the ring and to the back. Once through the ring, lead your yarn to the outer edge where you started and move about ¼ inch from the last warp. Place your thumb on this new warp to keep tension.





Step 8: Continue wrapping around the outer hoop and inner hoop. Each time you create a new warp, place the thumb of your non-dominant hand against the yarn and hoop to keep your tension. You want the warps to be tight enough that they don't easily slide around, but loose enough that they don't pull the inner hoop off center. Be careful that your warps do not cross over each other at the center. You want your warps to be one next to the other.

Continue wrapping. As you approach your first supplemental tie, simply move it to the side. If it feels too tight, you may cut it off altogether.

**Step 9:** When you've worked your way around, use both cut ends, from the beginning and end of the warp, to tie a double knot. This way your warps end and begin in the same place. Cut off any remaining supplemental ties.



Now that the loom is warped, it's time for the next step: the Weft! We'll be using Rya Loops to create a fun bushy sculpture texture.



**Step 10:** Now that your hoop is warped, take the end of the bulky weight yarn that you want as the dominant color. Tie a simple knot on any warp and slide the knot against the inner hoop.

Note: For this project, double up your warps. See picture.



**Step 12:** Poke the right side of the upside-down "U" behind the warp that you are tying onto.



**Step 11:** Working clockwise, lead the yarn into an upside-down "U" shape around the warp directly to the right of the knot.



**Step 13:** Pull the loop through and towards the center until you have a knot. You'll probably have one very long loop. This is your first rya loop!



Step 14: To adjust the length of your rya loop, pull on the tail of the yarn until it becomes your desired length. Be careful not to pull the tail all the way through as it will untie itself. If your yarn seems to untie easily, repeat steps 11-14 on the same warp. This will further secure your rya loop.



**Step 15:** Continue tying rya loops on one warp at a time as you work your way around the circle.



**Step 16:** Pause when you've tied onto the last warp. This is to the left of where you originally tied the yarn.



Step 17: Now it's time to add some colorful accents. Grab another yarn in any weight and fiber you like. If it's a lighter-weight yarn, it can be fun to use two or three different yarns as one. Follow steps 10-15 in random sections on top of what you just wove. End by tying the yarn in a knot and cutting the end to a similar length to your loops.

## Tabby Weave...



Step 18: Once you have a layer of rya loops, it's time to add some extra security with tabby weave. This is the most basic weave structure. Grab yarn in any color you like (you won't see it in the final product so use whatever you have) and cut about a yard of yarn. Thread your tapestry needle and weave over 1 warp and under 1 warp. Leave the starting end to the back. Continue working your way around.



**Step 19:** When you reach where you started, you want to see the pattern reverse. If you have an odd number of warps, the pattern will automatically reverse. If you have an even number, don't worry. Just weave over 2 warps, like I did, and then you will see the pattern reverse.



**Step 20:** Continue until you've woven around for the second time and trim with the ends to the back.



**Step 21:** Continue weaving layers of rya loops and tabby weave by repeating steps 11-20. Don't forget to add pops of color in between the layers.

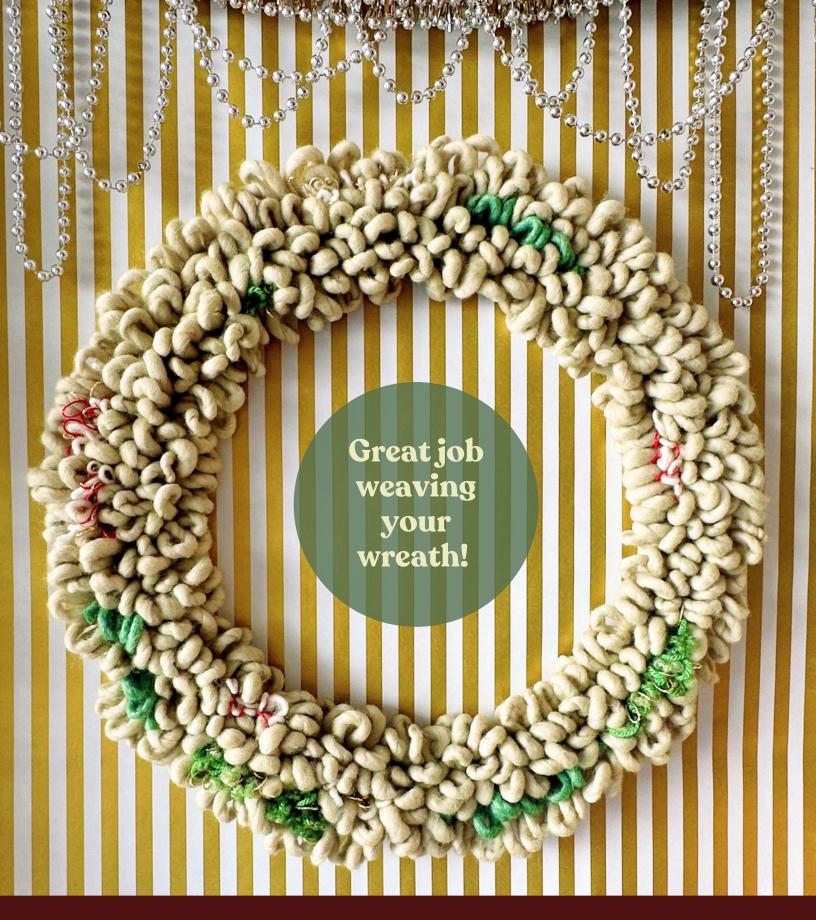


**Step 22:** As you approach the outer edge of the wreath, it will become harder to weave because the space you have to work with is diminishing. When you're just about out of room, use your fingers to pack the yarn down tighter towards the center. This will help create room for your last layer of rya loops.



**Step 23:** When you've finished weaving your last layer of rya loops. Cut your yarn and tie it onto the last warp. Now use your finger to readjust the weaving to fill all the space between the two hoops.

Finish by trimming the ends on the back and fluffing your rya loops.



Now you can hang it on your door or hearth and decorate with ornaments as you please.

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial! Please let me know how your weaving goes by tagging me on social media @EmilyNicolaides or sending an email to emily@nicolaides.com



If you'd like to learn more, please check out Amazing Circular Weaving for 15 more circular projects teaching different techniques in weaving. Now available worldwide, wherever you buy books.

