

Traditional Karen Weaving

A Three-part Booklet by
The 2017 KOM Summer Weaving Class Students



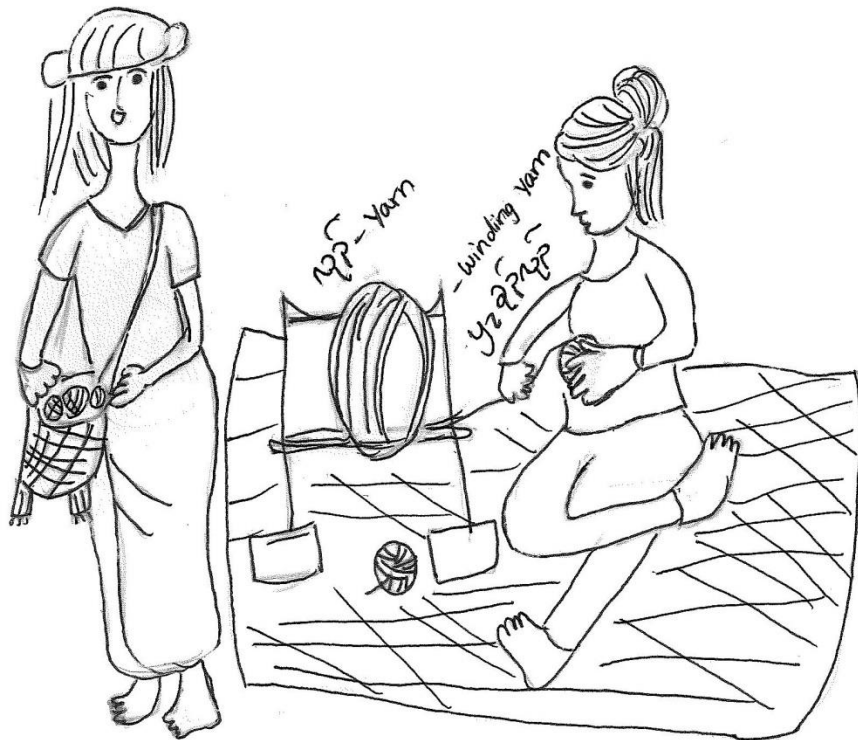


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The Karen Clothing

Making the Karen Clothing in Traditional Way



Created By Knyaw Hset La Group

The KOM Summer Weaving Class Students

How were the Karen clothes made in the past?

In order to get the yarn, Karen weavers many years ago had to plant cotton trees. When the plant was able to produce cotton, they would pick the cotton off the tree and dry it. Once the cotton was dried, the cotton was spun into a long thin thread. Then the thread was boiled with rice. After boiling, it was ready for weaving. Next, the yarn was wound into balls to prepare for the warping step.



Weaving Terms

Weaving

Interweaving two groups of threads (warp and weft) at roughly right angles. In the most common weaving techniques, the warp threads are held under tension by a loom, then separated into two groups to form a shed, through which the weaver passes the weft thread.

Warp

One of the two sets of threads interwoven at roughly right angles to form a woven fabric. Usually refers to the set held under tension by the loom.

Weft

The other of the two sets of threads interwoven at roughly right angles to form a woven fabric. Usually refers to the threads that are passed back and forth through warp sheds.

Shed

An opening of the warp threads through which a weft thread is passed.

Loom

A device that holds the warp threads under tension and opens sheds through which weft threads are passed to form both the woven structure and decorative supplementary patterns.

The materials used for weaving

Bobbin with yarn - *lu tween*

Heddle rod - *nae boe*

Back strap - *yaw kweh*

Shed stick – *klu kob*

Loom Bar - *ta koh boe*

Sword or batten - *ta paeh*

