

Weaving Loom History



The Beginning

In biblical times, weaving was widespread. It was an activity done in the family home. The invention of the loom took this activity away from the home and into industrial settings.

No one can really tell the exact time when weaving looms started in history. Different cultures and nationalities refer to this differently. Specific

evidence regarding the use of looms dates back to around 700AD. This is reflective around Asia, Africa and Europe^[1a].

Many consider the use of weaving looms dating back way before this time. Looms became even more widespread and evident during the middle ages^[1a]. Around this time, weaving was more of an industry^[2b,3c]. Over the centuries, weaving looms advanced slowly.

The first power loom was born during the time of the Industrial Revolution (1760 – 1815)^[2b]. This loom utilised steam and water to operate^[2b]. It made the creation of woven material substantially faster. People now had to be trained to be able to operate the machinery in the textile industry.

So overall, it is fair to say that weaving looms have been around for quite some time. As well, this type of craft has advanced considerably since the early days of it's use. There are a wide range of weaving looms available for both professional settings and in the home.

How many different looms are there?

Well, wherever you look you'll probably get a different answer. There are a number of different looms including:

- Floor looms
- Table looms
- Rigid Heddle looms
- Tapestry Looms
- Inkle Looms
- Small Looms
- Card Weaving
- Bead looms
- (and probably more)^[4d, 5e]

As time has progressed, specific craft weaving looms have been created. These probably fall under small looms but they are for specific purposes including

- scarf looms
- beanie looms
- sock looms
- flower looms
- rainbow looms

These are probably more for the hobbyist but the quality of what is produced is comparable to the more professional looms.

Reference

1. <http://blog.needsupply.com/2013/01/30/a-brief-history-of-weaving/>
2. <http://www.weavedesign.eu/weaving-history/>
3. <http://feutresdeplandvisites.weebly.com/uploads/1/7/0/8/17086268/looms.pdf>
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5. <http://www.warporweft.com/types-of-looms/>



<http://theweavingloom.weebly.com/>