

Since 1993



The Bowfin Inquirer



October 2025

From Strangers to Neighbors!



Meet the Yango Family!

What are your names?

We're Mark and Gigi Yango, and these are our three rambunctious kids: daughters Allie (13) and Kate (10), and our son Zac (5).

Can you tell us anything about your family?

Our family is super into sports, especially baseball and softball! 🏟️ ⚾️ You'll probably see Mark coaching Zac's team or Gigi cheering for Kate and Allie at Sea Cloud Park. Fun fact: Mark and Gigi met playing mixed doubles tennis for our USTA team!

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Continued on page 3

Aaron's Question Column



Handlooms in Use

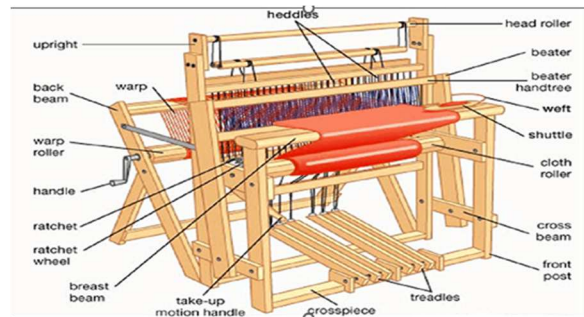


Diagram of a Handloom

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- Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Handlooms are one of the oldest and most complicated textile-manufacturing devices out there, and arguably one of the most complex purely-mechanical tools used by people today. With multiple moving parts, it takes a deft hand to efficiently and elegantly weave cloth

Continued on page 4

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Do you have any pets?

Yes, we do! We have a kitten named Luna (a tabby) 🐱, who is basically the queen of our new house already. You may see her wandering around Bowfin.

How long have you lived in Foster City?

Mark and Gigi have been in Foster City since March 2012. They moved here from Seattle because they craved more sunshine!

Where have you lived before?

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Gigi is a Vietnamese immigrant and was born there. Her family fled Vietnam in the early 90's as refugees and ended up in the Philippines. She and her family had a harrowing escape by boat and spent 4 years in the Philippines before receiving political asylum to Washington State. Gigi jokes that she married Mark to repay her debt to the Philippines! She's also a proud UW Husky and spotted Mark because of his excessive topspin forehand in Seattle.

Allie, Kate, and Zac are all proud Bay Area babies!

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Our family loves all kinds of food, which often leads to arguments when we go out! But we can all agree on Shabu Shabu. Our go-to hot pot spot is Mumu's Hot Pot in Foster City. We also love ramen—Hiro Nori in San Mateo is great. And for a treat, we're frequently standing in line for boba tea at T-Pumps in FC. 🧋

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Mark and Gigi still love tennis 🎾 but haven't played competitively in a while, thanks to our three "rugrats."

- Mark also enjoys playing guitar and working out.
- Gigi is a proud member at Orange Theory, loves to garden, and tries to relax with a cup of jasmine tea when the kids aren't harassing her.
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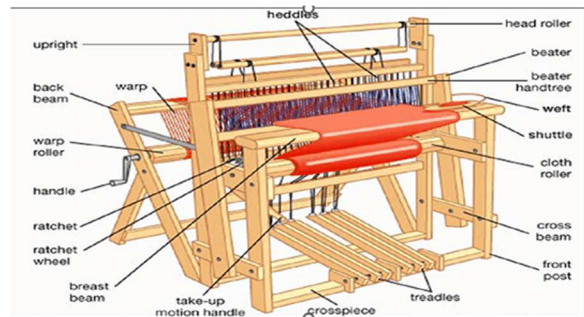


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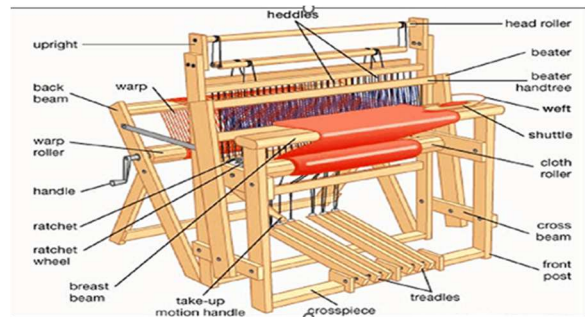


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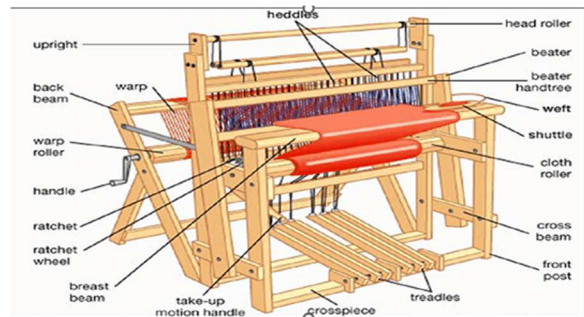


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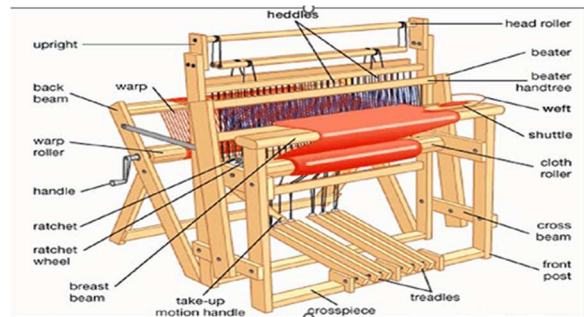


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Handlooms in Use

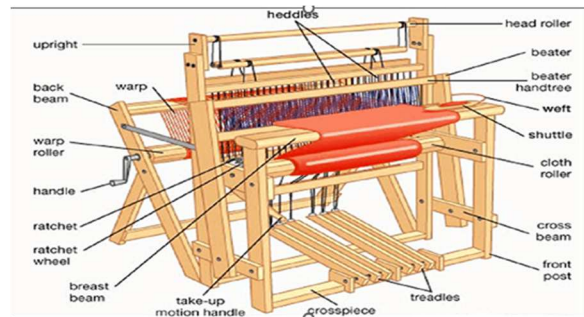


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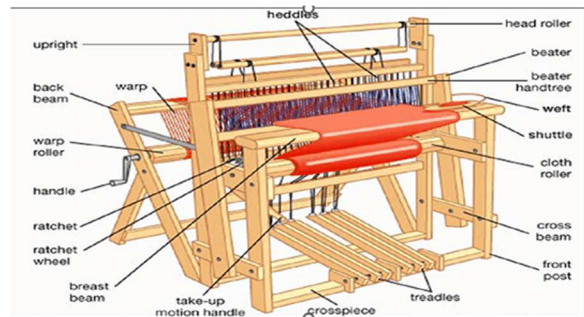


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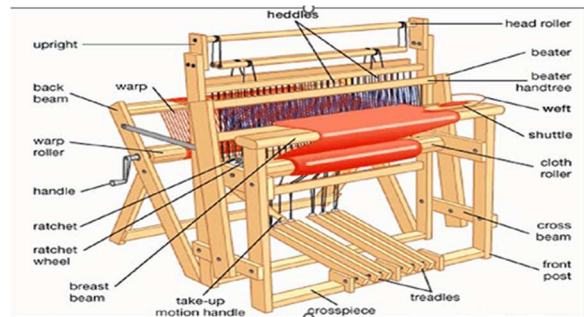


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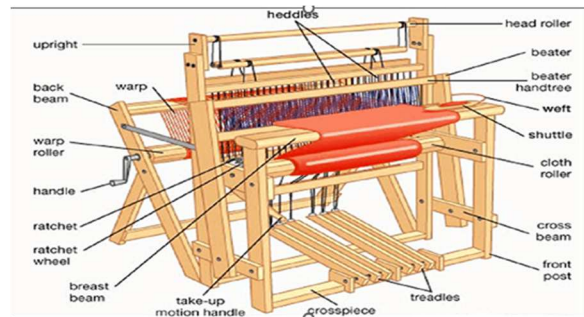


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Continued on page 3

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Handlooms in Use

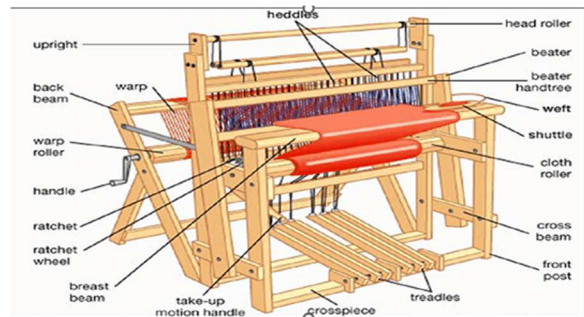


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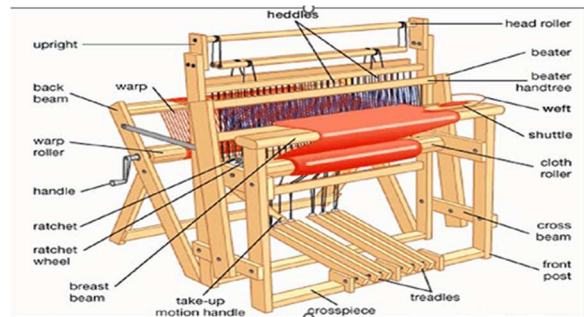


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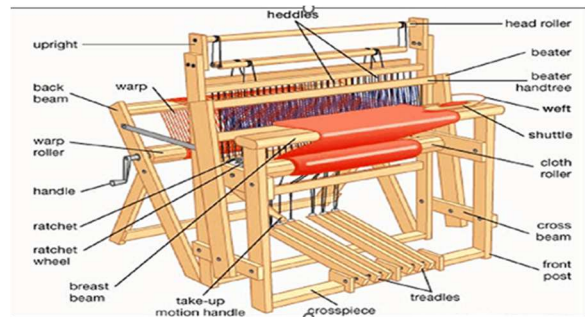


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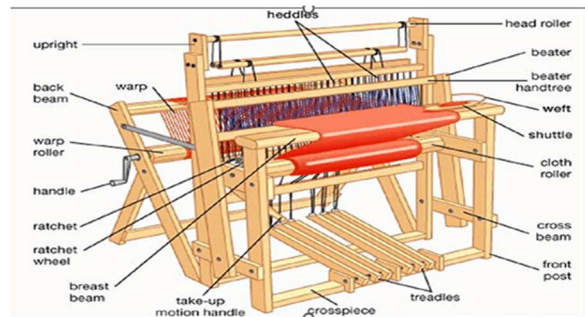


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Handlooms in Use

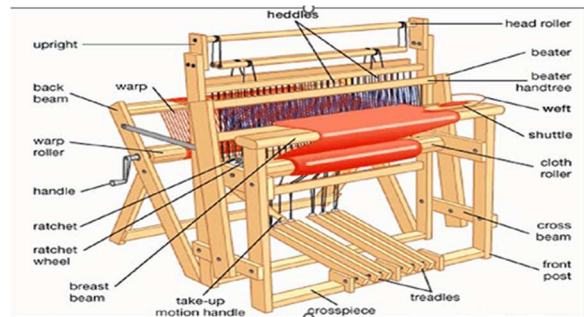


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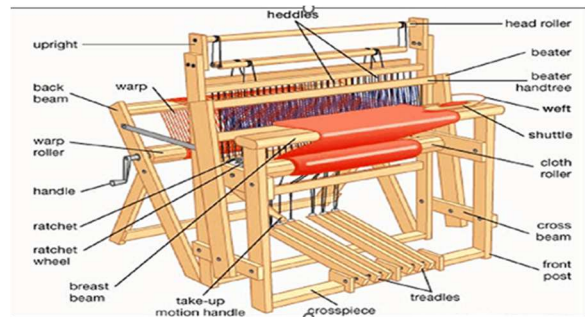


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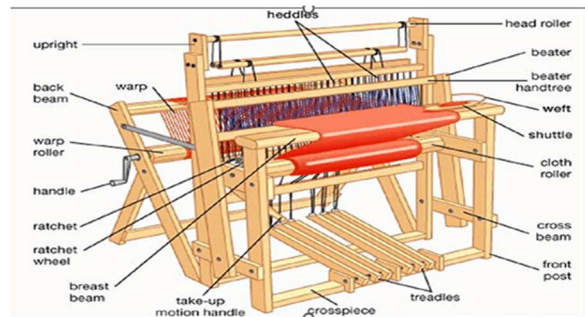


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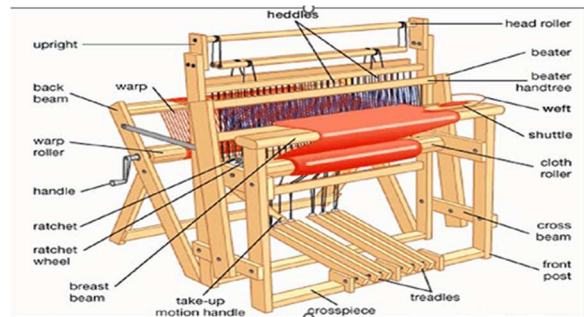


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Aaron's Question Column



Handlooms in Use

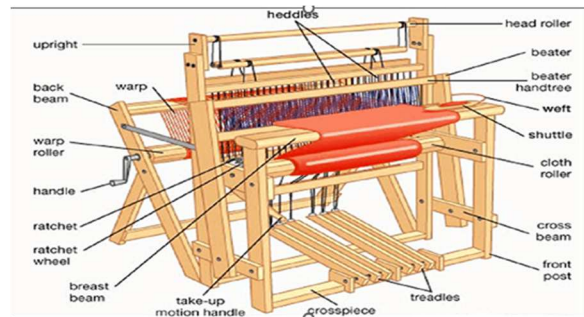


Diagram of a Handloom

Question: When I visited Ireland a few years ago I recall being amazed at the design and functioning - and the clack-clack-clacking! - of a handloom. Can you describe a bit about how such a loom creates patterned cloth from thread?

- Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Handlooms are one of the oldest and most complicated textile-manufacturing devices out there, and arguably one of the most complex purely-mechanical tools used by people today. With multiple moving parts, it takes a deft hand to efficiently and elegantly weave cloth

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Meet the Yango Family *continued from page 1*

Do you have any pets?

Yes, we do! We have a kitten named Luna (a tabby) 🐱, who is basically the queen of our new house already. You may see her wandering around Bowfin.

How long have you lived in Foster City?

Mark and Gigi have been in Foster City since March 2012. They moved here from Seattle because they craved more sunshine!

Where have you lived before?

Mark was born and raised in New York and is Filipino American. He moved to Chicago for undergrad, then worked in New York City, and later moved to Seattle where he met Gigi.

Gigi is a Vietnamese immigrant and was born there. Her family fled Vietnam in the early 90's as refugees and ended up in the Philippines. She and her family had a harrowing escape by boat and spent 4 years in the Philippines before receiving political asylum to Washington State. Gigi jokes that she married Mark to repay her debt to the Philippines! She's also a proud UW Husky and spotted Mark because of his excessive topspin forehand in Seattle.

Allie, Kate, and Zac are all proud Bay Area babies!

What's your favorite family restaurant?

Our family loves all kinds of food, which often leads to arguments when we go out! But we can all agree on Shabu Shabu. Our go-to hot pot spot is Mumu's Hot Pot in Foster City. We also love ramen—Hiro Nori in San Mateo is great. And for a treat, we're frequently standing in line for boba tea at T-Pumps in FC. 🧋

What are your hobbies?

Mark and Gigi still love tennis 🎾 but haven't played competitively in a while, thanks to our three "rugrats."

- Mark also enjoys playing guitar and working out.
- Gigi is a proud member at Orange Theory, loves to garden, and tries to relax with a cup of jasmine tea when the kids aren't harassing her.
- Allie loves softball, playing the piano and cello, and is really into music. She's hooked on the soundtrack to KPop demon hunters and likes to fall asleep to ASMR. She also loves drinking matcha!
- Kate also loves softball and music. She's a huge fan of the Wicked movie and dreams of singing like Ariana Grande.
- Zac likes baseball (playing more recently) and soccer. He follows his sisters with K-pop demon hunters but is also getting into Roblox, much to his parents' disapproval.

If you could go anywhere, where would you go?

Our family's happy place is Hawaii 🌴. Mark's dad lives in Oahu, and we try to visit him or another island every few years.

- Mark longs to go to Paris with Gigi (without the kids!).
- Gigi would like to visit Japan or go back to Bora Bora.
- Allie wants to go to Japan to drink more matcha.
- Kate wants to visit NYC to see a Broadway play.
- Zac loves Lake Tahoe.

Tell us something interesting about yourselves?

Gigi's favorite book is A Thousand Splendid Suns. She would like to write a book about her escape from Vietnam to chronicle her life story for the kids. 📖

Mark used to be a speechwriter for the King County Executive in Seattle and even tried to get a gig as a speechwriter for Obama! His plans changed when he met Gigi and chose a simpler, happier life raising the little ones.

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from thread. Handlooms use two interconnected thread systems:

1. The warp threads are stretched vertically, and are held in place by tension.
2. The weft threads pass horizontally through the warp threads to bind the cloth together.

Handlooms also execute three separate motions:

1. Shedding is when certain warp threads are held up while others remain down, creating a gap known as a shed for the weft thread to go through.
2. Picking is when the weft thread goes through the shed using a moving device known as the shuttle. Depending on the design of the handloom, this can cause a clacking sound as some looms have solid shuttle boxes at either end of the loom to stop the shuttle's movement when it reaches the end.
3. Beating is when the new weft thread is pushed against the fabric using a reed mounted in a frame known as a beater. This action of the beater

striking the cloth creates a distinct clacking sound, as the cloth is taut and quite solid. The reason it can make a "solid" clacking sound despite hitting cloth is similar to how a soft fabric, animal hide or similar item can be stretched to create a drum, while initially being soft, it mimics a more solid object.

Complex patterns emerge in the fabric depending on which threads are held up during the shedding stage. Each pick of the shuttle adds one horizontal line holding the entire cloth together, and in earlier handlooms the weaver could use simple pedals (normally two to four pedals) to determine which threads would be held up at which time, which would then be woven over the shuttle, appearing on top of the cloth. In more modern patterns, you would need far too many pedals to achieve complex patterns, so now some more complicated handlooms use punched cards or a peg system to set up which threads will be held up at which time ahead of time, so that they can fluidly weave their cloth without actually worrying about a pattern far too difficult for anybody to make quickly. These cards are known as Jacquard cards and are used in the Jacquard loom, named after Joseph Marie Jacquard who patented said loom in France in 1805, innovating on machines going back to 1725. The peg system is known as a dobby loom.

In essence, the handloom transforms raw thread into patterned fabric through a precisely timed interplay of motion, tension, and rhythm. Every "clack" you hear marks the intersection of decades of human skill and centuries of mechanical design, where innovation meets the weaver's craftsmanship. What appears as simple manual labor is, in fact, a finely tuned orchestration of physics and art, the sound of tradition made tangible in a world of ever-increasing automation.