



Weaving with the Lamb

– Begin Crafting with Local Wool

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Weaving with the Lamb is a DIY kit designed to introduce beginners to backstrap weaving with a rigid heddle, an ancient craft tradition. The kit includes a small sheep-shaped heddle and Finnish wool yarn in sheep's natural colours.

Weaving with the Lamb (In Finnish: *Kudontaa karitsan kanssa*) was co-developed for Taito Lappi as a potential craft product for beginners and for families with children. The kit offers a hands-on creative experience, allowing users to engage with local wool in its natural colours while learning the basics of bandweaving in a friendly way. The kit includes a rigid heddle with weaving shuttle made

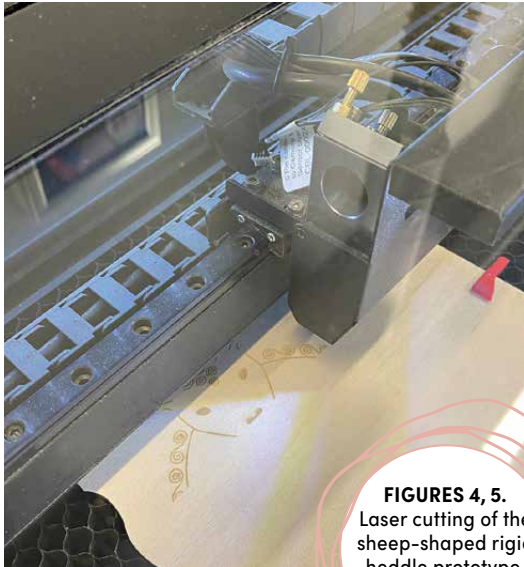
from birch plywood (Figure 1), and a range of local thick wool yarn in natural white, grey, black, and brown shades. Following the instructions, users can weave a basic band with a simple pattern.

The design team began exploring what kind of new products and services that Taito Lappi might need. In discussions with Taito Lappi representatives, a particular need emerged: new products for children that introduce them to wool craft traditions. The team chose to focus on shared experiences between parents and children, exploring how crafting can foster both learning and bonding.

The co-design process began in collaboration with student Chia-Chen Chang. Chang sketched the first sheep-shaped loom models and laser-cut them from birch plywood. The team tested these models both individually and with children at home. After modifications, Elina Luiro produced the updated versions using laser cutting. Inspired by the process, Chang also wrote and illustrated a storybook, and

◀◀ **FIGURE 1.** Rigid heddle and weaving shuttle with Finnsheep wool in the white natural shade. Photograph: Tatiana Kravtsov, 2026.

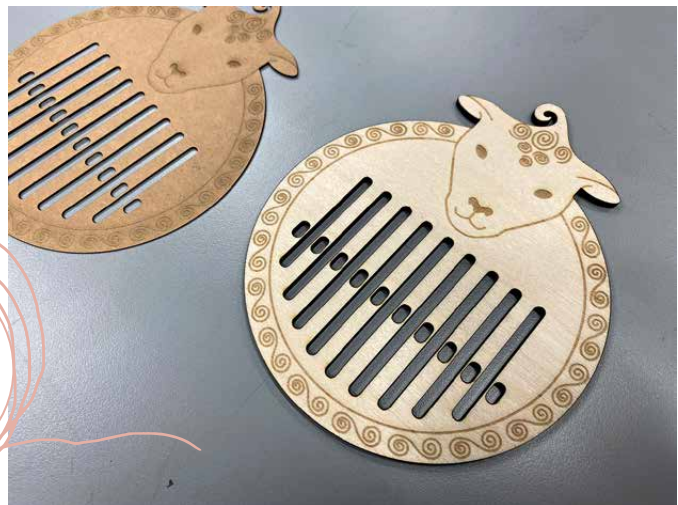
◀ **FIGURE 2.** Meeting a lamb at Kairan Tapuli farm. Photograph: Chia-Chen Chang, 2024.



FIGURES 4, 5. Laser cutting of the sheep-shaped rigid heddle prototype. Photographs: Elina Luiro, 2025.



FIGURE 3. Sketching the lamb-shaped rigid heddle. Photograph: Minna Kovero, 2025.



her set was transformed into the special *Wool!Box* kit. Building on these shared experiences, the rest of the team continued developing the idea of a DIY kit for bandweaving.

Inspired by close encounters with sheep on local farms, the team decided to place the figure of a lamb at the heart of the design. Kovero and Kravtsov sketched a lamb-shaped heddle and a weaving shuttle featuring spiral elements that recall the lamb's curly fleece and symbolize growth, cycles, and continuity in the natural world. The sketches were then redrawn as vectors and prototyped via laser cutting by Luiro. The collaborative effort brought together traditional craft and modern technology (Figures 2–5).

The bandweaving kit is designed for shared crafting experiences that bring older and younger generations closer though making together. The design emphasises accessibility and belonging: the thick yarn is easy for beginners to work with, while Finnish wool grounds the weaving experience in the local cultural and natural landscape. Through the lamb's character and the warmth of the wooden materials, children may also develop a special connection to the craft tool itself. In this way, the kit helps children in engaging with the cultural heritage embedded in traditional wool crafts, experiencing it as something living, tactile and rooted in their own environment.