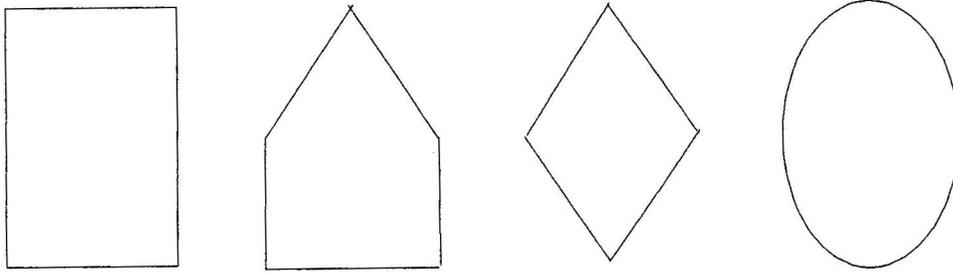

MAKING & FILLING

QUILLS FOR SWEDISH-STYLE BOAT SHUTTLES

Swedish-style boat shuttles are designed for use with paper quills instead of plastic or wood bobbins. Inexpensive, machine-made cardboard quills are available for purchase. However, many weavers make their own quills from scrap paper, providing themselves with an inexhaustible store of free weaving supplies.

Regular 20-lb. or 24-lb. office-weight paper, such as laser or ink-jet printer paper, typing paper or notebook paper, makes fine quills. There are several methods of cutting paper to wind into a quill:

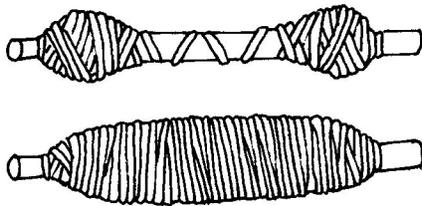


No matter which shape you choose to begin with, the paper *at its widest point* should measure the desired finished quill length. For quills used with Bluster Bay shuttles, this measurement will be 3½ inches (9 cm) or 5 inches (13 cm).

The length of the paper determines the final outside diameter and the quill's stiffness. Experience will teach you the best length to use, but a good length to start with is 8½ inches.

Starting with the narrow end, make a quill by *tightly* winding the paper around the shaft of a bobbin-winder. Swedish-made bobbin-winders designed expressly for quills work best. When simultaneously making quills and filling them with yarn, the tightly wound quill is held in shape by the pressure of the yarn around it. If you are making a batch of quills to fill with yarn later, hold the tightly wound paper in place with a dab of quick-drying glue or a piece of cellophane tape.

There are two methods of filling quills. Weavers and authors of weaving instruction books often express strong preference for one method over the other, going so far as to pronounce the other method wrong. In fact, there is no one right or wrong way to fill a quill. The method you use will depend on the shuttle with which the quill is used, as well as just your own preference.



In one method, weft is built up on each end of the quill, then the center is filled in to level with the ends. This method works well with shuttles with very small exit holes, and where the quill completely fills the length of the bobbin hollow.

For the other filling method, weft yarn first traverses back and forth, the entire length of the quill. As the quill fills, this traverse becomes shorter and shorter, building a bulge in the center of the quill. This filling method works well with shuttles with long yarn exit slots, and if using a short quill in a long bobbin hollow.

