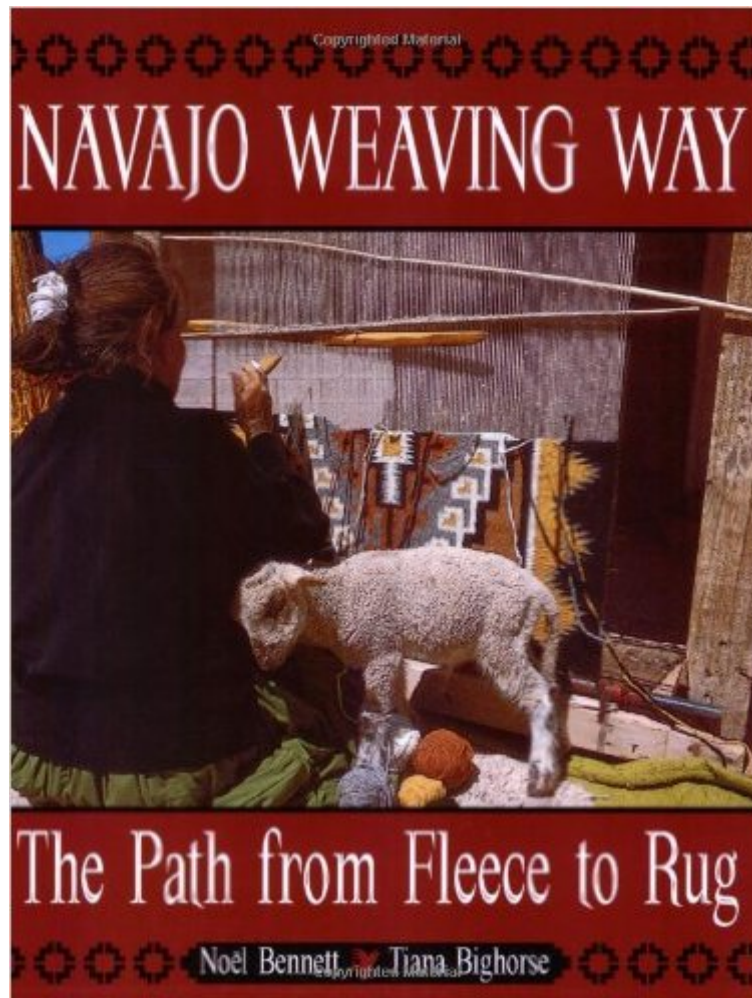


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# Navajo Weaving Way



## Synopsis

Noel Bennett met traditional Navajo weaver Tiana Bighorse in 1968. In time Tiana took her into her family as a daughter. Together they sheared sheep, collected plants, dyed wool, carded, spun, and wove. This book records their many experiences together, a collaboration that spans nearly thirty years. In 1971, Tiana and Noel wrote *Working with the Wool: How to Weave a Navajo Rug*. Noel later wrote *Designing with the Wool* and *The Weaver's Pathway*. Now, this single, authoritative volume brings together those three books--with updates and revisions--as well as excerpts from other published articles and books by Noel and Tiana about Navajo weaving, culture, and history. Detailed charts and illustrations help the weaver find her way step-by-step through the making of a first sampler and through several more advanced techniques.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Interweave (July 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1883010306

ISBN-13: 978-1883010300

Product Dimensions: 10 x 8 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #172,817 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Rugs](#) #56 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Weaving](#) #140 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Textile & Costume](#)

## Customer Reviews

I recently bought this book in hopes of understanding how a Navajo rug/blanket was woven. I was not disappointed at all; I believe I could do it with just this book--and that includes building my own loom! The authors include Navajo dyeing plants and procedures, wool carding and spinning, and, of course, the weaving process. There are also a couple of patterns that beginners might try. In addition to the process, the author inserts quotes from Navajo women about the traditions and folk-traditions of the craft--such as the dangers in not completing the weaving in a timely manner, how spirits of the dead may work the loom when the weaver is away, etc. I like the book, but I cannot say that it has answered all of my questions.

What a life saver! It's difficult to get information on the Texas Gulf Coast about Navajo weaving. As an art major I had no trouble locating weaving classes (fiber arts) but no one seems to be into the Navajo style. This book singlehandedly taught me how to not only make a Navajo loom but also how to weave a rug (that turned out beautifully!). It has very easy to understand instructions that utilize contemporary easy to find materials. It also gives good resources for weaving fibers and/or tools that may not be available in your area. I haven't tried the Navajo spindle yet (to spin my own yarn) but the spindle is on order and I can't wait. Wonderful book!

Noel Bennett's book on Navajo Weaving is a gem. It is as much a description of her personal odyssey into the world of traditional Navajo weaving as it is a how-to book. Ms. Bennett learned from Tiana Bighorse not only the techniques of weaving but respect for the culture that created the techniques. In describing the creation of the weaving tools, the collection of dye plants, even the hand spinning of the wool Ms. Bennett shows how the creation of a rug can be a spiritual experience. Her book includes plans for a home-built Navajo loom, covers all the major weaving techniques, and includes a teaching sampler with full instructions. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to gain an insight into Navajo weaving.

If you're looking for a how-to book on anything other than tapestry, look elsewhere. This is not a book on backstrap looms. I was looking for info on how to set up continuous-string heddles for a backstrap loom. While this book does give some info on heddles, it is primarily focused on weaving tapestries and rugs on a frame loom. It did have more info on string heddles than many of the other books I purchased, but nothing I didn't already get from watching videos on the internet. I gave this book 5 stars because I am enjoying this book way more than any of the others I bought. I love reading the lore involved in crafting, and this book includes much of that. It may not have been the book I was looking for, but I very much like the book I found it to be. Will it help someone build a loom and learn to weave? Yes. Will it entertain along the way? Certainly. If you have interest in weaving you may want this book in your collection. I'm glad it's in mine.

An excellent book. I used it to build a loom and learned much about the Navajo and Native American Spirituality.

I have owned this book for years and still check back occasionally. I've been weaving Navajo style

rugs for thirty years and Noel Bennett is responsible for a good deal of that success. If it weren't for her two books, this is the second one, I may not have undertaken this life work. Thank you Noel Bennett.

Cover to cover, this book was filled with wonderful stories and excellent instructions. Where else could I have learned the wisdom, passed on from generation to generation. I received an in-depth picture of how to warp and weave a Navajo loom and could never have proceeded without it.

A wonderful and delightful follow-up to "Weaving With The Wool" by authors that are really good teachers. Noel Bennett and Tiana Bighorse have again teamed up to give us a very well written and easy-reading book that teaches the use of the Navajo loom in a way that everyone can use and be successful making a little rug. Well done and, again, my thanks for a wonderful work.

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