Instructions for assembling Ten16's Rigid Heddle Loom (Thank you, Ten16!!)

First – a couple of suggestions:

- Pre-drill holes before putting in the screws to avoid splitting
- Take it easy when putting in the screws, especially if you are using an electric screwdriver. It is easy to cause the plastic to split and you will end up reprinting parts like me. Don't be like me.



Here we go!

- Print all of the parts according to Ten16's instructions except you do not need to print the brakes, pins and retaining rings twice since each print already includes 2. (I ended up with four of each of these.)
- 2. Cut your dowels. (I used poplar since it's strong yet reasonably priced.) Here is a list of the sizes you will need:
 - 7/8" diameter dowel
 - Two pieces cut at 26"
 - Four pieces cut at 17"
 - Two pieces cut at 2.75"
 - Two pieces cut at 2"
 - ½" diameter dowel
 - One piece cut at 16"
 - One piece cut at 16.5"
 - 7/16" diameter dowel
 - Two pieces cut at 18" each.
- 3. Build your warp beam and cloth beam. (They are exactly the same.) Assemble like this:



4. Assemble the heddle with the two pieces of ½' diameter dowel. It will look like this.





5. Now get your 26" long dowels along with your main braces, heddle braces and tension braces. Put the parts in order like this. Two of the main braces have holes for the breaks. Make sure



those are facing outwards and are on the side you choose as being the left side.

Make sure the four tension braces have the holes for the tension rods facing inwards.

Make sure the heddle braces are facing inward with the heddle openings towards you.

Don't put in any screws at this point. Chances are you will need to make adjustments as you go. Spacing between the parts is a matter of preference. I had the tension braces about 1 ¼" inch away from the main braces, and the heddle braces were roughly centered.

6. Now you will get ready to put the cloth and warp beams on. Take your 2" length dowel pieces and sand them down so they fit easily into the main braces on the right side of the loom. Rubbing them down with wax also helps a lot. You want to make sure they turn smoothly. Attach a retaining ring on each one (go ahead and screw those on), and then insert into the main braces on the right side like this.



7. Now go ahead and stick the warp and cloth beams on, and while you're at it, put the 18" dowel rods into the tension braces on the right side.





8. Sand down your 2.75" dowels and wax them just like you did with the other two. Insert them into the main braces on the left side. Then attach the cloth and warp beams and tension rods (18" dowels) to the corresponding parts on the left side of the loom.

9. Put the handles on the dowels on the left side of the loom, and attach the brakes with pins like this. Make sure those breaks are in the right position before you put screws in the handles! You should be able to turn the handle to the right, but not to the left unless you lift the brake.



10. Now is a good time to check a few things. Make sure the parts on each side are aligned with each other. Make sure the beams are turning smoothly. Put the heddle between the heddle braces and make sure the width is correct so that the heddle can't fall out. Now you can go ahead and put the screws in to secure all the parts. You're ready to weave!