A few words about
Sprang Frames

Sprang is a braiding technique, that pretty much requires a frame.
Peter Collingwood’s book on the subject is titled
*The Techniques of Sprang*
but the subtitle is

*Plaiting on Stretched Threads.*

Yes, the threads must be stretched on something, so a frame is a good thing to have.

What kind of frame will you need for my workshop?
Many weavers already own a variety of frames.
An Inkle loom, for example could work well.
I have a frame for Chilkat weaving that also works well.

Frames suitable for sprang must
- hold the warp securely
- allow for the ‘shrink’ as the weaving progresses
- permit removal of the woven piece upon completion.

When I give workshops, I provide the frames for my students.
(you will see photos of this frame on page 5 of this document).
There are woodworkers who make these frames, check my website SprangLady.com for the names of some of these woodworkers.

You can make a suitable frame rather easily.
The following pages give you some ideas.

For the step-by-step of creating these frames, warping them, as well as for lots more information on sprang check out the video
https://www.taprootvideo.com/preview_class.jsf?iid=7&cid=2
or the DVD *Introduction to Sprang*,
available from Taprootvideo.com
also available from SprangLady.com
Bentwood Frame

Perhaps the simplest frame is a bent wood frame. Make it out from a tall sapling, without forks. A variety of woods can be used: maple, ash, willow.

Select a sapling that is as thick as your little finger.

A 5 ft length makes a small frame.

Bend it as soon as you get it home.

Tie two strings across, to hold the shape and also to hold the warp. A slip knot on at least one side of the string is helpful for tension adjustment. For instructions on tying these knots, go to the end of this document.

Czech sprang artist
Sylva Antony Cekalova
www.krosienky-sprang.cz/
Says this shape is more stable. She notches the two ends and ties them together.
You will need:

A length of plumbing pipe
copper is nice, but expensive.
PVC pipe works well.
(½ inch or 2 cm diameter)
It comes in lengths that are
several feet long and is easily cut
into 6 sections.

4 Elbow connectors
They must fit to the

Threaded rod
also called Ready Rod
choose a size that fits inside the
pipe mentioned above.

4 Nuts, to fit the threaded rod.

2 Knitting needles

Assembled it looks like this:

I suspend the warp on knitting needles that are taped to
the plumbing pipe.

And here’s a photo of me working on such a frame:
A nice frame can be made from a large picture frame.

You can purchase ‘stretcher bars’ from an artist supply store. (Painters purchase these, assemble them into a frame, and stretch their canvas around the frame before painting.)

You will need
4 Stretcher bars,
   2 longer
   and
   2 shorter

2 Dowels
   shorter than
   the short stretcher bar

Twine or string

2 Knitting Needles

I drill holes in the ends of the dowels and also drill holes in the shorter stretcher bars. The twine connects the dowels to the stretcher bar frame.

The dowels will give me rather large loops at the ends of my cloth. For this reason, I also use 2 knitting needles. These needles get taped or lashed to the dowels, and hold the warp.
Carol's Frame

The frame that I supply to participants in my sprang classes looks like this:

This frame requires a bit of carpentry skill to make, but my students have voted this as their favorite frame.

Carol’s frame is made by several woodworker and frame makers

**United States**  Dewberryridge.com
Purringtonlooms.com

**United Kingdom**  Weavolution  [contact@weavolution.com](mailto:contact@weavolution.com)

**Canada**  contact Carol

**New Zealand**  Ashford.co.nz
Majacraft.co.nz

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How to tie the firm knot
You need to know how to tie two knots.
One knot is firm, does not slip.

Step 1
Make a bend at the end

Step 2
Wrap it around to create a circle

Step 3
Bring the loop up through the circle

... and voila ... the completed knot
How to tie the slip knot

**Step 1**
Bring the end behind the frame, then around across in front.

**Step 2**
Bring the end behind and up ….

**Step 3**
then bring the end across and in front, forming a triangle. The triangle is marked with an X.

**Step 4**
Make a loop with the end, and bring it up through the triangle. Pull tight.