



Fundamentals of Rugs



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Dedication

To My Friend Dr. Mark R. Jones

You were the man that helped me to realize my dreams. Without you, none of this would be possible. Your interest and inquiring mind about oriental rugs inspired this project. You are the most imaginative and perceptive person I have ever met. Very few people have these gifts. You have faithfully believed in my vision and understood the importance of this project.

You came in as a curious investor, and have become my most loyal and trusting friend. You were the Godsend that made this all possible.

To My Father Mozafar Khazai

I dedicate this work to my late father – the man who initially cultivated the passion I have for thinking ambitiously and having big dreams. Acting as a living example, he nurtured the virtues of discipline and hard work within me, which have led to my life's achievements and overall success. His unending generosity, courage, friendship, networking, and ability to live life large will always leave me in awe.

Loom

A frame used for weaving. Usually, the frame supports two beams to which warp ends are fastened. A system for raising alternate warps, a harness in effect, is termed the "heddle." A shed stick, a narrow board or lath, is used to open a passage through the warps, the shed, through which the shuttle, carrying weft, is passed. A reed, a form of comb the width of the loom, may be used to compress the wefts.

Village and nomad carpets are woven on ground looms and city carpets on vertical looms.



Vertical loom

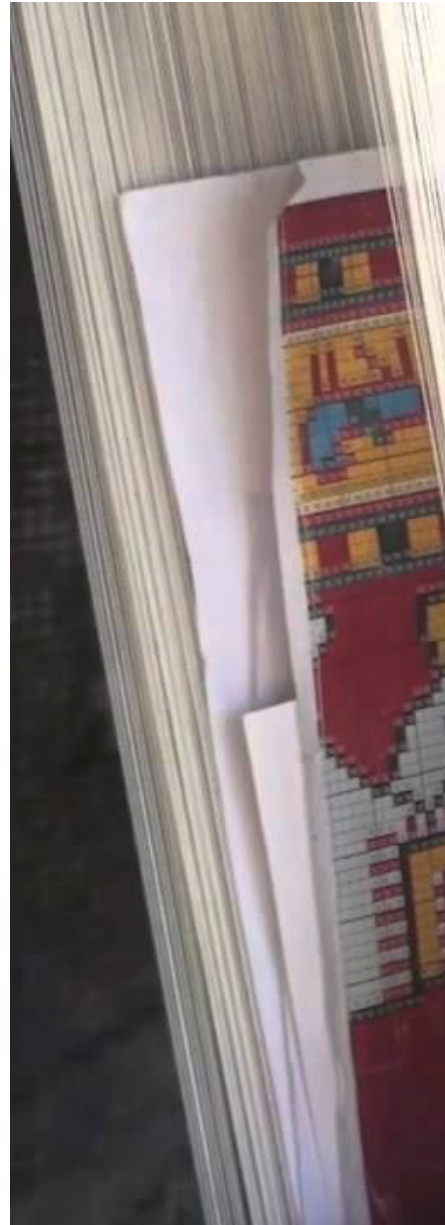


Ground loom

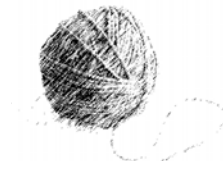


Loom Drawing

A full-size color pattern of a rug design (usually one quarter of the rug) to be copied by the weaver on the loom. Graph paper is used with each cell representing one knot. Often, yarn samples for each color are attached to the loom drawing.







Warp

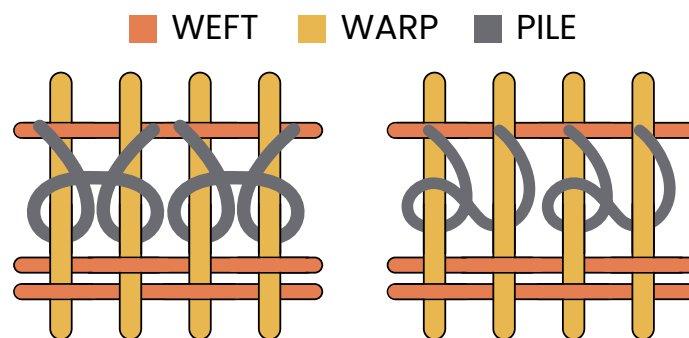
Warps are the initial structural components of loom-woven fabrics. Parallel warp yarns run the length of the loom. Wefts are woven through the warps and pile knots are tied to the warps.

Weft

Wefts are yarns woven through warps. Wefts are horizontal or crosswise yarns when the fabric is viewed on the loom. In pile rugs, there may be one or more wefts between each row of knots. Wefts help to lock knots in place. Wefts and warps make up the foundation. Wefts may be either structural or supplementary.

Pile (Nap)

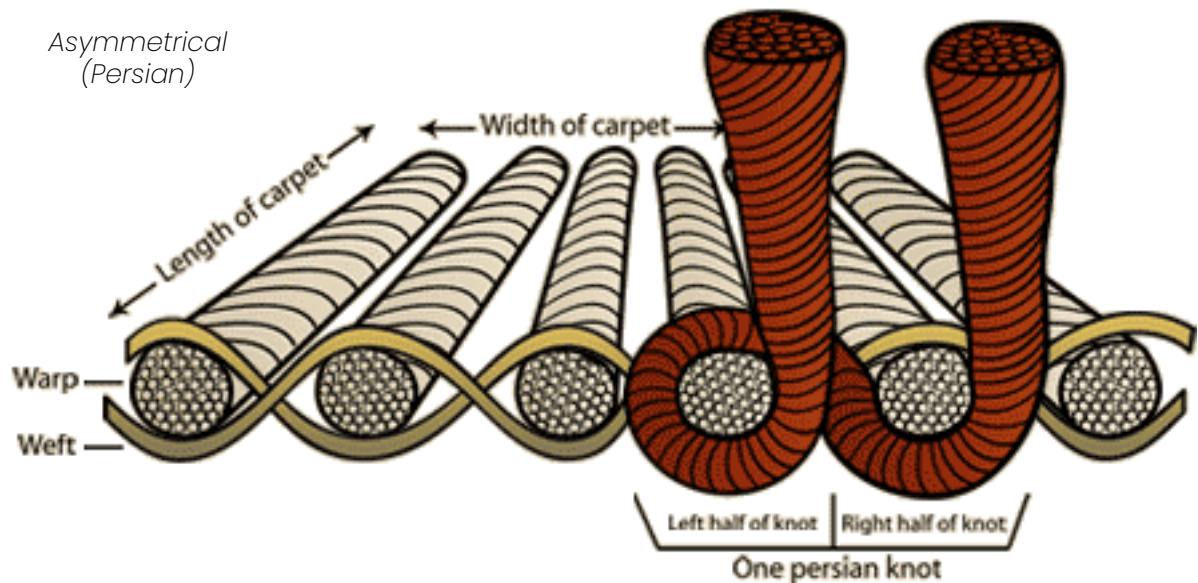
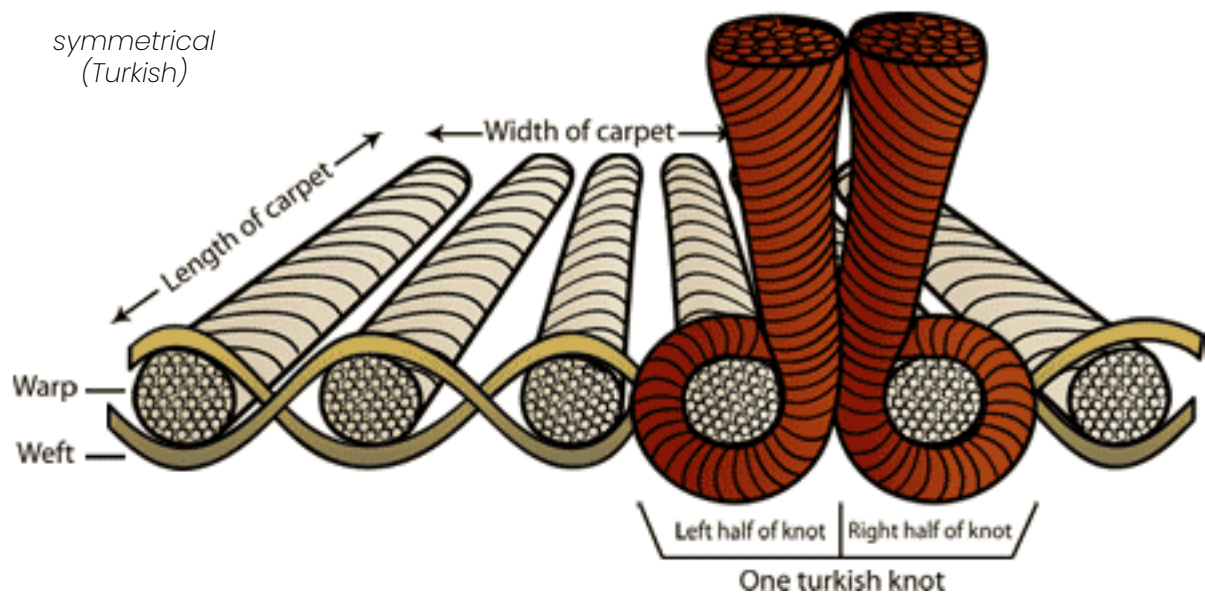
The loops or cut ends of supplementary yarns anchored in a fabric. More specifically, the sheared fibers rising from the foundation of a hand-knotted rug.





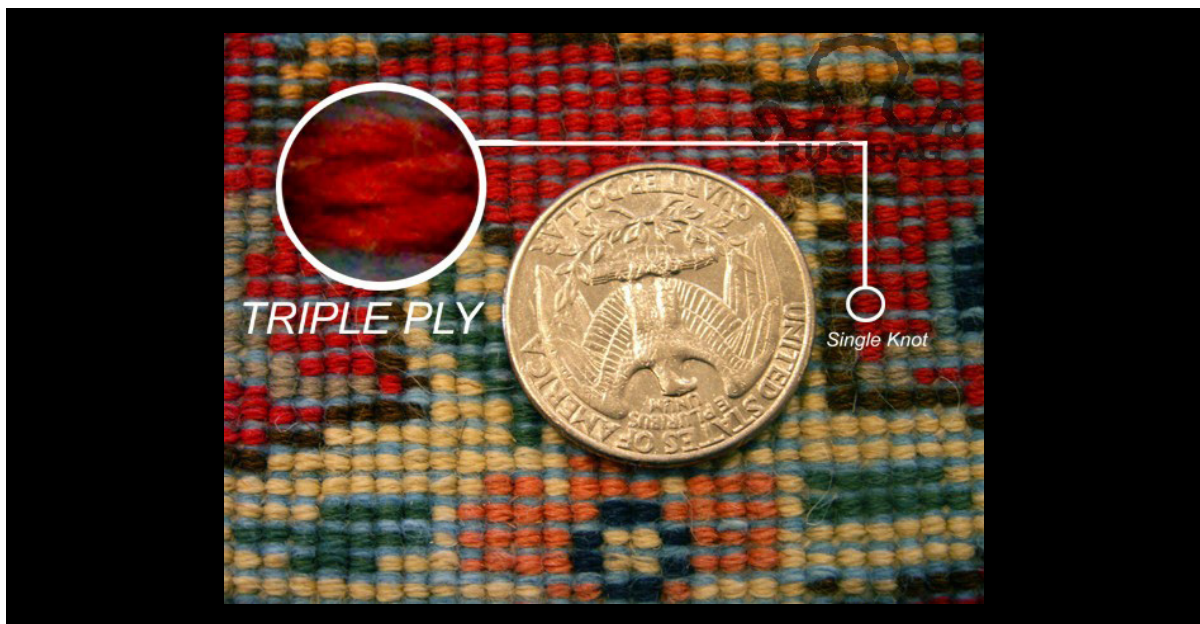
Knot

A tie produced by interlocking one or more cords in such a way that one end of a cord passes through a loop in itself. Technically, the symmetric or Turkish and asymmetric or Persian knots in cut pile fabrics are not knots at all (because no tie is produced), but different systems of discontinuous supplementary weft wrapping.



Knot Count

The number of knots per unit measure. Sometimes used synonymously for knot density.





Fringe Surgery!

Fringes are warps projecting out of the foundation of a piled or flat woven piece, normally at two opposing sides. Named 'risheh' (the root) in Persian, fringes are visible parts of the rug's backbone. These bare roots must be knitted, twisted, braided or plaited to prevent wefts and piles from unraveling.

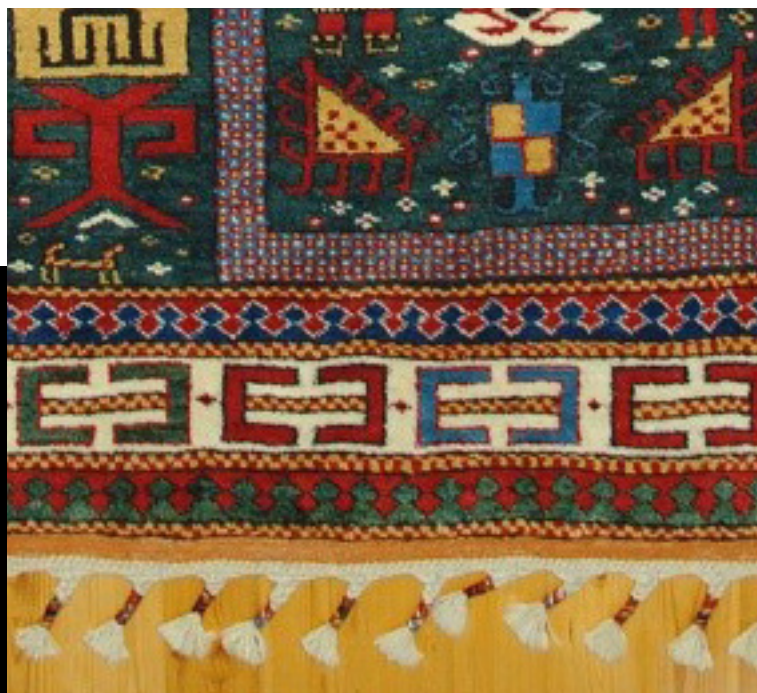


The 'roots' must be protected and if damaged soon repaired. This is super vital for antique Persian rugs to be repaired quickly by trusted experts.



Mind! Fringes of machine-woven pieces are completely artificial and decorative, so the one who could replace those added pieces is not able to operate your hand-woven rug's vertebral column!

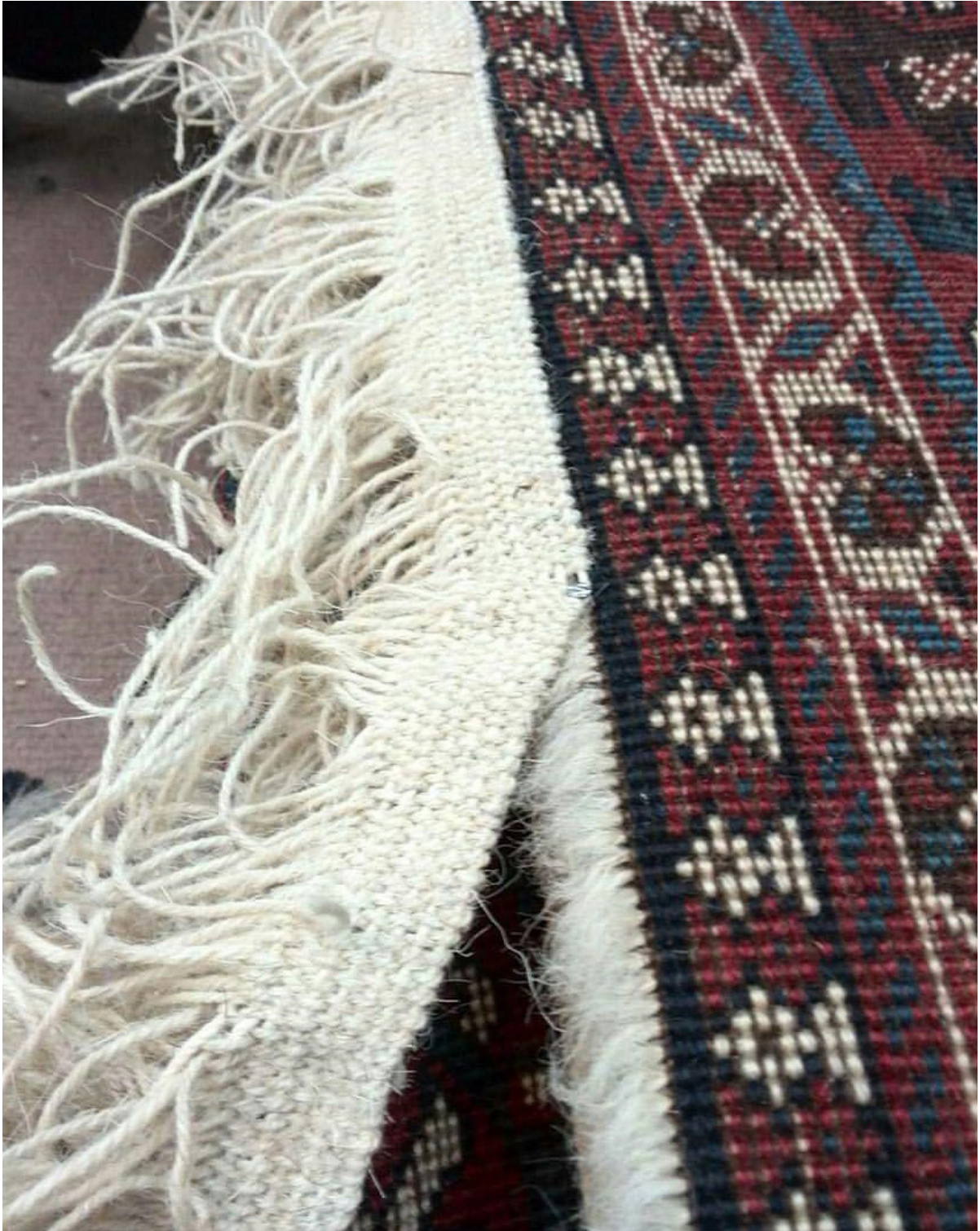
After they cut the rug from the loom, wefts and piles must be restrained from loosening and untying. Called 'end finish', the process may be executed in various styles. Wefts may be twined or chained. Warps may be braided, plaited, or knotted to hold wefts in place.



For repairing the fringes, artisans may choose one of the different methods befitting the end finish style and the damage happened.



Overcasting the damaged fringes or stitching the edges could be done. Artificial fringes also may be attached to rugs with damaged ends. It helps to hide the rotted, torn or loosened yarns, preventing further damages as well.



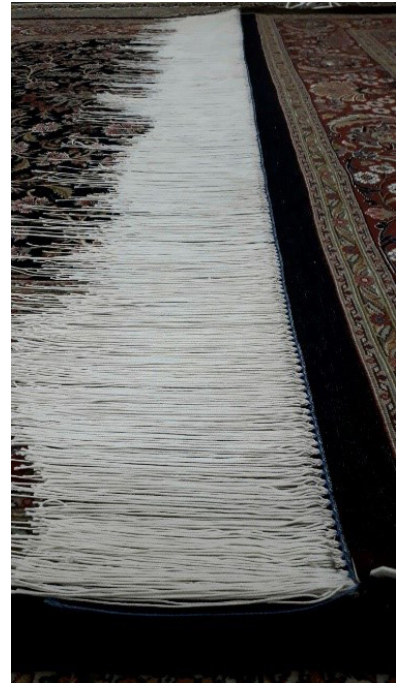
For valuable rugs (like antiques and semi-antiques) it may be necessary to reinsert the loosened warps into the weave structure. It would be a time-taking task for artisans who must have knowledge of various weave techniques.



The latter is the most expensive method but if you keep an eye on your antique rug you would avoid paying it! Vacuum cleaners and pets are fringes' number one enemies. Don't vacuum your antique rug (specially the fringes) with maximum power. Don't let your cat use the rug as a scratching post and don't let your dog chew the fringes!



But if something happened to your Persian rug don't mind, our experts in Khazai Rugs are ready to give you their advice and services.





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