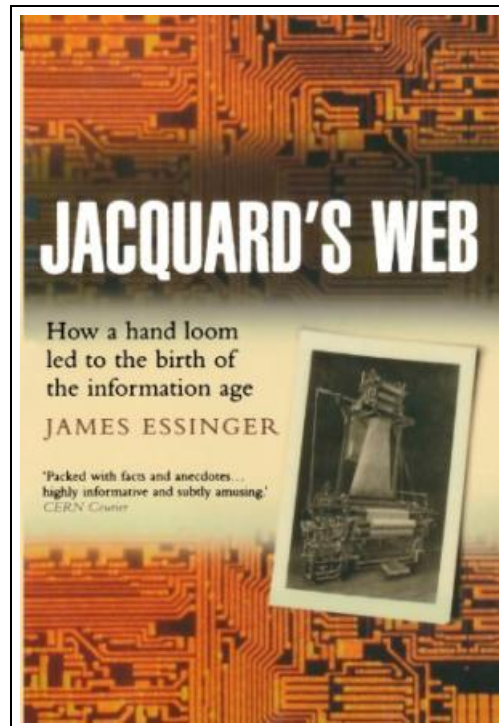# Jacquard s Web: How a hand-loom led to the birth of the information age (Paperback)

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Reviews

Comprehensive guideline! Its such a good read through. It is actually writter in basic words and not confusing. I am just easily could possibly get a enjoyment of reading a composed book.
(Lonzo Wilderman)

JACQUARD S WEB: HOW A HAND-LOOM LED TO THE BIRTH OF THE INFORMATION AGE (PAPERBACK)

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Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2007. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Jacquard s Web is the story of some of the most ingenious inventors the world has ever known, a fascinating account of how a hand-loom invented in Napoleonic France led to the development of the modern information age. James Essinger, a master story-teller, shows through a series of remarkable and meticulously researched historical connections (spanning two centuries and never investigated before) that the Jacquard loom kick-started a process of scientific evolution which would lead directly to the development of the modern computer. The invention of Jacquard s loom in 1804 enabled the master silk-weavers of Lyons to weave fabrics 25 times faster than had previously been possible. The device used punched cards, which stored instructions for weaving whatever pattern or design was required; it proved an outstanding success. These cards can very reasonably be described as the world s first computer programmes. In this engaging and delightful book, James Essinger reveals a plethora of extraordinary links between the nineteenth-century world of weaving and today s computer age: to give just one example, modern computer graphics displays are based on exactly the same principles as those employed in Jacquard s special woven tableaux. Jacquard s Web also introduces some of the most colourful and interesting characters in the history of science and technology: the modest but exceptionally dedicated Jacquard himself, the brilliant but temperamental Victorian polymath Charles Babbage, who dreamt of a cogwheel computer operated using Jacquard cards, and the imaginative and perceptive Ada Lovelace, Lord Byron s only legitimate daughter.

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