



Adding Thread in Beadweaving

bead
IN HAND

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Unless you are making small components or beaded beads (or you have really, really, *really* long arms), you will need to add more thread when working on a bead weaving project.

There are a variety of ways to do this, but all of them involve either **having a knot**, or **weaving the tail ends** of your threads through the work to be sure they are secure (and sometimes doing both).

Here are a few things to keep in mind when deciding which technique to use:

- **If using a technique that has a knot**, will your needle and thread need to pass back through the area with the knot (and if so, how many times) and do your beads have large enough holes?

If possible, place the knot so it is in a bead with a larger hole, or in a place that reduces the number of times your needle will pass through that spot.

- It's best to **use a knot when working with looser weaves**, such as herringbone or netting patterns. Tight weaves such as peyote or brick stitch are generally quite secure weaving the tails of the new and old threads through the beadwork.
- When you have a knot, **never cut the tails close to the knot** to avoid the risk of the knot loosening or being cut. You can either weave the tail ends through a few beads before trimming, or use a technique that ties the new and old threads together and the tails automatically get covered by beads as you continue to work.
- When weaving a new thread into your work, **leave the old thread in place until the new thread is exiting the same bead as the old thread**. Then you can weave the old thread in and not lose track of where you left off. Once you trim the old thread, all beads look the same and it's not always easy to tell where the new thread should exit.

WEAVING IN A NEW THREAD

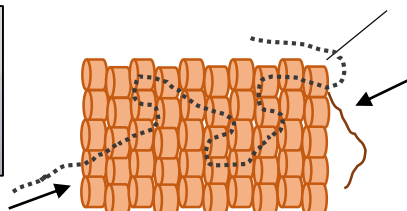
Very tight stitches such as peyote or brick will usually be quite secure if you weave the old and new threads into the piece without adding a knot. Follow the bead path so the thread doesn't pass over any beads, and change directions a couple of times for added security.



This shows a change in direction. When the thread is pulled tight, the loop you see between the two beads (the red thread at the bottom of the picture) will no longer be visible.



This shows the needle following the bead path.



Leave the old thread in place until the new thread is exiting the same bead. Then you can weave the old thread in the same way and be ready to start where you left off.

Here's an illustration showing how the thread follows the bead path and changes direction to add security. You can also see that the old thread is still in place, ensuring that the new thread will be in the correct place to continue beading.

