



Adding Thread in Beadweaving using Knots

bead
IN HAND

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The tip sheet *Adding Thread in Beadweaving* includes details to keep in mind when deciding whether to add your thread using a knot or another technique.

Knots are preferred when adding thread in looser weaves such as herringbone or netting patterns. The new thread can be added by knotting it directly to the end of the old working thread, or it can be added elsewhere within the work.

The important rule to remember about knots is to *never* cut the tails close to the knot to avoid the risk of the knot loosening or being cut.

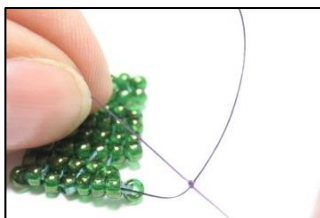
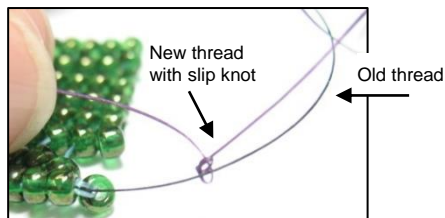
CONSIDERATIONS

Here are some things to keep in mind when deciding *where to place the knot*.

- When attaching the new thread directly to the old you'll save yourself some steps if the knot is placed $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" away from the work. When you continue stitching, the knot and tails will automatically be covered by the new beads. You can trim any remaining tail ends later, knowing that they have already been "woven" into the work.
- The downside of the above technique is that you need to be sure that your beads have holes large enough to accommodate the extra bulk of the knot and tail threads. If that's going to be a problem, you'll want to place the knot closer to the work or "in" the work itself.
- The benefit of attaching the new thread within the work is that you don't have to worry about pulling the knot through the beads.
- The downside to this is that you need to do a lot of extra weaving-in of your threads. You'll need to weave in the tail end of the new thread (to avoid cutting it close to the knot), weave the new thread to the place where the old thread is exiting, and then weave the old thread back into the piece (and add a few knots to be sure it is secure).
Remember to leave the old thread in place until your new thread is exiting that place!

BOOKBINDER'S KNOT: SECURING NEW THREAD TO THE OLD

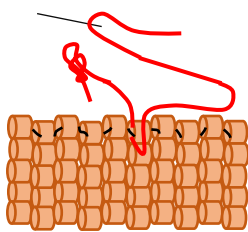
The bookbinder's knot uses a slip knot to "grab" and hold the threads together.



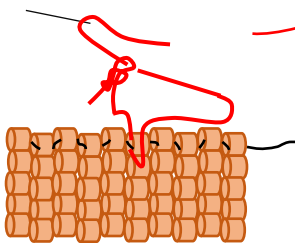
1. Make a slip knot near the tail of your **new** thread. Bring your old thread through the loop. Position the slip knot about $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" away from the work, and **gently** close the loop *just* enough to keep it in place.
2. Now, quickly and firmly pull both ends of your slip knot tight. You should hear a "snap" that tells you the knot has tightened and your new thread is secure. If you didn't hear the "snap," you'll need to re-do it. Test by giving your new thread a tug. If it slides off, it didn't work.

OTHER WAYS TO USE A SLIP KNOT

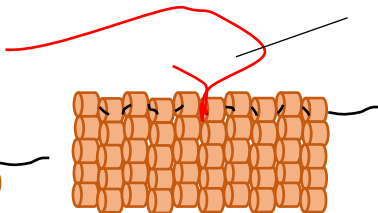
The great thing about slip knots is that the loop can't come apart. Another way to add thread is to make a slip knot near the tail of the **new** thread, and bring the **needle** end of the new thread through that loop. Anything caught in between (such as the bit of thread **within** your work) cannot get loose.



With a slip knot at the tail of your new thread, bring the needle **under** a thread a little away from where your old thread is exiting.



Then bring the needle **through** the loop of the slip knot.

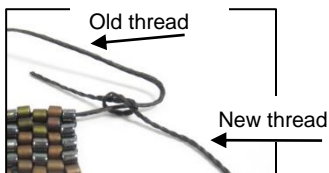


When you pull the new thread snug, the knot hides within your work. Weave the needle through so it exits the same bead as the old thread. Then weave the old thread and new tail thread into the work and trim.

THE VERY SECURE SLIDING KNOT

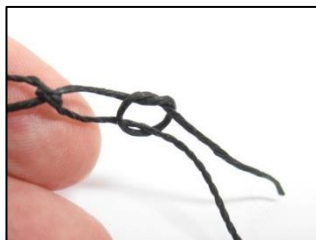
Your beads must be able to accommodate this knot and extra thread, which is a little bulkier than the bookbinder knot because there are actually two knots next to each other. But the result is a very secure attachment.

Be sure you have at least 6 to 8 inches of your old thread remaining a shorter length just becomes frustrating).



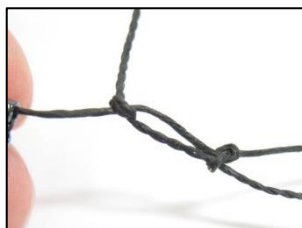
1. Tie a regular knot in the tail of your new thread and bring your old thread through the loop. Position your new thread about ½" to 1" away from your work.

Pull the knot of the new thread snug to keep it in place, but it doesn't need to be super tight.



2. Take your **old** thread and tie a knot **around the new thread**.

Try to position this knot close to the first one which gives you better control over its final position.



3. Pull on your new thread and the knots will slide together making for a very secure attachment. Now you can continue working and let your new beads cover the knot and tail threads.

