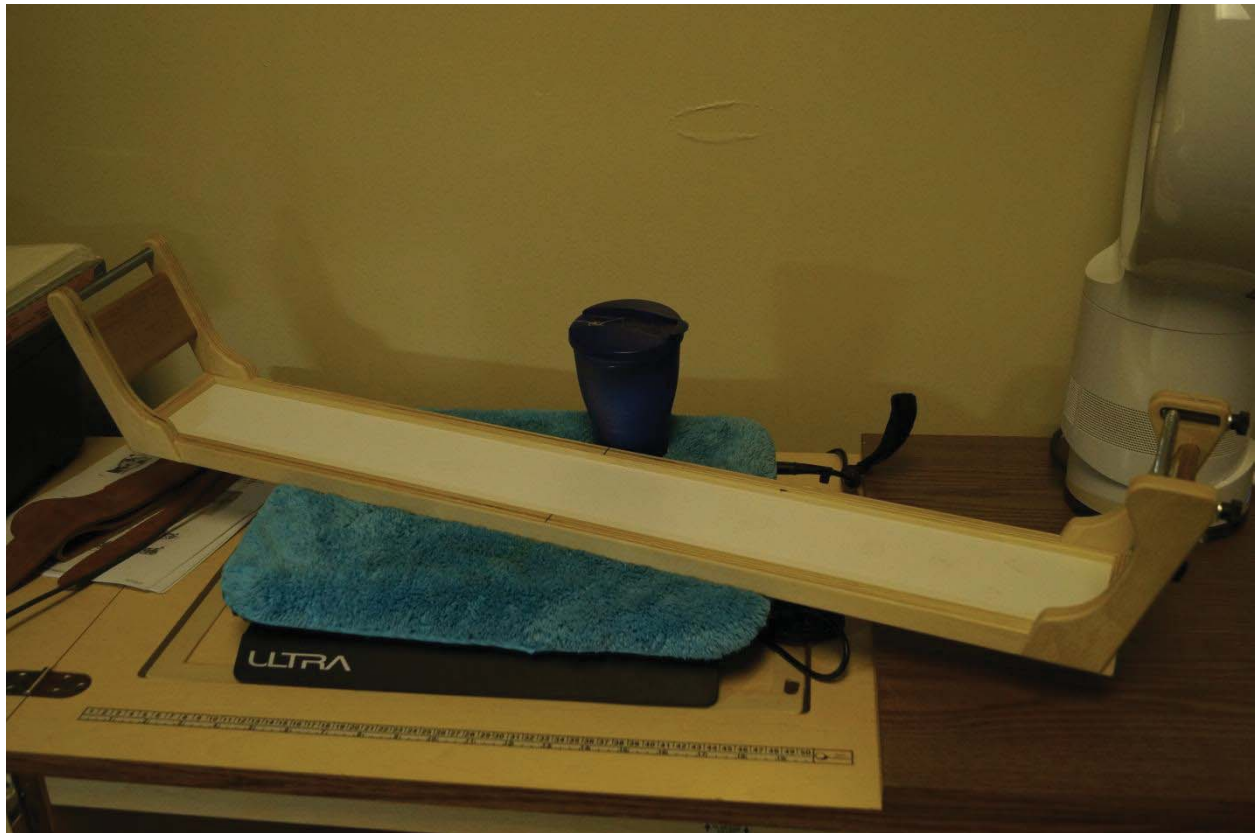


HOW TO WARP A LOOM

By Cindy Dean



This instruction booklet is dedicated to my Aunt Norma, who at the grand age of 74, decided that she wanted to learn how to do loom beadwork, and to my Mom who taught me the basics when I was 24-years old. Love you both!

HOW TO WARP A LOOM

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This, hopefully, will be a simple step-by-step way to ‘Warp’ a Loom. Warp threads are what you will weave (or secure) you beads to. I’ve taken pictures to help with my step-by-step procedures for beading on a Loom. The Loom that is used in these pictures is a very nice Guitar/Belt Loom by “Bead and Bead Looms” (www.beadandbeadlooms.com). This company has a wide variety of looms in various sizes of which any one (or more) should meet your looming needs.

1.



Here I’m at the end of the Loom where you will start your ‘Warp’ threading. Start by making a couple of loops around the thread washers and then tighten down as needed to secure the thread. As you can see, you will start your warping by going around the center loop post. Word of note – warping your loom is very time consuming and can be tedious as well – take your time and be patient.

2.



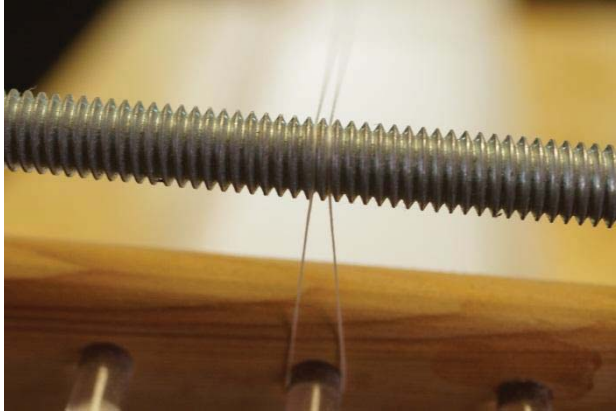
Next, lay your thread over the center of the bead divider rod (Note: Bead divider rods are made of either screw bolts or spring coils – all depends on what was used when designing the loom). Here a screw bolt was used.

3.



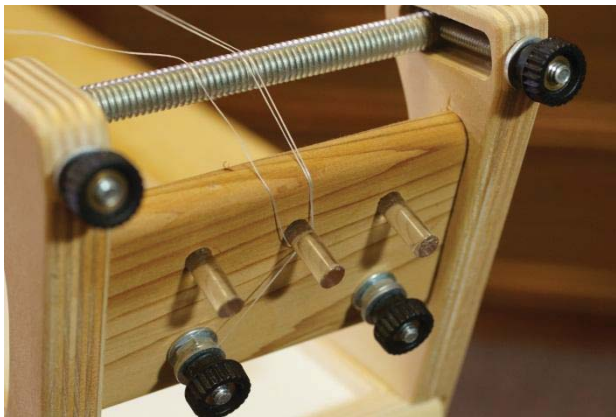
Keeping a good firm hold on your warp thread, loop the thread at the other end of the loom, making sure to lay the thread in the center of the bead divider rod and around the center loop post.

4



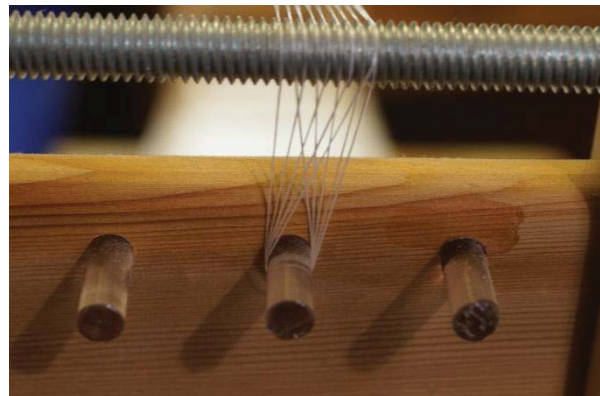
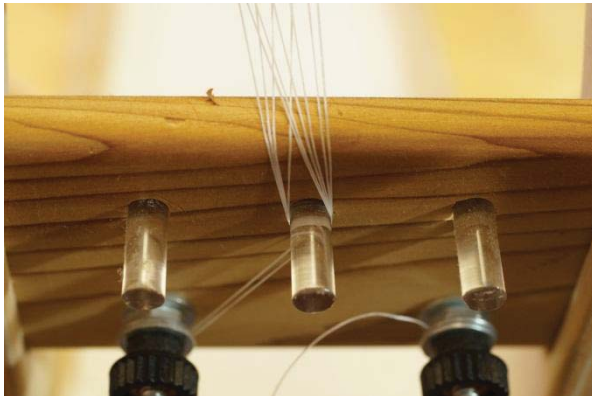
Bring the thread up and lay it to the right of the first thread that you have positioned.

5.

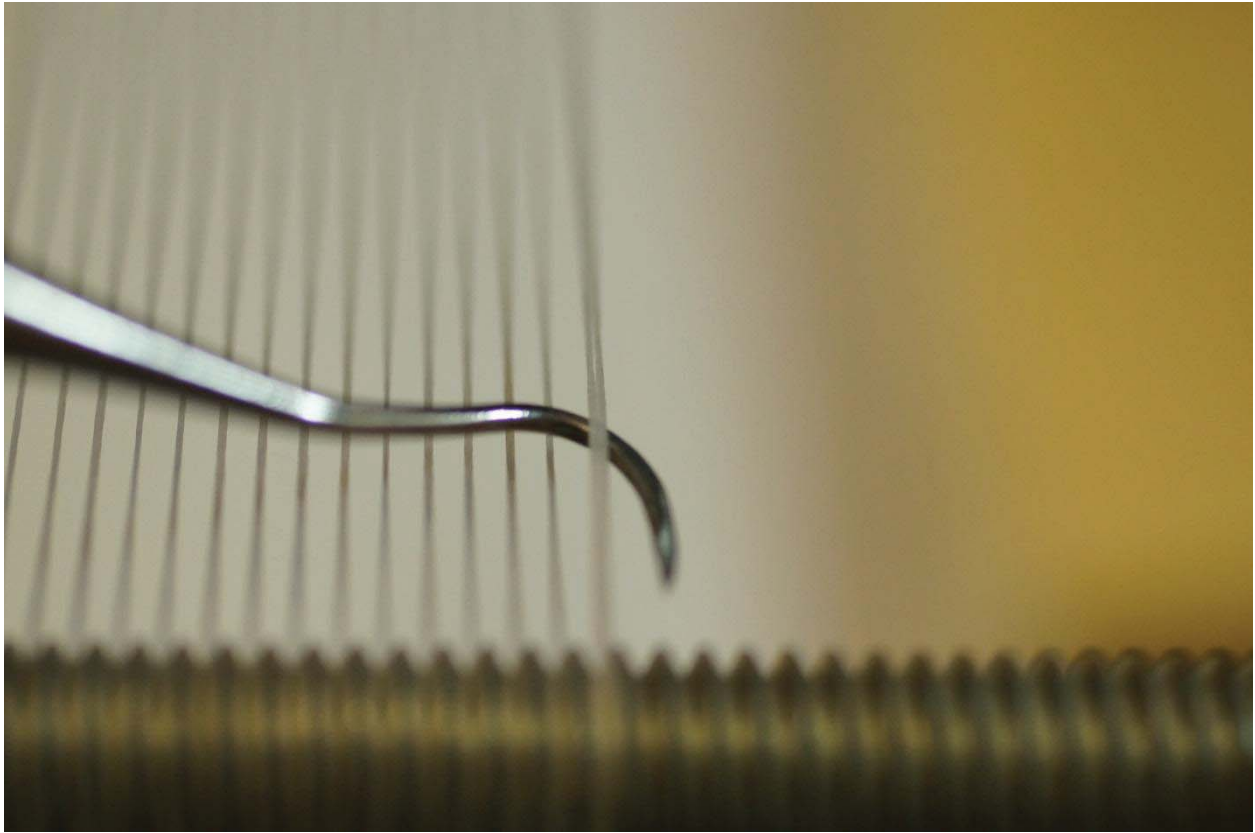


Bring your thread to the beginning end of the loom, laying it next to your first thread and loop around the center loop post. Keep looping back and forth until you have half of the number of Warp threads that you need. Remember – if you are doing a project that is 15-beads wide, you will Warp 16-threads; half on one side and then the other half on the other side of your center area of work.

6.

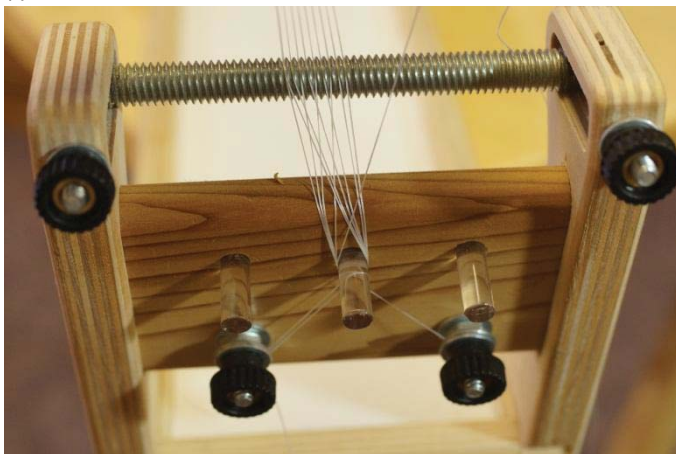


Here you can see where I have ‘warped’ nine (9) threads from one end to the other and back. For extra strength, make sure when laying your last thread that you lay it over the very last warp thread (you will have two threads occupying one space – refer to next picture which has been enlarged to show detail of the support thread over last laid warp thread). Loop the last thread around the thread support screw washers, tighten and then trim your thread.



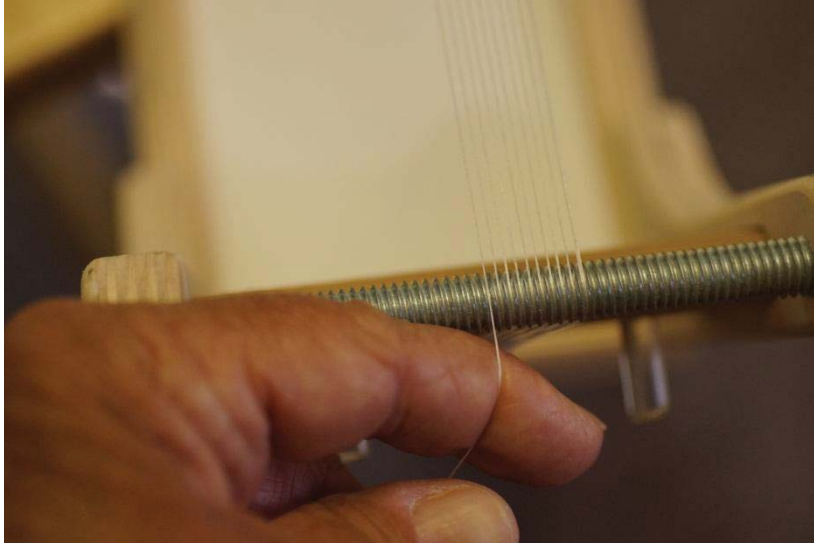
Here is a close up picture of where I have laid the edge support thread over the same space of my last warp thread. This gives added support to the thread that you will be weaving back and forth with.

7.



Now do the same thing on the right hand side of your work. Make sure to count the number of rows that you have and to lay another support warp thread on the last warp thread lain. Hint – each space between warp threads is where a bead will be placed. So if you need 15-beads, center 8 warp threads on one side and 8 threads on the other side and don't forget your extra support warp thread.

Here I'm beginning to start my warping of eight (8) threads on the right hand side of my Loom – you can see where I have angled the thread to the right of the loop post after I looped my thread around the two washers between the thread screws. You should always work from the center out both ways – keeping your work centered on the loom makes for easier work.

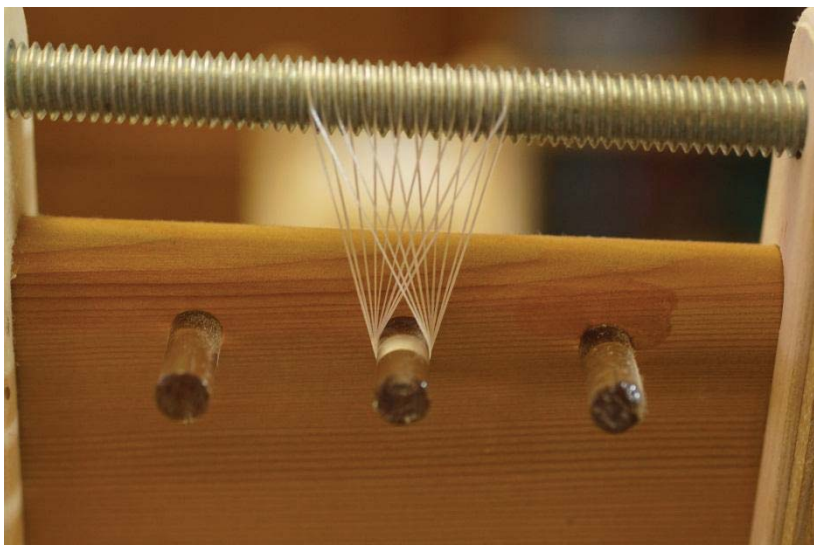


A close-up view of warp thread placement on the bead divider rod.

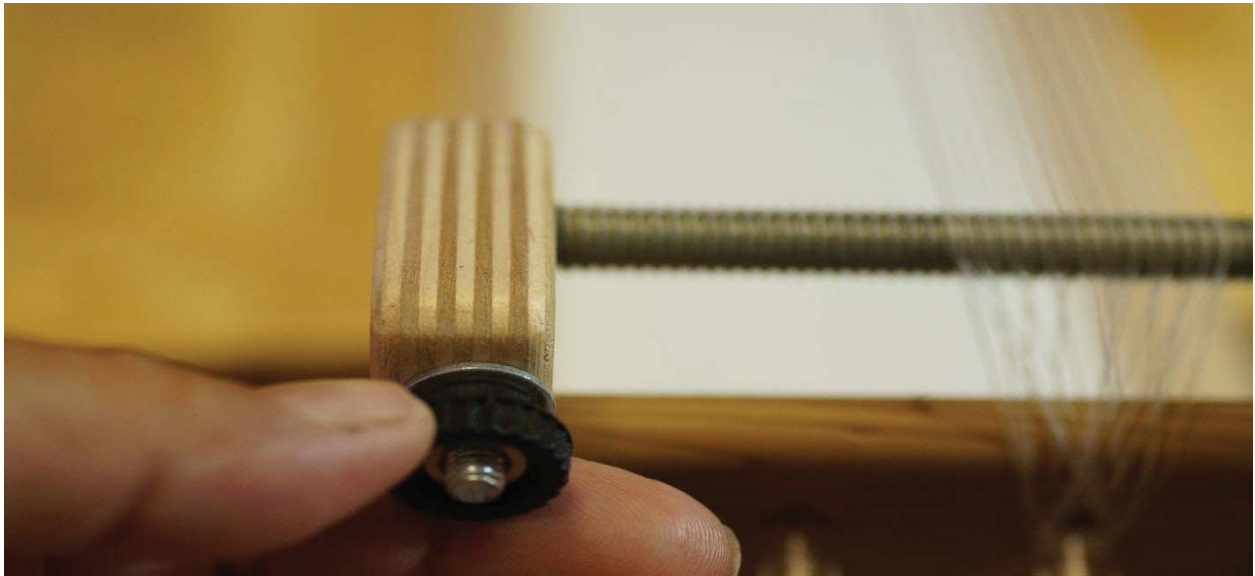
8.



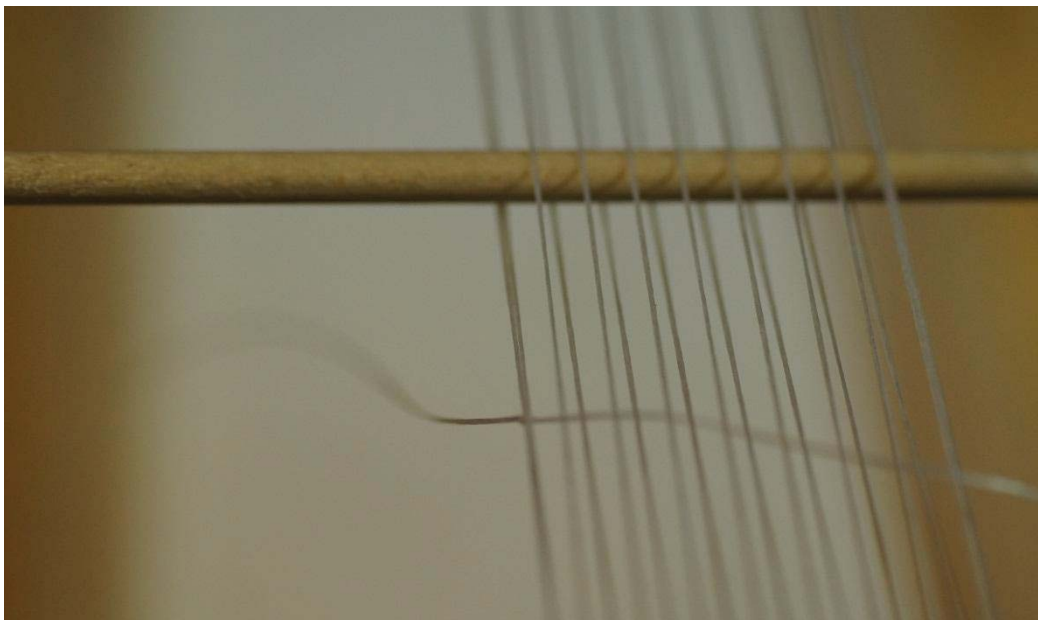
End views of completed warp threads – One end where thread and tension screws are, and the other end that has just the thread loop support posts.



9. Make sure to tighten the tension screws to improve warp thread tension – don't tighten too tight, to do so will only make your finished project 'pucker' when removed from the loom.

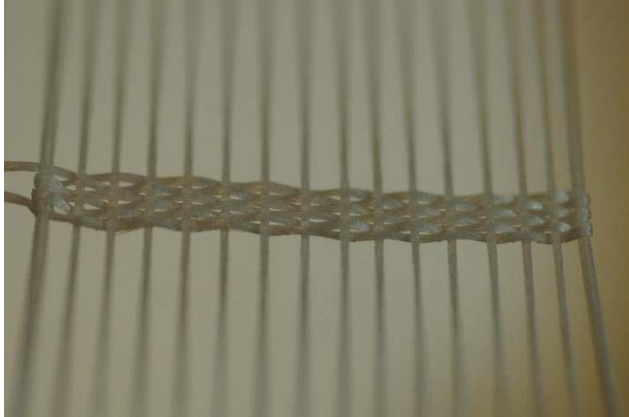


10. You are now ready to start placing your beads onto the loom. There are two ways to do this. One way is to make a quarter inch of woven thread, or just begin by placing your beads onto the thread. I'm going to show how you would begin by 'weaving' a small amount of thread before you begin the actual bead work. Here is a picture of tying off the thread and the first opening with the dowel rod.



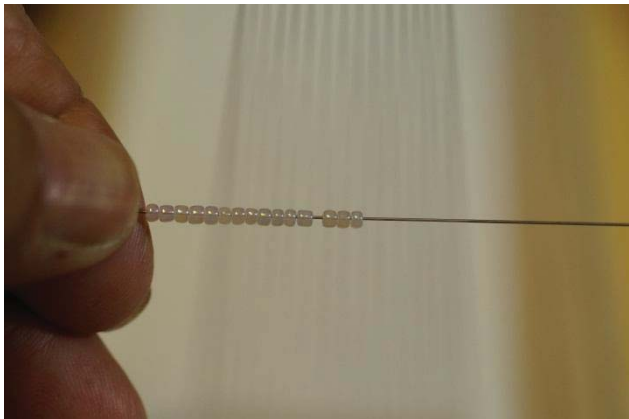
11. Begin by tying approximately 1-1/2 yard length (or a length that you are comfortable working with) of weaving thread onto the very outside set of threads – I'm right handed, so I work from left to right and then back again (if you're left handed, work from right to left and then back again). Using a small dowel or a knitting needle, and starting at one side, lay the dowel over the outside thread, and then under the

next thread, continue this over, then under sequence until you have reached the other side. Refer to picture for better explanation - every other thread is either on top or underneath the dowel rod. Next run your needle w/thread through the open space. Now reverse the way you started with the dowel – start from the bottom of the outside, push up and go over the next thread and continue to the other side and then run your thread through the opening again. Continue until you have approx. a quarter of an inch of woven thread; make sure to end on the left side of the threads.



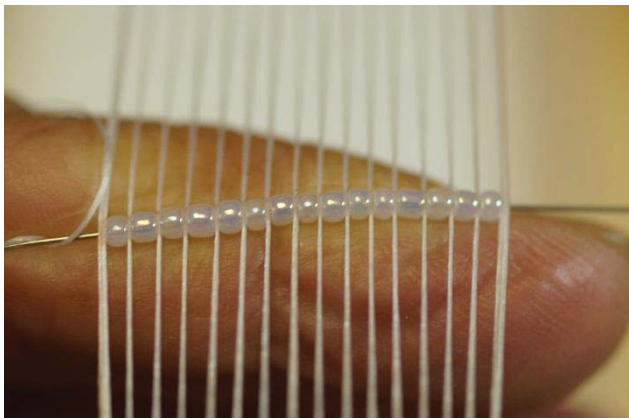
A small sample of weaving your thread back and forth until you've reached the desired woven thickness. Again, make sure to end on the left side of the threads if you're right handed like me (end on the right side if left handed).

12.



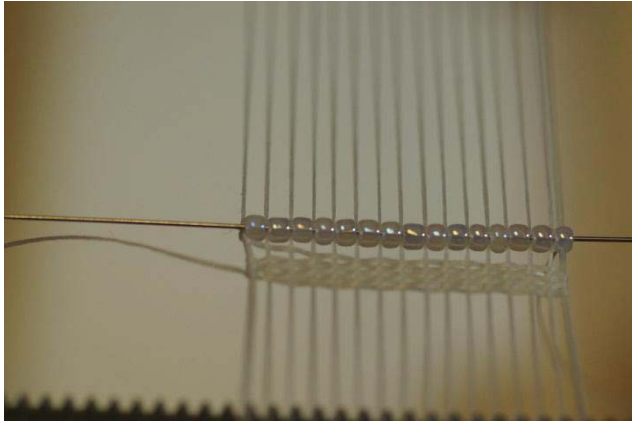
Pick up the required number of beads that you need and place the needle Underneath the warp threads – The picture here has the needle with the beads underneath the threads. Sorry but the camera kept focusing on the beads and I could not get the threads into focus. I now refer to the thread with the beads on it as a 'Working or Weaving Thread'.

13.



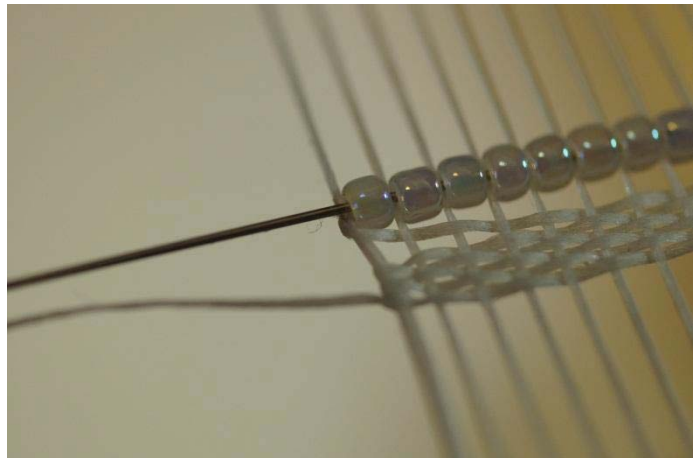
With the beads underneath the warp threads, push the beads up through each row, keep your finger in place and pull your needle out through the other side (pull the needle to the right). DO NOT REMOVE YOUR FINGER!

14.

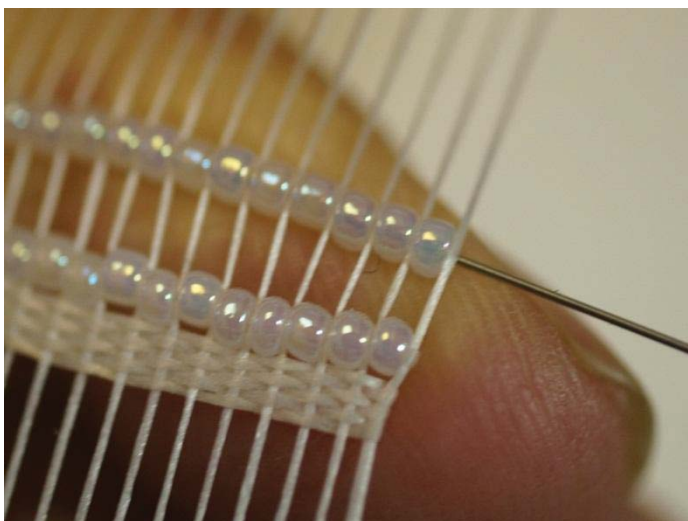


Once you have pulled the needle through – making sure to keep your finger underneath supporting the beads between each thread – then pass the needle back through the other way BUT keep the needle on the top side of the warp threads. Here you can see where the needle is ‘locking’ the beads in place – once you pull the needle out, the thread will lock the beads over the warp threads.

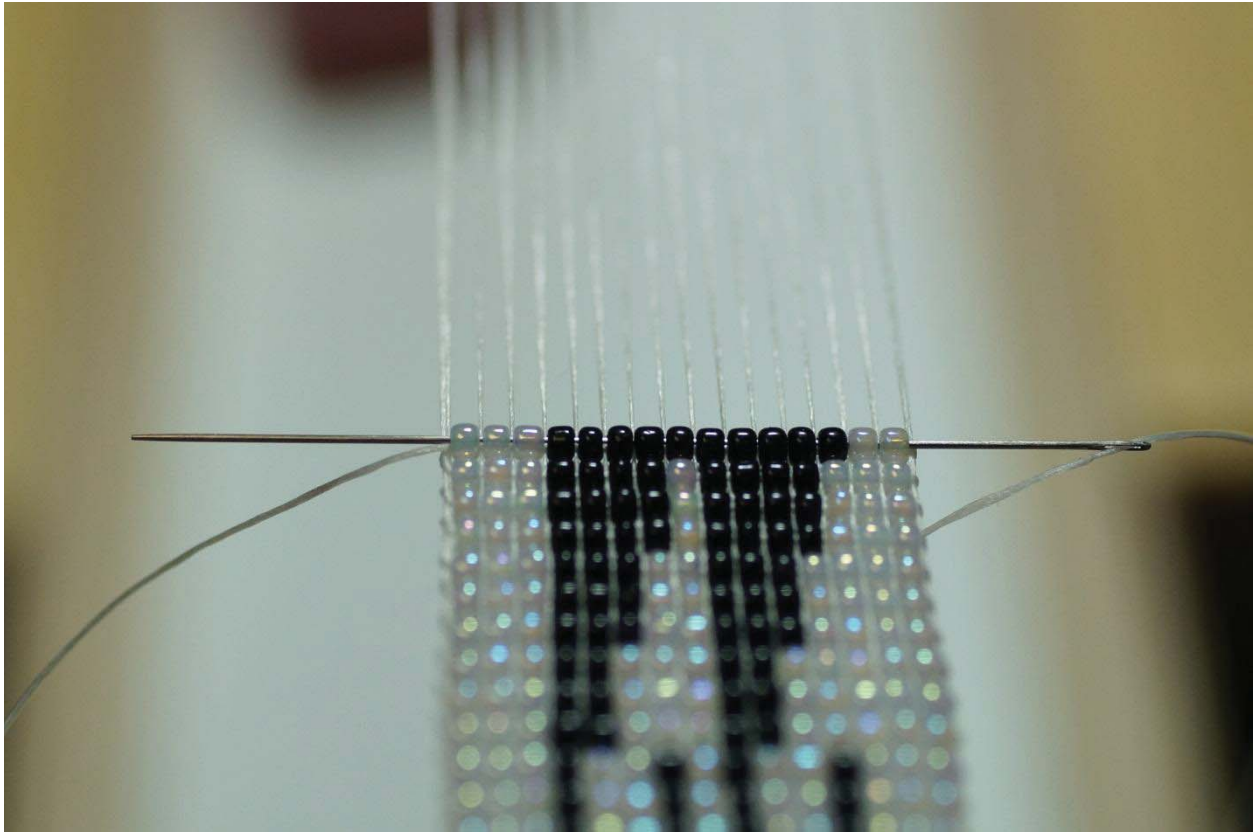
Close-up of where the needle is laying on top of the warp threads.



15.



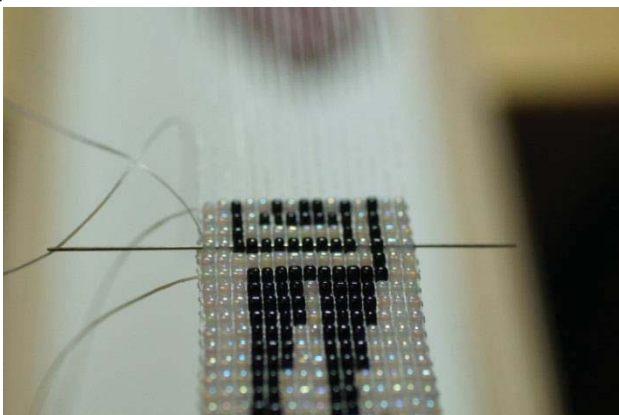
This picture shows the second row of beads. As you can see, the beads and needle are underneath the warp threads; you will pull your thread through and then pass your needle back through the top; make sure to keep your finger in place to support the beads and to push them up through each space.



Look closely – you can see how the thread makes gentle ‘loops’ on the left side where the thread has gone under the warp threads and then the loops look smaller on the right hand side as the thread is passed back through the top of the warp threads.

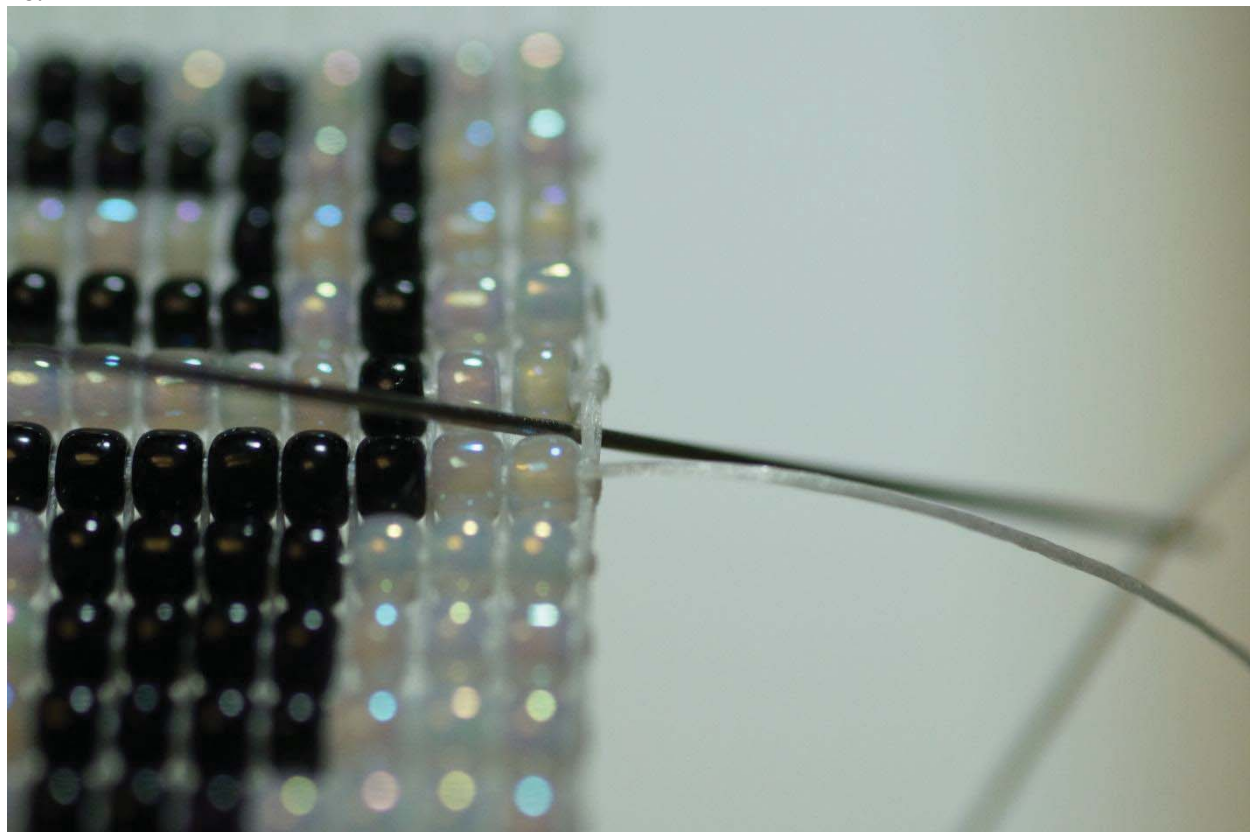
16. At some point you will need to add a new length of working thread. With a new length of thread, place your needle on the top of the right hand side of the last row added and run the needle through to the left side (refer to the above picture, you can see where the needle is going from the right hand side through the top of the beads and sticking out on the left hand side; you can also see the old end of the thread on the left side).

17.



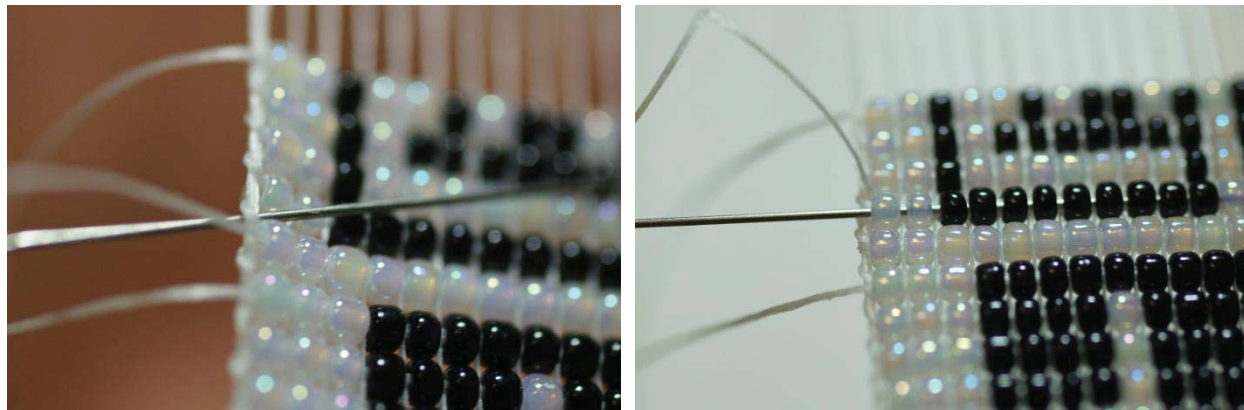
With your new length of thread, weave about four rows and stop for the time being. You will now weave in the end of the old thread and the beginning of the new thread. If done right, you will not be able to tell where you ended or began.

18.



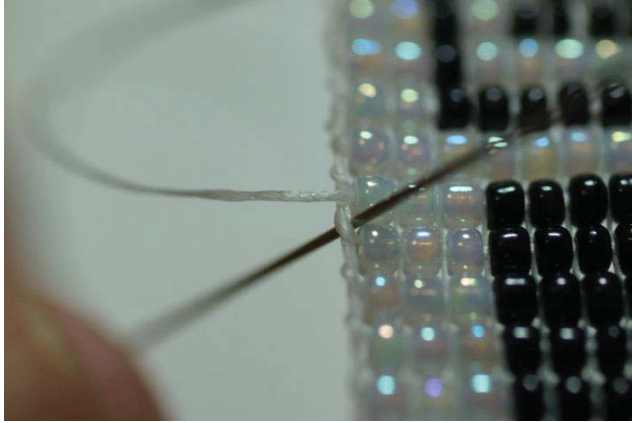
I've left this picture large so you can see the needle placement. Thread the end of the new thread onto your needle and go under the right side of the support warp threads and up through the 'space' between the first two beads of each row – look at the picture, the needle is going under and up between the beads. Pull gently and then run your needle through the top of the row of beads on the next row up and run to the left side.

19.



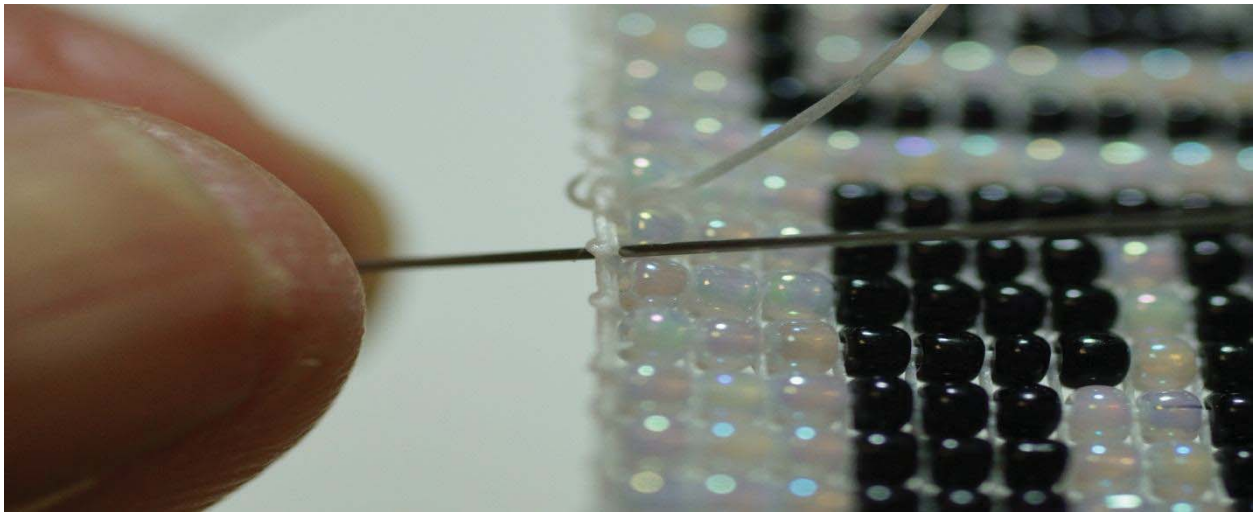
Once you have pulled your needle through you will now go back up through the 'space' between the beads from the row you just exited and the next row up (left side picture); gently pull your thread through and do this same procedure once more (right side picture). You will now run your needle through the top of the row of beads (row number four from the top). Do this until you exit on the right hand side of the second to last row from the top; carefully trim your thread near the double support thread.

20.

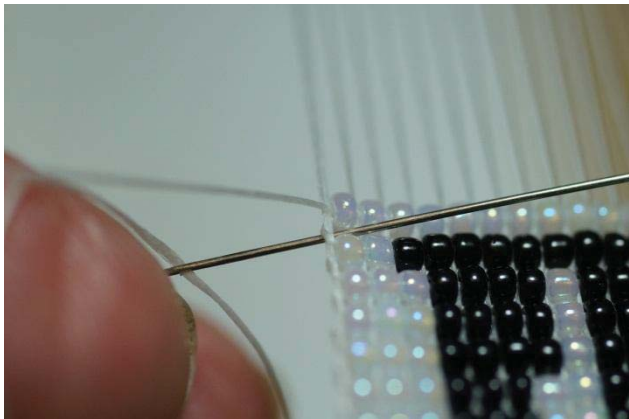


You will now do the same procedure with the end of the old thread. But instead of working up the rows, you will work down the rows. Run your needle through however many rows you can, exit and then carefully trim your tread.

The large picture below shows how I went through the two beads in the one row and looped down to the next row of beads. From here you will run the needle through the top of the beads.

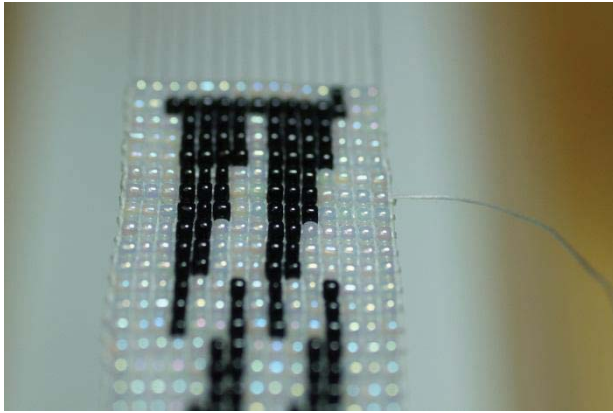


21. After you have woven in the number of bead rows that you need, based on your design/pattern, you will now be ready to stop your work and take your beadwork off of the loom. One way is to weave another quarter inch of woven thread back and forth like you did at the beginning. Or, you can weave your needle back through three or four rows of beads (just like you did when adding on new thread and weaving the ends into the beadwork) and then carefully cut the excess thread off.



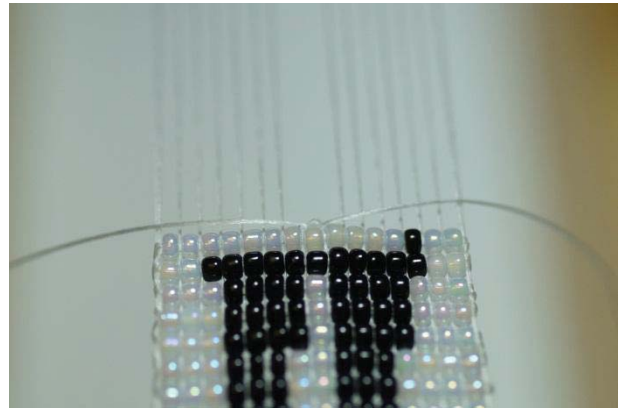
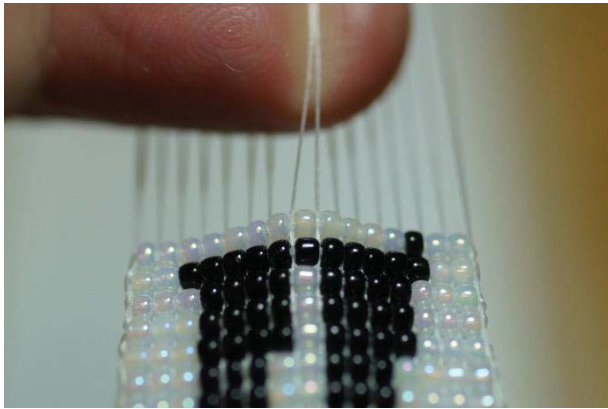
In this picture I have placed the needle between the 1st and 2nd end row beads and then again between the 2nd and 3rd row beads; now run your needle through the 2nd row of beads – make sure to keep needle on the top side of the beads; do the same on the other side as you did here; depending on the amount of thread you have, try and go through at least five rows of beads.

22.

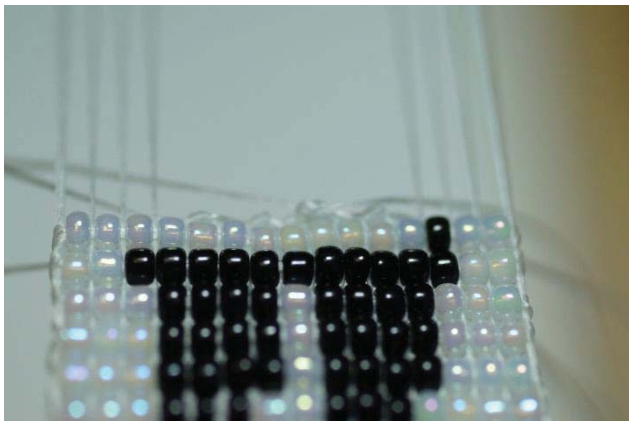


In this picture you can see where my thread is exiting on the right side of row #7; now all you have to do is very carefully trim your excess thread away.

23.

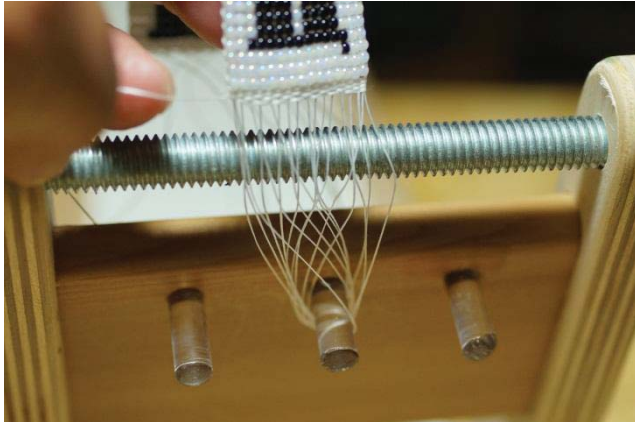


Starting from the center of your work (left picture), pick up the two center threads and go up to the end of the loom and cut the threads. Next do an overhand knot to secure the two threads together, make sure to not tie too tight or you will buckle the beadwork. Next go to either the left or right sides and do the same to each set of two threads.



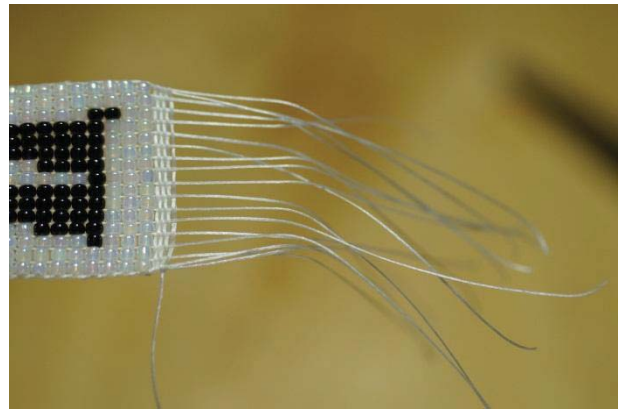
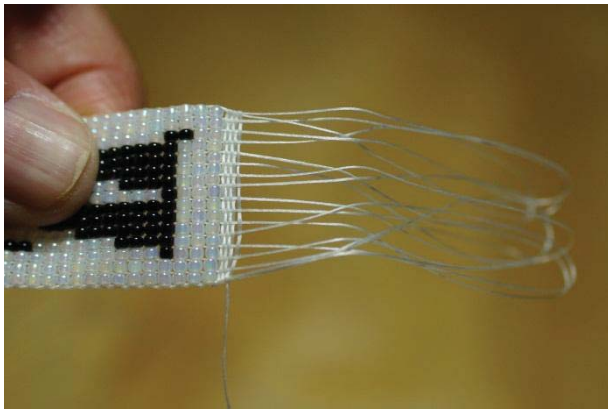
As you can see, I'm almost done cutting all my threads off of the loom; just have two sets on each side.

24.

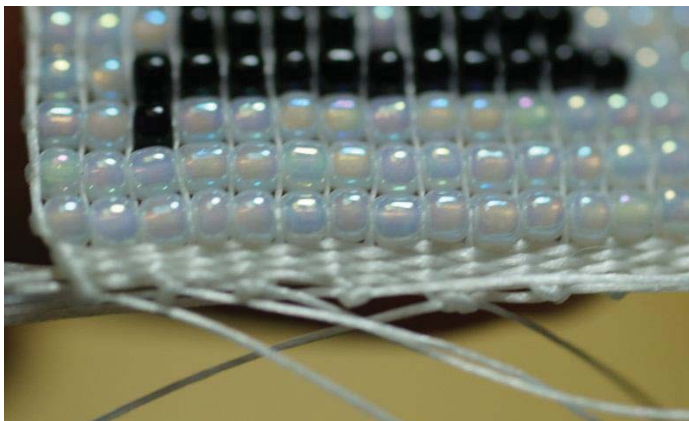


Carefully pull your beadwork off of the loom; remember, you have already cut the threads from the other end.

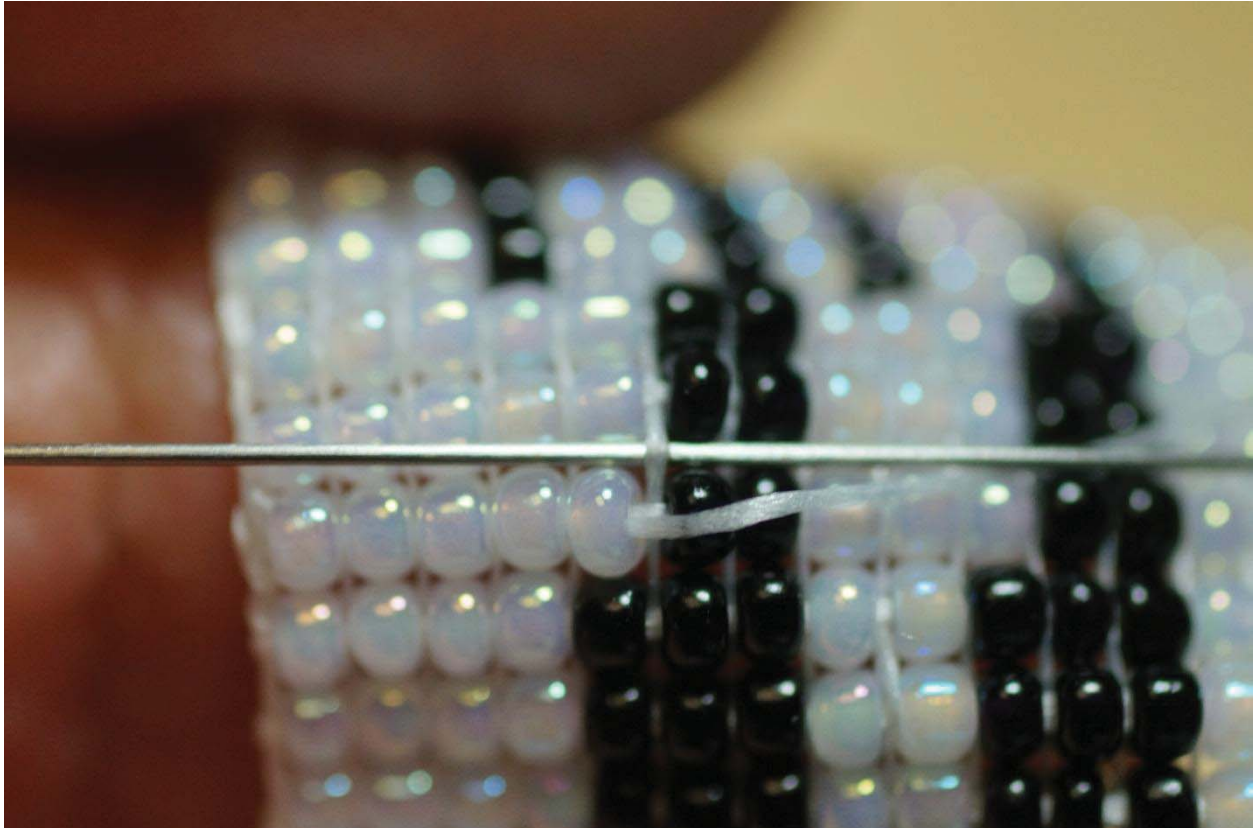
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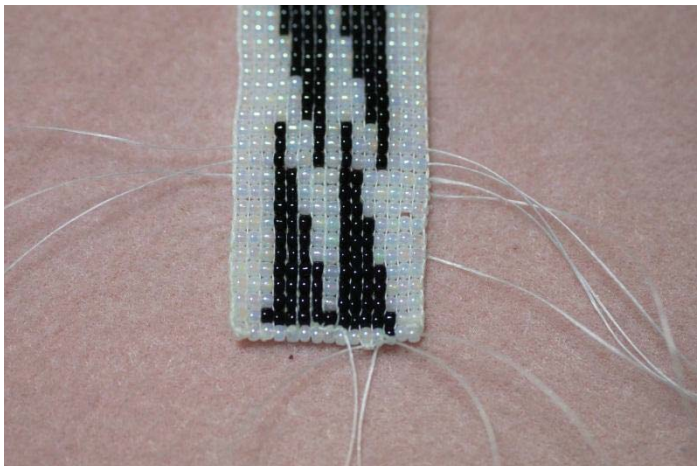
The picture on the left shows how your end threads will look like after you have removed the beadwork from the loom. The picture on the right shows where you have cut each 'loop' at the end. Now you will need to tie an overhand knot to each set of two threads, just like you did at the other end of your beadwork. The picture below shows all threads tied off with an overhand knot. I'll explain what to do with these threads later on (see page 14).



26. Beginning with your first thread (which is the double threads), you will now thread each individual thread on to your needle and on the back side of your work, weave it up and around each 'Warp' thread (see close-up picture of how needle is slipped under a warp thread).

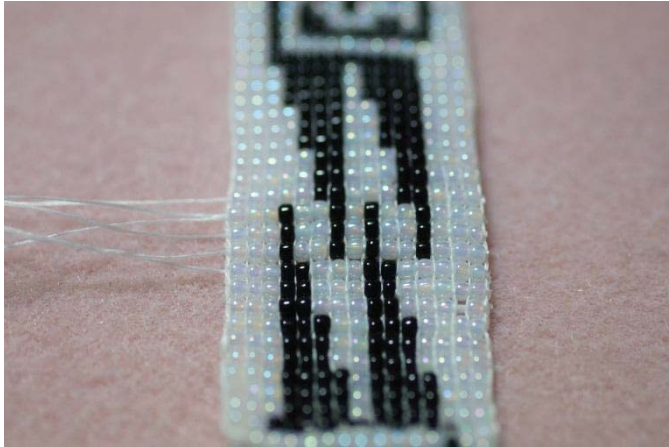


After running your needle up and around the warp thread (about four rows for your first thread; increase by one row for each remain thread that you have) run your needle through the beads and exit out the side – DO NOT cut your excess thread just yet – leaving the thread on the sides helps you to identify which row you will need to go to next to exit from.



Here you can see where I have only four threads left to weave up through the warp threads. The side threads are where I have gone through the beads to exit out the side.

27.



Now you are ready to carefully trim the excess thread from each side of your beadwork – here I have already trimmed the thread from the right side and only have the left side to trim.

28.



The picture on the left shows how the end of your beadwork will look like if you wove your threads up through the beadwork. The picture on the right shows where you have tied an overhand knot to collect all the threads into one group (like a pony-tail). Tuck this 'pony-tail' underneath your beadwork. You can either glue in place (not really recommended), or using a long piece of thread, make an overhand knot around the pony-tail knot. Run one of this long thread through the row of beads where the knot lays on top of to the outside edge and then do the same with the other side of the thread. Pull gently, and if the length of thread allows it, run the thread through another row of beads. Again, you can place a small drop of glue on the knot.



29. Here is a picture of a finished piece of beadwork, yes, it's a small piece of work, but it was done this way so you can see the end results of your loom beaded project.



From here, you can carefully sew this onto a piece of fabric or a soft piece of leather. I catch my sewing thread between two beads on the support edge (remember, the double strength threads) and do a 'whip stitch' down (or up) two rows before going through edge of two beads again. This can be VERY tedious, just take your time and have patience.