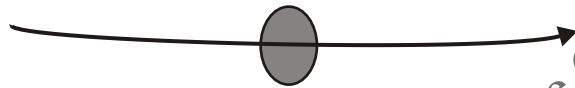


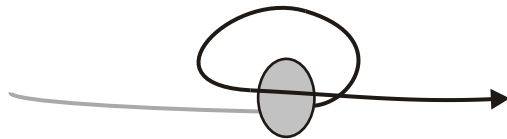
## How to ...

### ... create a stopper bead:

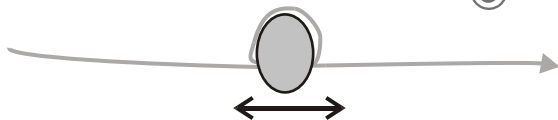
1. Pick up the bead which will be the stopper bead, leaving the required thread tail.



2. Stitch again through the bead from the tail side, without stitching through the thread in the bead.

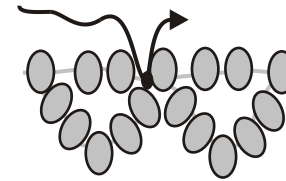


3. Pull tight. You should be able to move the bead along the thread to enable you to take it off when finishing off the beadwork.

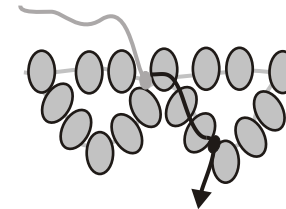


### ... add new thread:

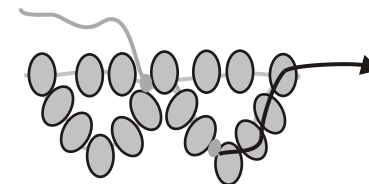
1. Thread the needle with a 1,5 m – 2 m length of waxed beading thread. Secure the new thread to your beadwork close to the side where you want to continue beading, using a half-hitch knot. Leave a 15 cm tail to be finished off at a later stage.



2. Following the thread path, stitch through a few more beads and secure the thread with another half-hitch knot.

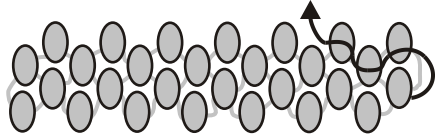


3. Follow the thread path until you exit the last bead added to the beadwork. You are now ready to commence beading.

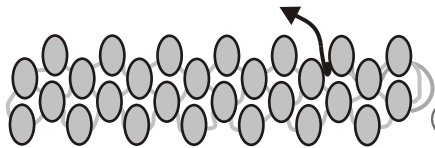


## ... work away thread:

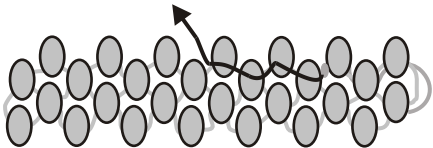
1. Start working away the thread by weaving it through a few beads, following the thread path.



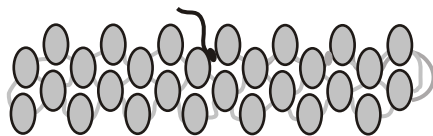
2. Make a half-hitch knot around the thread between the beads next to where your working thread is exiting.



3. Weave the thread away through a few more beads, always following the thread path.

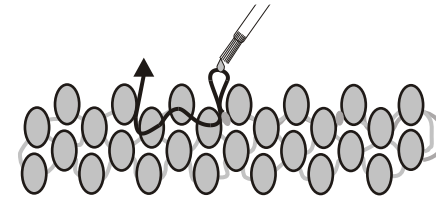


4. Repeat step 2 and take the needle off the thread. The remaining thread tail will be finished off after the rest of the beadwork is completed.

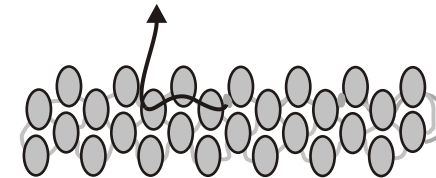


## ... finish off thread tails:

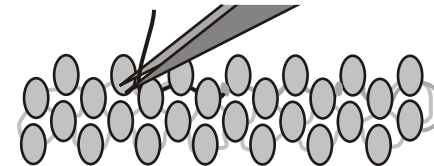
1. Thread a needle onto the thread tail and stitch through a few beads in your beadwork, following the thread path, without pulling all the thread through the beads, leaving a small loop. Coat the thread loop with a drop of clear drying glue or clear nail polish.



2. Pull the thread tight. The thread loop is pulled into the beads and the glue or varnish will anchor the thread in the beadwork.



3. Cut the thread close to the beadwork.

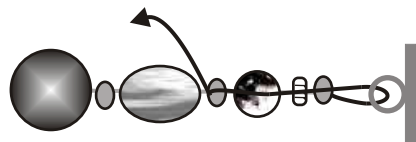


## ... attach a clasp to flexible beading wire (Tigertail, Soft-flex™, Accu-flex™, etc):

1. When flexible beading wire is used for beading, the clasp is usually attached by using crimps. String a crimp bead as the penultimate bead onto the beading wire.



2. Thread on one half of the clasp and thread the tigertail back through the last bead, the crimp and another bead or two. Pull tight, leaving a 1 mm – 2 mm gap next to the clasp to minimize “wear and tear” on the beading wire.



3. Squash the crimp bead flat, using either crimping pliers or flat-nosed pliers. Cut the beading wire close to the crimp.



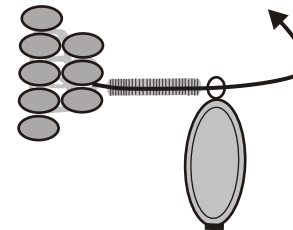
4. Hide the short tail left after cutting in the adjacent beads.



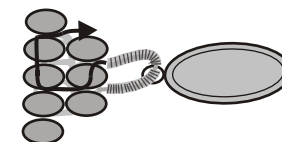
5. Repeat steps 1 – 4 at the other end of the beadwork.

## ... use French wire (gimp) when attaching a clasp:

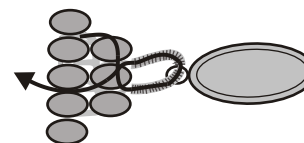
1. Pick up a short piece of gimp (ca. 8 mm – 12 mm) and the first half of the clasp used.



2. Stitch back into the beadwork. When pulling tight, the gimp will form a loop that prevents damage to the beading thread or beading wire during normal “wear and tear” of the beaded item.



3. For added strength, stitch through a few beads in the beadwork, weave your way back up, and stitch again through the gimp before securing and working away the thread in the beadwork.

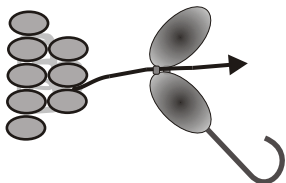


4. Repeat steps 1 – 3 at the other end of your beadwork with the second half of the clasp.

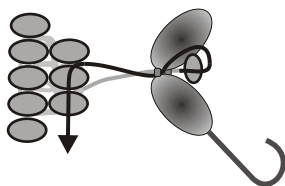
*NB: The same principle applies when working with beading wire instead of thread and using wire guards instead of gimp.*

## ... use calottes when attaching a clasp:

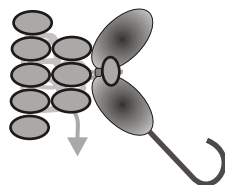
1. Stitch into a calotte from the bottom end.



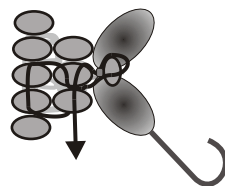
2. Pick up a small bead and stitch down out of the calotte and back into the beadwork.



3. When pulling tight, the calotte will sit close to the beadwork and the small bead in the calotte will anchor the calotte to the beadwork.

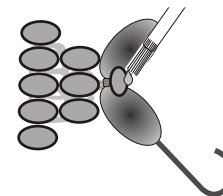


4. For added strength stitch through a few beads in the beadwork and weave your way up into the calotte. Stitch through the small bead in the calotte, downwards out of the calotte and back into the beadwork.

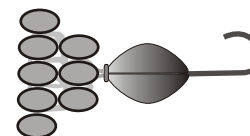


5. Secure and work away the thread.

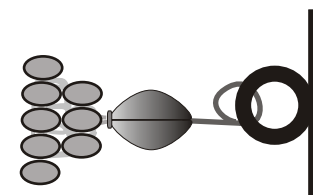
6. Brush the bead in the calotte with a drop of clear drying glue or clear nail polish.



7. Carefully close the calotte, using flat-nosed pliers.



8. Hook the calotte into one half of the clasp and bend the hooked calotte-end closed, using round-nosed pliers.



9. Repeat steps 1 – 8 at the other end of your beadwork.

© The Chocolate Garden cc

© The Chocolate Garden cc