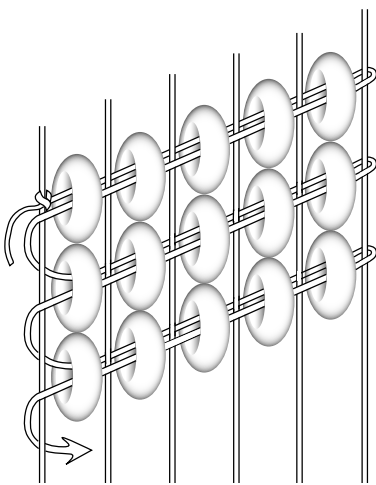


Loomweaving Primer

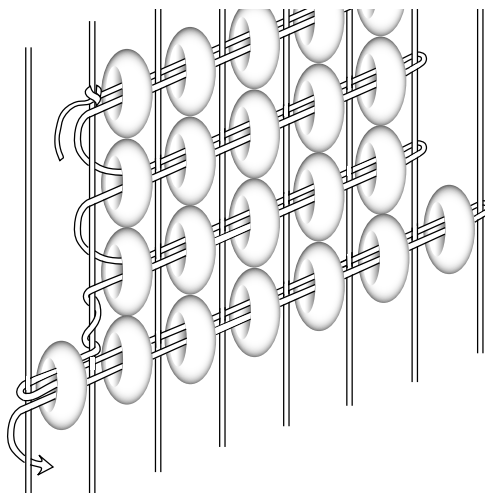
Loom weaving is one of the most elegant methods of beading. Designs are worked from charts in horizontal rows, so color placement is precise and accurate. Seed beads and Delicas are the most frequent choice in weaving, but square beads and bugles can also be used, depending on the pattern.

There are literally dozens of good looms available on the market; choose one that suits your own preferences. Before buying a loom, decide how wide you'd like to be able to weave, because the width of what you can weave will be limited by the usable width of the loom.

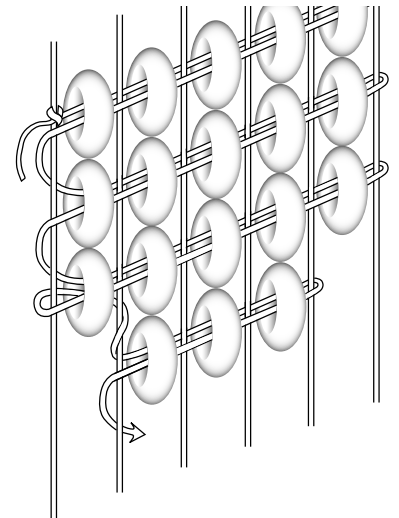
Before you begin weaving, the loom must be strung with vertical threads (warp). Warp the loom according to the directions provided with your loom. If you plan to incorporate the warp threads into the finishing of the piece, for example, as part of tied fringe, use a thread that will blend into the fringing material. Medium-weight nylon threads are suitable for use as warp.



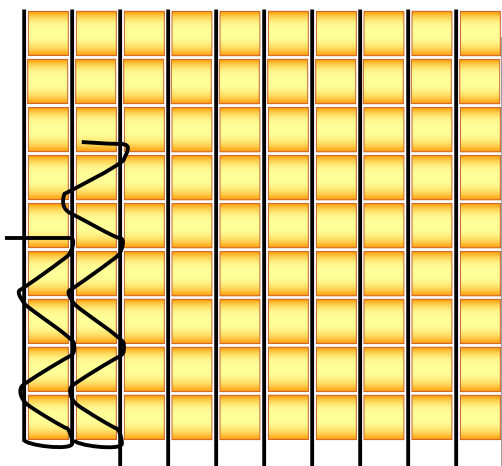
This diagram shows loomweaving in its most basic form---when the sides of the weave are even, and there are no increases or decreases. The beads are positioned with one hand, behind the warp, and then the weft (weaving thread) is passed back through the beads, so the weft thread sits on top of the warp threads.



This diagram shown has you can increase the width of the weave, on both sides of the weave. If you want to add several beads, you may want to begin a new thread at the outer edge of the increase.



This diagram shows how to decrease the width of the weave.



Shown above is the method used to weave the warp threads into the body of the weave, so they don't show. Another good method of finishing a loomwoven piece is to use the warp threads for fringe or to create tassels.