INVISIBLE TUBE JOINING
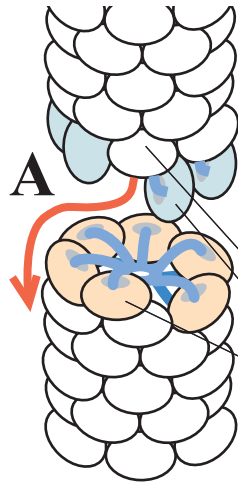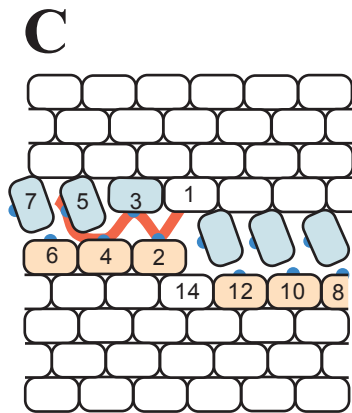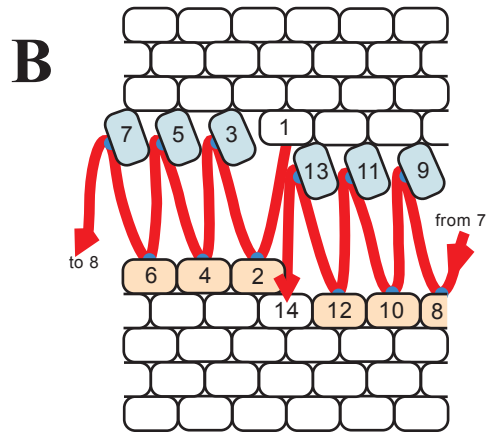
In these diagrams, the blue beads indicate the last round crocheted, and the beige beads indicate the first round crocheted.

A

STEP 1 If you are working in a pattern, ascertain that the beginning and end of the tube you wish to join invisibly are "in pattern" with each other, in other words, if you continued to crochet from the end round using the beads of the first round, the pattern would be correct. When you're satisfied that this is the case, cut the end thread (shown in red), then bind by running the cut end through the last loop on your hook. Leave a tail of about 12". Put a needle on the starting thread tail and bury it within the tube itself by running the needle into and then through the fibers of the tube. Take care not to run the tail thread through the center holes of the beads themselves, or the tube will be distorted.

Put the end thread tail (red) onto a needle and bring it out of the hole of the last bead you crocheted INTO. Align the end and start of the tube as shown in diagram A.

This is the last bead you crocheted into (bead 1)
This is the last bead you crocheted (bead 13)
This is the first bead of your original chain (bead 2)

STEP 2 Follow the thread path shown in diagram B. The dark blue dots indicate the thread that holds each bead in place on the tube. The thread must go in this specific path for the joint to appear seamless.

B

C

STEP 3 As you progress, draw the tube ends close together and take out the slack in the thread. When you do this, you will notice (see diagram C, bead #3) that the beads of the end round (blue) will shift into the horizontal position, and thus appear to be attached to the beads of the beginning round (beige). Continue around the tube until the two ends are firmly joined in proper alignment. You may want to continue sewing through beads to secure the joint even further; it would not be unreasonable to make another complete round. Secure the excess thread within the weave, taking care to run the thread only through the fibers and not through the bead holes. When you're certain that the thread is secure, trim off the excess, taking care not to cut any of the threads that hold beads.