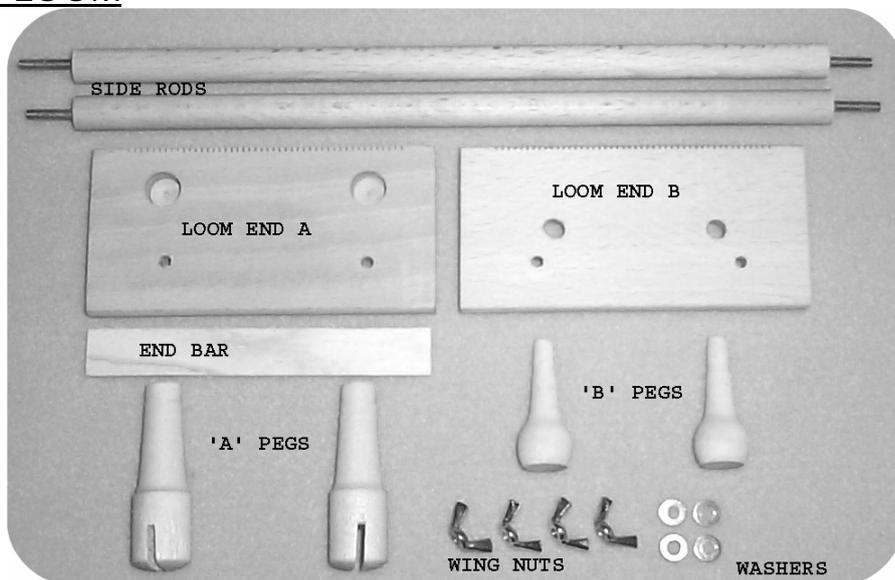




PARTS OF THE LOOM



ASSEMBLING THE LOOM

Take the side rods and push the screw threaded ends through the smaller holes in loom ends 'A' and 'B'. (Make sure that the round indentations on end 'A' are on the outside, and that the slits on the edges of the loom ends are both uppermost.) Slip a washer onto each of the threads and screw a wing nut onto each, so that the frame is rigid and secure.

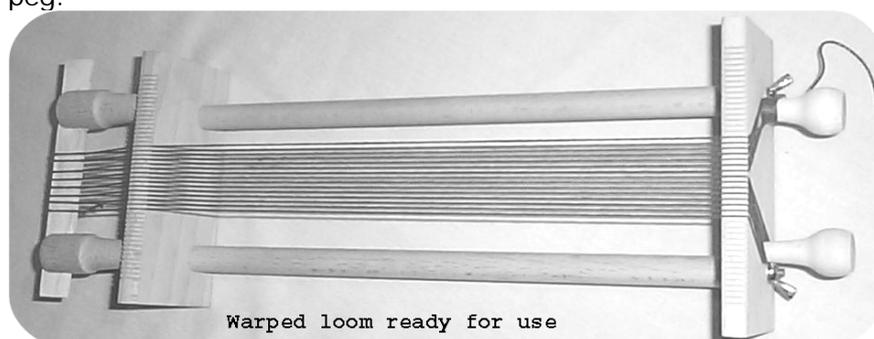
Push the 'A' pegs into the indentations on the outside of loom end 'A', then rotate them so that it is possible to slide the end bar into the slits on their tops. Push the 'B' pegs into the larger holes on the outside of loom end 'B'.

The loom is now ready to be 'warped', or threaded up.

A. THREADING THE LOOM

Make a slip knot on the end of the warping thread, large enough to be slid onto the end bar. Replace the bar into its slot. Slide the thread between one of the slits in the loom end, and pulling it tautly, pass it through the equivalent slit on the other end of the loom. Keeping the thread tension tight, take it around the nearest 'B' peg, and slide it through the next slit on the loom end. Take the thread up to the other end again, passing it through the next slit at this end also. Now pass the thread over the end bar once before returning to go through the next slit in sequence.

Continue 'warping' the loom in this way, using a continuous length of thread. Remember to keep the thread as taut as possible at all times, and that the number of warp threads required will be one more than the number of beads in a row. (i.e. for a piece of loomed work that needs to be 8 beads wide, 9 warp threads will be required.) Once enough threads are in place, the warp thread can be securely tied off to the nearest available peg.



B. PREPARATION

Thread a long beading needle with a long piece of single thickness waxed thread. This is known as the 'weft' thread.

Place the beads to be used into a shallow container for each colour, and place them slightly to one side of the work area.

C. WEAVING ON THE LOOM

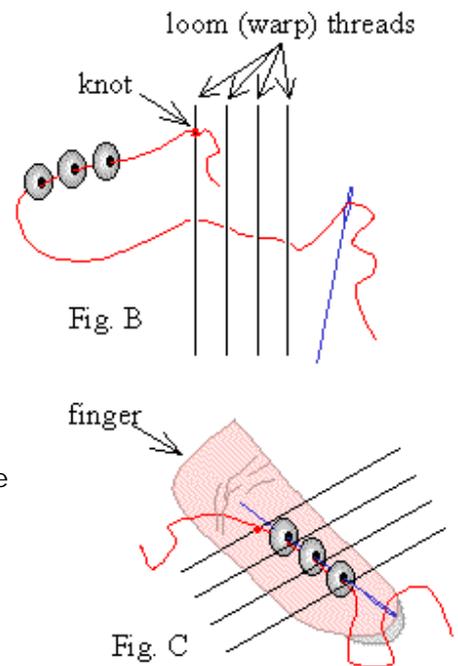
Tie the tail end of the weft thread onto the left-hand side warp thread, where the work will start. This is usually fairly close to one of the loom ends. (Fig. B)

Pass the needle and thread underneath the warp threads. (Fig. B)

Pick up the necessary beads the first line of the pattern and slide them along the thread until they are underneath the spaces between the warp threads of the loom.

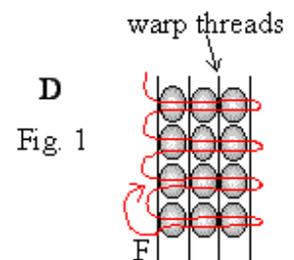
With a finger below the beads, push them up through the spaces between the warp threads. Pass the needle back through the beads in the opposite direction, being careful to keep the weft thread above the warp threads, and trying not to 'snag' any of the warp threads with the needle in passing. (Fig. C) This will secure the beads in place on the loom. Pull the weft thread tight and straighten the bead row.

Continue weaving rows in the same way, keeping each one next to the previous one



D/i Concealing thread ends

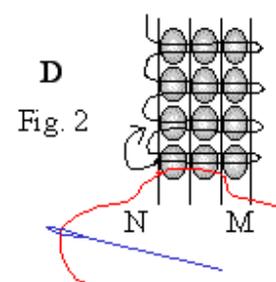
When the weft thread is almost finished, make a knot at point F, and bring the thread back through several beads of the previous row, before trimming off remaining tail. (See D, Fig. 1)



D/ii Adding new thread

Prepare new thread as before, string through several beads of the last row and make a knot at point N. Trim off loose end at point M. (D, Fig. 2)

Now continue with the work. The length of the side rods will determine the length of the piece that can be worked.



Completing the work

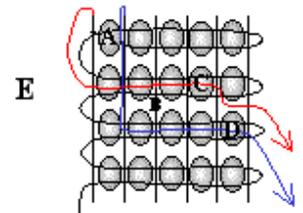
If the piece is to be mounted onto another material, or a fringe is to be added, please read those sections next. After the final row of beadwork has been completed, there are two methods of finishing the work. In both cases the beadwork needs to be removed from the loom. This can be achieved by removing the 'B' pegs and releasing the thread tensioned around them, then sliding out the end bar, thus releasing the threads at the other end also.

If the warp threads have not been snagged at any point by the weft thread, it is possible to pull the warp thread through the work, leaving no ends to be dealt with. This is done by starting with the second thread in, where there is a start or finish to the warp thread, and gradually pulling it through the beads until the loop on the opposite end is pulled through level with the end of the work. Now do the same with the next warp loop working across the work and alternating ends, until all of the warp loops have disappeared. The beadwork can now be finished off as required, using the remaining warp thread to do this.

If, however it is not possible to pull the warp thread through the work, then the loops must be cut and the thread ends woven into the work as follows:

Thread the needle onto the first warp thread and knot this thread with the weaving thread to the left of bead A in Fig. E. Pass the needle and thread through several beads of the next row and make a knot above point B in Fig. E.

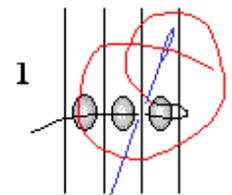
Cut off the thread to the left of bead C. All the other warp threads are similarly woven back into the work as shown in Fig. E.



Slip knots

Dressmakers know this as a buttonhole stitch. A new thread is always attached by this method. N.B. **NEVER** have a knot at the end.

A slip knot is made by forming a complete circle with the thread and then inserting the needle into the centre of the circle, scooping all the threads inside the circle, between the bead the needle is exiting and the one about to be entered. Pull up the thread tightly. (Fig. 1)



Decreasing

When the pattern requires the number of beads per row to be decreased, this is achieved by ignoring the first and last warp threads on that row and subsequent rows. This can be repeated as necessary. At the end work the warp threads into the beadwork after securing with a slip knot.

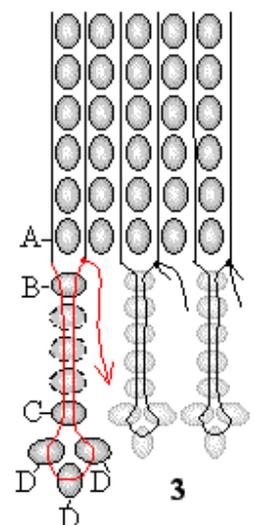
Fringing

This can only be done if there are sufficient lengths of warp threads available after removing the work from the loom. There are two methods:

Two warp threads are used for each strand of fringe. After cutting the warp loops, thread the needle onto the end of the outside warp thread (left of bead A). Pass the needle through bead B and down through all the other beads to bead C.

After picking up beads D, come back up again through bead C and also through all the other beads and knot onto the next warp thread. Weave ends of the warp threads into the work. All the other fringe strands are made in a similar manner. (Fig. 3)

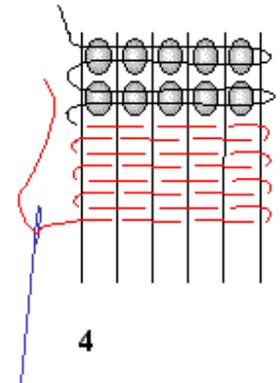
For a closer fringe: thread the beads onto each warp thread. Pass the needle back through all the beads except the last three threaded. Work each warp thread back into the beadwork, securing with a slipknot. Always pass the needle through a few beads before cutting off remaining thread.



Mounting beadwork onto another material

This method is used to mount the strip of beadwork onto felt, leather, ribbon etc, or the edges are going to be attached to Velcro.

Before the beadwork is removed from the loom, weave a selvedge of at least a centimetre (½ inch) onto the warp threads, using the weft thread. This is done in the traditional 'under/over' darning method of weaving. Carefully spread a thin layer of glue onto the reverse side of the thread woven section and leave to dry. (Fig. 4)



After removing the work from the loom, the warp threads can be trimmed level with the end of the weaving and this can be either folded under and/or glued in place between the beadwork and backing fabric. Using a matching thread, stitch through the side warp threads of the beadwork and the backing material all along the long edges of the work. The short ends can be secured by sewing through all layers one bead row in from the edge.

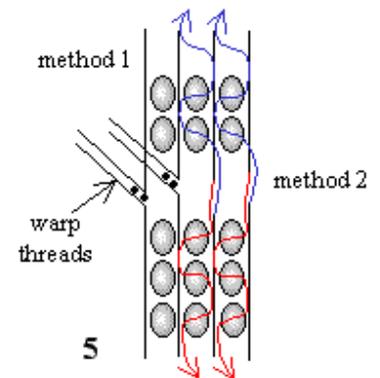
Joining two pieces of beadwork

This is a two-person job. Having removed the beadwork sections from the loom, cut the warp loops open.

One person holds the right sides together whilst the 'helper' takes a pair of warp threads (one from each side) and ties them tightly together, twice. Cut 1 cm. (½ in.) from the knot. Repeat this process with each successive pair of warp threads

Smooth a little glue or clear nail varnish over these knots and then glue a small strip of felt onto the reverse side of the beadwork to hide the joint.

A more elaborate and neater method is to thread each warp thread in turn, onto a needle and work it into the opposite end of the other piece of beadwork. Secure each thread with a slipknot. (Fig. 5)



Side Fringing

To make a 6-bead side fringe:

Tie the weaving thread onto the first left-hand warp thread, and thread on a row of beads in the usual way, according to the pattern, but add 6 extra beads for the side fringe. When turning at the end of the row, ignore the sixth bead, but thread the weaving thread back through the 5 fringe beads, then work through the pattern beads in the normal way.

Continue in this way until the required number of fringe strands have been worked, and then continue the main strip of beadwork on the warp threads.

