

I'm adamant about using PowerPro for this exercise, because (unlike Nymo, for instance) it will not easily slip out of your needles—you can let the needle dangle and not worry about it falling off the thread, even when the tails are fairly short. Once you're an expert at managing two needles you can use any thread you please, but for this initial exercise, make it easy for yourself.

After you string your starting bead, hold both needles with one hand while the other hand pulls the bead to the center of the line. While the needles are still in the one hand, check to make sure both thread tails are about the same length.

CROSSING THREADS

Attempting to cross threads through a bead while it is still on the needle is an excellent way to draw blood. The crossing bead must be pulled off the end of the stringing needle

before you pass the other needle back through it. The stringing needle is temporarily allowed to dangle after the crossing bead has been pulled off the needle end. Figures 2 and 3 show two methods for keeping the thread tight against the bottom of the crossing bead so it doesn't lie in the path of the incoming crossing needle.

Pass back through the crossing bead with the other needle. When this needle is halfway through the crossing bead, grasp its tip between your thumb and side of your index finger (of the hand that's holding the crossing bead). This allows you to release the needle end from your other hand, which then picks up the dangling stringing needle. This maneuver magically crosses the threads and exchanges the needles from one hand to the other. Pull the needles in opposite directions to slide the crossing bead down to the beadwork, in the same manner as you would tighten an overhand knot.

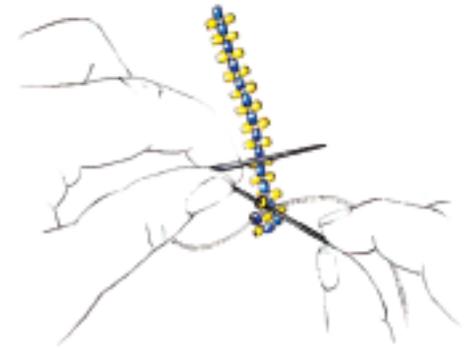


Figure 3. Left hand assists the right needle. Poke the pass-through needle halfway through the bead then use the other hand to grasp the needle tip and pull the needle through the remainder of the way.

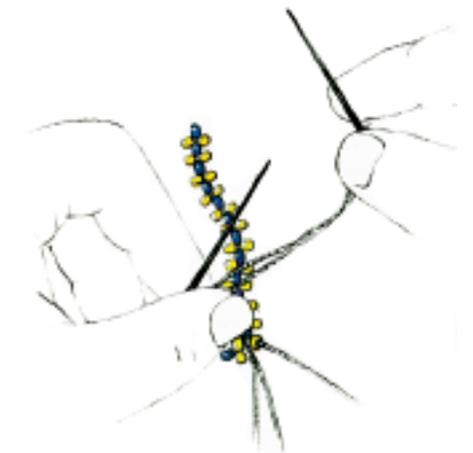


Figure 4. Left thumb holds work in place while right hand pulls the thread through the weave.