

Ideas for Finishing Your Seed Bead Projects

Secure Bead Caps to Your Beaded Ropes

Reinforce the ends of your beaded rope, secure your thread with a few half-hitch knots, and weave in the ends. Snip excess thread. Attach the rope to the bead cap by either 1) using epoxy to secure the rope into the bead cap or 2) attach a wire through the end of the beadwork, wrap, and then pass through the bead cap, make a wrapped loop atop the bead cap. (Visualize a stretched-out paperclip...one end secures your beadwork, the other end is a wrapped loop).

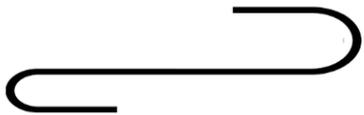


Photo: Interweave

Use Wire Guardians with Tube Clasps (for reinforcements)

Wire guardians like little horseshoes that protect your threads. They are great because they are wide and can be stitched into your beadwork. When using 11/0 or smaller beads, in the second row from your finished edge, substitute a bead with a wire guardian. Insert as many as you need to match your clasp. Reinforce by adding the last row (the "end" row) of beads. Reinforce the work with your thread. Knot and tie off. Snip excess. With NEW thread, attach wire guardian to your jump rings or clasp. Consider this option when using tube clasps.



Image: Beadwork.about.com

Try an Open-Ended Donut-Coil Lariat

Consider attaching a donut, wire or other large-hole finding to one end of your beadwork, then finish off with a dangle at the opposite end that passes through the hole. Be sure to leave plenty of wiggle room when attaching the donut – too stiff, and it could damage your beadwork.

Image: Erica Zap Designs



Stack Your Closure on Top vs. Edge

Consider attaching a bar/toggle clasp on the TOP of the beadwork – vs at the edge of the beadwork. This design cinches your beadwork closed when worn.

Image: bead-patterns.com



Slip in a Ram's Horn Clasp

Create pockets on both ends of a bracelet that are wide enough to fit your ram's head clasp. You can make these yourself with 12-16 gauge wire and pliers. Be sure to file rough edges of the wire so that it doesn't scratch.

Presented by Kate McKinnon in her book "The Jewelry Architect" (image: Kate McKinnon).



Add Ribbon Clamps to Loomed Beadwork

- Create selvage ends by weaving more thread between your warp threads until you have approx. ¼" of "fabric". Stabilize the woven selvage with epoxy or resin and allow to dry.
- Use nylon jaw pliers to gently squeeze the clamps, making them narrower, so that your selvage ends will slide into the gap.
- Use a toothpick to add glue/epoxy to the inside of the clamp.
- Put the clamp in place over the selvage edge.
- Use nylon jaw pliers to gently and securely close the clamp over the selvage edge and allow to dry.
- Add jump rings and a clasp of your choice.



Image: The Spruce

Embed Button & Bead Loops

While stitching a bracelet, substitute a single bead (or group of beads) in the bracelet with the shank of a button. The button becomes an integrated part of the woven bracelet. Finish stitching your bracelet to the desired length. With a NEW piece of thread, reinforce the button shank held in your beadwork. On opposite end of bracelet, with a NEW piece of thread, create a loop out of matching seed beads.

Image: Linda Davis



Add Jump Rings

Jump rings can be used in seed bead work if they flatter the design and/or clasp, and when you are certain that they are secure enough that your threads will not slip through the opening of the ring.

Soldered jump rings are better (split rings can be used as well) to insure your rings do not detach.

Image: Linda Davis



Add Fringe and Make a Lariat

Complete your beadwork by reinforcing both edges and securing the thread. With NEW thread, begin creating fringe. You can fringe one end and loop the other end (if you want to pass the fringe through the loop to secure), or you can fringe both ends and wear the lariat "doubled" or in a loose knot.

Image: Linda Davis



Slip it on Wire and Make a Bangle

Finish your desired length and secure your thread. Snip a piece of wire (14-16 gauge wire or memory wire) to fit inside your piece. Make a loop at one end and slip on a large bead (sometimes called a "finial" bead) as a stopper. Thread the wire through your beadwork. Finish by adding another "finial" bead, a focal bead, or bead of similar diameter at the opposite end, then form a closed loop. Add a clasp or coil around your wrist, depending on your wire selection.

Image: Linda Davis



Slip on End Cap Clasp Sliders



Image: Feelingstone Gifts (Etsy)

Taper into a D-Clasp Closure



Image: Fusion Beads

Stitch a Beaded Bar and Loop Closure



Image: "Decadence" by Anne (Flickr)

Add Magnetic Closures (carefully)



Image: Diane Fields (Pinterest)

Mount Finished Work on a Cuff Blank

(stitch the whole piece first, then secure around the blank – this image shows the concept, not the technique)



Image: Fire Mountain Gems

Add Leather and Snaps



Image: Unknown (expired Etsy item from Pinterest)