

## BASIC FIBER WEAVING STITCHES

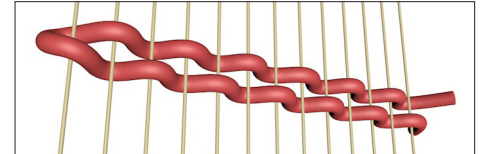
These techniques are great starter techniques and will get you started weaving with fibers if you are a true beginner. There is a vast wealth of tutorial material available on the internet, in particular on YouTube. Check out new techniques online as you advance in your skills.

### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU BEGIN WEAVING

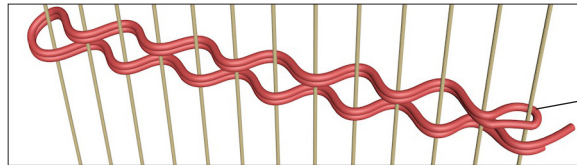
**TRY TO AVOID PIERCING THE WARP THREAD WITH YOUR WEAVING NEEDLE.** You will need to compress the weave dramatically as your work progresses, so keep the weaving threads completely disconnected from the warp threads.

**KEEP YOUR WEAVING TENSION EVEN SO THE OUTERMOST WARPS REMAIN STRAIGHT.** If you pull too tightly, the warps will shift toward the center, resulting in a narrowed weave. This will just take a little practice. When you pull the fiber through, avoid yanking, pull slowly and gently and adjust the outermost warps before starting the next pass.

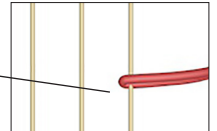
**THE BASIC OVER/UNDER WEAVE** is the most commonly used technique. Leave a tail of 4" to secure later, and run your needle under one thread, then over the next. Reverse direction at the outermost warp thread, and weave back across the warp, alternating the under/over pattern as shown in the diagram.



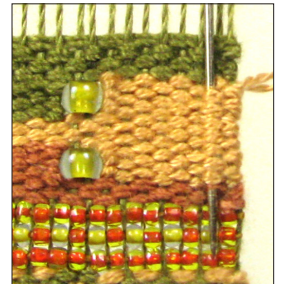
When weaving a doubled thread, you can loop the thread around the outermost warp, then weave as usual and secure the thread end in the same manner. For a neater look, separate the threads and secure each one separately.



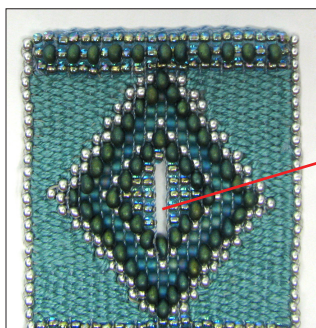
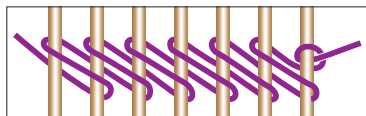
Folded center of thread looped around outermost warp



**Securing threads within the weave.** If you are using a single ply of thread, trim it to 4" and put a sharp-pointed needle on the thread. Run the needle's point into the weave parallel to the warps, within the same color area if possible. Pull the needle through slowly to avoid distortion; use small pliers if necessary. Trim the thread end CAREFULLY so as not to cut any weaving threads or warp threads. If using a doubled thread to weave, separate the threads and secure each one individually, in opposite directions if possible. You may find it easier to secure threads that are close to the combs after the piece is removed from the loom, or temporarily remove the combs as described here. Pull slightly on the end after it emerges from the weave, but not so tightly that the weave is distorted on the edges. Trim close to the weave, taking care not to cut the warp or weave. Massage the weave a little so the cut end disappears into the weave.



**THE SOUMAK WEAVE.** Go forward under three warps, then backward over two warps. Keep your tension very even as you stitch. This stitch will appear textured. Wrap the weaving thread around the outermost warps to position them correctly before working the next pass across the warp. This example shows three-forward-under, two-back-over. You can also do four-forward-under, three-back-over, or any other combination to shorten or lengthen the stitch.



Create a buttonhole by leaving a gap, centered in the width. You can make several buttonholes for a dramatic closure.

COTTON, DOUBLED, OVER-UNDER

TENCEL, DOUBLED, OVER-UNDER

METALLIC BRAID, SINGLE, OVER-UNDER

RAYON, SINGLE, OVER-UNDER

RAYON, DOUBLED, OVER-UNDER

PERSIAN WOOL, SINGLE PLY, OVER-UNDER

PERSIAN WOOL, TWO-PLY, OVER-UNDER

PERSIAN WOOL, TWO-PLY, SOUMAK

BULKY WOOL, SINGLE PLY, SOUMAK

LINEN, SINGLE PLY, SOUMAK OVER ONE WARP

CREWEL WOOL, SOUMAK, ONE PLY

