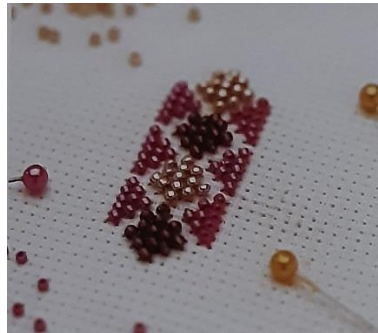


Split-Thread Beading

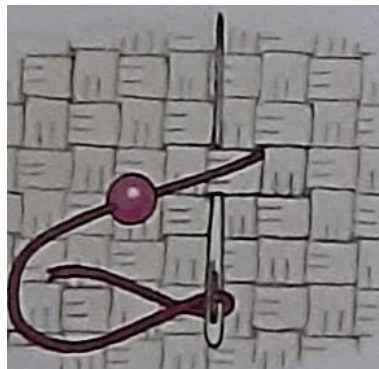
Split-thread beading is a useful technique to sew beads in place more securely

When adding beads to an item that will be in regular use and subject to wear and tear – such as a tote bag, an item of clothing or a pillowcase. The beads must be held in place as securely as possible. Split-thread beading is a technique that holds beads more firmly than ordinary beaded cross-stitch. The beads are threaded on in the normal way as you work the first part of the stitch. Then, as you work the second part of the stitch, you split the thread into two strands and take it around the bead to anchor it in place. While this method requires a little extra time, it extends the range of items you can embellish with beads.



Individual split-thread beading

1. Bring the thread out to the front, thread on a bead, and then insert the needle one hole down and one hole to the left. Push the bead down the thread so that it lies against the fabric. Bring the needle out one hole up.

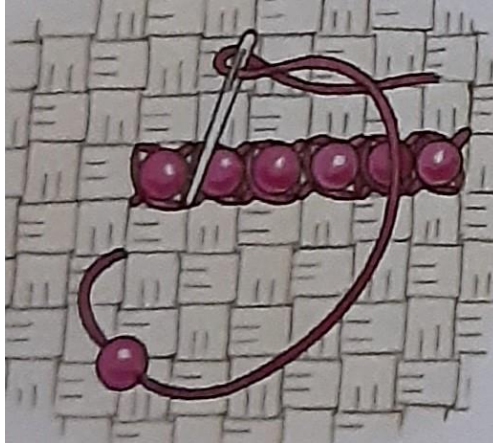


2. Insert the needle one hole down and one to the right and start pulling the thread is nearly pulled through, split the strands over the bead so that a strand lies on either side of the bead; finish pulling the thread through. To end the thread, take several short stitches on top of one another on the back side of your work.

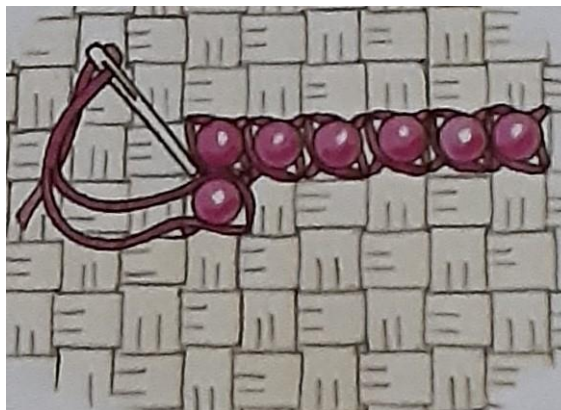


Rows of split-thread beading

1. Work a row of split thread beaded cross stitches. To start the second row, bring the needle out one hole down and one hole to the left. Work a beaded half cross-stitch from bottom left to top right. Bring the needle out one hole down.



2. Insert the needle one hole up and one to the left, splitting the strand over the bead. Bring the needle out one hole down and one to the right, ready to work the next stitch. Continue in this way to the end of the row. To end the thread, take several short stitches on top of one another on the back side of your work.



Information taken from Reader's Digest: The Big Book of Cross-Stitch Designs
The Reader's Digest Association, Inc. Pleasantville, New York/Montreal/London/Sydney/
Singapore