

SKILL BUILDER: HOW TO ADD A THREAD IN A LADDER BRACELET



This Skill Builder is intended to assist you when you need to incorporate a new thread into a ladder project. This sample, Blue Ribbon from Mosaic 4 Wrap, is done using Tila Beads and 8/0 Seed Beads. It can be adapted to other beads, as long as you are able to fit multiple threads through the holes of the beads during the transitioning process.

Always try to plan ahead and add your new thread long before you run out.

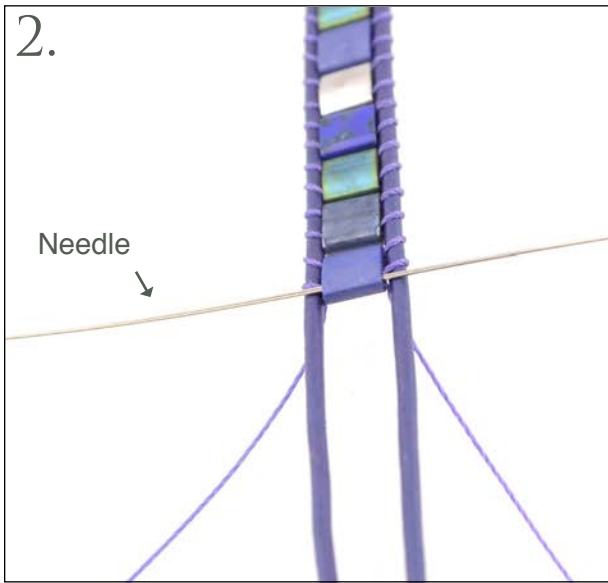
The studio essentials you will need are:
GS Hypo Tube Cement
Flush Cutters
Big Eye Needle



This project started with the an assortment of Tila Beads, some leather, Tuff Cord #1, 8/0 seed beads, etc. Below is how we added a new thread in halfway through the laddering process.

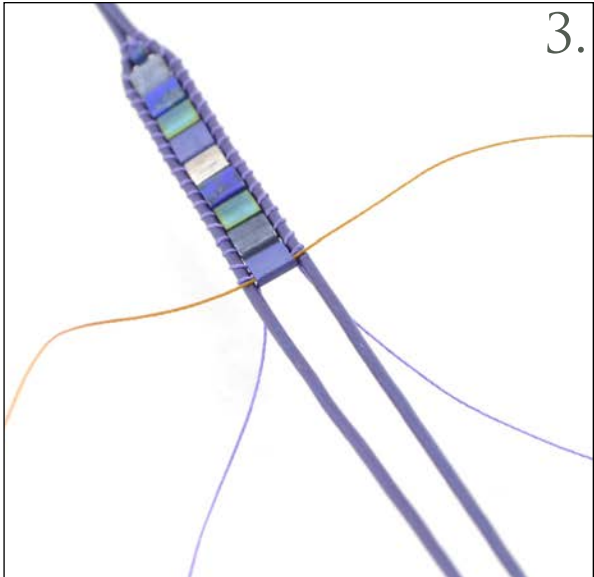


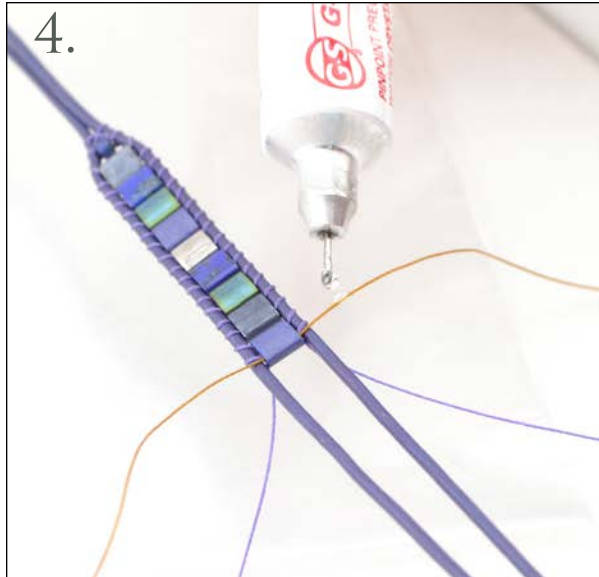
1. Cut a new piece of Tuff Cord long enough to complete your project. Thread your Big Eye Needle with the new thread. For demonstration purposes, we used a contrasting Gold Tuff Cord color so the old thread (Purple) and new thread would be easier to see.



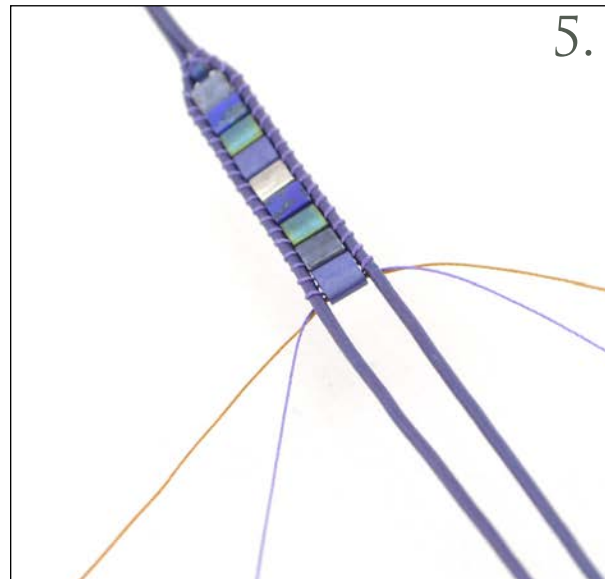
2. Thread the Big Eye Needle through the bottom hole of the Tila Bead bringing the new Tuff cord through the bead. The old threads you are going to drop are shown in the photo.

3. Pull your new cord through the Tila Bead until your thread is even on both sides.

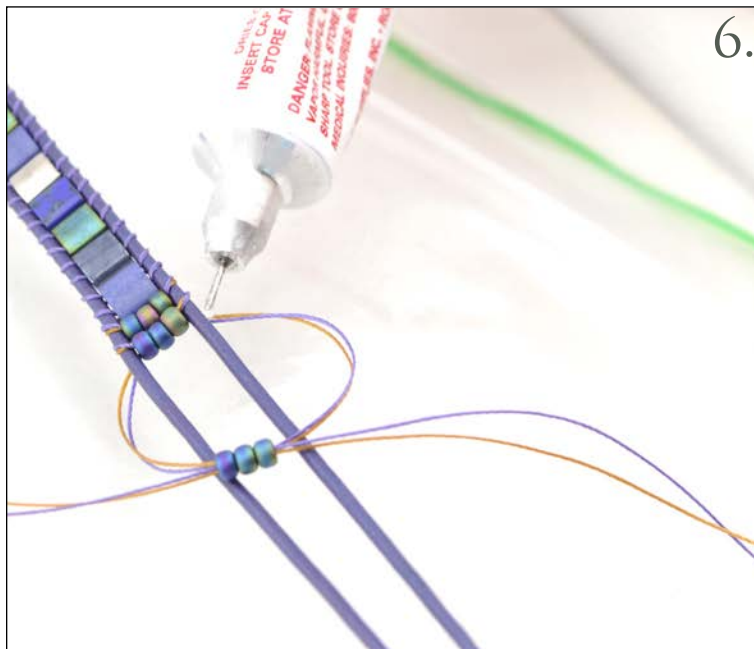




4. Add GS Hypo-Tube Cement to your Tuff Cord on the section of thread that will live inside the Tila Bead. Pull this section into the Tila Bead while it is still wet. Give it a few minutes to dry before continuing.



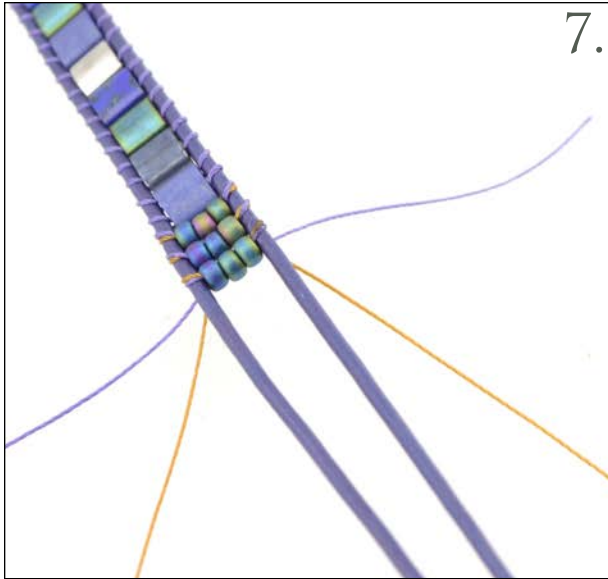
5. Bring your new cord in place with the old. If your old cords are UNDER the leather, then bring the new ones UNDER as well. The two cords will be working in tandem to ladder the 8/0's. You are now going to add 8/0 beads to complete the transitioning process. If you need to, refer to [Skill Builder: How to Ladder](#).



6.

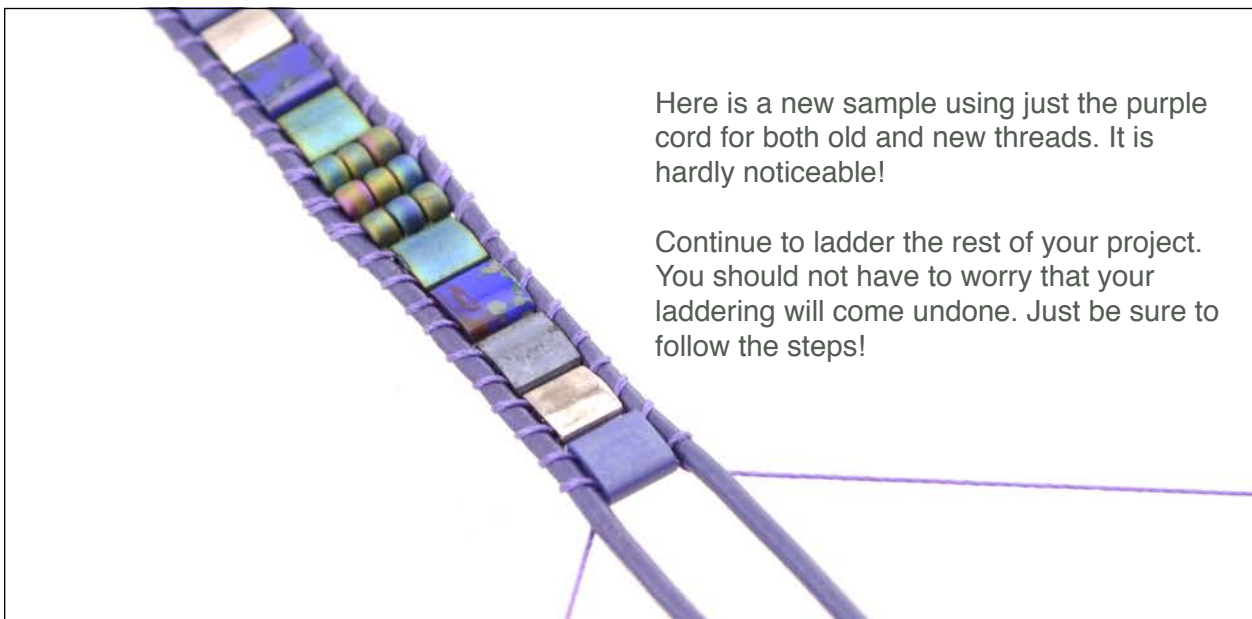
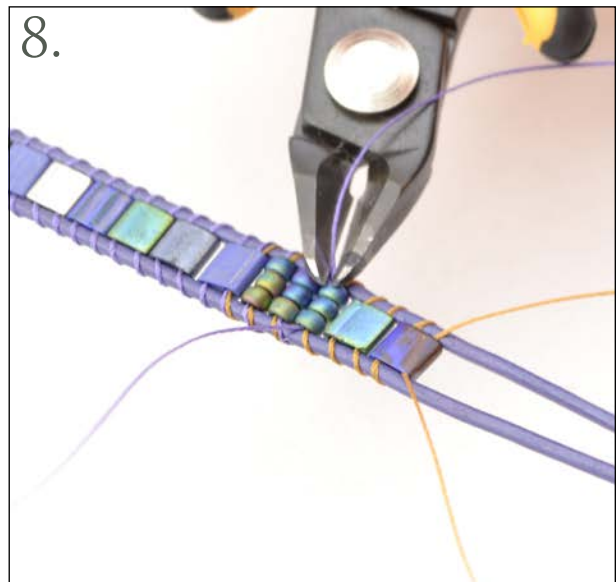
6. Your next 2-3 rows will be beads you can bring both old and new cords through. In this sample, 8/0 seed beads worked perfectly. When you are just about ready to tighten up the last row, add a dab of GS Hypo-Tube Cement on the section of cord that will live inside the last row of beads. Pull it tight while the glue is still wet. Allow it a few minutes to dry.

We recommend a minimum of two rows of beads...three is even better.



7. Now that you have glued the old and new threads together inside the Tila Bead and in the last row of seed beads, you are ready to cut the old thread away on the back side of your project.

8. Flip your laddering project over to the back side and using flush cutters, carefully cut the old thread away. Any little bit of thread you might miss will more than likely evaporate inside the row of beads with the passage of time.



Here is a new sample using just the purple cord for both old and new threads. It is hardly noticeable!

Continue to ladder the rest of your project. You should not have to worry that your laddering will come undone. Just be sure to follow the steps!