

SKILL BUILDER: HOW TO SINGE YOUR CORD USING A THREAD ZAP II

Made by Beadsmith, the Thread Zap II is an inexpensive cauterizing tool used to singe and burn thread ends. It can be used effectively on many types of materials. It should never be used by children or left with the battery installed. You want to store it with the battery out to keep the unit from turning on unexpectedly if dropped or moved. Let's begin by reviewing the tool:



The top to the Thread Zap II is not pictured. Always store your Thread Zap II with the cap on and the battery out. Because the heating element is quite fragile, use caution

To insert the AA battery, unscrew the top and put the battery in + side first. Screw the top back on being careful to match threads of cap with those of the tool.





Press down on the ON/OFF Switch to check the battery has been installed correctly and that your heating element gets hot. ALWAYS let it cool down before touching it. And always remember the element is extremely fragile and can be damaged or broken by just the slightest jiggling. Now we are ready to singe! Let's try it on a macramé project, like [Easy Wrap](#).



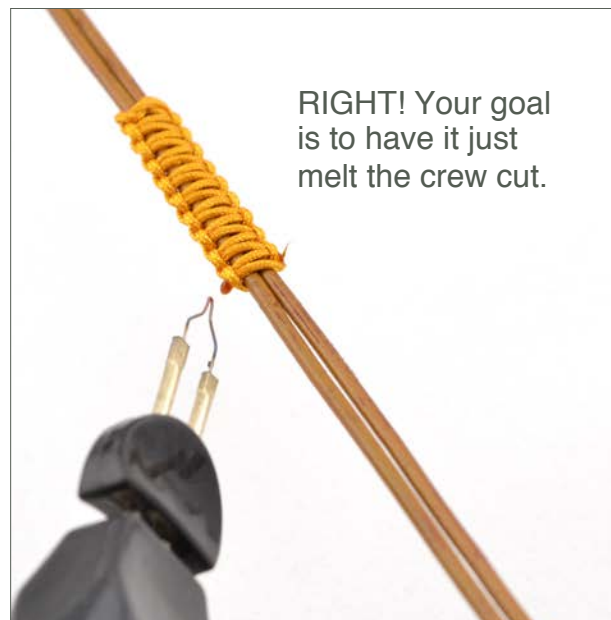
When you are finishing up a macramé project, there comes a time when you want to cut your cords and singe a secure finish. Please review [Skill Builder: How to Macramé](#) for tips on that technique. We also recommend a dab of [GS Hypo-tube Cement](#) on your leather prior to doing your last couple of macramé knots to really adhere the cord to the leather.

Using thread snips or flush cutters, give your cords a crew cut; leave just enough to burn...not too much and not too little! And, don't save singeing for a later date. Once you give your cords crew cuts, you want to singe immediately or the knots will unravel.





Be patient during this process! You want to have the element warm enough to melt the thread or cord, but not so hot it eats through your knots. So, go slowly and remember to depress before you singe.



When you are finished, you might have a stray “hair” you have to cut with flush cutters or thread snips. These hairs are caused by a bit of the cord melting to the element. Use caution cutting any hair off.

Your Thread Zap II is a wonderful tool. It’s extremely affordable but it isn’t meant to be thrown in a bag or tossed around. Take care of it and it will give you lots of good service. Eventually, you will have to replace the element. We do carry [Replacement Tips](#). Thank you and happy zapping!