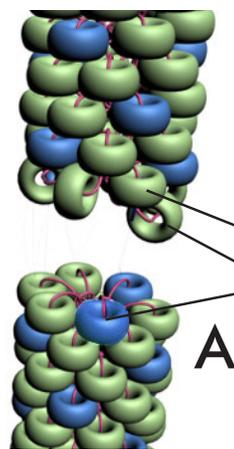


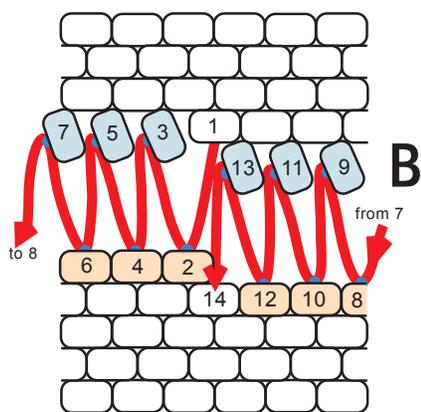
STEP 1 To prepare your tube for joining, secure the thread tail at the STARTING end within the fibers of the tube; do not run the thread through the holes of any beads. If you are working in a pattern, ascertain that the beginning and end of the tube you wish to join invisibly are "in pattern" with each other, in other words, if you continued to crochet from the end round using the beads of the first round, the pattern would be correct.

When you're satisfied that this is the case, clear at least twelve inches (12") of unstitched thread of any remaining beads and cut the end thread (shown in red). Secure the thread tail by running the cut end through the last loop on your hook. Put a needle on the starting thread tail and bury it within the tube itself by running the needle into and then through the fibers of the tube. Take care not to run the tail thread through the center holes of the beads themselves, or the tube will be distorted. Put a needle onto the 12" tail (red) onto a needle and bring it out of the hole of the last bead you crocheted INTO. Test first to be sure your needle will fit through the bead hole. This is the one and only time in this process that your thread will go through the hole in a bead.

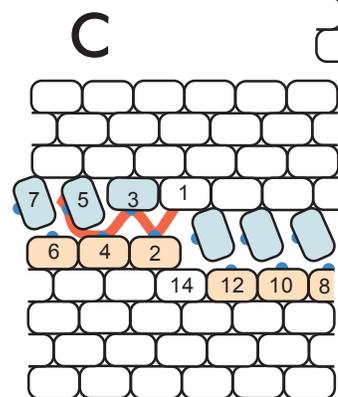


This is the last bead you crocheted into (bead 1)
This is the last bead you crocheted (bead 13)
This is the first bead of your original chain (bead 2)

Align the end and start of the tube as shown in diagram A and the photo at right. This position is unfortunately known as the "cigarette hold", where the index and middle fingers hold one end of the tube and the thumb and ring finger hold the other end of the tube.



STEP 2 Follow the thread path shown in diagram B. The dark blue dots indicate the thread that holds each bead in place on the tube. The thread must go in this specific path for the joint to appear seamless. Try not to pierce the thread itself, but rather run the needle through the loop that holds the bead so there is no distortion when you tighten the thread. This diagram shows all threads still loose; in reality, you will tighten the thread after each stitch, as shown in C.



STEP 3 As you progress, draw the tube ends close together and take out the slack in the thread. When you do this, you will notice (see diagram C, bead #3) that the beads of the end round (blue) will shift into the horizontal position, and thus appear to be attached to the beads of the beginning round (beige). Continue around the tube until the two ends are firmly joined in proper alignment. Weave past the last joining stitch (two or three beads away) and secure the excess thread within the tube, taking care to run the thread only through the fibers and not through the bead holes. Continue to weave, away from the joint, reversing two or three times for security; when you're certain that the thread is secure, pull lightly on the excess thread and trim it close to the beads, then massage the trimming point so the thread will disappear into the tube. Take care not to cut any of the threads that hold beads.

Diagram D shows an "exploded" view of the joint before you start it. Note that the thread emerges from the hole in the last bead you crocheted into (1) and points toward the first bead you crocheted (2). The beads of the ending end are upright like tires; the beads of the starting end are horizontal like donuts. Diagram E shows an "exploded" view of the thread path for the joint; note that the beads of the ending end are now all rotated to the horizontal donut position. Photo F shows an actual invisible joint, beautifully done, before the thread is buried and trimmed.

