

Part 10 How to do hemstitching - Video 32

How to deal with the final yarn end

We have already covered tying knots and making a twisted fringe. Sometimes it is better for weaving not to have a fringe though, or to have a flat fringe rather than one with knots.

For a knotless fringe, hemstitching is a way of securing the threads by stitching. You need to know you are going to finish a piece with hem stitching before you start weaving. The first shot is woven leaving a long tail, three times the width of the weaving. After weaving a few rows, you go back and hemstitch the beginning edge with the tail, using a needle, before continuing to weave.



Log cabin scarf showing hemstitching.

If you forget, it is possible to do it afterwards by joining in a new length of yarn but it is better done at the start. Once you are finished, leave another long length of yarn at the end of the weaving and use that to hemstitch with as well.

Hemstitching can be started from either side, so start at the side that works best for you.

- Start by going round two or more warp threads with the yarn on the needle.
- Then take the needle up two picks (rows) vertically into the weaving.
- Then go across on the diagonal to wrap the next two warps.

It can seem confusing at first but is simple once you get the hang of it.

Creating a solid edge with no fringe

Weaving can be 'fulled' in the washing machine so that it is slightly felted. This means it will not unravel if it is cut. If you do want to cut weaving for example in order to make a garment, the edge can also be secured in a couple of ways:

- By using zig zag stitch or over-locking with a sewing machine.
- By using strips of iron-on muslin interfacing either on its own or in conjunction with stitching as above.

Another alternative is to simply hem the edge. To create a non hemmed edge, sew each warp thread up a few rows into the weaving, one or two threads along from where it comes out. This will create a finished edge that does not need a hem.