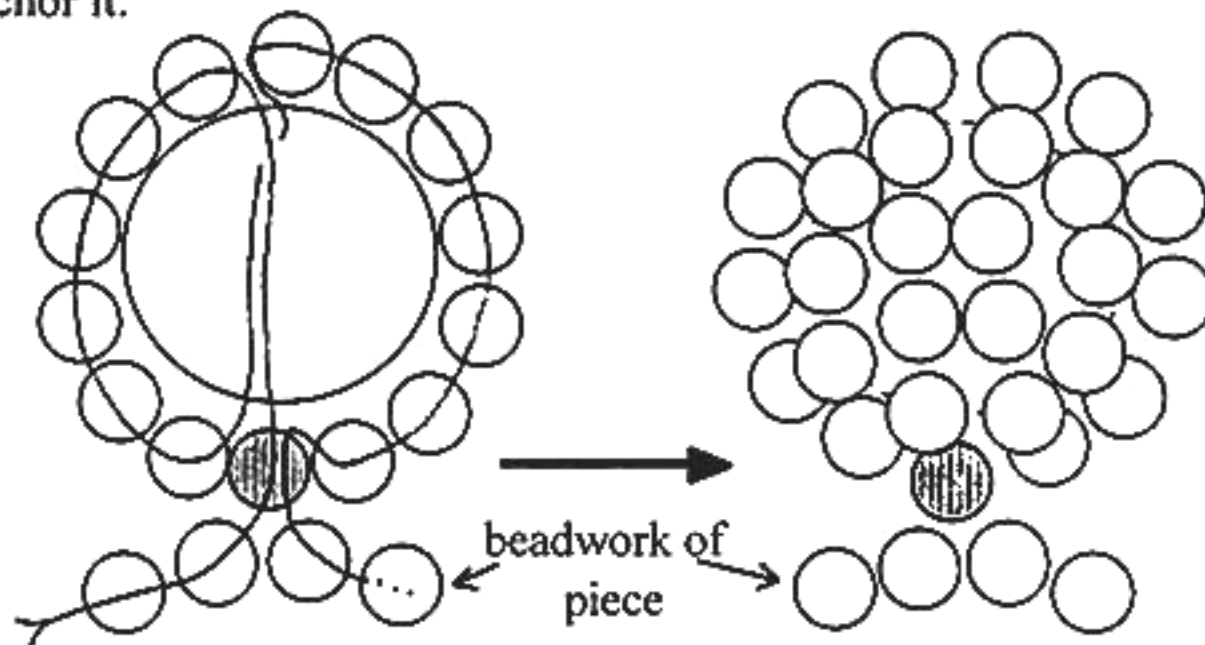
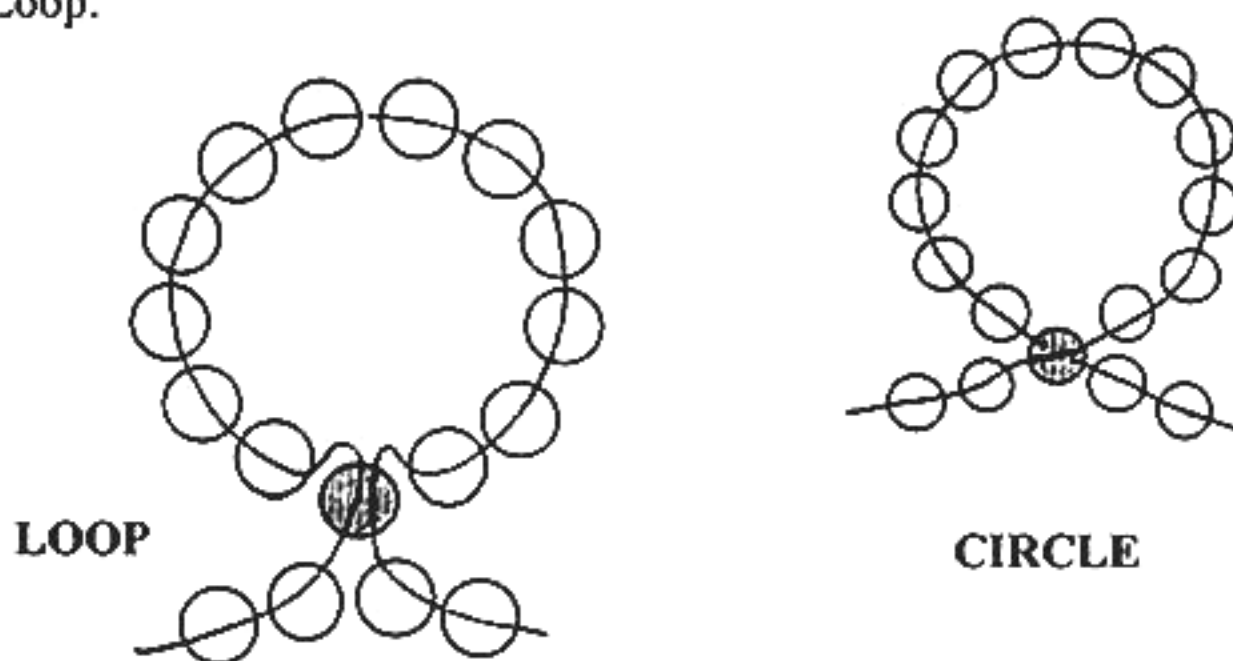


BALL & LOOP CLASP

If you don't want a continuous piece, you can make a beaded clasp rather than attach a jewelry clasp. Use a large (5mm or more in diameter) round plastic bead as the "ball." You can create the clasp as part of the entire piece or add it on later by threading the knotted clasp thread through existing beadwork first to anchor it.



Thread through a bottom connector bead (colored), then through the big bead. Thread on enough seed beads to cover the length of the thread from the top to the bottom of the outside of the big bead. Bring the thread down to the bottom of the big bead (next to the connector bead) and rethread through the big bead again, adding on another row of seed beads. Keep repeating this until the outside of the big bead is covered with rows of seed beads. When you're adding your last row, make sure the seed bead at the top of the big bead for that row covers any "bald spot" there. Now thread through the connector bead, and continue the beadwork piece, or rethread through an inch of existing beadwork, knot it, rethread through another inch of beadwork, and trim the end. The ball fits into a loop attached in the same way to the other end of the piece. Check the fitness of the loop to the ball before ending the loop, adding beads as necessary! Loop:



Note the difference between LOOPS and CIRCLES of beads, often a point of confusion for children: in loops, the thread enters the connector bead at the same opening from which it originates, as above; in circles, the thread originates from one opening and connects through the other opening.