

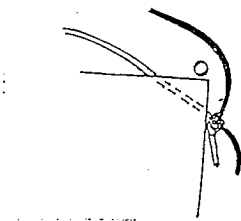
## INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH HEADBANDS

*These notes are based on an article published in Morocco Bound Vol 13, No 2 May 1992.*

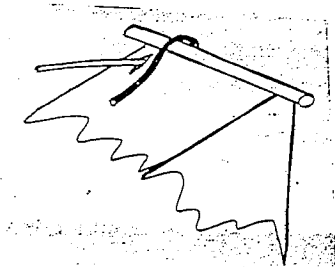
1. Three headband styles will be demonstrated: Simple Front-beaded, Single Core French, Two Core French. To demonstrate the techniques, sewing threads and straight batonnettes will be used.
2. Secure the text block in a press with the spine away from the binder.

### The Simple Front Beaded Headband

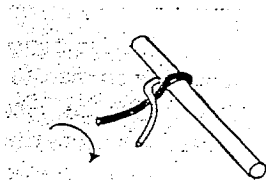
3. This style is usually sewn onto a rectangular core and is often seen on 19<sup>th</sup> century bindings. In various countries it is known as either a German, Dutch or English headband.
4. Thread the needle with a **white** thread and pass it through the head to the back of the book. Tie on the **black** thread at the back:



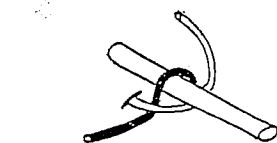
5. Place the batonnette on the head. Bring the **black** thread over it and to the right of the **white** thread:



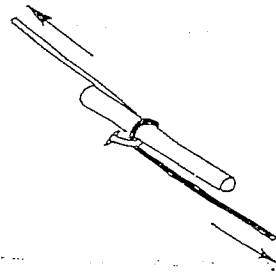
6. Cross the **white** thread to the back of the book under the batonnette:



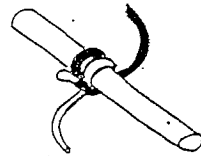
7. Take the **white** thread to the back of the book under the batonnette:



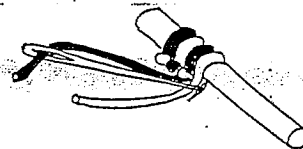
8. Tighten the winding by pulling the **white** thread to the left and to the **black** to the right, both parallel to the batonnette:



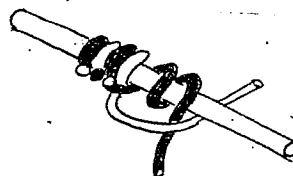
9. Repeat to give the next winding:



10. Make several windings and then tie down by passing the thread which is to go to the back through the head of the book and out the back:



11. Next, before making next crossover, wind the **black** thread around the batonnette. In its turn, do the same with the **white** thread:

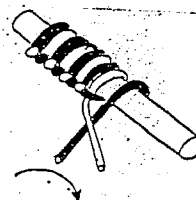


12. The readily recognisable feature of this headband is that each bead knot colour is different to the corresponding batonnette windings:

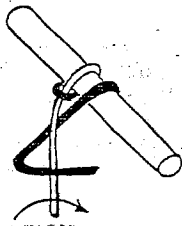


### The Single Core French Headband

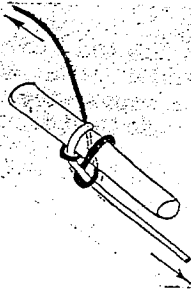
13. For the purpose of learning the stitches, after making say ten windings of the Simple Front Beaded Headband, change to the Single Core French. Arrange to have a **black** thread at the back of the book. Tie down. Bring the **black** thread over the batonnette and cross over the **white** thread as before (ie a half twist clockwise):



14. Now cross the **black** over the **white** (ie make a full twist clockwise) so that the **black** goes to the rear of the book:



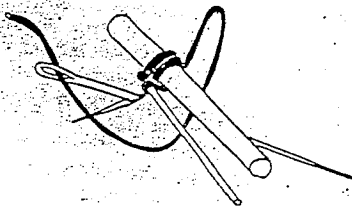
15. Jiggle the winding into position and complete it by tightening as before:



16. The **black** thread is called the winding thread: the **white** the bead thread. The readily recognisable feature of this style is that the colours of both the bead knot and the corresponding winding are the same, in this case **black**:



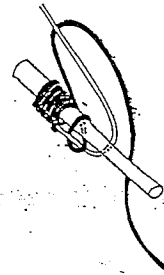
17. Make several windings. Tie down by taking the winding thread back under the batonnette and passing it through the text block at a place corresponding to the winding:



18. Tension should be maintained on the bead thread before the winding thread is pulled up tight. If the tension is not right the wrong colour will show through the bead. If this happens, the bead knot needs to be remade by pulling on tension firstly on the bead thread and then in opposite directions as before.

19. To change colours, take the bead thread (in this case **white**) under the batonnette and cross it over the top of the winding thread (in this case **black**) at the back of the book. Bring the old winding thread (**black**) under the batonnette to the front to become a new bead thread.

20. Complete the action by pulling on tensions in opposite directions as before:

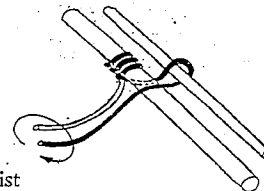


21. Again note that the keeping-on of tension is important during the colour change, particularly the bead thread.

### Two Core French Headbands

22. Arrange to have your Single Core French headband with the winding thread **black**. Place on the second batonnette.

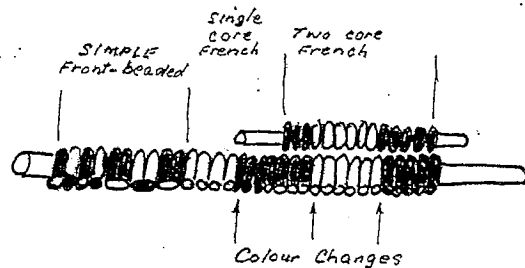
23. Bring the winding thread to the front between the two batonnettes. Now take it back over the top of and around the top batonnette and back between the two batonnettes to the front:



Full clockwise twist to be made.

24. Make the bead knot by a full clockwise twist and pull on tension as before. Change colours as required also as before.

25. Your telephone directory should look so:



26. Having mastered a two-core mock-up, you will have mastered the most difficult part of French headbands. Sewing headbands on real books and setting them are covered in further reading:

### Further Reading

- Morocco Bound Vol 13 No 3 August 1992
- "Making Two-core French Headbands". Notes by Ron Edie in the Conference Notes of the First National Conference of Craft Bookbinders 1984
- "Headbands - How to Work Them" by Jane Greenfield and Jenny Hille