

Starting and Stopping Wefts

These are the most common methods of starting and stopping wefts. There is no wrong or right method. You will find that you use different methods depending on what you are weaving. If you are weaving with a very thick weft, for example, you will probably not want to overlap in the middle of your weaving where it will make a big bump. Rather, you may want to start and stop at opposite edges where you overlap just a thread or two, or just leave the end hanging.



Overlap

Overlap anywhere across the web from between ½" to 2". Generally, the overlap will be shorter with a closer sett (more warp ends per inch) and longer with a wider sett (fewer ends per inch).

Overlap on opposite edges

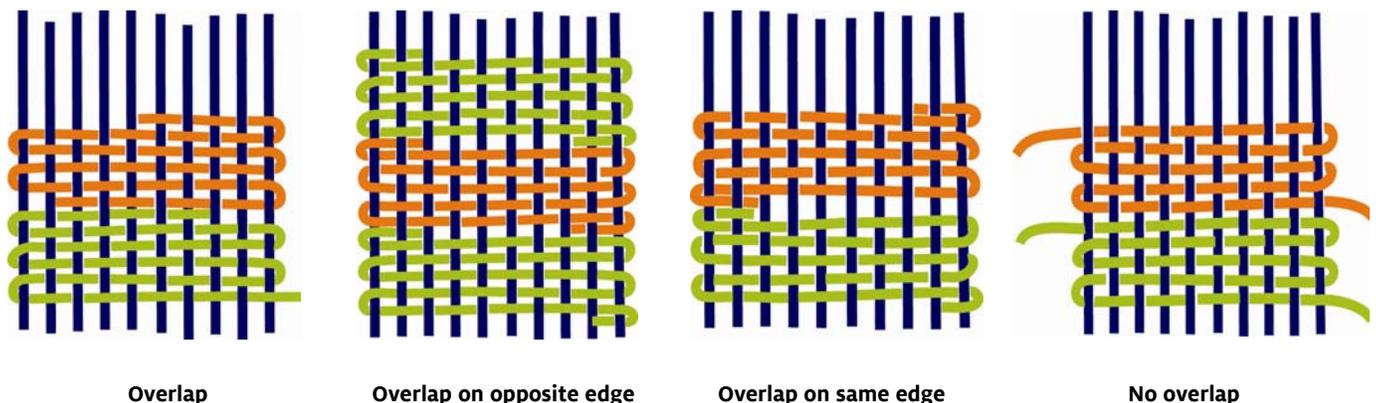
Start and stop wefts on opposite sides using a short overlap. This is a good method for bulky yarns and color changes. You can overlap in the same shed by bringing the tail around the edge warp and back into the shed, or you can change sheds before placing the end into the next shed. Begin the next weft at the opposite selvedge. Leave tails hanging until after washing and then trim them close to the surface.

Overlap on the same edge

Start and stop wefts at the same edge. Bulk can build up with this method, but you can minimize build-up by untwisting the yarn plies*.

No overlap

Sometimes you don't need to overlap the weft to secure it, such as when you are weaving cloth that will be cut and sewn or fine fabric that will full in the wash. In either case, trim the tails after washing.



*Note: To avoid bulk with all these methods, you can split the “starting” and “stopping” yarn in half in the overlap areas. To do this, untwist the yarn and cut off one strand leaving a tail as long as the overlap. When the end is overlapped, it will be the same size as the original yarn and not cause build-up.