



WHY Because you can! Buy it in a catalog for \$35, or make 2 from a Wal-Mart \$8 seat cover. After reading letters from riders that liked them, this was my solution. I tried it on an 8 hr. car trip & found it no more or less comfortable than the car seat. On a bike, it is cooler & allows you to change the way the seat feels at a gas stop. The store pad has nylon string holding it together. This is how to reinforce it with 10 lb. nylon fishing cord. The cord is run along side the existing string. Plan 3 sittings to make one.

TOOLS (A) 10 lb nylon fishing cord. (B) soft wire needle. Tape cord to wire 'needle' with masking tape. Motorcycle pads are about 10" X 14". The car seat makes 2 slightly larger. When splitting the cover, you will loose 2 rows of beads. Use masking tape to temporarily secure the loose corner strings after the cut. Use a candle or lighter to seal the cut ends of nylon sewing cord.

HOW Study the nylon string closely. It is laid out in an S pattern (F) covering 3 rows per pass. Think of 2 cords chris-crossing the pad. (1) & (2) show that not all intersections are the same. The cord follows pattern loops (1).

As a check, verify that location of the tight string pattern in (2) doesn't change.

HINTS Use baleing wire or rebar tie wire for the needle because it is soft & easily bent. Start with a cord 3 X the width of the pad. If it is too long, it will hang up, & you will occasionally have sections frizz up. Spliced ties in the middle of the pad can be hidden inside a bead. If you get frustrated, it is probably because the cord is too long. Don't try to keep the cord taught, pull it taught & then let it relax. Use masking tape to hold your place if you have a problem.

STEPS I. Run a perimeter cord (E), start & stop at a square corner. Loosely tie it together. You will finish it off later. Use a 4" to 6" needle for this. II. Make a cord 3 times the width of the pad & seal ends with fire. III. Tape cord to the 2" wire. As you work across the pad, you will be working with 3 rows of beads. Each pass will include one of the rows of beads just worked on. So, you progress 2 rows each pass.

IV. Tie off to the perimeter cord & start at bead b-1, move to a-2, to b-3, to c-4, to b-5, to a-6, to b-7, to c-8 etc. V. When you get to the other side, tie a square knot to the

perimeter cord. VI. Start back mirroring the first pass. (F).

Remember, you will be interlocking with row C again. First crossing was rows A, B, C, Second crossing will be rows C, D, E. This is where you will need to be alert. It is easy to jump a row. If you do, pull the needle off & pull the cord back to restart. VII. When you complete the pass, go through the perimeter bed & tie off at the same spot on the perimeter cord you started the pass. VIII. Tape a new cord to the needle. Move over one row & do it all again interlocking with the last row E.

FINISH OFF Check to see how many & where you will need tie-downs. I use 2. Buy D rings or thread 1" key rings through the beads. When all finished, dab glue at each perimeter cord tie-off. Stuff the perimeter cord ends & the original string ends into a bead & plug it with glue. I like polyurethane glue because it expands slightly.

Now, brag to everyone that the \$35 pad is well worth the money you had to shell out.

FtWorthRED@usol.com