Conventional looping machines for making simple loops at the ends of strings have a hook attached to a crank handle. For making custom-wound Bass Canon strings, I removed the hook and replaced it with an aluminum fork designed to hold a brass ball end. In the photo below, note that the string clamp is now in the open position.
A simple pin inserted through the top of the fork holds the brass ball end in place.
(1) Thread the string end into the fork and around the ball end, and insert the end into the hole of the string clamp.

(2) Place the string parallel to the string end, and extend it beyond the left edge of the clamp.

Close the clamp.
To prevent the string and the string end from twisting at the clamp, insert a thick wire ($\approx 0.042$ in.) horizontally between the string and the string end near the clamp. Turn the crank handle five times.

At the end of the twisted length, the string end is now parallel to the string. Note the formation of a bump where the string and the string end are now slightly wider than the twisted length.
With a high quality wire cutter, and in the direction facing the brass ball end, cut off the bent string end. At the location of the cut, a high quality cutter will minimize the formation of a burr. Such a burr may sever the bronze wrap wire during the winding operation. See: StringWinder_Operation_Manual-1.pdf

Finally, mount and tension the string on the string winder. With small needle nose pliers flatten the bump by pinching the string end against the string. If the bump is too high, the bronze wrap wire will not pass over it. Instead, the wire will back up and destroy the winding.