
Leather Wrap Bracelet with Melanie Falick

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

For as long as I can remember, I've loved wearing bracelets that wrap multiple times around my wrist, and when I realized that I could make them myself, I got very excited. What we're going to do here is make a rap bracelet that actually wraps around the wrist one time, and then I'll show you how to do it to wrap it multiple times. It's an easy project to make. I'll show you how to choose leather chord and then apply beads to it using thread and then create a closure, and then you'll be done. I often make these bracelets as gifts, but sometimes, I find them a little bit hard to give away just because I love them so much.

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

If you haven't made a beaded project before, shopping for the supplies might be a little intimidating, but I'm going to try to give you all the information you need to make it easy. The first thing you need for a beading project is of course, the beads. What we have here are size six silver galvanized Japanese round seed beads. These are the beads they we're using for the bracelet we're making today, but you can use any size six seed beads or you can also use round or faceted four millimeter beads. Next you have your leather cord. The leather cord comes in lots and lots of colors and it has to be rounded leather cord. We're going to use 1.5 millimeter. I find that one millimeter and two millimeter both work as well. Next, you're going to use a button closure. This is an oval silver button that I got on Etsy. If you want a button like this just do a search on Essy for this type of button. But you can also use any button that you have that has two holes or a shank button. The main thing is that your leather cord needs to fit within the shank or the two holes. There are a lot of different choices for thread. I've tried three different kinds and I've had success with all of them. We're going to use the C-lon thread today. This is a nylon thread and it's size D. There's also another thread called Nymo and it's spelled n-y-m-o. And if you want to use that one, again look for size D. The other kind is Fireline and this is really popular in the beading world right now. This is six pound Fireline. This is something that was made to use for fishing, but it's very strong and very popular for beading, but it doesn't come in a lot of colors so you're a bit limited there. Whichever thread you use you're going to want to tame the thread. You're going to just not want it to be knotting or tangling in anyway. So you can use beeswax for that or you can use this product called Thread Heaven. If you have one of them on hand just use it. If you don't, buy one or the other or both and try them out and see if you have a preference. There are a lot of different kinds of needles out there. We're going to use a size 10 beading needle for the project today, but if you have a different needle that seems to be working that's fine too. The main criteria is that the needle has to be threaded with the thread of your choice. The thread will be doubled and then it needs to pass through your bead twice. You're also going to need special beading glue. This is called Hypo Cement and it has a really, really fine tip so it comes out very slowly and it can go into small spaces. And we use this to secure knots. So the fine tip is really important in order to be able to get just a teensy bit of glue into a very small bead. And then we have some general material. We need a scissor, a tape measure, a t pin, a binder clip, a clipboard. And finally, there's one supply that's totally optional. I really need it. This is called an optivisor and it basically makes everything magnified. And it makes you look like a freak

according to my son and I can't disagree, but I use it all the time and it actually makes my bracelets look a lot better and it makes me happy with my results.

Chapter 3 - Create Bracelet

Start bracelet

The first step for making a bracelet is to measure your wrist. We're going to be making a bracelet that wraps around once. So I measured my wrist previously. I know my wrist is six inches around. So I'm going to take a measurement of seven inches. I'm adding an inch, because I don't want the bracelet to be really tight. So what I'm going to do is I take a seven inch measurement, and then I'm going to double it because we're going to double the leather. 7 times 2 equals 14. And then I'm going to add 16 inches to that. And we get-- make the inch marks-- 30 inches. So this equation leaves a lot of leeway. You don't need to worry, at this point, that you have your exact measurement. This is going to give us enough leather cord to make the wrap bracelet and then trim to make it fit at the end. So we know we need 30 inches. So I'm going to unwind off the spool, take out my tape measure to 30 inches. And this goes right there. And when you cut your leather cord, you want to cut it on the diagonal. And that's going to help you when you go to Insert the end of the cord into your button, which is the next step. So thread the pointed end of the leather through the button. You do it through the two holes. And then in order to get the button in the center, just match up the ends and pull the button up. So now the button is just right in the center of the leather. So I'll move our equation aside. And now I'm going to make an overhand knot as close to the button as I can. So I basically put my finger close to the button. I wrap the leather cord around my finger. And then I just pull the leather cord through. And then at this point I can just nudge the knot up. And don't get crazy here if it doesn't go all the way up. Then just do it over. So I think mine is pretty good. I don't need to do it over. But lots of times I do. So now we have the button on the leather cord with an overhand knot beneath it. Now we use our clipboard. We put the button underneath the clip, and then we take our leather cord and we hold it taut. And then we take our binder clip, and we secure it. And we have our leather cords taut on the board and close together. So thread your needle with being thread. I'd use an arm's length of thread and I'd double it. I actually have some prepared right here. Once you have your needle threaded and knotted, you're going to use the thread conditioner-- either the thread heaven or the beeswax. You just run it along the surface all the way to the end. And then just sort of rub it in a little bit. The next thing we're going to do is attach the thread to the leather cord. We're going to do that with a lark's head knot. So basically, we're going to take my needle and put it underneath the left cord so that it comes through the center. Or if you're working from the right, you can do the same thing from the other side. Then you're going to hold the end of your thread open-- the knotted end. And put your needle through there. And then just gently pull. The idea is to get the knot that's at the end of the thread as close as possible to the knot that's at the end of the leather cord. And my little trick for doing this that helps to hide the thread as well, or the knot in the thread, is at this point I take my Hypo Cement with this skinny little tip, and I just use that and squeeze gently. So I don't feel like, with my regular eyes, that I can see if that knot is being hidden in there. So I'm going to put on these special goofy glasses. And now, oh my gosh, it's so much bigger. It pushed it in there. OK. So I think that looks good. I'm going to take my glasses off. I want to show you how to do the lark's head knot one more time on a larger scale just in case you missed it with the little threads and leather. So basically, I just have this set up as the same as the leather, but it's just this thick cord and this, I guess, another cord. And it's on a yarn needle. So basically, you just take your needle into the center. You open up

the back. I'll twist it. You put the needle through. And you pull it. And you just want to get it as close as you can to the knot in the leather. And then with the leather, then you just tuck it in. And now we're ready to bead.

Beading

This beading technique is very simple. Once you get it, you just repeat it over and over again. So I'm going to put my glasses on to do it, so I can make sure I can see it and do it perfectly. First thing I'm going to do is take my needle and put it under the two cords. Then I'm going to pick up one of my seed beads. And I'm going to slide it along the thread until it's between the two leather cords. And then I pull the thread through the bead. Then I sort of push the bead up to the top. So there I am with my bead. I'm holding it there. The thread is coming out of the right side. And then I'm just going to put it through the same bead going in the opposite direction. The first bead can be a little bit fussy. You want to get as close to that knot you started with as possible. Then I'm going to thread the second bead. It's easier to do it for me if it's on the board. Then I slide my needle underneath the two leather cords, so that the bead actually moves in between them. And I keep on interfering with those two tails, which I'm going to trim in a second. So I pull it all the way through. And then I bring it back. So in the process of doing this, I'm actually wrapping the thread around the leather cord. So there we have our second one done. See, they're nudged up against each other. Now, I'm just going to stop for a second. And I'm going to trim that tail there. I'm going to trim it later with glue a little bit tighter. But just for now, it's just a little bit long. And it's getting in my way. OK, so now I'm just going to move on to the third bead. And do the exact same thing that we've done before. So we'll put the needle under the two leather cords, guide our thread and our bead. We want the bead to end up in between the leather cords. Hold the bead in place and tighten. And then bring the thread back through the same bead over the top. And hold to bead while you do this. If ever you're working and your thread starts to tangle, then just use more of the bees wax or the thread conditioner. But right now, we're looking fine. In order to make sure that you have that, I'm going to show it to you on this larger scale. So we'll take our other clipboard. I don't need my glasses for this. I have to beads on here. So for the first pass, you go underneath the two cords. Then you put your bead on. You guide it through. And you get it snug in between the two cords. And then you pull it tight. Then you take your needle. And you're going to go over the two cords, back through the same bead. Like that. And then we do the same exact thing again. I'll show you one more time. We're going to go under the two leather cords. I'm working from left to right. I put my bead on my cord-- or on my thread I get the bead in there nice and snug. I pull my thread. And then I take my needle. And I'm going to go over the two cords and pull it through. So now we just continue until the bracelet is just a little bit shorter than we think we want it to be. In my case, it's going to be about six inches. And that's when I like to stop and test the sizing. So I take it off the clipboard. I have a couple other bracelets here. So I'll just make room. Just wrap it around. And then I see-- that I think it actually needs about just one more bead. So then I'll put it back on the clipboard, and add the bead. I like to stop it a little bit short, so that way I can kind of make a measurement of how many more beads I need. And then I don't risk actually making it too long and having to undo my work. You can actually take it off and try it on at any point in the process. There's no danger in removing it from the clip board at all. You just put it back on. Make sure that the tension is tight. Another thing you should do when you're just about at the end is you should check the tension of your threads. And you can do it as you go as well. In fact, when you're a beginner, it's probably a good idea to do. Now, I need to do it with my classes because I totally can't

see without it. But what you're doing is you're looking at the threads on the right side and the left side of your cord. And you kind of look at like shoelaces. You want to make sure that the tension is even. And I think that my tension is. But if it weren't even, I would literally-- usually, I do it on the right. It seems to work better-- I would pull up on the threads from the point where it's loose and then all the way down, just like you do when you're tightening your shoelaces. But since my threads seem pretty even, probably because I have some practice doing this, I think I can just leave it as is. All right, so now I'm going to add my final bead. So once again, under the two cords, catch the bead in the center, bring it back through over the cord through the same bead. And now it's time to do my final half hitch knot. And I'm going to show you how to do the know on this larger scale. You're going to take your needle. And you're going to go under the cord on the left. So you finish your last bead so that the thread comes out on the cord on the left. Then I'm going to stick my needle underneath-- not this thread that's here, but the one that's actually going into the bead. So I'm sticking it under the thread that's going into that bead. And then, there's a loop here. I'm going to make knot like that. And the idea-- and it's hard to tell on this large scale-- is that you get that knot really, really close to the bead, because what we're going to do when we go back to the real bracelet is we're going to hide that little knot. On this large scale, you can't do it. But in any case, you want it tucked in between the leather cord and the bead as close as you can get it. Getting the knot tucked in between the cord and the bead takes a little bit of practice. But once you get it, it's really easy to hide your knots. OK, to make the knot, I'm putting the needle under the left side. Then I'm taking my needle-- I sort of have to grab the whole top of the bracelet here do it-- under the thread that's going into that last bead. I'm sort of working slowly just to keep control of the whole thing. And then pulling that so I have knot there. And then to hide the knot, I'm just going to take my needle and pass it through the bead to the right side. And there we go.

Finish bracelet

To finish the bracelet, we're going to cut this thread. For the moment, it doesn't have to be too short. We're going to take the bracelet off of the clipboard. And now, we're going to make an overhand knot-- just like we started with after we put the button on-- as close to the last bead as we can. And if it doesn't get too close, you can just try again and do it over. OK. So that worked. Now, I have to make another knot so what I end up with is a buttonhole that this button is going to fit through. So I can see that's about half an inch. So I do another overhand knot. See, I'm not going to pull it really, really tight yet because I'm going to test the button. So I stick the button through. I see that that's a pretty good size. It probably just needs to be a little bit tighter. So now I'll undo it, undo the button. Now, I'm going to pull on that knot and tug it a little bit tighter. Now, what I usually do at this point-- just in case you decide that you can part with your bracelet and you do you want to give it away and you don't know the size of the wrist of the person you're giving it to-- I'll add another knot the same distance as between the first and second, a distance that's going to allow you to use that button. And that way, somebody with a different size wrist can wear it. Also if you want to wear multiple bracelets, you would have a smaller size on the lower part of your wrist and a bigger size on the upper part. So I usually just make two buttonholes. Sometimes if you buy these bracelets, you'll see that there'll be more than that. And they're just accommodating for the fact that people have different size wrists. But it's always easier to have a little bit extra and trim it later than it is to cut it too short and then have a problem. For example, if I cut this too short, then that knot might come out and that wouldn't be a good thing. So the last thing that we need to do is just get rid of all those little threads and to secure all of our knots with the glue. So I'm going to take my

scissors and I'm going to cut the thread so that you can't really see them very well. I'm going to leave a little bit on the end there so I remember where it is. I'm going to put my glasses on because I find with the glue, you just want to work really neatly. Because you make this beautiful bracelet. And then if you're gloppy with the glue, it doesn't look as beautiful as you want. I like to put the glue-- just a little bit of dab of glue-- on both sides of my bead. And if you do sort of get a little gloppy with your glue, you can just take a Q-tip or a tissue or something and clean it up before it dries. And then just blow on it a little bit. It will take a few minutes to dry, but you can cut your thread. And the last thing we have to do is put on our bracelet, see how beautiful it looks, and then decide if we're going to keep it or give it away. And it can be a little bit tricky to get the bracelet on the first time. You just get used to it. Obviously, I have several on so I figured it out. So there we have it. This is the bracelet that I made today. And I'm not sure if I'm going to keep it or not. I think I'll probably give it away since I have a few others just like it.

Making multi-wrap bracelets

Now that you've made a bracelet that wraps around one time I'm pretty sure you're going to want to make a bracelet that wraps around more than once. And so the only new skill that you need to learn is how to add a new thread. Because if you don't have enough thread to go all the way around for a two wrap or a three bracelet you're going to stop just the way you did when you ended your single wrap bracelet, with the half-hitch knot. And then you're just going to thread a new needle. Make a knot at the end of your thread. And then I'll show you this with my glasses on, from right to left going through the last bead that you worked you're going to pull your thread through. And then when you get to the end-- and this is a little bit fussy sometimes-- you have your knot there. And you're going to give it a really gentle tug until you feel it enter that last bead. Then you're going to take your cement. And you're going to put a little teeny bit of your cement in the bead to hold that knot in place. And then you're ready to pick up exactly where you left off. Now that the knot is securely inside the bead, and we've added a little bit of cement to hold it there, we can continue to bead to the length that we want. The one thing that you need to remember when you start the project though is to determine how many wraps you want. You can always make it shorter than that. But you can't make it longer if you don't have enough leather cord. So in the beginning we had measured that we had seven inches. That was how large the bracelet was going to be. We multiplied that by 2. And we got 14. So if we wanted to make a double wrap bracelet we would 14 times 2 is 28. And then we would add that extra 16. So we have 28 plus 16 is 44 inches for a two wrap bracelet. So if it was a three wrap it would be 7 times 2 is 14. 14 times 3, for the three wraps. And then adding the 16 inches. And the sky's the limit. You can wrap as many times as you want. You can use any color of leather that you want, any kind of bead you want. I have a few bracelets here that can kind of show you how you can do it. The bracelet that I'm wearing I did four different kinds of beads and four wraps. So that was a pretty long one. And it took me a long time. What I like to do is to also make single wrap bracelets-- especially in bright colored beads-- and then wear them together. So I feel like the green on this is really nice. And it brightens things up. Or you could do, in this case, I have an orange one that I could add. Or it could do a two wrap bracelet with a one, or two ones. But basically this is when the fun starts. Because you have so many choices. I think it's a good idea if you think you're going to make a few bracelets to buy leather cord in a few different colors, to buy beads of a few different types. You can get a few different closures. I like to keep my closures pretty much the same, so that when I wear the bracelets together I have some kind of constant. And then go to town and try out different combinations. You can also vary the color of

your thread. Today we used red thread, which was contrasting to our leather and to our bead. You can also do thread that's very close to the color of your leather, in which case it will almost disappear. As you can tell I love making these bracelets. The variations are endless. And they're great to wear. And they're great to give away as gifts.