Make a Leather & Bead Wrap Bracelet

SUPPLIES
- 1.5mm or 2mm leather, see below for determining length
- 4mm-8mm Glass or semi precious beads, round or oval
- 1 package Griffin bead cord with attached needle
- Button or large bead for closure

HOW MUCH LEATHER DO YOU NEED?
Measure your wrist to determine the finished length that is comfortable for you. Multiply that number by the number of times you want the bracelet to wrap around your wrist.

Multiply that number by 2 (because you'll be folding the length of leather and working between the two sides). Add another 10 inches, to accommodate knots, and that is your length.

EXAMPLE For a 3-wrap bracelet with a finished length of 6 ½ inches:

6.5" x 3 = 19 ½ inches, X 2 = 39 inches, + 10 = 49 inches of leather.

WHAT SIZE BEAD CORD DO YOU NEED?
The bead cord must fit through each bead twice. If you can, test the size of the cord with the beads you are using. Generally, a size 4 or 5 cord works well. Remember that semi-precious beads and pearls tend to have smaller holes.

HOW MANY BEADS DO YOU NEED?
The number of beads you'll need depends on their size and the number of wraps you plan to make. A two-wrap bracelet using 8mm beads will probably use about 65-75 beads.

TIPS
You may want to secure your cord to a clipboard or cork board (or just tape the end to a table), so it stays in place while you work, especially as you get started.
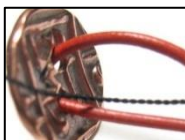
One package of bead cord is enough for a two-wrap bracelet. For longer bracelets, use another package and tie the new cord in where it will not show. One of the simplest ways to do this is to tie the ends of the old and new cords together with an overhand knot just before adding a new bead. Put some glue on the knot and when it's dry, cut the cords close to the knot.

GETTING STARTED
1. String the button onto the leather so it is in the center. You can use either a shank or a sew-through button, as long as the leather fits through the holes.
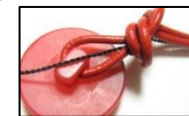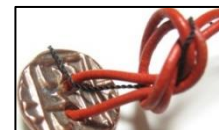
Shank Button

Sew-Through Button

2. **Unwrap all of the bead cord** from the package. Hold the **non-needle end** of the bead cord next to the leather near the button. Make an overhand knot with all three cords. Put some glue on the bead cord and when it's dry cut the end close to the leather.
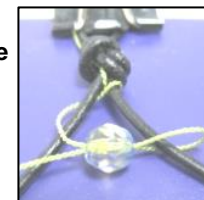
Making the Wraps
3. Get the Griffin bead cord in position: Place it between the two leather cords and bring it **under,** and then **over** one of the leather strands. Slightly separate the leather strands to make room for the beads.

4. Add a bead and bring the cord **under** and then **over** the **opposite** leather cord and **back through** the bead you just added. Adjust the bead so it fits snugly between the leather strands.

5. Bring the wrapping cord under and then over the first leather cord you started with.

6. Add another bead and repeat step 4, bringing the cord under, then over, the top leather cord and back through the bead just added.

Repeat these steps until you reach the desired length. Be sure to leave enough leather (about 10 inches) at the end to accommodate the knots for the loops.

CLOSURE
When you have reached the desired length, make an overhand knot with all three cords (the leather and bead cord) as you did in the beginning, pushing the knot close to the last bead added. Put some glue on the cord, and when it is dry cut it close to the knot.

With just the two leather cords, make another overhand knot, adjusting the placement of the knot so the loop fits over the button. Tighten the knot.

To make the length adjustable, make another knot the same way. Cut any excess leather and put some glue on the final knot.

VARIATIONS
Part of the fun with these bracelets is how easily they can be varied. Using different sizes and shapes of beads, even adding other elements such as chain or fabric, means that each bracelet is really and truly unique!