

Leather Wrap Bracelets

Supplies: Sam's Bead Box

1.5mm Leather Cord: (Desired Length x 2) + 15 inches

Apple Blossom Button

Miyuki Tila Mix

Miyuki 11/0 Mix

3mm Fire Polish Faceted Round (optional)

4x5mm Pinch Beads (optional)

2x5mm Saucer, bronze luster (optional)



You'll Also Need:

Beading Thread, such as Wildfire .006, Fireline 6lb, or Nylon Size D or B: 120 to 180 inches. You may need additional length to add thread.

#10 or #12 Hard Beading Needle

Scissors

Thread Burner (optional)

Craft Tray, Shoe Box Lid, or Similar

2 or 3 rubber bands

Hypo Cement Glue (optional)

Tape Measure



Leather wrap bracelets in this style are created by securing a length of leather cord, folded in half, to a surface with tension so that you can use a looming technique to secure beads in between each side of the leather. The stitching is easiest to achieve when the leather is secured under tight tension. The stitches are worked with beading thread such as nylon size D or B, or a thread such as Wildfire .006 or Fireline 6lb.

Start with a craft tray, shoe box lid, or similar surface around which you can wrap a rubber band across the back. Anything can be made to work, but it helps if it is a long surface with shallow, box lid-like edges.



We will show all of this in class on August 25th, 3pm Pacific, which will be recorded on Sam's Bead Shop YouTube Page.

Step 1

Cut a length of 1.5mm leather cord that is twice (2X) your desired bracelet length, plus 15 inches. For example, for a bracelet that wraps twice around a 7-inch wrist, cut $(14 \times 2) + 15 = 43$ inches. The additional 15 inches accounts for overlap, creating knots, and length for the button holes.



Slide on your button and bring it to the midpoint of the leather. Tie an overhand knot with both strands together that settles just below the button, with some air for swing. At the bottom of the cords, tie another overhand knot about 1 inch from the bottom. This knot is temporary, used to give the rubber bands something to secure to at the bottom (shown in first photo).



Step 2

Depending on the length of your tray or surface, you may need as many as three rubber bands. Lark's knot them together to create a longer rubber band cord.

Lark's knot one end of the rubber band cord to the bottom of the leather (see first photo). Hold that to the bottom of the tray and bring the rubber band around the back and over the top. Stretch it over the button (photo 2). You'll want this to be tight.



Step 3

Cut a double wingspan of beading thread, or 120 inches. Thread on a beading needle and bring it to the midpoint. Tie an overhand knot with both ends together at the bottom of the threads. Lark's knot that to the left side of the leather cord, just a few mm below the knot.

Step 4

Using the needle, thread on an 11/0 seed bead. Bring the needle under both leather cords. Settle the 11/0 seed bead in between the leather cords. Pass the needle back through the bead, making sure to pass over the leather cords. Tighten.

If desired, bring the tails through the bead. Apply a dab of glue to the knot and pull the knot inside the bead. Leave the tails in place for now.

String (2)11/0 Seed Beads. Bring the needle under the leather cords, settle the two beads in between them, then pass the needle back through both beads, staying over the leather cords.

Repeat this once more, this time with (3)11/0.

Tip: This is exactly the same as looming. The leather cords are your warps. The beading thread is your weft.

Step 5 - Patterns

Now that you've successfully tapered up to three beads across, you have a width that matches the width of a Tila bead.

You can work any combination of patterns you like. Here are a few inspirations to consider.

Pattern 1 is a repeat of four rows of (3)11/0, next row (1)Tila, repeated in a pattern where the colors are blocked. Tila have two holes, so they are worked in using two rows. Will show in class.

Pattern 2 idea uses a row of (3)11/0, a row of (1)11/0 + (1)FP, a row of (1)FP + (1)11/0, another row of (3)11/0, then a row of (1)Tila.



Pattern 1



Pattern 2

Pattern 3: You can also work in a pattern using Pinch beads and Saucer beads. Work three rows of (3)11/0, then a row of (1)Pinch bead another three rows of (3)11/0, then a row of (3)Saucer.

Help the Pinch beads to sit peaks up if desired. The following row will secure it in place if you work that row tightly above it.

Step 6

When you need to add thread, leave the old working thread in place. Cut a new length of beading thread and repeat Step 3. Begin working new rows with the new thread. Work your desired patterns until your bracelet is desired length. Measure from the center of the button to the last row of beads.

Step 7

Taper down to end the bracelet. Work 1 row with (3)11/0, the next row with (2)11/0, and your last row with (1)11/0.

Step 8

Weave the end of the remaining thread back into the last row bead from under the leather cords. Tie a hitch knot the the thread, then bring the needle back through the bead above the leather cords. Before you pull the knot into the bead, apply a dot of hypo cement glue, if desired. Repeat this with any threads left from adding thread.

Tails left at the beginning and from adding thread can be trimmed after applying a dot of glue to the knot. You can also weave the tails into the closest bead, pulling the knot inside a bead, and trim.

Step 8

Remove the rubber band from the top button to free the bracelet. Untie the bottom knot and free the rubber band. Tie a series of overhand knots, spaced to fit your button, to create button loops.



Pattern 3



Taper Down

