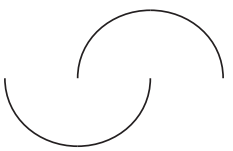


Braided Leather Bracelets



PURL SOHO



Double Five-Strand Braid

A Double Five-Strand Braid is only one or two steps more difficult than a basic Three-Strand Braid. It makes a wide, flat braid with an open lattice look. Very pretty!

START

Cut one 32-inch length (Cord A) and four 30-inch lengths (the Base Cords).



▲
Fold Cord A in half. Tie a simple overhand knot ½ inch from the fold to create a ½-inch loop.



▲
Slide the Base Cords between the strands of Cord A. Adjust the Base Cords so their halfway point is just under the knot.

BRAID

While you braid, hold the bracelet in your hands, pinching the braid with one hand while the other hand maneuvers the cords.

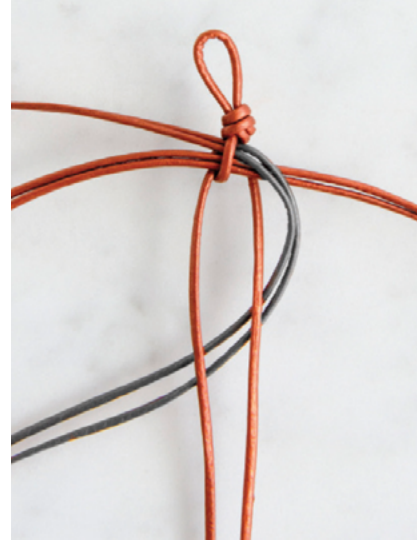


▲ With Cord A, tie a tight half-knot around the Base Cords. (A half-knot is like the first step of tying your shoes.)

You are now ready to braid!



▲ Arrange the 10 strands so that they are doubled into five pairs: a Cord A pair in the center, two Base Cord pairs on the left, and two Base Cord pairs on the right. You will treat each pair as one strand when you braid, and it no longer matters which pair is Cord A and which are the Base Cords.



▲ Pick up the rightmost pair (shown in gray above), and moving to the left, pass this pair over its neighboring pair and under the center pair.



▲ Next, pick up the leftmost pair, and moving to the right, pass this pair over its neighboring pair and under the center pair.

Follow these same steps to continue braiding. Since it can be a bit tricky to see what's going on at the beginning of the bracelet, here is what these steps look like further down the braid...



▲ Pull the rightmost pair to the left, over its neighboring pair and under the center pair.



▲ Then pull the leftmost pair to the right, over its neighboring pair and under the center pair.

Continue working in this manner until the braided portion measures 6½ inches or your desired length.

FINISH



▲ Pick up the leftmost cord (now called the Tie Cord) and bring it to the right, over all the other cords. Leave some slack in the Tie Cord so that it forms a little loop, as pictured above.



▲ Bring the Tie Cord to the left, under the other cords, and pull it through the loop you left.



▲ Pull the Tie Cord to the left to tighten the knot at the base of the braid. You have just created a Half Left Knot. Do not tie these knots too tightly for now. Just leave them a little bit loose.



▲ Tie one more Half Left Knot with the Tie Cord (for a total of two).



▲ Thread the button onto the Tie Cord, concave side facing up (so it's like a little bowl).



▲ Tie two more Half Left Knots with the Tie Cord.



▲ Thread the end of the Tie Cord through the top of this series of knots and pull it downward through all four knots.



▲ Pull the Tie Cord firmly to tighten all the knots. If necessary, go through and tighten each knot individually and then pull the slack out by pulling on the Tie Cord.



▲ Trim the ends of all of the cords to 1½ inches.

Slip the button through the beginning half-knot and your bracelet is finished!



Eight-Strand Square Braid

An Eight-Strand Square Braid is a bit more challenging than the previous braid, but just as doable. It makes a thin cubic braid that is quite elegant!

START

Begin by following the Start section for the Double Five-Strand Braid, except this time cut one 32-inch length (Cord A) and three 30-inch lengths (the Base Cords).



- ◀ Turn the work so the half-knot is at the back. Arrange the cords so 4 are on the left (Left-Side Cords) and 4 are on the right (Right-Side Cords), making sure that one strand of Cord A goes to each side. It no longer matters which is Cord A and which are the Base Cords.

BRAID

While you braid, hold the bracelet in your hands, pinching the braid with one hand while the other hand maneuvers the cords.



▲ Pick up the rightmost cord (shown in gray above). Pass it behind the three other Right-Side Cords, then behind the two innermost Left-Side Cords.



▲ Now, moving right, bring the working cord over those same two Left-Side Cords. The working cord is now the innermost Right-Side Cord.

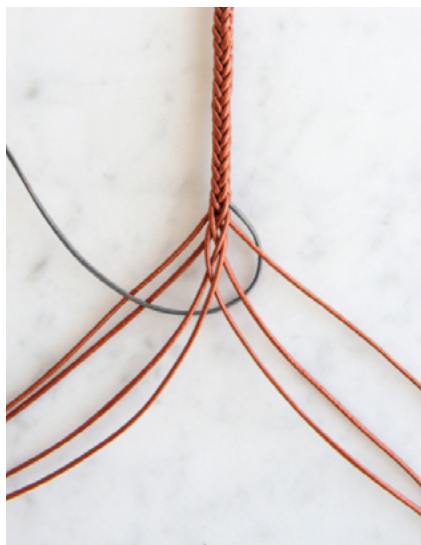


▲ Now pick up the leftmost cord. Pass it behind the three other Left-Side Cords, then behind the two innermost Right-Side Cords.



▲ Now, moving left, bring the working cord over those same two Right-Side Cords. The working cord is now the innermost Left-Side Cord.

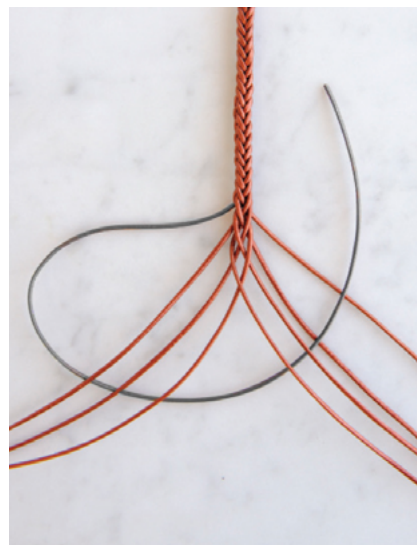
And here is what those steps look like after you have worked a couple of inches of the braid...



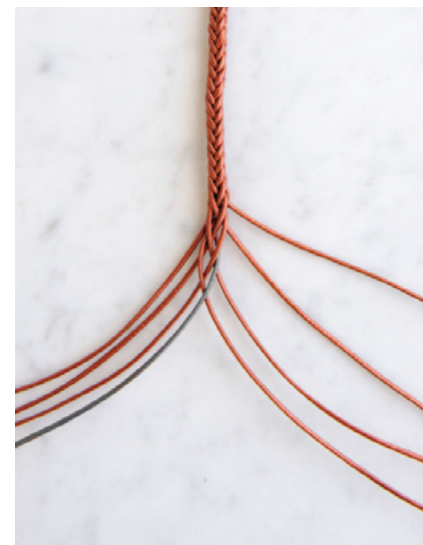
▲
Pass the rightmost cord behind the next five cords.



▲
Then, moving to the right, bring the cord over the two innermost Left-Side Cords.



▲
Pass the leftmost cord behind the next five cords.



▲
Then, moving to the left, bring the cord over the two innermost Right-Side Cords.

Repeat these steps until the bracelet measures 6½ inches or your desired length. End by following the Finish section of the Double Five-Strand Braid instructions.



MATERIALS + TOOLS NEEDED

Ten yards of 1mm [Leather Cording](#)

Two ½-inch buttons: We used Purl Soho's [Petal Buttons](#).

MAKES TWO DOUBLE FIVE-STRAND BRAID OR
EIGHT-STRAND SQUARE BRAID BRACELETS

Adjustable Size



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