

Beaded leather cuff

Beading on leather is easy when you use a template

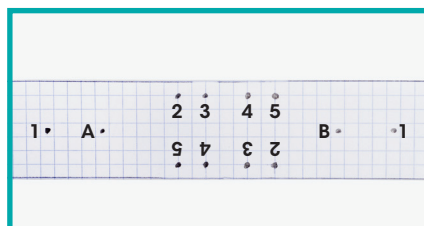
by Jane Konkel

This simple project is an inexpensive way to try your hand at embellishing leather jewelry. Use a graph-paper template to set up your design and help you punch the holes evenly. You'll like details like brightly colored beads, faceted spacers, and waxed linen cord.

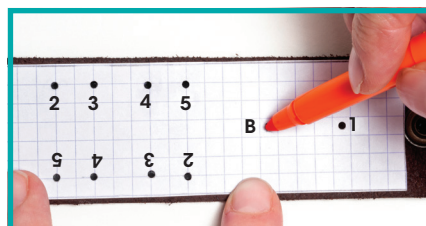


Design alternative

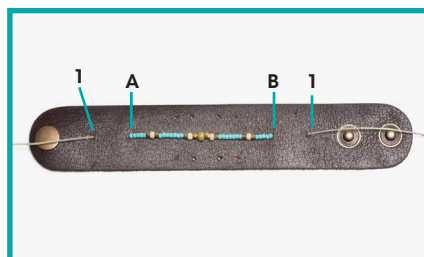
For a more organic look, substitute magatama beads for the seed beads.



1 On a piece of graph paper, draw and cut out a 1½ x 6¼-in. (3.8 x 15.9 cm) rectangle. Mark and punch out holes as shown.

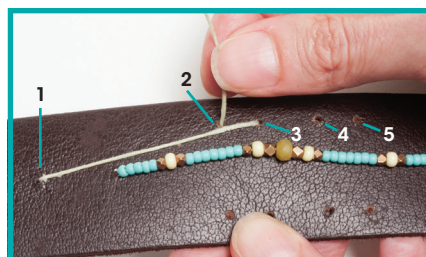


2 Place the rectangle on the back of a leather cuff. Mark the position of the holes on the cuff. Remove the paper and punch the holes.



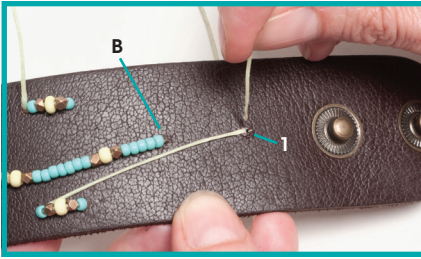
3a Cut a 36-in. (.9 m) piece of waxed linen cord. String 3¾ in. (8.3 cm) of beads and spacers. Center the beads on the cord.

b String one end down through hole A, and up through hole 1 on the left. String the other end down through hole B and up through hole 1 on the right.

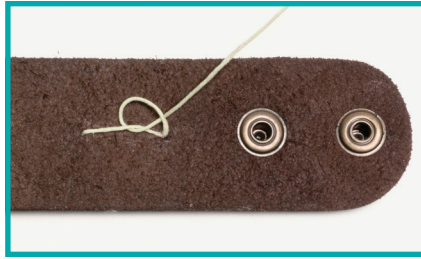


4 String the A end down through hole 3 and up through hole 2 as shown.

String beads and spacers. Go down hole 3, and up hole 4. String beads and spacers. Go down hole 5, up hole 4, and down hole 1 on the right.



5 Turn the cuff so hole B is on the right and the unstrung holes are at the top. Repeat steps 3b and 4.



6 Turn the cuff over and tie an overhand knot (Basics). Tie another overhand knot. Wrap the cord's tail around the adjacent cord that's strung between holes 1 and A. Tie two overhand knots. Tuck the end and trim the excess. Repeat on the other end. *

Tips

- You will not be able to punch holes down the center of your cuff with a hand-held hole punch. If you do not have a steel punch, try using a T-pin to make the initial holes, then enlarge them with a knitting needle.
- Tie the knots when the cuff is flat, but allow for some slack. The cord will tighten when you wear the bracelet.

Supplies

- ◆ leather cuff bracelet, 1½ in. (3.8 cm) wide
- ◆ 6 mm rondelle
- ◆ 8 6° seed beads
- ◆ 30–40 8° seed beads
- ◆ 16–24 2–3 mm spacers
- ◆ waxed linen cord
- ◆ graph paper
- ◆ marker
- ◆ rotary punch or steel punch and mallet
- ◆ scissors

Cuff from Rings & Things, 800.366.2156, rings-things.com. Check your local bead store for supplies.