

Tied in Knots Leather & Pearls

by Jill Wiseman

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Supply List

- 1.5mm Round Leather Cord – approx. 60” for bracelet, and 10” for earrings (so 2 yards will be more than enough)
- 15-18 Large Hole Freshwater Pearls
 - The millimeter size of your specific large hole pearls can really impact the number of pearls needed for your bracelet, but one 8” strand will make at least one bracelet
- 18mm (or so) Button
- Ear Wires
- Scissors
- Glue (E-6000, Hypo-Cement)



YouTube video link: <https://youtu.be/r87lBspGlyc>

Recently I needed some quick and easy jewelry so I could wear it that very night!!!! I looked around at my supplies and realized, I have just the thing - leather cord and large hole pearls. Perfection!! So I whipped together this bracelet and knew it needed to be a YouTube video project.

After finishing the bracelet, I noticed that I had just enough leather left over to create matching earrings too!

Make the Bracelet

I like to measure about 3-4 times the finished bracelet length worth of leather and then double that to start with. You can never ADD leather cord to this project, so I'd suggest using the 4x figure for your first one, and then see how much you have left over when it's complete. Measure that and you'll know how much shorter you can cut your leather on the next bracelet.

1. First you'll attach your clasp button. There are two main types of buttons – those that have a shank, and those that have two holes in the center of the button.
 - If you have two holes in the center of your button, string the leather through both holes, and center it on the button. Tie a simple overhand knot with the two loose ends of the leather. Make sure the knot is nice and close to the button.
 - If your button has a shank, see if the leather will pass through the shank hole. If so, then just center the button on your leather cord.
 - If the leather won't fit through the shank hole, you'll need to use wire to make a double wire wrapped loop with one wrapped loop through the button hole, and the other to string the leather through. Center the leather on the button. Tammy Honoman has a great YouTube tutorial on how to make a double wrapped loop here: https://youtu.be/YRn39_BkOXM
 - In all cases, after you've centered the leather, tie a simple overhand knot with the two cords and make sure the knot is nice and close to the button.
2. Now, string a pearl on one of the leather cords, then gather both of the leather cords together and tie another overhand knot.

At this point, you have a design decision to make! You can add your all the pearls on the same side (same cord), or you can alternate cords while adding them. Continue adding pearls and tying overhand knots until you have added 6-7 pearl/knot combinations.

3. Now it's time to check for size. Your clasp will add half the width of your button, so keep that in mind as you measure. Wrap the bracelet around your wrist and decide if you need to add an additional pearl/knot, or if you have the size you need. When you are ready, move down the two leather cords far enough to slip the button through, and tie your final knot. Cut the leather cord just past the knot (or leave a longer tail if you like it!)

At this point, it's a good idea to add a drop of glue to the knot. And that's it!

Make the Earrings

You should have 2 pieces of leather cord remaining and we'll use these and some of your left over pearls to make a pair of earrings. Another design decision for you, a single pearl, two, three, you decide!

1. Take the first bit of leather cord and fold it so you have three equal lengths. Now string your pearls down the first length so they are resting in the bottom of the first loop. Now tie an overhand knot using all three lengths of cord. The next step is to carefully pull the end of both sides out of the knot. This will allow you to adjust the size of the loops by carefully pulling on the ends. Make the top loop that will hold the ear wire smaller, and if you want, add some length to the bottom loop.

Attach the ear wire and you have completed the first earring!

Repeat this process for the other earring, making sure that the loops are close to the same size. Add a drop of glue to each earring knot and you have completed your set!



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