

Beadshop LIVE: 5.22.19

Braiding With Leather



With Kate Richbourg on Beadshop LIVE
Projects by Kate Richbourg
Photography by Baranduin Briggs and Karen Marshall
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone

Anchors Aweigh, my boys!

Two questions we are asked most often here at beadshop.com:

What ideas are there for good GUY jewelry?

What are some good leather techniques?

Well, Kate comes to the rescue today with another addition to our For The Guys project collection and some fun new tricks to working with leather and cords. Learn the Chinese Button Knot, how to braid with four strands, and so much more on this fun and informative episode of Beadshop LIVE.

Ahoy! There be tips and tricks ahead, me hearties...
Fast forward to **Minute Marker 10:00** to skip the chit chat!



Minute Marker 10:00

Inspired by our new anchor charms, called Seafarer, Kate created a fun new bracelet using the charm as the closure. Not feeling nautical? Not to worry...just use a hook, a button, or clasp of your choosing.



Kate used a few different techniques here:

Chinese Button Knot

Tahoe Style Center

Silk Wrap Closure

Four-Way Flat Braid (discussed in this video)



Kate also reviewed other braiding, knot, and men's bracelet styles:

Round Braid

Wall Knot

Irish Waxed Linen and Peyote Beads

Tahoe



Minute Marker 18:00

Kate started with the Chinese Button Knot, but you could also just use a simple crimp or silk wrap through the loop of your anchor charm (or button or clasp). For now, Kate is going to focus on the braid. This is a four-strand flat braid.

We have two strands of 1.5mm leather, doubled over through the charm. Kate clamps her work down to her project board. You should have four strands of leather to work with. Take your leftmost strand and bring it over the strand next to it, under the next, and over the last...and repeat, repeat, repeat.

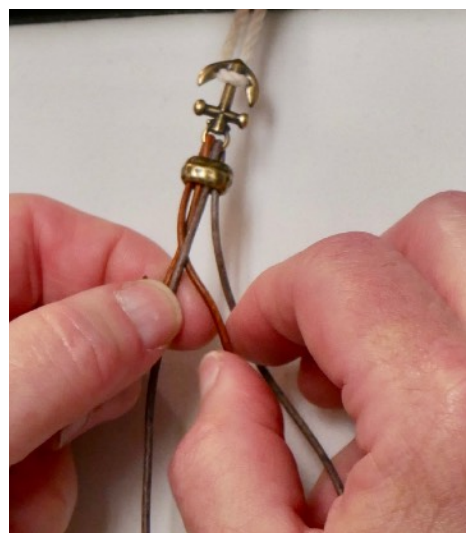
Think of the strands as numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 from left to right. Bring #1 over, under and over and it becomes #4. Now your #2 becomes your #1...bring it over, under and over...and lather, rinse, repeat!



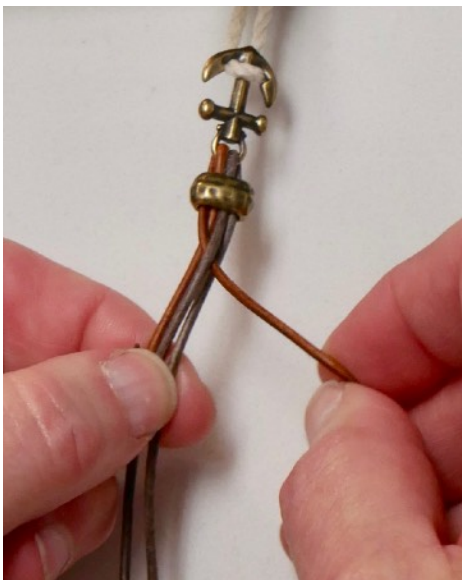
Take #1, the leftmost strand...



...go over...



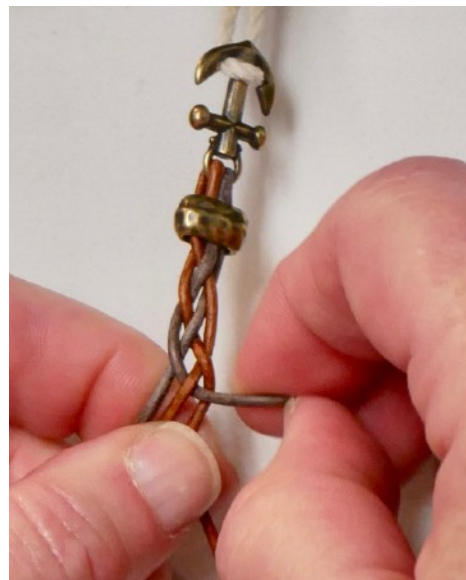
...under...



...and over!

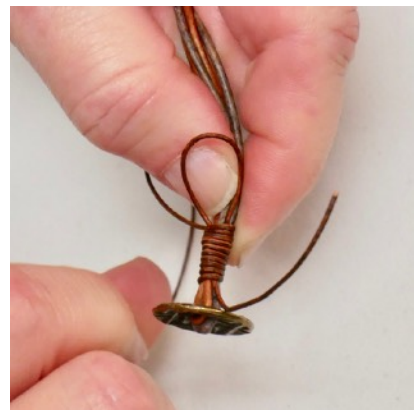


Lather, rinse, repeat! Continue until you have the length you desire.



Minute Marker 28:00

Let's take a peek at a different four-way braid...the four strand round braid. Kate starts by placing two lengths of leather (distressed gray and distressed brown) through the holes of a Tattoo button, and securing the four tails with a silk wrap using a sturdy length of .5mm leather. Anchor it all to a project board and let's braid!

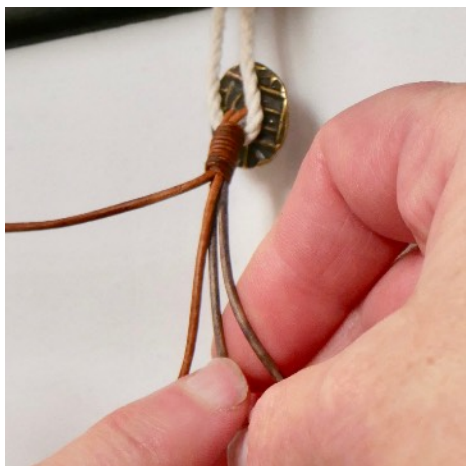


Kate's two colors helps to learn this braid. She keeps her brown to the left, gray to the right. Again, think of your strands as number 1-4, left to right.

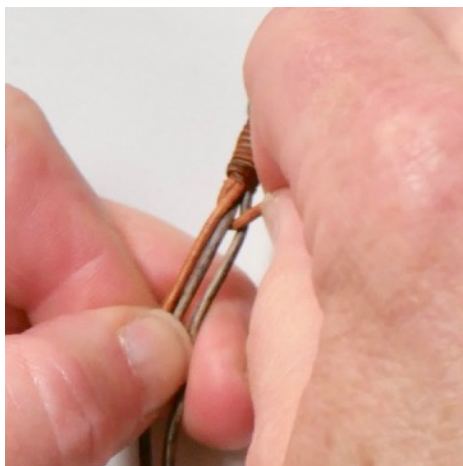
First, bring Cord 1 behind Cords 2 and 3, and then bring it back over Cord 3...Your cords will now be ordered 2, 1, 3, 4.

Next, take Cord 4 (far right) and bring it behind the two center cords, over and around Cord 1 (which is your second cord—remember!) and leave it in the #3 position.

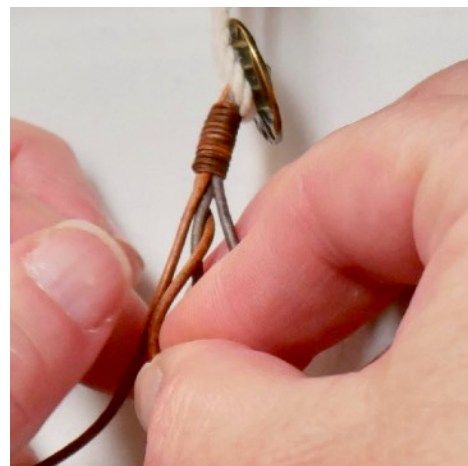
Repeat! Now your original Cord #2 is in the #1 Position. Bring in behind the two neighboring cords, then back over one...leave it and then repeat on the right side. It definitely helps to watch the video!! The numbers can be confusing to read alone, and I only have photos of the left side being braided in—sorry!



Strands 1, 2, 3, and 4
from left to right



Strand 1 goes behind
2 and 3...



And then *back*, over
Strand 3.



Minute Marker 46:00

And here, Kate goes rogue! Regular Shadows have made an appearance...when a question is asked about adding beads, Kate obliges! She continues her four-way round braid and adds beads along the way. These Shadows are strung on to each strand and Kate moves them up one at a time to decorate her braid. As she brings her outermost strand into the braid, she brings a bead up, nestles it into place, then continues her braid. Cute!



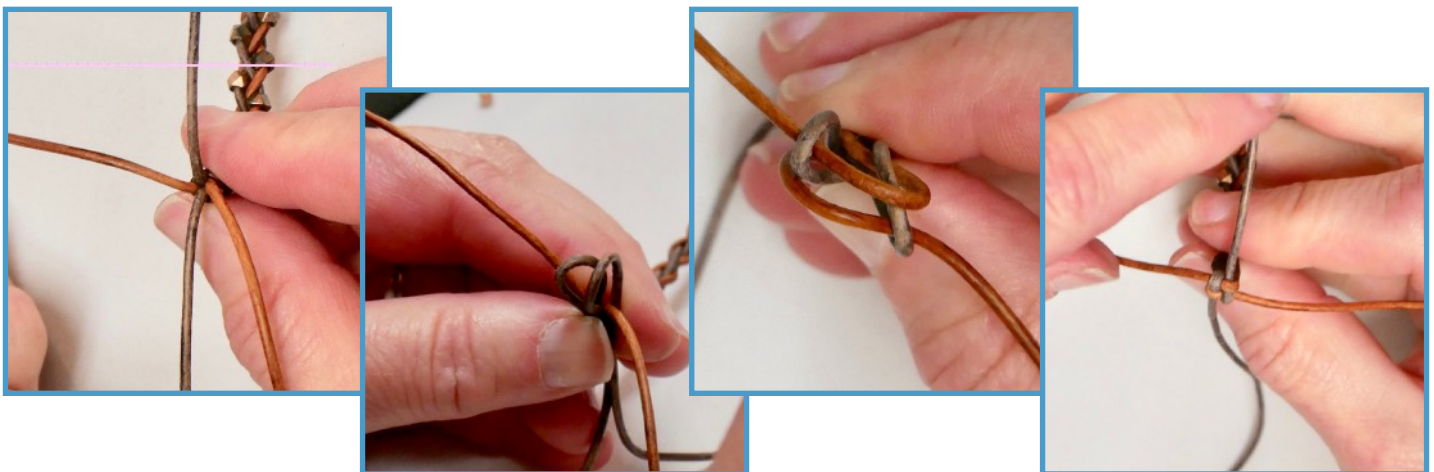
Minute Marker 53:00

Kate ends this four-strand round braid with another silk wrap before moving on to another kind of braid, the lanyard braid! Feeling nostalgic for camp days, Kate brings back this classic...remember making these with that plastic lace? I always called it Gimp, but I've heard it called Lanyard, Boondoggle, and Scoubidou! That classic Square Stitch works just fine with leather cord...take a peek!

Minute Marker 56:00

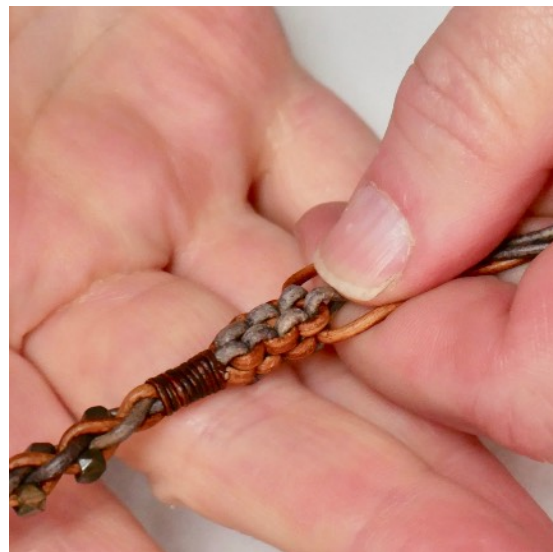
Separate your four strands into a "compass," pointing outward into your four directions. Kate takes her North and South cords and makes them into two loops, held in place with her fingers, standing up next to each other.

Next, she takes her cord from the East and goes over one, under the other, and pulls through. Now, the cord from West comes in, and goes over and under and through. Pull all four strands tight. Once your first couple knots are in place and established this gets a lot easier! You know what I'm going to say here...lather, rinse, repeat!



Minute Marker 1:04:00

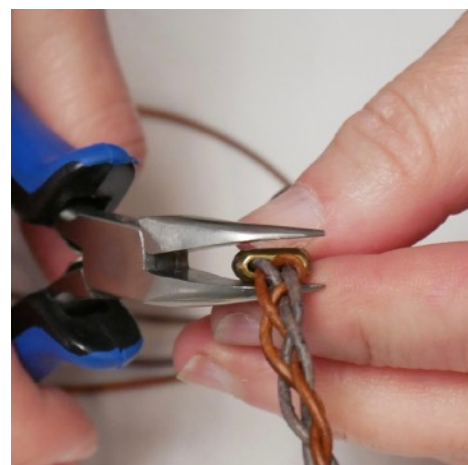
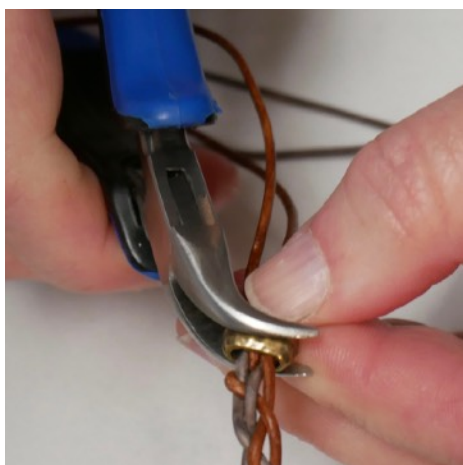
This Square Stitch will result in—you guessed it! A square shape! Kate wants to show us a variation which will spiral your lanyard instead...but she can't remember. There are plenty of videos out there on YouTube if you want to dig for the right method! Kate hears from a commenter to try bringing her East-West cords through diagonally. It works! If you google "Barrel Stitch Scoubidou" you'll find plenty of tutorials!



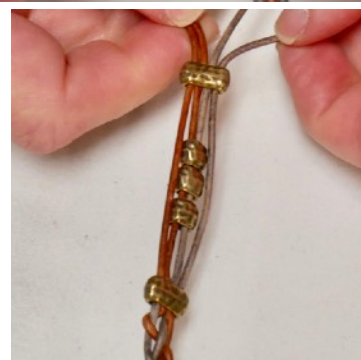
Minute Marker 1:15:00

Back to business! Kate brings back the Anchors Aweigh bracelet to finish it off. She braids a bit more and then strings on her Evolve beads, which she will use to crimp the leather. She deliberately arranges her leather cords inside the bead based on color, but if you're using all the same color, it's no biggie!

Take your chain nose or bent chain nose pliers and gently squish that bead flat from one side, then flip and squish from the other. Don't push too hard, you don't want to cut your leather with that bead, you just want it tight enough to hold the leather in place. Crimping from both sides ensures an even crimp.



Kate adds some Transitions beads, which are a smaller version of Evolve. Be sure to check out all our Metal Sliders! Your options here are nearly endless. Slide a few on for decoration, then add a second Evolve bead and crimp closed at the other end, just like you would in a Tahoe design. From here, Kate continues to braid.



Minute Marker 1:25:00

Once her second length of braid is done, Kate is ready to make her closure. She slides an Evolve on and chats about some ways to make this loop. There are plenty of options! You could macramé a loop, you could silk wrap like she does in her original sample, you could knot...it's up to you and what you like and think looks best.

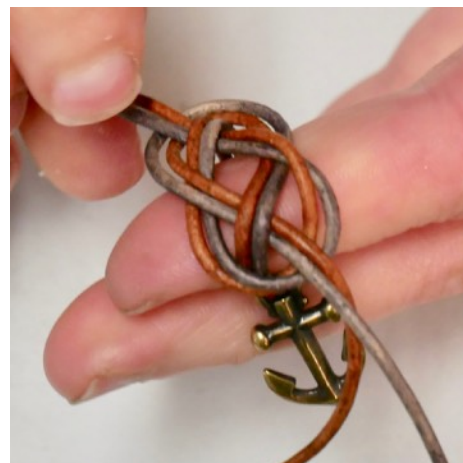
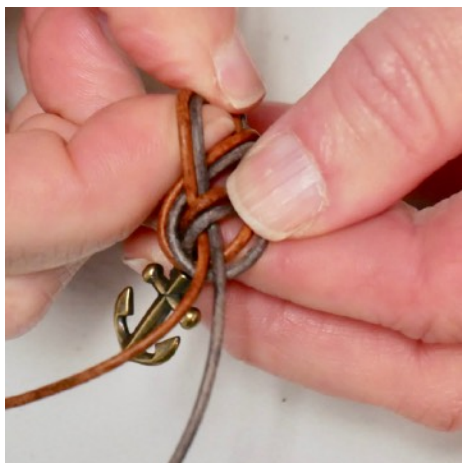
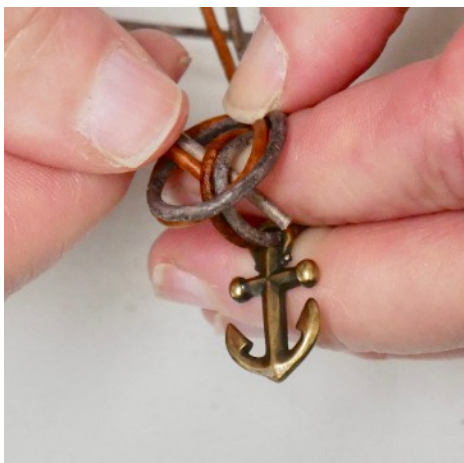
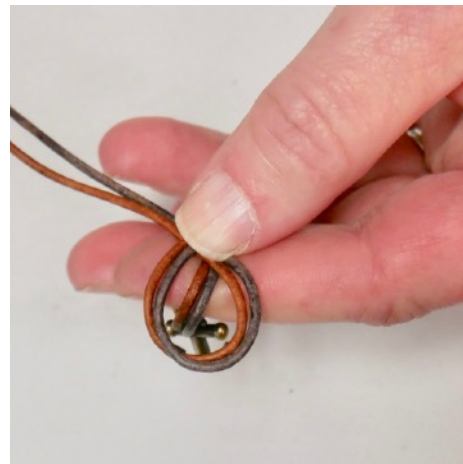
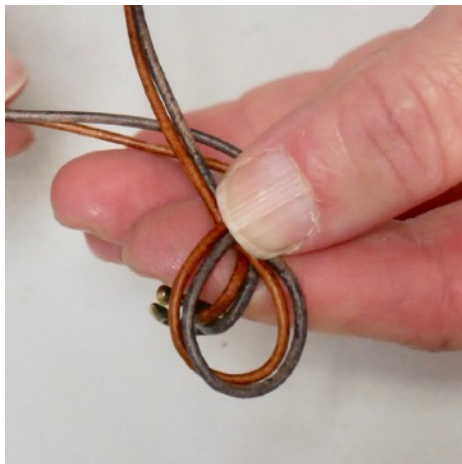
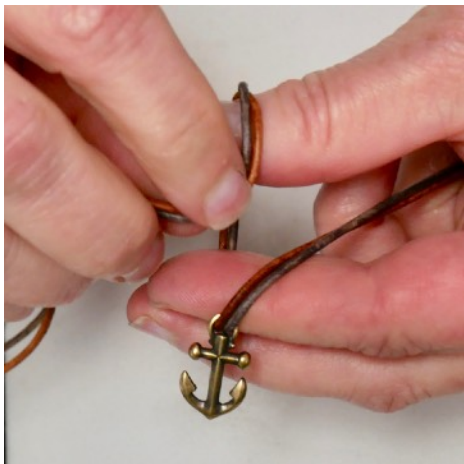
Kate is only using two of her four strands of leather. Once you've crimped that final Evolve bead you can cut away your extra two strands of leather. And you're done!

Minute Marker 1:28:00

But wait—what about that Chinese Button Knot? Kate has shown us before on Free Tip Friday how to make it with single strands, today we're going to make with a double strand. Definitely watch the above linked FTF episode and practice with single cords first!

With two strands of leather going through her anchor charm, Kate reminds of her two tips: you always mirror what you do on the left, with the right, and you always come from behind—much like that round braid.

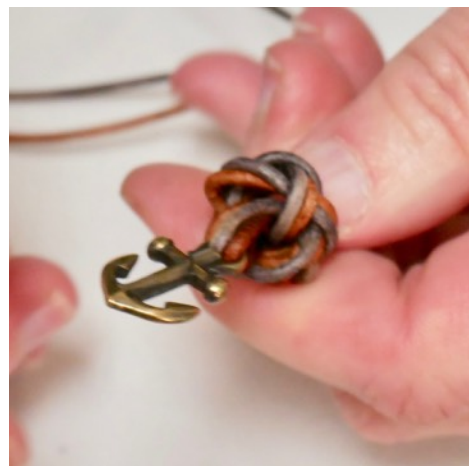
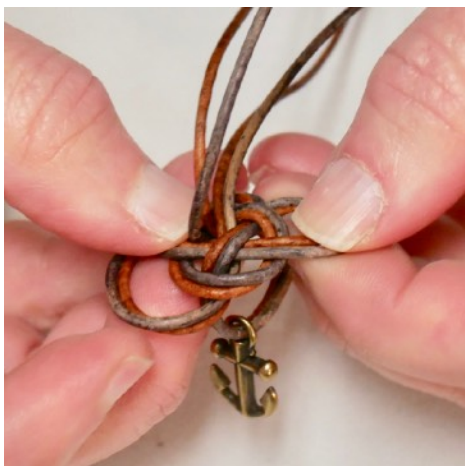
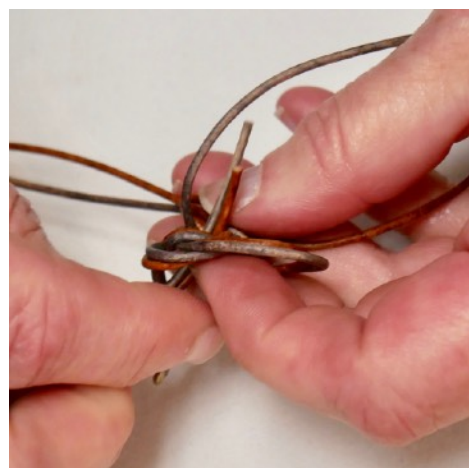
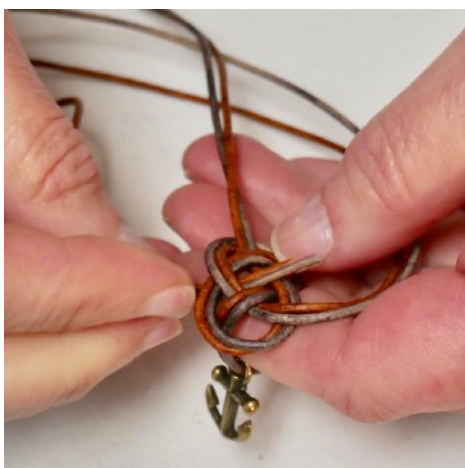
Kate takes her cords from behind (right side) around her thumb to create a loop, and holds it in place. Take the left cords, bring from behind, through the loop, behind the cords right at the base of the charm, and out of the loop again.



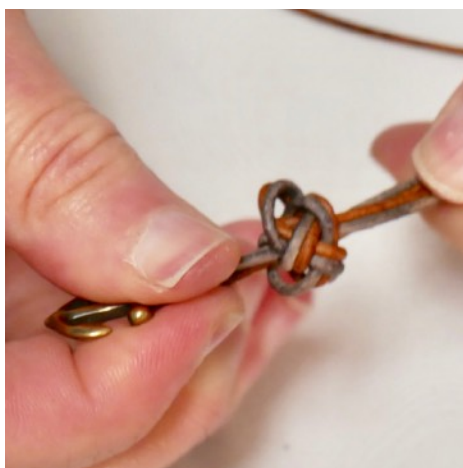
Minute Marker 1:34:30

Now we have this beautiful flat knot, or "pretzel" as Kate says! Time for Part Two. Take the cords from your original loop. Bring them around, under your other tails, underneath your pretzel and through the diamond in the center.

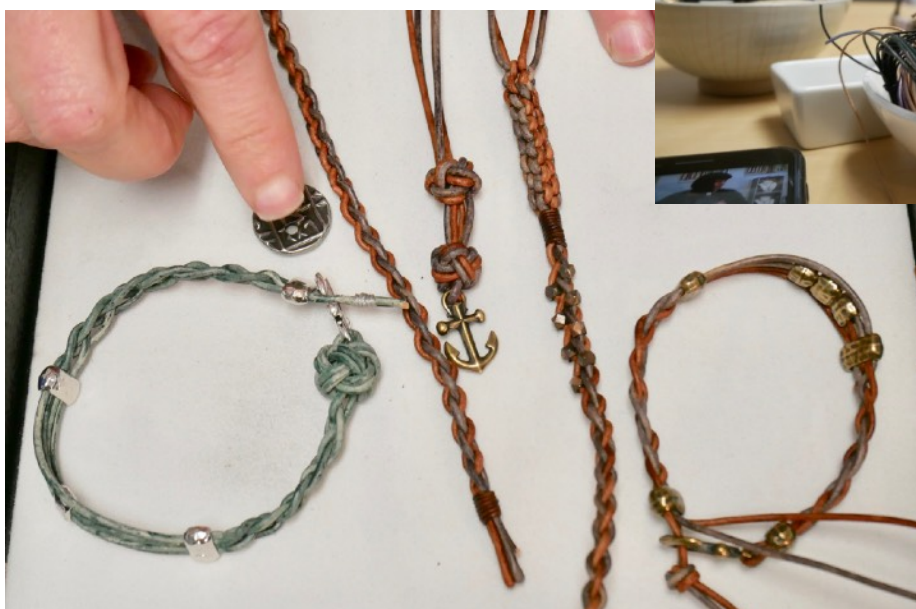
Repeat with the other tails. Bring them around and under where the charm is and out through the center diamond. Now you have two "ears" on either side of your pretzel with all cords coming out the center diamond. Now, just tighten!



Slowly and carefully pull it all in taught and the ball shape forms. Adjust strands if any are crossed, and adjust for any slack as well...pushing and pulling until you have a perfect ball-shaped knot.



WHEW! That's a lot of braids and knots...but we did it! And so can you. Mix up your cords, your colors, your styles...work out your own fabulous braided and knotted concoctions--and please, be sure to share with us on our private [Facebook Group](#), the [Bead Table](#)...we can't wait to see what you create!



Links to Events and More...

- Last Week's Episode: [Exploring Vintage Finds](#)
- [Beadshop LIVE Youtube Playlist](#)
- [Beadshop LIVE Archive Page](#)
- [Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist](#)
- [FTF Archive Page](#)
- [The Journey Bead Retreat](#)

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info@beadshop.com
kate@beadshop.com
janice@beadshop.com
drea@beadshop.com

Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[Anchors Aweigh](#) and [Recipe](#)

Anchors Aweigh

1 Pkg [1.5mm Weathered Basil Indian Leather](#)

1 Pkg [Evolve- Silver](#)

1 Pkg [Transitions- Silver](#)

1 [Seafarer Charm- Antique Silver](#)

1 [A scrap of Regular C-Lon for the ending silk wrap. Kate used Argentum.](#)

Other Items used during the broadcast:

[1.5mm Distressed Brown Indian Leather](#)

[1.5mm Distressed Gray Indian Leather](#)

[Tattoo Button- Brass](#)

[Evolve- Antique Brass](#)

[Transitions- Brass](#)



You will also want to have...

[Chain Nose](#) or [Bent Nose](#) Pliers
and [Flush Cutters](#)

