

SKILL BUILDER: HOW TO SILK WRAP

Silk Wrapping is an ancient technique used by many cultures to tie off beads on raffia, close off Kimono cording or use in jewelry as seen in the sample below. In many cases, the silk wrap is so secure, you never need to use glue to finish. We are showing the Steps ending with a dab of GS Hypo-Tube Cement for those new to the technique. But if you ask Janice, she would say...."Pull the knot into the middle of the silk wrap and it's not going anywhere!" Be sure to practice and come to your own conclusions about gluing or not gluing. It is easiest to learn to silk wrap over a cord that is secured to a board. Please review [Skill Builder: How to Secure a Project to a Board](#).



Silk Wrapping can be used with leather to secure a button on one end and a loop on the other.

The ingredients for this Skill Builder are:

2mm Black Leather

Gunmetal C-Lon

GS Hypo-tube Cement

Flush Cutters

A Design Board and Insert were used to to secure the leather while silk wrapping

A Tree of Life Button in Silver is pictured to the left.



1. The steps demonstrated are limited to the silk wrap itself. We have removed the button from the demonstration to make it easier to see the technique.

When using a Silk Wrap in one of our projects, follow instructions in the handout.



2. Begin by securing your leather to your board. We are silk wrapping C-Lon over 2mm leather but this technique can be done with multiple cords and fabrics.

Make a generous loop with your C-Lon and place it on your leather. There is a short end (about 2 inches long) and a long end. Press down where you want your silk wrap to start.



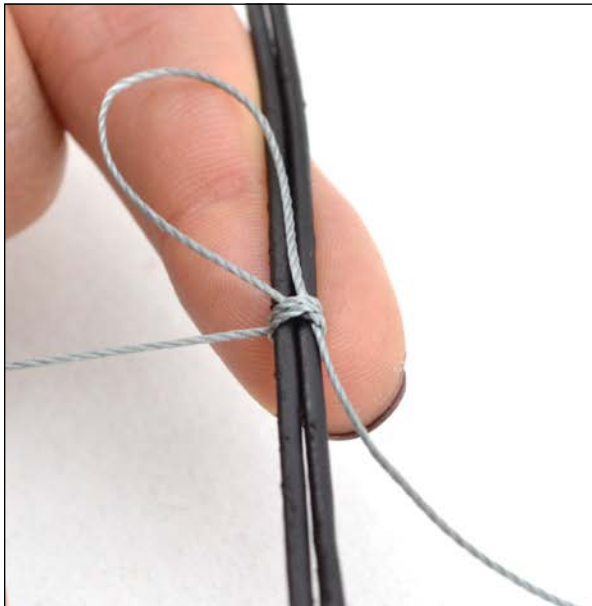
3. Take the long tail of C-Lon and wrap it over the short one. You are going to be wrapping in the direction of the loop.



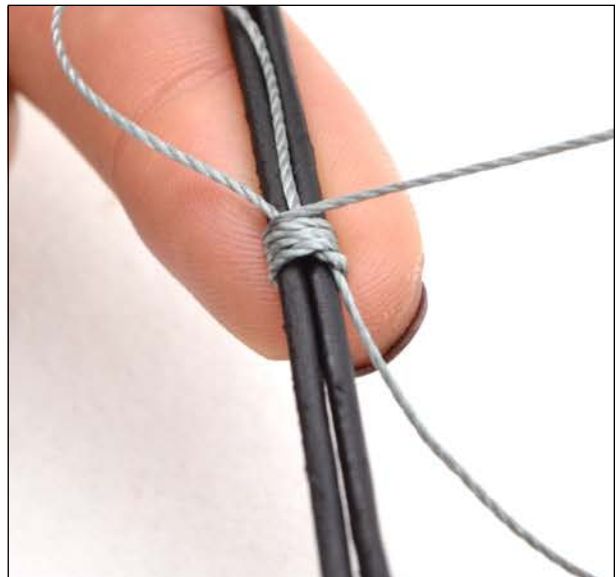
4. Wrap your C-Lon under the leather.

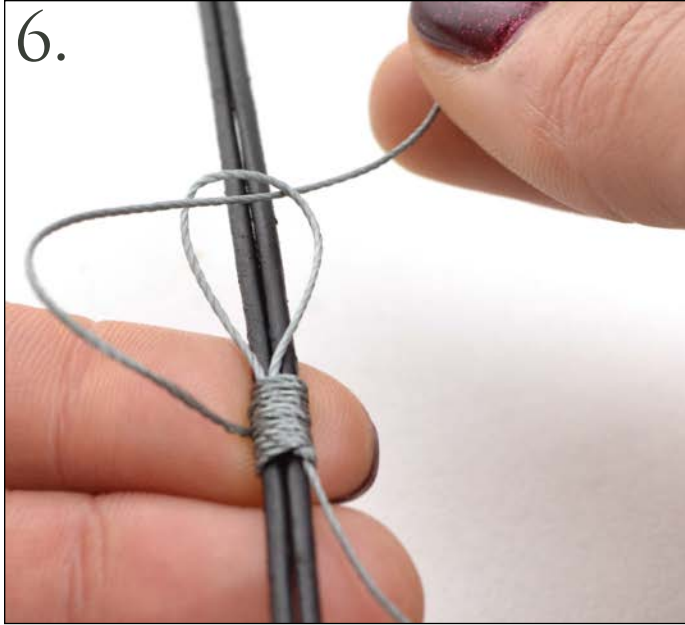


5. Bring the C-Lon back up over the leather and pinch to hold it in place while you continue to wrap. You are always wrapping towards your loop. Keep your eye on the wraps lining up side by side. It will come with practice!



Keep wrapping around your leather cords about 10 times.





6. As you bring your long end around for the last time, string it through the loop.

7. Press down on the loop and wraps. With your other hand, pull the short tail towards yourself.



8. As you pull on the tail, the loop will start to pull in under the wraps.

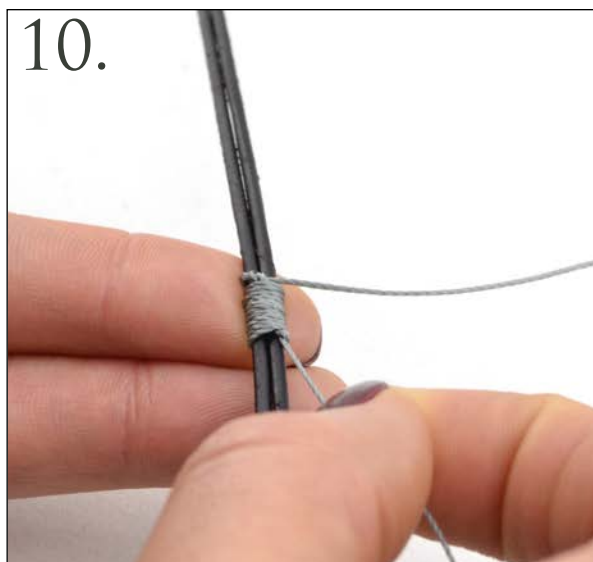


DO NOT PULL THE LOOP ALL THE WAY INSIDE YET...



9. Put a drop of GS Hypo-Tube Cement on the last bit of the loop still showing. This glue will live inside the silk wraps.

10. Make the final pull on the short tail to bring the loop into the middle of the silk wraps.



11. When complete, the loop lives in the middle underneath. If by chance you pull too hard and the loop isn't in the middle, just keep pulling on the ends until you see it slither under the wraps. It's fun to see.

12. Using flush cutters, snip the tails. If you are really skilled, you can singe using your Thread Zapper II. Refer to [Skill Builder: How to Singe with a Thread Zapper II](#).

