

Laddering with the Infinity Stitch

Using a needle and thread to ladder rows of beads between leather is very much like bead weaving on a loom. In general, you use a thinner thread than traditional laddering and the “weaving” technique is to always go back through the same row of beads before you start your next row. Very important!

Other techniques and learning that will be helpful are:

Skill Builder: [How to Secure a Project to a Tray](#)

Skill Builder: [How to Macramé](#)

Facebook LIVE: [Color Study](#)

Project: [Color Study, Garden Path](#)

Ingredients List

[Deep Dish Project Tray and Insert](#)

[Clampers and Rubber Bands or String](#) (for securing your project)

Size 10 or 12 English Beading Needles

[Button](#)

[Leather](#) (our sample uses 1.0mm)

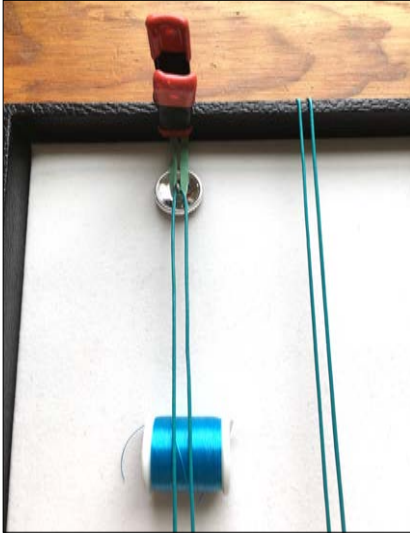
[KO Thread](#) ([Micro C-Lon](#), [S-Lon](#), [Fireline](#), [Hana](#) would also work)

[Flush Cutters](#) or [Thread Snips](#)

[GS Hypo Cement](#)

[Bees Wax](#) (optional)

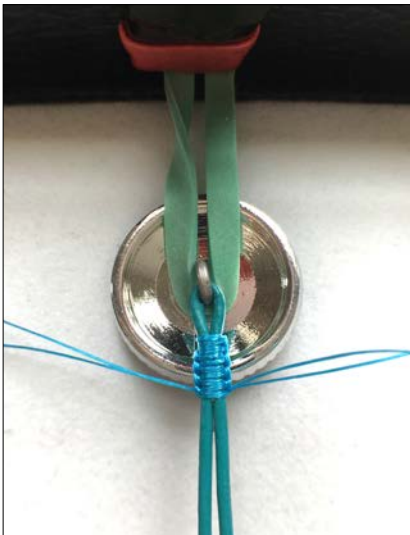
[Handy Tape](#), [Tape Measure](#), or [Ruler](#)



1. Begin by Securing your Project

String your button or clasp to the middle of your length of leather and secure it to the board. We recommend you begin with the back of the button facing up. Later on you can turn your project over so the face of the button is up. Skill Builder: [How to Secure a Project to a Tray](#)

The spool of thread is intended to help lift the leather up from the board so you can weave underneath it.

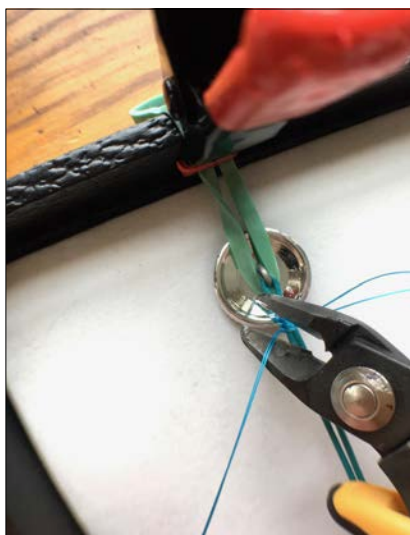


2. Macramé your Thread into Place

You don't want too much thread; it will tangle even if you condition it with beeswax. For a multiple wrap bracelet, cut 2 yards. If you're more experienced, go with 3 yards.

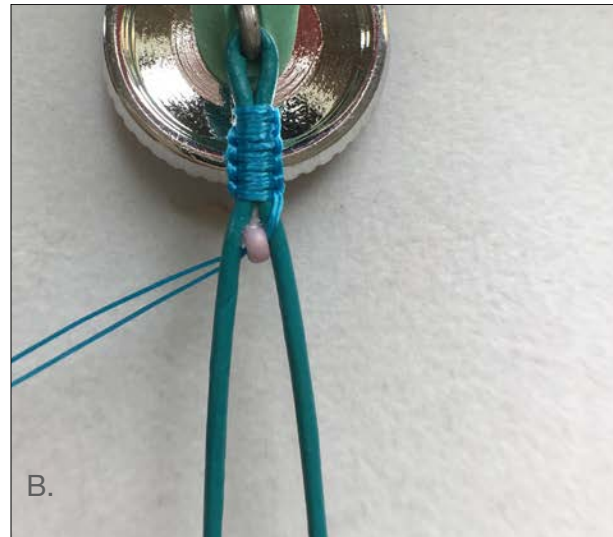
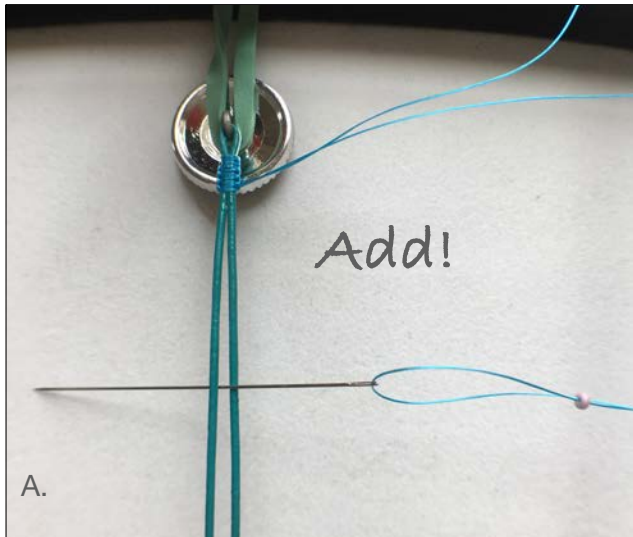
Thread your needle. Tie the tails into an overhand knot about 1 inch from the ends.

Leaving about 8 inches of tail on the left side of your leather, begin macramé to secure your button. Janice demonstrates this in Facebook LIVE at [Minute Marker 32:52](#).



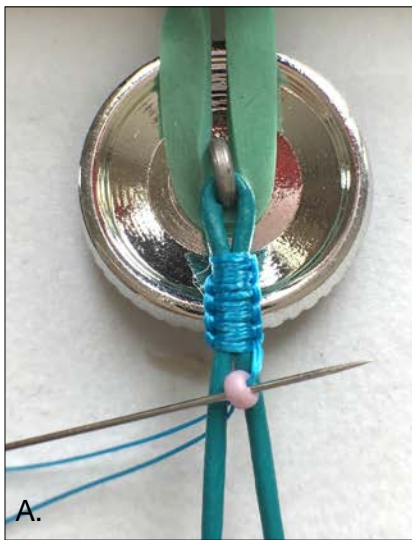
3. Glue and Cut the Tail Away

Use a dab of GS Hypo Cement glue to secure the ends of your thread and then use your flush cutters or thread snips to cut away the excess thread. Don't cut your macramé or your thread with needle!



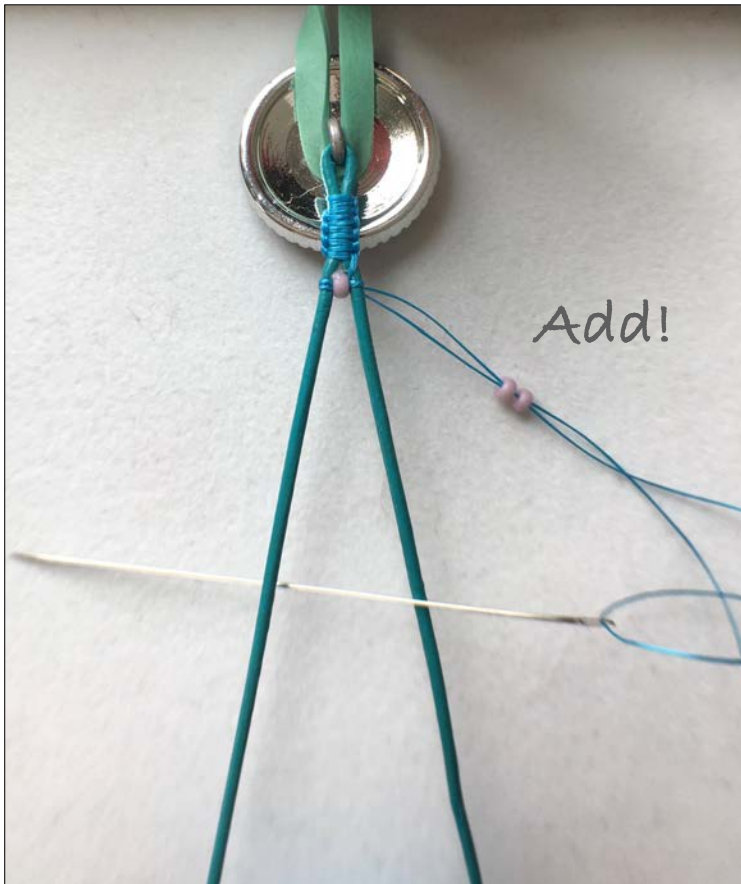
4. Choose your “Add” Side

- A. Decide on which side you will always add beads. If you need to put a post-it with “Add” on it so you don’t forget, that’s okay. This will be the side you string on beads. It will be the *only* side you add beads! String on your first small bead. Take your needle **UNDER** the leather on the left.
- B. Cinch the bead into place so it snuggles right into the triangle of the leather. It helps to leave just a bit of air between this first bead and the macramé.



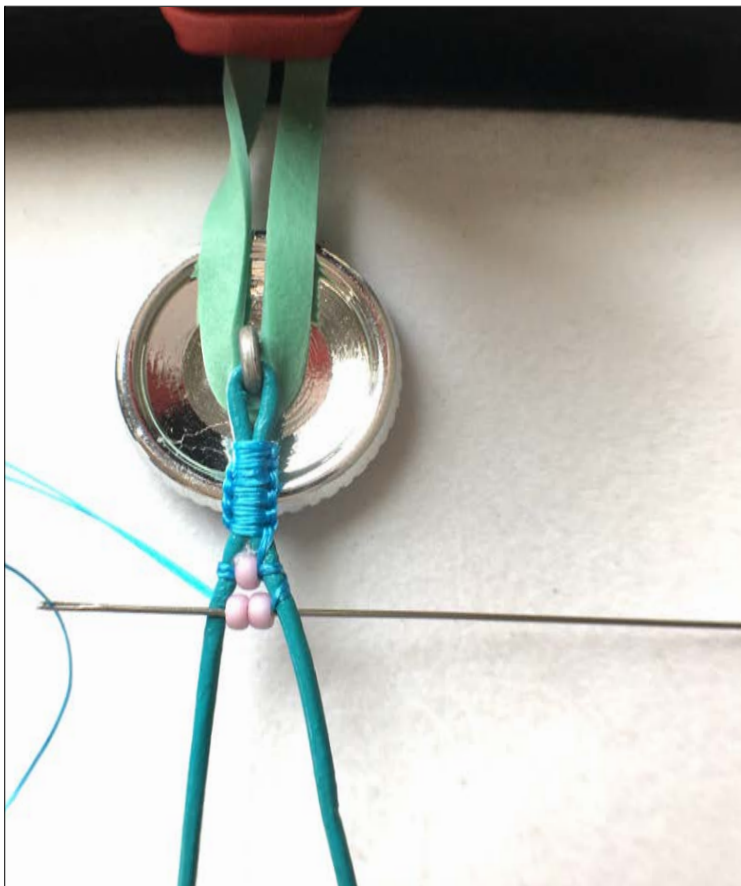
5. String Back Side

- A. Push up that bead just enough so you can bring your needle back through.
- B. Cinch the bead into place again and bring in any excess thread.
- C. Take your needle **UNDER** the leather on the right and tighten your thread. You will repeat Steps 4 and 5 for this first bead to really secure it in place.



6. Add your Next Row...

String on two more small beads to begin your second row. Take your needle UNDER the leather on the left. Pull your excess thread in and help the two beads snuggle into position.



7. Over and Through

Before you thread back through the beads, make sure your needle is on top of the leather on the left.

Then steer the needle UNDER the leather on the right.

Pull in any excess thread before you add your next row of beads.

You can widen the opening between your leather with little beads, just do it gradually and take care that the beads stay centered and your leather doesn't start bulging on one side or the other.



Note: Treat 2-hole Beads as 2 beads

Multiple-hole beads need to be strung as if they are multiple beads. This can be the most challenging part of laddering, no matter what style you use to string...



8. Add on your Add Side!

In the case of Half Tila Beads, you might be stringing more than one bead in a row. It doesn't matter. Add them on the right side only.



9. Treat them as One

Don't fall in the trap of wanting to go back through the second holes! Stay true to the steps and string back through the first holes.

Make sure your needle ends up UNDER the leather on the right before going to the second holes.



10. Think Second Hole!

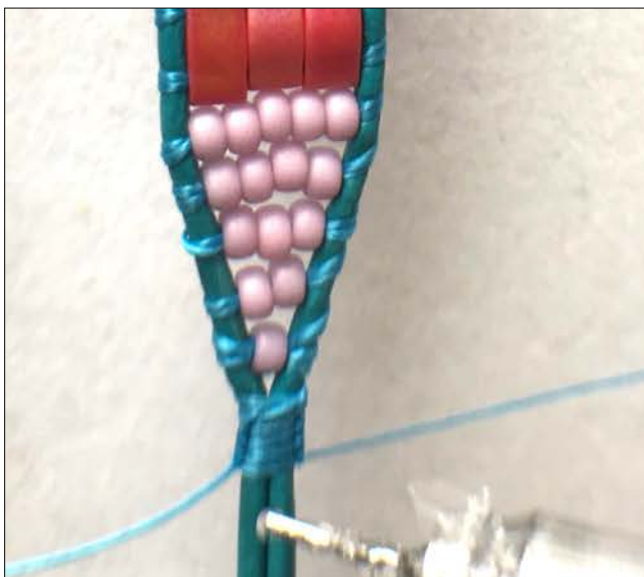
Now it's time to take the needle and thread through the second hole. Make sure you needle ends up UNDER the leather on the left.

Although you're not technically adding a second row of beads, it's the first time you're stringing through these bead holes, so think of it as "adding."



11. Come back through!

Bring the needle OVER the leather and then back through the second hole. Make sure your needle ends up UNDER the leather on the right before you add your next row of beads.

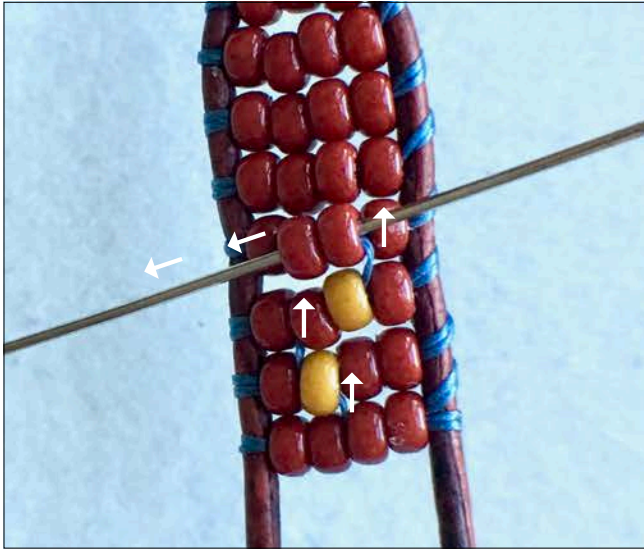


12. End like you started

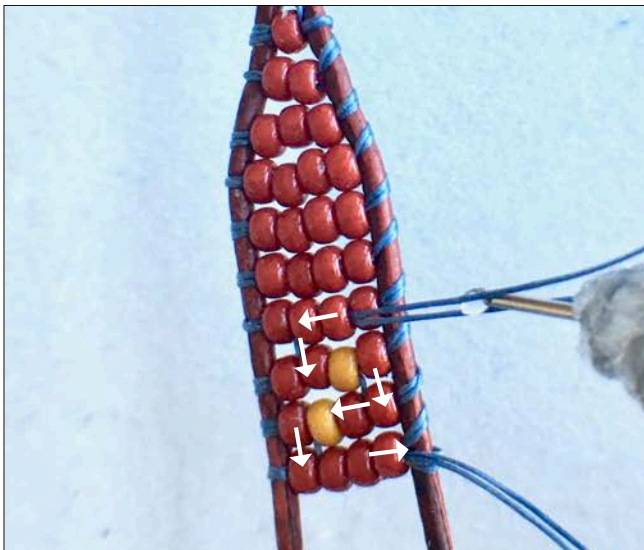
When you have finished laddering, taper down to one bead and then reinforce it just as you did the first one. We recommend cutting your needle away and separating your threads, then you can macramé several complete knots. Add a drop of GS Hypo Cement on the leather and thread. Allow it to dry before cutting away your excess thread. Now you know how to Ladder with Infinity Stitch!

How to Drop and Add a Thread

Sometimes you don't have enough thread to finish your project. Not a problem! You will want to end your old thread and start a new one.

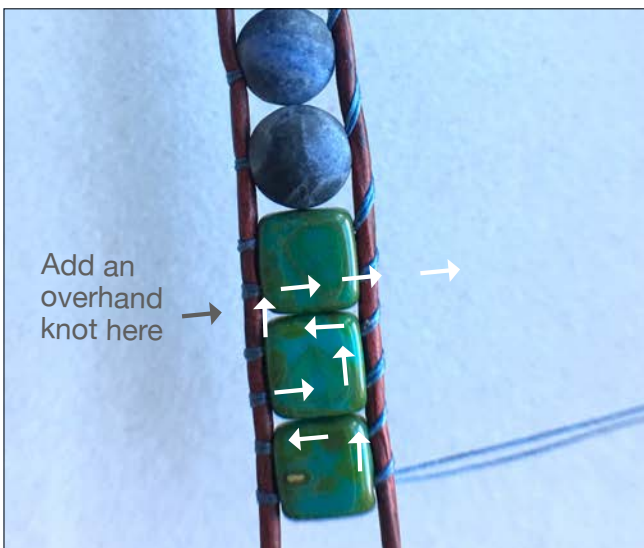


1. Bring your old needle out at the end of one completed row, then weave it back up into your beadwork. This is easy to do if you're laddering with seed beads, as seen here. Zig and zag the thread through your beads much like you would in Peyote Stitch. Add a dab of glue to secure the last bit of thread in the last beads. Your thread is best left ending somewhere in the middle of the beadwork, rather than on a side. Carefully trim the tail.



2. Start your new thread by also weaving into the bead work somewhere a few rows back. Add a small dab of glue on the thread that will live in the first beads you string into. Pull the thread along until the glue lives inside the beads. Come out on the side where you would normally add another row.

If you're using larger beads or beads with 2 holes, the process is a bit more challenging...but not impossible!



3. Weave back up through a couple of the beads you have already laddered, but do not take your needle and thread around the leather. When you've gone up through a few beads, tie off your needle and thread around a leg of leather using an overhand knot. Add a drop of glue on the knot and feed the needle back through the next hole. When dry, trim the tails.
4. Use Step 2 to add a new thread by weaving back in a few rows back and coming out where you want to add a bead.