

SKILL BUILDER: HOW TO LADDER

Laddering is an essential technique for anyone wanting to make wrap bracelets....and that seems to be just about everyone! In this step-by-step, we will show you how to string beads in parallel rows between leather cord to create a beaded wrap design. This style of laddering can be adapted to various threads, beads and other ladder materials besides leather. As with most techniques using beads strung on thread, the important factor is always the hole size. Will the thread fit through the beads twice? This Skill Builder is photographed using C-Lon with 1.5mm leather. Another strong contender for laddering is Tuff Cord #3, or if you need finer cord, Tuff #2 or #1.

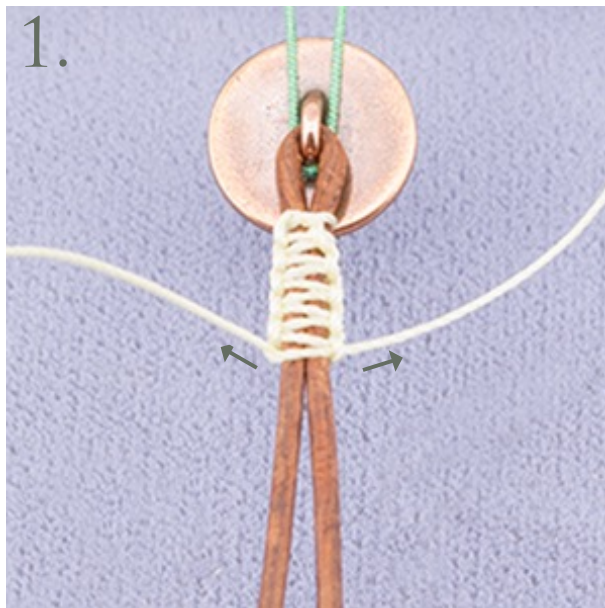
Before laddering, you will want to have your project fastened to a tray or board and several macramé stitches completed to secure your cord to the leather below the button. Here are links to those other Skill Builders:

[How to Secure your Project to a Board](#)

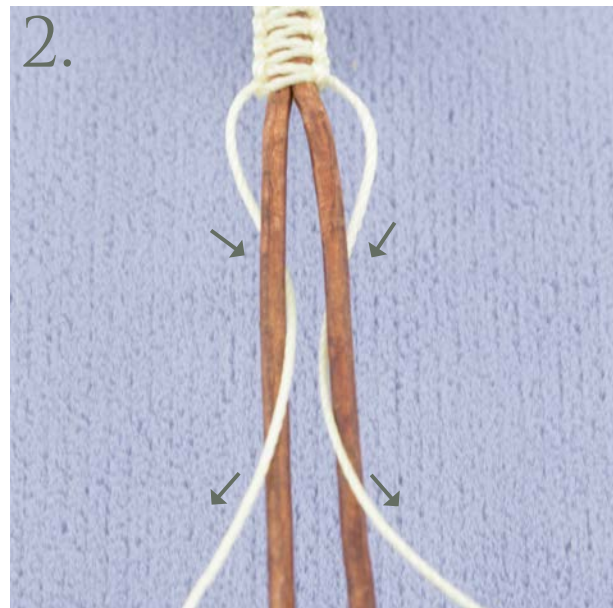
[How to Macramé](#)

[How to Singe Cord with a Thread Zapper](#)

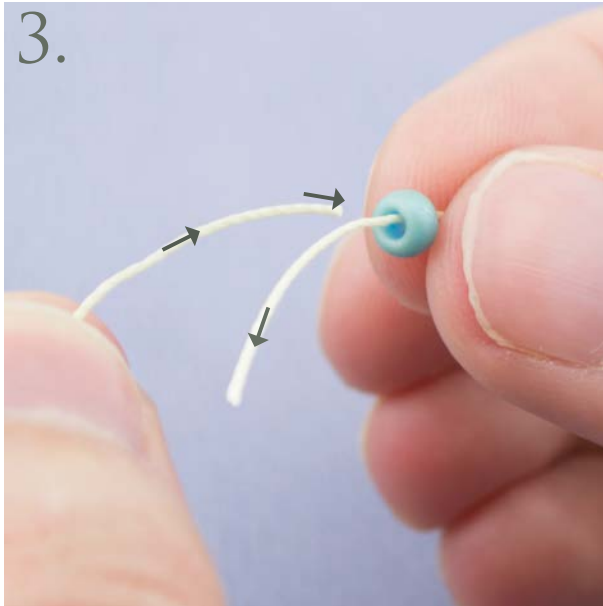
Once your leather is secured to a board and your cord has been started with a several macramé stitches, below are the step-by-step instructions on How to Ladder:



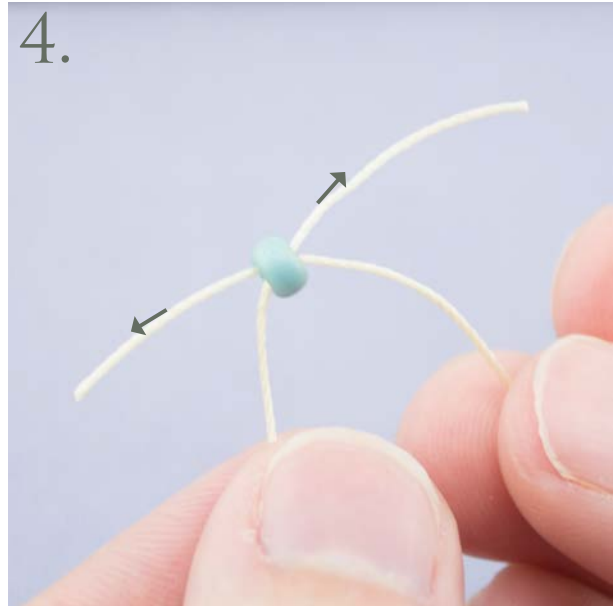
1. After you macramé several knots, separate your two cords. In this example we used C-Lon Cord and the leather is 1.5mm Indian Leather.



2. Wrap each cord UNDER and then OVER the leather once. You are now ready to add a bead.



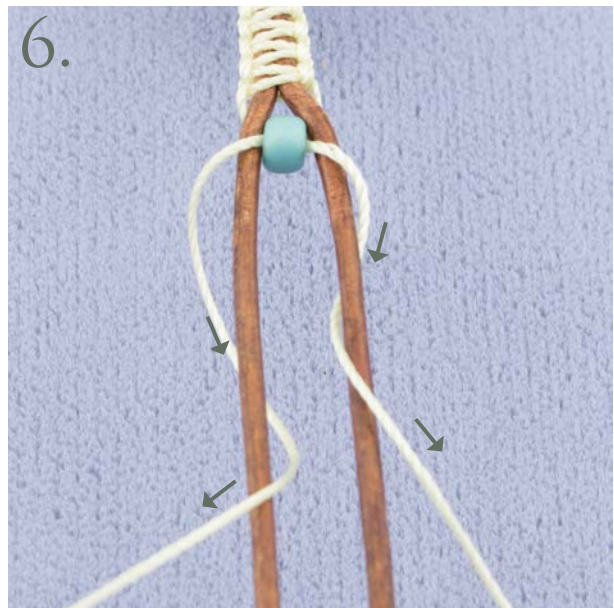
3. String your first bead onto your right cord. Then, in the opposite direction, thread your left cord through the bead hole.



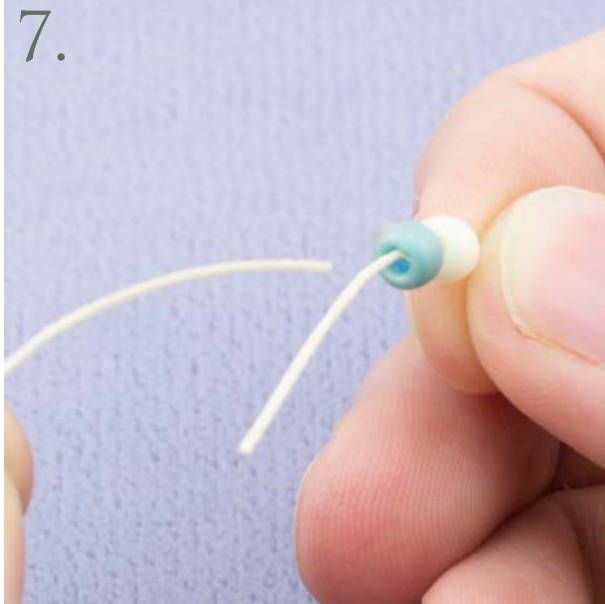
4. You should now have both cords strung through the bead facing opposite directions.



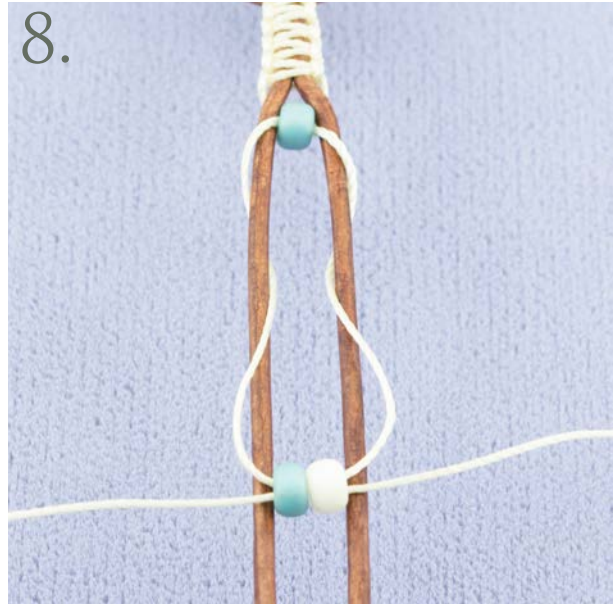
5. Take each end of cord and pull it to position the bead between the leather. Tug gently until the bead is snug. This will help keep your bead in place.



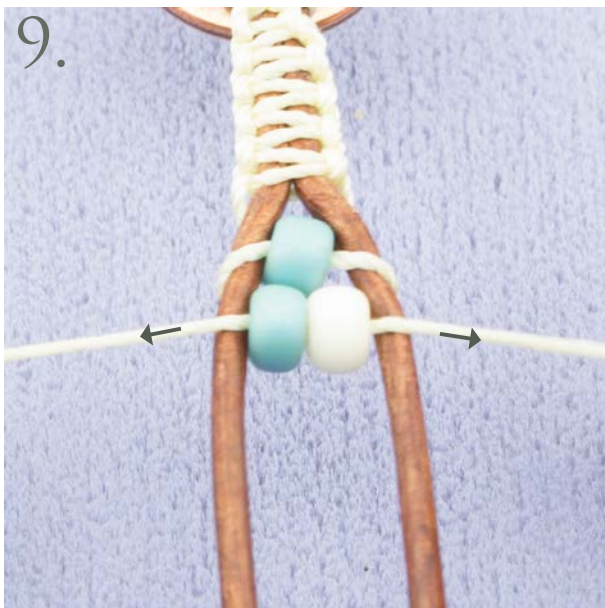
6. Repeat Step 2 by wrapping your cords UNDER and then OVER the leather. Hint: If you stick with "Under and Over" for the technique, you will be less likely to miss a portion of the laddering.



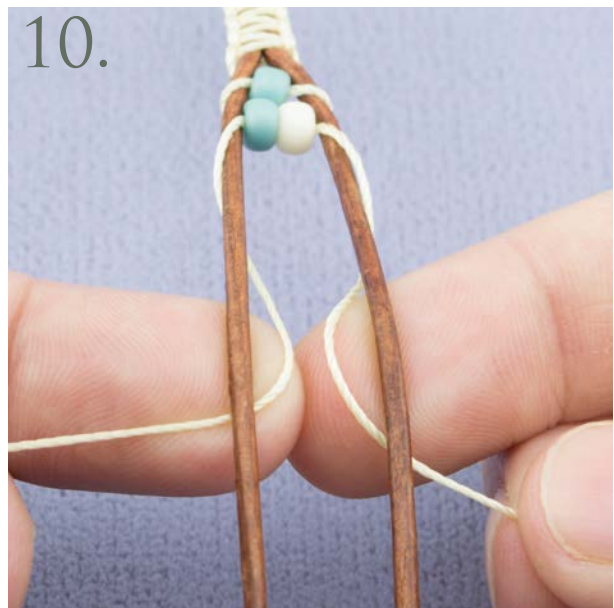
7. If you are graduating up to multiple beads per row, on your second ladder, add two beads instead of one.



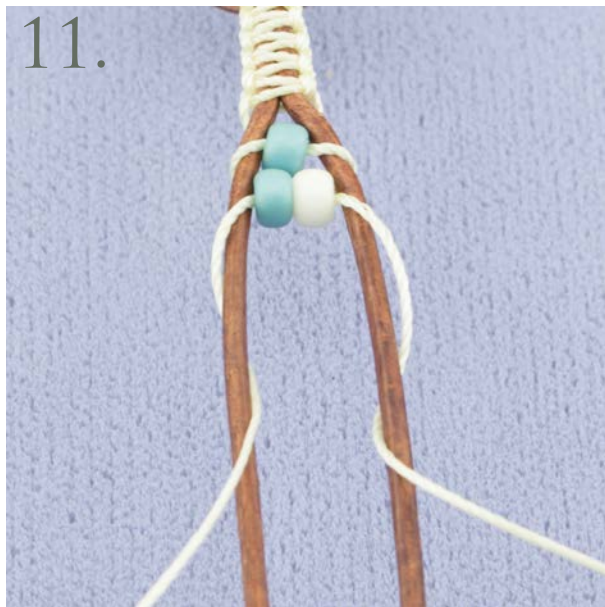
8. Repeat Steps 5 and 6, pulling the beads into place.



9. Pull out on each cord. Adding of the second bead begins to widen the spacing of the leather and position the beads in place.

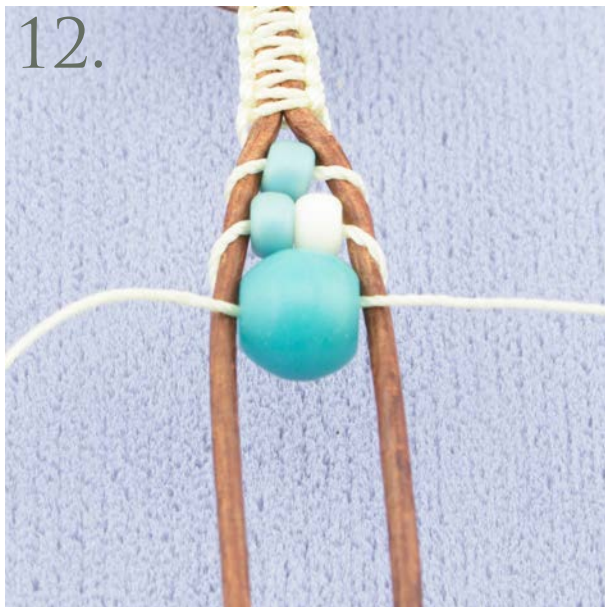


10. Gently tighten the cords to help the beads fit snugly inside the leather. Do not over tighten.



11.

11. Once again, wrap your cords UNDER and then OVER your leather to ladder the next row.



12.

12. This next row has one large bead. As you did earlier, repeat Steps 3-11.



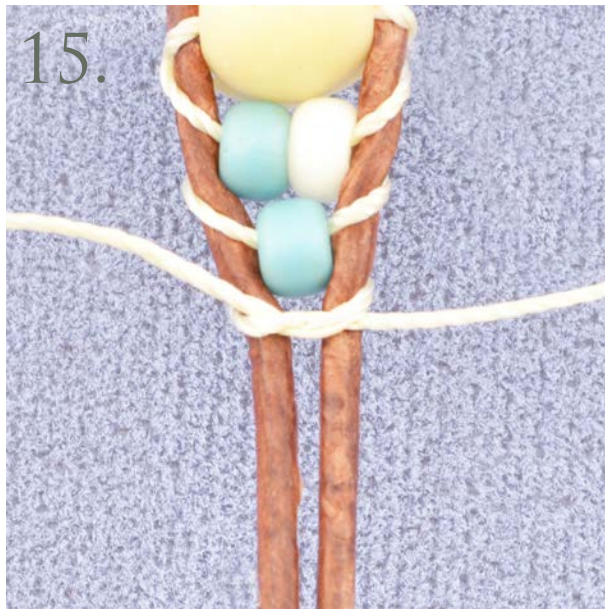
13.

13. Now it's just about laddering! You can stay with all the same beads or you can mix and match.



14.

14. When you get close to your desired length, allow for your last couple of rows to graduate down to one bead.



15. Once you have graduated down to one bead, cross your threads and tie a knot. You are now ready to macramé your ending. Now would be a good time to review our Skill Builder: How to Singe Using a Thread Zapper II.

OTHER LADDERING PROJECTS



From beginner to advanced, there are so many ways to ladder and even more and more beads to ladder with! You can even ladder chain, as seen in [Color Study](#) on the right. Once you have the Skill Builder basics down, you can evolve your designs to suit your style. Please visit us at www.beadshop.com to see more. Happy beading!