



Braided Wristband

These instructions to be used in conjunction with "9 steps to Magic Braid".

Materials:

Leather thickness 1.5 – 2.5 mm

Durable dot for thicker leather or press stud for thinner

Tools:

Sharp cutting knife Stanley knife or scalpel

Revolving hole punch

Fixing tools for durable dot or press stud

Dividers

Ruler

Cutting board

Instructions

① Cut strip of leather 24mm wide and wrist size plus 1/3 long.

Using dividers mark 2 parallel lines 8mm in from each edge and check that the distance between the lines is also 8mm. If not, make adjustments. The lines must stop 30 mm short of each end.

Make a hole with smallest punch at the end of each line. This is to stop the leather from splitting further.

Make a hole with the 2nd largest punch 15mm in from each end in the centre of the strip. This is for the durable dot or press stud fixing.

Dyeing If you intend to dye your wristband now is the time to do it.

Acrylic dye comes in bright colours and stays on the surface thus coating the leather.

Spirit dye will penetrate and stain but the grain variations of the leather will show through.

Cut along the parallel lines to form 3 thongs of equal length and width closed at each end.

Using the edging tool remove the sharp edges of each thong, 6 edges in total. Dampen the leather using Saddle Soap. This makes braiding easier and gives a uniform finish.

② Cross orange thong over yellow then green over orange. Pull orange thong out to the right forming a gap.

③ Roll up the entire bottom part of the strip through this gap.

④ This twists and tangles the thongs. The back part or flesh side will be forward and this should be twisted from left to right until the front side is forward.

⑤ Pull out the lowest part of the orange thong to the left creating a gap

⑥ Roll up the entire bottom part of the strip through this gap and pull it back down from the back.

⑦ The front side will be facing forward and the thongs will look more ordered

⑧ The braid is now in position. It just needs to be tightened and pushed up to the top to free up space for the next stage. As you re-braid to the top the thongs need to cross 3 times. You will then be looking at 3 parallel thongs in the same original position – orange yellow green. Start again at ② and continue in the same way until the finished product resembles ⑨

Use a wide headed hammer or mallet on a clean level surface to flatten the braid.

This popular braid can be used in making belts, dog leads, bag handles, wrist watch straps and many other applications.

9 Steps to Magic Braid

