

How To; - Button Bracelet

You will need: -

- 0.8 / 1mm Chinese knotting cord x 8m
- Decorative Button
- Sewing needle and strong thread
- Sharp scissors
- Braiding Disk



Tip - Once you've done one braid - try using other threads, or combinations of threads for different effects



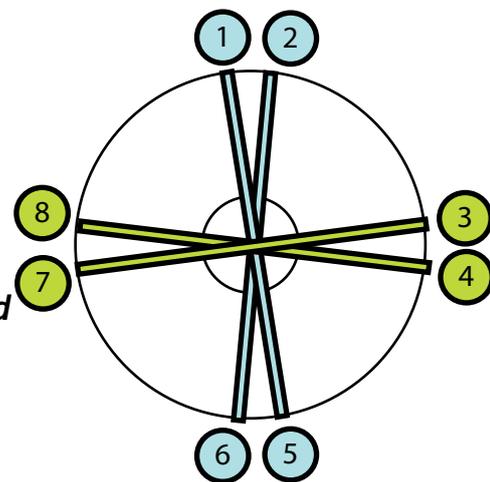
Step 1 - Setup

Cut four pieces of cord, each of them approx 2m long (to give 2-3 wraps of bracelet).

For a stripy pattern (best for beginners) - you will need two colours of cord - two x 2m pieces of each colour.

Thread as many of your threads as possible (ideally all 4) through the buttonhole/s in your chosen button.

Any threads that didn't fit through - just hold them along with the others, as if they had gone through, while you set up the disk.



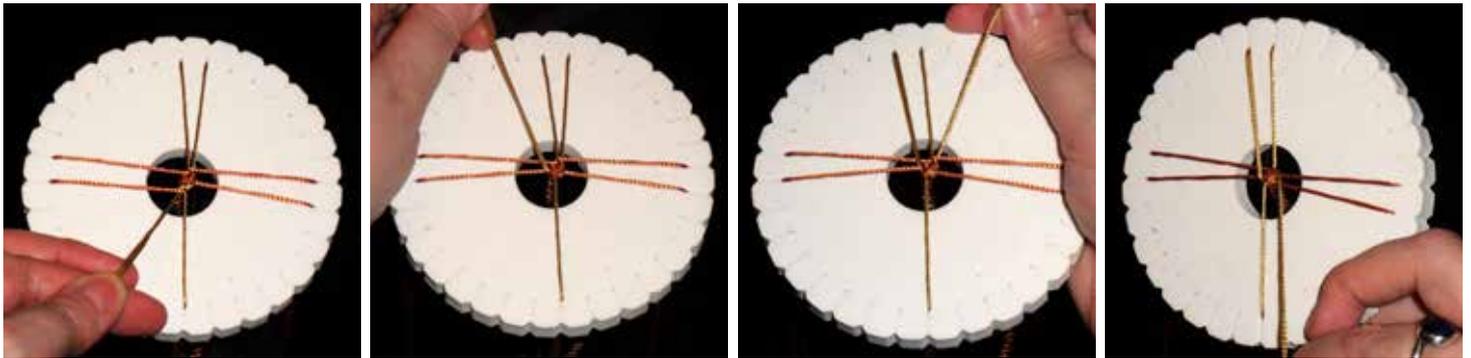
Slide the button so that it sits halfway down the threads - so that it has eight roughly equal length ends (the start and end of each of your four threads) coming from it.

Sit the button face down in the hole in your braiding disk, with the threads coming up through the hole towards you and the front of the button face down away from you.



Space the 8 threads out around the disk in pairs so that you have 4 pairs of threads, with the colours together - as shown here - one colour for the top and bottom pairs, the other colour for the left and right pairs..

Pull the threads up tight and use the slots in the disk to grip and hold the thread in place.



Step 2 - Braiding - Round Braid (Kongo Gumi)

- Hold the disk so that you have one set of threads directly in front of you running top to bottom / north to south.
- Release the bottom left thread (in the set nearest you - South position - number 6 on the diagram on previous page) from its slot.
- Move this thread up to the top (North position) and put it into the empty slot to the left side of the top left thread.
- Take the top right thread out and move it down to the empty slot to the right side of the bottom right thread.
- Turn the disk around a quarter turn - anti-clockwise - so that the other colour threads are now facing you.
- **Repeat** the moves above with this new set of threads - **bottom left goes up, top right comes down, then turn.**
- Keep repeating this sequence.



Every now and then, stop and untangle the loose tails under the disk - pull one thread free at a time until they all hang loose, then start braiding again.

Whenever you pause braiding - also stretch out the growing braid underneath the disk; - hold the 'point of braiding' where the threads cross in the centre of the disk and pull on the button end of the braid to stretch it out, then return to braiding again.

If you've paused and you're not sure which thread is next to move - look carefully at the point of braiding in the centre. You should be able to see or feel one pair of threads that sit on top of the others - these are the most recent ones you moved, so the next pair around are the ones to move next...



Tip - If you get stuck or make a mistake - don't take the braid completely off the disk, unless you plan to completely re-start. If you just want to undo a mistake and continue, it is much easier to just try and work backwards, thread by thread, just reverse your moves until you reach the problem area, then go off again!



Step 3 - Measuring

Keep repeating these moves and the braid will start to grow down underneath the disk.

Once you have a good length of cord created - make sure it is fully stretched (otherwise it will grow later once you are wearing it) and then measure it around your wrist.

To stretch it out - pull down the growing braid (hold the threads in the centre of the disk at the same time, so that you don't pull these loose).



You will need enough to go around your wrist - either just once, or several times, depending on the style of bracelet you want to create, plus an extra 3-4cm of braid (depending on your button size) to allow you to make the loop for the buttonhole.

Once you have the desired length, or more - stop braiding.

With the next two threads you would have used to braid with - pick these up off the disk and knot them tightly across the centre of the braid, repeat this with the next pair of threads as well.

This will prevent the braid unravelling while you remove it from the disk and do your permanent finishing.



Take the braid off the disk by taking all the threads out of the slots.

Step 4 - Finishing

Check the point you measured for your bracelet wrap/s plus 3cm and mark this point - if you have extra braid beyond this point, this will be cut off after the braid is stitched and bound at this marked point.

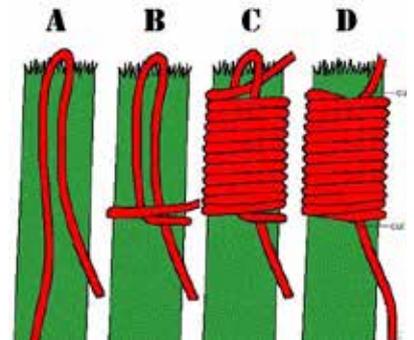
Secure the braid end

- Thread a sharp needle with about 1m of strong sewing thread, pull the tails down and



knot both tails together near the end. (You will be stitching with a doubled thread.)

- Stitch through the braid at your marked position.
- Pull the thread tightly around the braid 3-5 times and then stitch back and forth through the braid 2-3 times to hold this binding in place and secure the sewing thread.
- Repeat the binding and stitching, as neatly as possible, pulling the stitches and wraps as tight as possible to ensure the thread ends are all held and won't come undone.
- Use sharp scissors to trim the ends of your braiding cords beyond this binding place neatly. Cut as close to this binding as you can and make sure to trim any loose tails.



Making the Loop

- Fold this bound end back on itself and hold it around the button - you need to make a loop that will just fit your button - it must let the button through to be able to fasten, but you don't want it too loose so that it comes undone easily.
- Pin or hold this in place while you stitch and bind the end to the braid to secure the loop.
- Once this feels secure - stitch through another couple of times, and trim off your sewing thread.
- Use a spare length of braiding cord to wrap this stitched section and hide it - you will need about 50cm of cord.
- Make a small loop and bind as shown in the green and red diagram above.
- Trim your cord neatly and your bracelet is ready to wear!



Tip - Create different patterns in your braid - not just a spiral - by changing the initial layout of threads - try 3 threads one colour and 1 in a contrast, for example...