

Mystery Braid

Bracelets, Belts, Purse straps, Other

Materials needed to make the mystery braid: 9" long leather piece will make a 7 3/4" braided piece

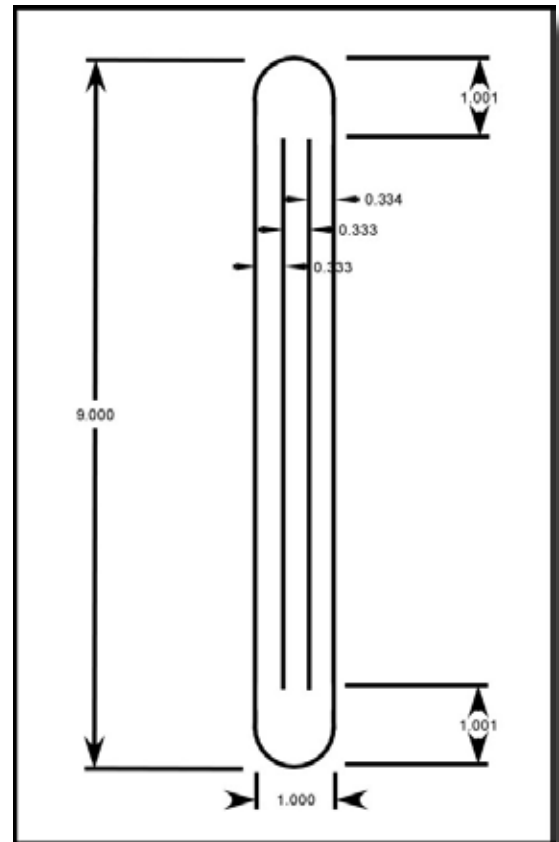
- 3-4 oz leather that is cut to 24mm wide and 9" long (or 1" X 9") (Tandy Leather)
- Straight edge ruler that is metric as well
- Sharp knife or rotary cutter
- Rotary punch. Holes in end will use the #2 punch
- Line 20 snaps, line 20 setters, hard surface to set snaps (steel piece) (Tandy Leather)
- Sharp scissors or 1" one-half round punch
- Dye if desired (Tandy Leather)

Steps:

- Cut leather strip 9" X 1" with either a sharp knife or a rotary cutter. Make a mark 1" from the both ends. At this point on the leather make 2 more marks that are 8mm wide. You will end up with 3 strips that are 8mm wide (24mm or ~1")
- Using the straight edge, cut between the dots making 3 8mm wide strips
- Round ends with scissors or the 1/2 round punch
- Make a hole in each end with a 2mm punch
- Dye leather at this point if desired
- Set the snaps using the setting tools

Braid the leather strips per the following steps:

1. Looking at the 3 strips, cross the right hand strip over the center strip and then the left hand strip over the center strip. Hold this last cross-over firmly.
2. Pull the bottom of the belt upward toward yourself and "rotate" it down and through the right hand strip and pull tight at the bottom. Continue to hold the last braid firmly so it doesn't move. This completes one braiding sub-step.
3. Now cross the right hand strip over the center strip and then the left hand strip over the center strip.
4. This time, pull the bottom of the belt upward toward yourself and rotate it down and under the LEFT hand strip. This now completes 2 sub-steps and one complete braiding step.
5. The strips should now be worked out so the belt is straight and all braids are laying flat. The braiding sequence then is "Cross with right, Cross with left, Rotate right. Cross with right, Cross with left, Rotate Left". You will notice that the braiding has a very loose look to it, so more braiding will be required.



Move the braiding as high on the belt as it will go. Repeat steps 1 through 4 once more. The braided area should now look a little tighter. If necessary, repeat steps 1 through 4 as many times as necessary to get the desired look in the braiding. Keep in mind that 2 sub-steps are required to make the braid come out right