

Sliding Knot Tutorial

By Kat Kramer

This tutorial will show how to create a sliding knot in leather or waxed cotton/linen cord. It's a cost effective way to display and sell your less expensive jewelry, although I have created higher-end pieces specifically to be worn on this cord. The Wubbers Pressed Copper Pendant Tutorial utilizes this cord technique.

It provides the wearer with flexibility...it can be worn long or as a choker. It works great with thicker leather for men's bracelets. I would include the leather cord "free" with my fused glass pendants.

You'll love this project...it's "knot" hard!



Materials List

- 1.5mm or 2mm round leather or waxed linen cord, one yard per necklace
- Acrylic paint or matching "Cova Dye" from Tandy Leather
- Wubbers Flat Nose Pliers

Look for round leather that bends without cracking, is of an even diameter, and that's not too stiff. Some artists like Greek Leather, but I purchased some from a large online jewelry supplier that was stiff, uneven, and that cracked when I tied the knots. Leather Cord USA has a good quality round leather cord at a reasonable price, in many colors. The larger the spool, the more cost effective.

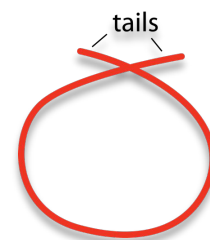
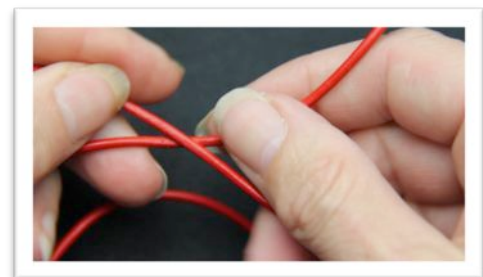
If you're looking for waxed cotton/linen, look for cord that's fairly "waxy," and not "fluffy" like yarn. The stiffer the cord, the nicer the knot. It will last longer without fading.

Project Steps: Single-Coil, Double-Loop Knot

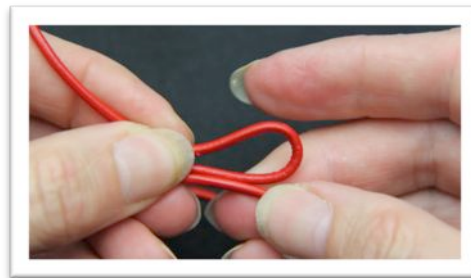
Start by cutting a 1-yard length of cord. Depending on the length of your arms, you can also measure a length from the middle of your chest to the tip of your fingers. Test this length before cutting a lot of pieces...I had a girl helping me who measured this way, but she had shorter arms than I did...I found out the hard way that arms are not a universal measuring device.

The First Knot

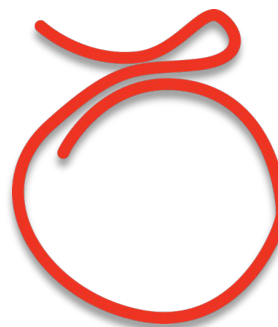
Pictures #1 & 2: Loop the cord around so that the ends of the cord cross in an "X", with approximately 3" 'tails.'



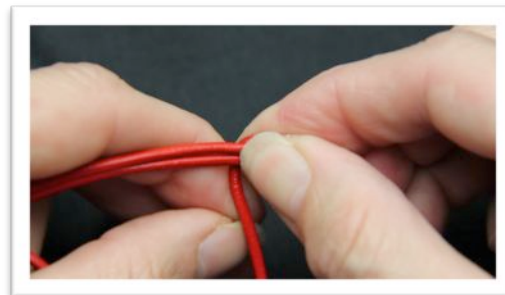
Picture #3: With the tail that goes off to the right, loop back to the left as shown, with the tail now pinched between your left thumb and forefinger.



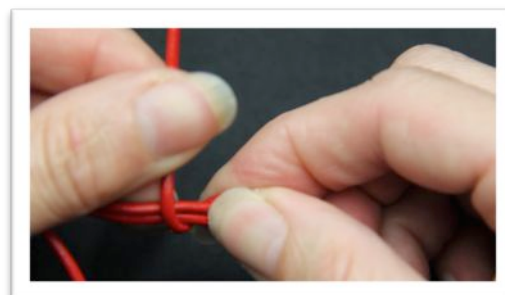
Picture #4: The cord is not really “crossed” anymore...it looks more like this...the tail we’ll be working with is at the top left.



Picture #5: Take the “tail” and push it backwards, away from you, and down behind the other two cords.

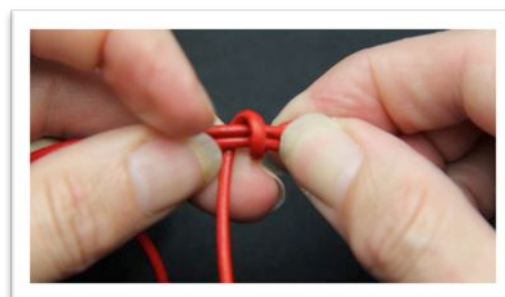


Picture #6: Bring the tail towards you from the bottom, then up in front of the other two cords as shown.

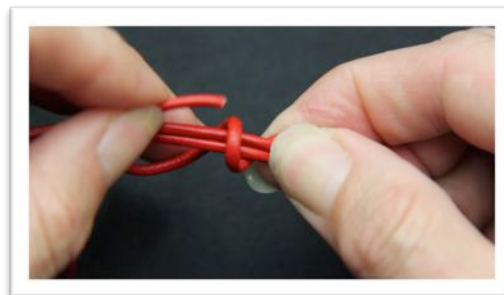


Picture #7: Push the tail backwards over the top, away from you, and behind the two cords. We’ll call this the “coil.”

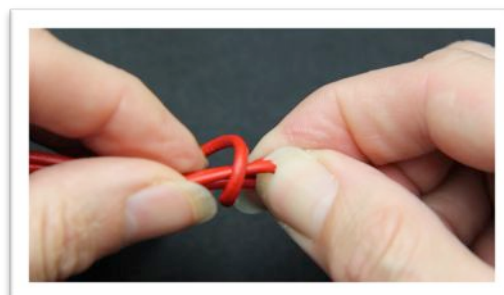
TIP: Keeping the coil somewhat “tight” makes the process easier. If the coil is too loose, the knot may not come out right.



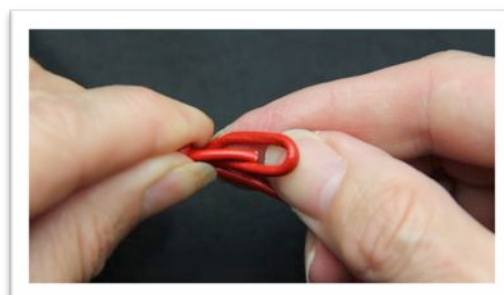
Picture #8: Grab the tail between your left thumb and forefinger.



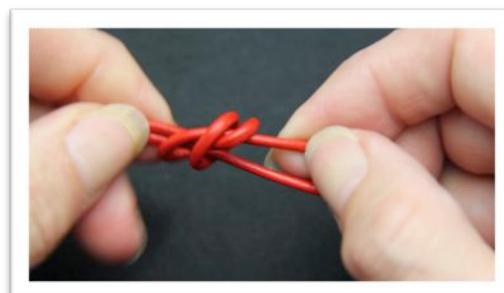
Picture #9: Push the tail through the coil, from left to right.



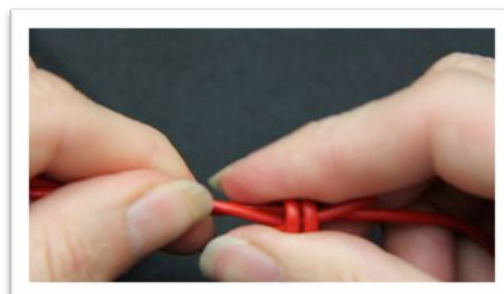
Picture #10: While gripping the coil gently with the left hand, carefully release the loop in your right hand and feed the cord through the loop as shown. Grab the tail with your right thumb and forefinger.



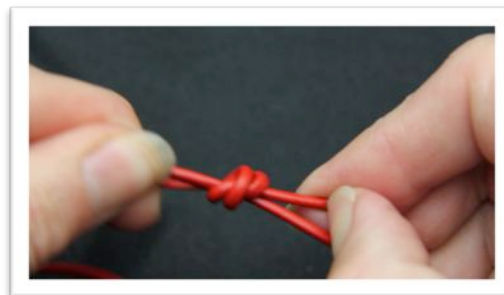
Picture #11: Gently pull the tail to tighten the coil slightly.



Picture #12: Roll the coil in between your right thumb and forefinger while working it towards the tail. Squeeze the coil while rolling to tighten it.

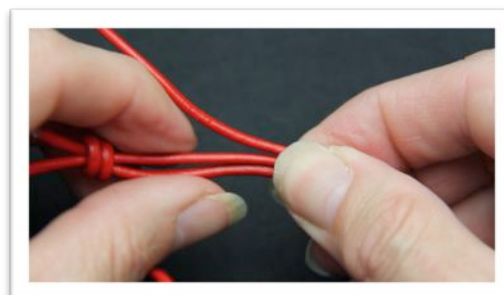


Picture #13: Pull the tail gently if the knot needs to be tighter. Continue pulling the tail and rolling the coil between your thumb and forefinger until the coil is snug. You should be able to gently slide the coil along the cord.

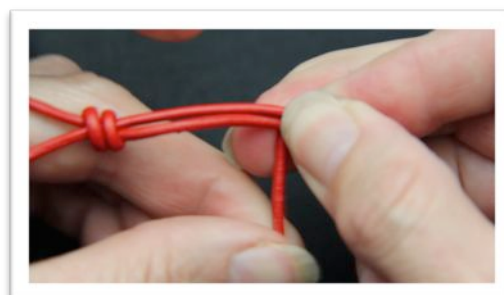


The Second Knot

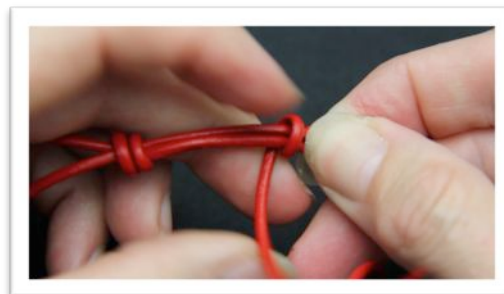
Picture #14: Flip the necklace over so that the knot is on the left as shown. Fold the tail over to make a loop, and pinch the loop in your right hand between the thumb and forefinger, just like before.



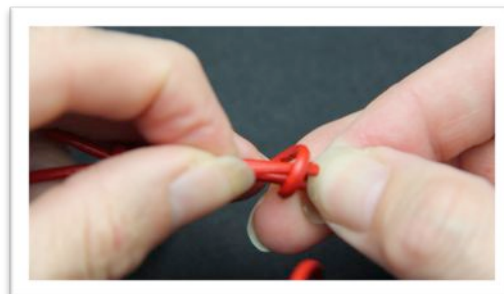
Picture #15: Push the tail backwards, behind the two cords.



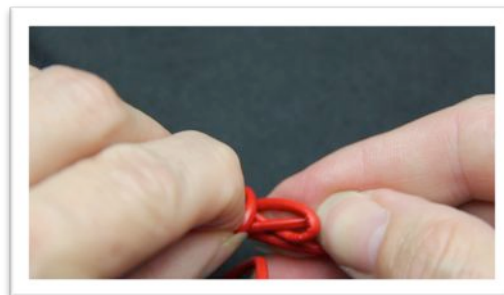
Picture #16: Bring it up from the center, and loop it in front of the two cords. Push it over and towards the back again.



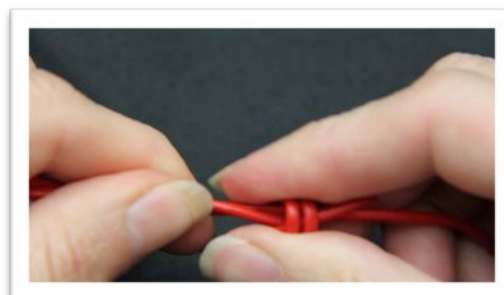
Picture #17: Grab the tail between your left thumb and forefinger, and push it left to right through the coil.



Picture #18: Carefully release the loop between your right thumb and forefinger, push the loop towards you with your thumbnail, and push the tail through the loop.

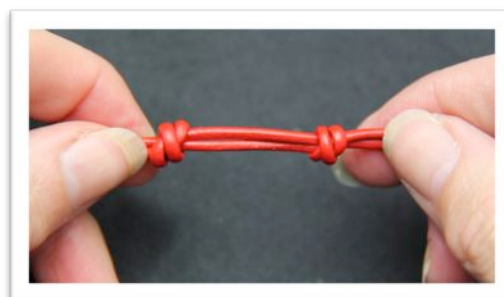


Picture #19: Roll the coil between your right thumb and forefinger while squeezing and working the coil towards the end of the tail. Try to get the coil about 1/2" from the end of the tail. If it's a little long, you can trim it with scissors.



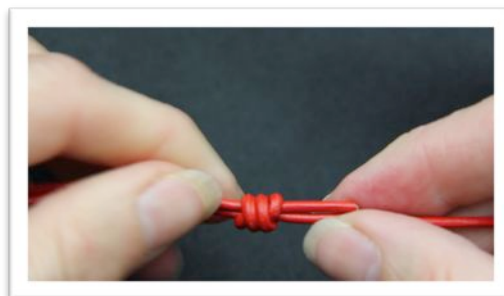
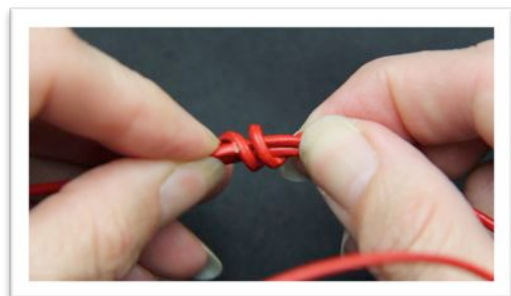
Picture #20: Try pulling adjusting the necklace and sliding the knots. If it slides very easily, tighten the knots (coils) until there is a little resistance.

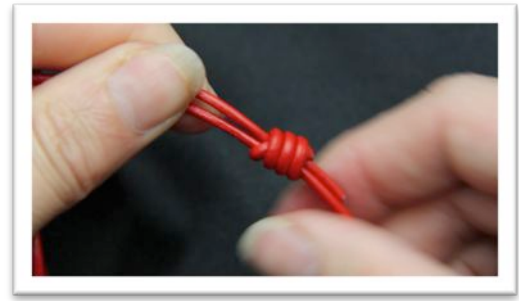
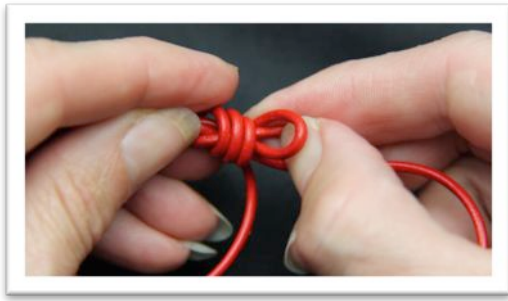
For a professional touch, try dipping the tips of the cords in matching acrylic paint or "Cova Dye" from Tandy Leather so the raw leather doesn't show.



Variations

By varying the number of coils, you can create different sized knots. However, if you're using larger cord, you'll want to use fewer knots. I usually use 1.5-2mm cord, and a double-coil triple-loop knot (first example below). I have used very fine leather cord, about 1mm, and done a quadruple-coil quintuple-loop before that was very beautiful, but customers have a hard time adjusting these and not messing up the knots. On a 1mm cord, I generally use the triple-coil quadruple-loop and advise the customer to hold the knots while adjusting the length to protect them.

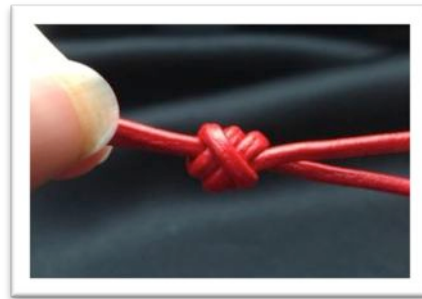




Troubleshooting: If your knot looks like the images below, there was a problem with the coil. There is a way to fix this by loosening and manipulating the coil. However, sometimes it's easier just to untie it and start over.

Remember the tip about “keeping the coil somewhat tight?” If the coil is too loose, it's hard to manage and the loops will “jump” out of position. The result is the odd-shaped knots below.

The coil(s) should be tight enough to be under control, but if it's *too* tight you won't be able to pass the tail through the coil. See the video for more information.



What? You're Left-Handed??

Congratulations! You are in the first group of Wubbers University students to benefit from modern technology and a course that takes your needs into consideration! Check out our video tutorial...the third section has the video reversed for our left-handed friends. Either click on the video in Wubbers University, or search “Sliding Knot Tutorial” on YouTube.

One Last Consideration...Leather.

If you decide to sell jewelry using this sliding cord technique and leather, you might also keep a roll of waxed cotton/linen cord handy. Some customers may be sensitive to the dyes used in the manufacture of the leather. And you may run into customers who are Vegan, who are very uncomfortable with the idea of wearing leather. They will be very appreciative of your offer to switch the cord out for them.

Review Questions

- 1) Approximately how much cord do you need for an adjustable necklace?
 - a) 18"
 - b) 1 yard
 - c) 2 ft

- 2) When looking for cord for a necklace, what attributes are important?
 - a) Consistently round cord
 - b) Supple, and bends without cracking
 - c) Not too thick
 - d) All of the above

- 3) True/False. The number of coils determines the overall size of the knot.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 4) Why should you keep an extra roll of waxed cotton/linen cord available in your booth?
 - a) Customers may be sensitive to the dyes used in the manufacture of leather
 - b) Vegan customers may be uncomfortable buying a product made from an animal
 - c) Both of these answers are correct

- 5) True/False. Arms are considered a universal measuring device.
 - a) True
 - b) False