



Buckle bracelet trio

Buckle up three styles of leather bracelets with three different handmade wire closures.

By Brenda Schweder



MotorChic WristBelt

Jig setup

1 Download the TripleBuckle template for the Now That's a Jig! at www.now-thats-a-jig.com, and print it on vellum paper. Place the template on the jig bed, aligning the corner holes. Use the PatternPunchr to punch through the four corner holes, and insert a CornerTak at each corner.

2 Punch a hole for the 1-in. (25.5 mm) square peg of the buckle as indicated on the template, and screw in the square peg. Punch a hole for the SwiveLok as indicated on the template, and partially screw it in **(a)**.

Buckle components

3 To make the buckle frame: Flush-cut a 6-in. (15.2 cm) piece of 16-gauge wire, straighten it with a mallet and bench block, clean it with steel wool, and apply Renaissance Wax with a soft cloth to seal it. Cut a 24-in. (61 cm) piece of 22-gauge wire. Tightly coil the 22-gauge wire around the 16-gauge wire (Basics) to make a 1-in. (25.5 mm) coil. Trim any excess wire, and burnish the wire ends.

4 Center the coil on the wire, and slide the wire between the square peg and the SwiveLok so that the coil extends above the top of the square peg. Turn the SwiveLok clockwise to trap the wire, and then tighten the screw. Wrap each end of the wire around the square peg, so that the coil lies along the top of the square peg and the wire ends overlap at the bottom of the peg. Lightly hammer the wire on each side of the square peg. Use a white charcoal pencil to mark where the ends overlap **(b)**.

5 Loosen the SwiveLok, and turn it away from the peg to release the trapped wire. Use a WireLiftr to lift the

Difficulty level



Materials

For all three bracelets

- Flatnose pliers
- Flush cutters strong enough to cut 16-gauge (1.3 mm) annealed steel wire
- Crystal Applicator tool (fit with Rivet 1 dies)
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Leather-punch pliers (2.8 mm hole)
- Leather edge paint and Q-tips
- Now That's a Jig! Startr Kit (www.riogrande.com)
- Now That's a Jig! accessories (www.now-thats-a-jig.com)
- TripleBuckle template
- PatternPunchr and CornerTaks
- 1-in. (25.5 mm) square peg
- ½-in. (13 mm) square peg
- ¼-in. (1.5 mm) MicroPeg (optional)
- SwiveLok
- WireLiftr
- Permanent marker (optional)
- Rawhide mallet
- Renaissance Wax and soft cloth
- Scissors
- Steel bench block or anvil
- Steel wool
- 4–6 oz. utility or ball-peen hammer
- Vellum paper
- White charcoal pencil

MotorChic WristBelt

- Dark annealed steel wire
 - 6 in. (15.2 cm) 16-gauge (1.3 mm)
 - 12 in. (30.5 cm) 16- or 18-gauge (1.3 or 1.0 mm)
 - 24 in. (61.0 cm) 22-gauge (0.6 mm)
- Strips of leather
 - Strip 1 – 1 x 2¾ in. (25.5 x 70 mm)
 - Strip 2 – 1 x 2½ in. (25.5 x 64 mm)
 - Strip 3 – 1 x 1⅞ in. (25.5 x 35 mm)
 - Strip 4 – 1 x 2 in. (25.5 x 51 mm)
 - Strip 5 – 1 x 2 in. (25.5 x 51 mm)
- 15 6 mm crystal rivets

TripleWrap DRing bracelet

- 6 in. (15.2 cm) 16-gauge (1.3 mm) dark annealed steel wire
- Strips of leather
 - Strip 1 – ½ x 5 in. (13 mm x 12.7 cm)
 - Strip 2 – ½ x 9 in. (13 mm x 22.9 cm)
 - Strip 3 – ½ x 8 in. (13 mm x 20.3 cm)
 - Strip 4 – ½ x 9½ in. (13 mm x 24.1 cm)
- 9 6 mm crystal rivets

SwissCheese EClasp bracelet

- 12 in. (30.5 cm) 14-gauge (1.3 mm) dark annealed steel wire
- 2 2 x ½ in. (51 mm x 19.1 cm) strips of leather
- 14 6 mm crystal rivets

buckle frame off the peg. Flush-cut the wire ends at the marks made in step 4. Place the frame on a bench block, and use a utility or ball-peen hammer to work-harden and texture the frame **(c)**.

6 To make the tongue: Punch the holes and insert the pegs and SwiveLok for the tongue as indicated on the template.

TIP: As you look at the template,

you will notice that the wire will make a loop around one of the pegs. I like to make the loop of the tongue smaller for a more elegant fit. You can adjust the loop size in step 7, or start with a ¼-in. (1.5 mm) MicroPeg in the loop's position now.

Flush-cut a 6-in. (15.2 cm) piece of



18-gauge wire. Slide the wire between the SwiveLok and the left-most peg, leaving a short tail extending upward, and tighten the SwiveLok. With the long wire end, follow the wire path on the template. Make a counterclockwise wrap around the right-most peg **(d)**.

7 Release the trapped wire, lift the tongue component off the pegs, and trim the excess wire. Hammer the tip of the tongue perpendicular to the line of the wire **(e)**.

8 To make the catch: Punch the holes and insert the pegs and SwiveLok for the catch as indicated on the template. Flush-cut a 6-in. (15.2 cm) piece of 16- or 18-gauge wire. Slide the wire between the SwiveLok and the left-most peg, and tighten the SwiveLok. Follow the wire path on the template. Use a white charcoal pencil to mark where the ends overlap **(f)**.

9 Release the trapped wire, and lift the catch component off the pegs. Flush-cut the wire ends at the marks made in step 8. Apply Renaissance Wax sparingly to the tongue and catch, and



buff with a soft cloth **(g)**.

Leather tiles

10 Cut five 1-in. (25.5 mm)-wide strips of leather in five colors in the following lengths:

- Strip 1 – 2¾ in. (70 mm)
- Strip 2 – 2½ in. (64 mm)
- Strip 3 – 1¾ in. (35 mm)
- Strip 4 – 2 in. (51 mm)
- Strip 5 – 2 in. (51 mm)

11 Use scissors to slightly round the corners of each leather strip. Use a marker or white charcoal pencil to mark the following holes in the strips **(h)**:

- Strip 1 – three holes at each end, plus three holes 1 in. (25.5 mm) from one end
- Strip 2 – three holes at each end
- Strip 3 – three holes at each end
- Strip 4 – three holes at each end
- Strip 5 – three holes at one end

Use leather-punch pliers to punch a hole at each mark **(i)**. For Strip 1, notice the two parallel rows of holes at one

end of the strip. Halfway between those two rows, punch a hole aligned with the center hole of each row. This will be the tongue hole.

12 Using a Q-tip, apply leather edge paint to the edges of each strip, and allow it to dry **(j)**.

Assembly and fit

13 To create the band: Lay out the leather strips so the three-hole ends overlap as desired. (I chose to “shingle” the strips in my bracelet like a roof.) Following the manufacturer’s instructions, use the Crystal Applicator tool to rivet Strips 4 and 5 with crystal rivets. Repeat to rivet the remaining strips: Strip 4 to 3, Strip 3 to 2, and Strip 2 to 1 **(k)**. Do not rivet the two parallel rows of holes at the end of Strip 1.

TIP: For ease and better alignment, always rivet the center hole first.

Steel stuff

If you’re using annealed steel wire, use pliers and tools that are dedicated to use with steel wire.



14 To assemble the buckle component: Use your fingers to flatten the tongue's curves a bit. Slide the loop of the tongue onto the catch. Position the catch along the side of the buckle opposite the coil so that the tongue's tip rests on the coil.

15 Lay the bracelet face down. Feed the end of Strip 1 through the catch and buckle, making sure to also feed the tongue through the tongue hole. Fold over the end of Strip 1, capturing the buckle and lining up the remaining rivet holes. Turn the piece over, and use the Crystal Applicator tool to rivet **(l)**.

16 Check the fit, and punch a fitting hole in Strip 5 to fit your wrist **(m)**. Punch one or two additional holes in Strips 5 and 4 as desired. Use scissors to round the corners of Strip 5, and use a Q-tip to carefully apply leather edge paint to the corners and the inside of the fitting holes. Allow it to dry.

TripleWrap DRing bracelet Jig setup

1 Prepare the jig for the vellum pattern template as in step 1 of "MotorChic WristBelt." Punch a hole for the 3/4-in. (19 mm) round peg of the D-ring frame as indicated on the template, and screw in the peg. Punch the hole for the SwiveLok, and partially screw it in.

D-ring components

2 Flush-cut a 6-in. (15.2 cm) piece of

16-gauge wire. Wrap the wire twice around the 3/4-in. (19 mm) peg, overlapping the wire ends. Use a white charcoal pencil to mark where the ends overlap **(n)**.

3 Loosen the SwiveLok, and turn it away from the peg to release the trapped wire. Use a WireLiftr to lift the wire from the jig. To make two D-rings: Flush-cut the ends at the marks made in step 2 **(o)**. Use flatnose pliers to flatten a 1/4-in. (6.5 mm) section on each side of the ring opening for both rings **(p)**. Hammer the D-rings, clean them with steel wool, and seal with Renaissance Wax as in step 9 of the MotorChic WristBelt.

Leather strips

4 Cut four 1/2-in. (13 mm)-wide strips of leather in four colors in the following lengths:

- Strip 1 – 5 in. (12.7 cm)
- Strip 2 – 9 in. (22.9 cm)
- Strip 3 – 8 in. (20.3 cm)
- Strip 4 – 9 1/2 in. (24.1 cm)

Determine how you will lay out your leather strips, and then use scissors to trim the ends of the strips: Trim any end that will show on the front of the bracelet diagonally. Trim ends that will be on the back of the bracelet, against the skin, by rounding the corners. Trim the end of the bracelet (that will feed through the D-clasp to fasten it) diagonally.

5 Lay Strip 1 face down, and feed the end through both D-rings. Fold over the end of strip 1, capturing the flat side of the D-rings. Use leather-punch pliers to punch three holes in a triangular shape on the top portion of the folded strip, and then use a marker or white charcoal pencil to mark corresponding holes on the bottom portion. Punch the marked bottom holes, but do not punch through the top holes a second time to align the bottom holes — the top holes will stretch, and the rivets might fall through.

6 Position 1 in. (25.5 mm) of the diagonal end of Strip 1 on top of the rounded end of Strip 2. Mark and punch two holes where the ends overlap. Repeat for Strips 2 and 3, and Strips 3 and 4. If desired, use a Q-tip to carefully apply leather edge paint to the edges of each strip, and allow it to dry.

Assembly and fit

7 To create the band: Lay out the strips, and arrange them so the holes overlap as desired. Fold over the end of Strip 1 to capture the D-rings. Following the manufacturer's instructions, use the Crystal Applicator tool to set the crystal rivets **(q)**. Continue riveting Strip 1 to 2, Strip 2 to 3, and Strip 3 to 4 **(r)**.

8 Wrap the bracelet three times around your wrist. Feed the end of Strip 4 through both D-rings and then back through only the top D-ring. Trim the



excess of Strip 4 if needed, and carefully apply leather-edge paint if desired.

SwissCheese EClasp bracelet

Jig setup

1 Prepare the jig as in step 1 of “MotorChic WristBelt.” Punch holes for the ¼-in. (6.5 mm) round pegs and ½-in. (13 mm) square pegs of the E-clasp as indicated on the template, and screw in the appropriate pegs. Punch the hole for the SwiveLok, and partially screw it in.

E-clasp component

2 Flush-cut a 12-in. (30.5 cm) piece of 14-gauge wire. Slide the wire between the top ¼-in. (6.5 mm) peg and the SwiveLok, leaving a 1-in. (25.5 mm) tail extending toward the top of the jig. Turn the SwiveLok clockwise to trap the wire, and tighten the screw.

3 With the long wire end, follow the wire path on the template, overlapping the wire ends at the bottom square peg. Using a white charcoal pencil, mark the long wire just short of the intersection, and mark the tail wire 3–4 mm short of the long wire as shown (s).

4 Loosen the SwiveLok, and turn it



away from the peg to release the trapped wire. Use a WireLiftr to lift the E-clasp component off the pegs. Flush-cut the wire ends at the marks made in step 3. Hammer the rings, clean them with steel wool, and seal with Renaissance Wax, as in step 9 of the MotorChic WristBelt.

Leather pieces

5 Cut two 2 x 7½-in. (51 mm x 19.1 cm) strips of leather, each in a different color. Use scissors or a rotary cutter and mat to trim the long sides diagonally to form a subtle trapezoid shape, and slightly round the corners.

6 Determine which color strip you would like to be the top of your bracelet. On that strip, use a marker or white charcoal pencil to mark the rivet holes as follows:

- Four holes at the narrow end
- Five holes at the wide end
- Five holes 1½ in. (38 mm) from the wide end
- Five holes 2 in. (51 mm) from the wide end

On the remaining color strip, mark the rivet holes as follows:

- Four holes ¼ in. (6.5 mm) from the narrow end
- Four holes 1 in. (25.5 mm) from the narrow end
- Five holes at the wide end
- Five holes ¼ in. (6.5 mm) from the previous set of holes at the wide end



Use leather-punch pliers to punch the marked holes. For the top strip, randomly punch holes of different sizes for a Swiss-cheese effect (t). Using a Q-tip, apply leather edge paint to only the edges of each strip, and allow it to dry.

Assembly and fit

7 Stack the strips so that the rough sides are together. At the wide end, the top strip has three rows of holes. Rivet the middle row of holes to the end-most row of holes in the bottom strip. This is the row that is already completed in (u).

8 Fold over the end of the top strip, capturing the E-clasp, and line up the remaining rows of rivet holes in the top and bottom strips. Use the Crystal Applicator tool to rivet (v).

9 At the narrow end of the strips, fold the bottom strip over the top strip, aligning all three rows of rivet holes. Use the Crystal Applicator tool to rivet (v).

Colors & sources

I bought my leather from www.createrecklessly.com and my crystal rivets from www.dreamtimecreations.com. For the MotorChic WristBelt, the crystal rivets are coral pearl with stainless steel backs. For the TripleWrap and SwissCheese bracelets, the crystal rivets are black diamond with stainless steel backs.



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