

HIKING *and* SURVIVAL *Skills*

*Learning to Use Multi Purpose
Paracord*

ALEX TROTSSENKO

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INTRODUCTION

Camping is a great way to enjoy wildlife away from the noise of the city and its electronics. Such recreation offers an ideal opportunity to calm down and decrease mental pressure. To get only positive emotions from your stay, you need to prepare carefully. Apart from choosing what to put in your hiking bag, basic survival skills are important to learn. For example: how to start a fire, how to put up a tent, orienteering, and many others.

Nowadays there is a wide range of tools that can greatly ease your life away from the city. However, experienced scouts take the minimum of necessary hiking package along with surviving skills and creativity, instead of the incredibly heavy load of various gear. This helps them to achieve everything they need, even under extreme conditions. Hence, understanding of using the simplest tools in a non-standard way would be very useful for both beginners and experienced travelers.

Even if your plans do not involve an intense hiking trip, considerate planning will help you to achieve one more goal. We want to feel like we are a part of nature and protecting its resources without doing severe damage to the world. And this is as important

as are essential things in a backpack. How to get ready for camping? Let's take a few tips on this topic. They will be useful not just for those who go camping for the first time but for experienced travelers as well.

CHAPTER 1

HOW TO PREPARE FOR CAMPING

What do you imagine when you hear the word "camping"? Someone can recall songs next to fire, the other - the night sky full of stars. However, if some irreplaceable tool either collapses or gets lost, or is simply forgotten at home, all this romantic atmosphere will fade away.

TOP LIST OF ITEMS REQUIRED FOR A HIKING

The Internet is full of impressive lists of items considered important to any walking trip. Authors also frequently express their subjective opinions on the point. We have to accept that the backpack's contents would differ depending on the length of the trip and the distance from human society.

It is crucial if the trip is going to be by car or on foot, single or a group camping. In any case, a few dozen things would be on the list of must-have. Why? During the trip, you won't have an opportunity to go or even drive to a store to get food supplies or buy a

new device instead of a broken one. So a thoroughly planned list is very important.

For the same reason, don't save on the quality of things when you're getting ready for the trip. Choose reliable things, from proven manufacturers. It doesn't mean you have to find something different. For example, someone who is afraid of getting cold if the temperature suddenly falls might want to buy very expensive thermal underwear. In reality, however, it can bring more disappointment than do you any good. Such things quite often require special care, neglecting which they lose all of their functionality. And if you only choose to rest only during the vacation then the rest of the time that kind of clothing will simply lie in the closet. So, choose a simpler model without compromising quality.

Camping sets such as "100-in-one" do not always answer to the money spent on them, either. They often become worthless because there are elements that do not have the proper quality. Preparation for camping can be simplified by splitting the list into logical blocks and highlighting the most practical things, without which it is hard to imagine a holiday with a tent. We strongly encourage you to think about such moments.

Where to spend the night

There is no need to talk about the value of planning in a situation like this. To stay overnight, you'll need a

comfortable tent. Pay particular attention to the item's range. If you're a novice, then you may be shocked to find that not all tents are waterproof by default. To avoid such an awkward thing away from home, check this point beforehand and soak it with a silicone spray if necessary. And one more thing: practice installing it at home or outside where comfortable so that during the first camping you don't face any problems in the forest while the sun is quickly going down.

Roll mat and a sleeping bag are the things that always go together with the tent. They should make your sleep a little more relaxed and enjoyable. Also at the hottest time of year, sleeping on the bare ground would be cold. There's a large range of sleeping bags currently available that can sustain the ideal temperature even in cold weather conditions. Make your choice, considering the fact that the weather can get significantly worse. Roll mats are also multifunctional. In addition to being used directly as bedding, it may be used to transport the injured in case of an emergency.

Menu and cooking

Think of an approximate menu in advance, depending on how many people are camping. This way, making a list of the required items would be easier for you. Do not forget to bring in drinkable water. If you are planning a long journey with a tent, it will make sense to buy a filter for camping. This will manage its job perfectly and will provide you with the necessary amount of life-giving water.

Be sure to take canned food with you, by the way. Later in the book, we'll explain how to use them to build a camp stove. How many ways do you know to start a fire? The more, the better, because you never know what can happen to a lighter or a box of matches. This doesn't mean you should forget them at home but they were replaced long ago. There are things a lot more important than those, but we'll dwell on them more later on in the book. As for dishes, we hope you'll choose reusable metal mugs and bowls for your trip.

Refusing from plastic plates and cups will mean you don't need to find ways to dispose of them. In addition to that, you have many choices for heating pads at once: a fire-heated metal can hold heat for a long time to come. This feature is used by experienced scouts to warm up their tent during a cold night. You can't make a fire in it, but it's a very safe idea to put a hot stone in a pot wrapped in foil.

The only thing worth mentioning is the necessity of isolating the metal from direct contact with the tent floor. To do this, lay a wooden board between them. Whatever dishes you take on your camping trip, bring with you an extra pack of aluminum foil. It can be used as a container for baking dishes, and even for boiling water, for making fire without matches. Well, what type of tableware can be made from foil? It is an endless variety of options.

Be prepared for unexpected situations

Getting your first aid kit ready is often on the second place. However, such trifles as a tiny cut or a sip of water from the wrong spring can ruin the camping impression entirely. In the worst-case scenario, it will lead to serious problems with health.

Disinfectants and bandages, adsorbents, antipyretic medications, and antihistamines are the main components of the first-aid kit. Consider the kind of medication you may require depending on your needs. Experts in camping advise you to provide two sets of medicines: for emergency and secondary assistance. That will save time when it takes immediate action.

Mosquitoes, flies, and mites are part of outdoor recreation. But you can be effectively protected from their bites thanks to the accomplishments of modern science. There are plenty of sprays that are enough to spray onto clothes without damaging your skin. These devices also have an additional feature to help you start the fire.

TOOLS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES

Great travelers have happened to be jacks-of-all-trades. After all, they're needed everywhere: to put up a tent, cut wood, and sometimes (or all the time) deal with different types of breakdowns and malfunctions that will inevitably accompany you throughout the trip. There are plenty of

useful devices that come in handy for hiking, but a [knife](#) and [paracord](#) are truly important. Of course, it's easier to take an axe with you, but trust me, it doesn't make things difficult as it may seem at first glance if you don't have it. It is better to take various kinds of knives. [Folding multitools](#), by default, replace many useful devices. But the clumsy hunting knife can fit for more than it's intended purpose. This will be addressed in the corresponding section of the book. Paracord, or parachute cord, has also become very popular because of its versatility.

Manufacturers offer compact ready-made designs that allow you to fit 2-10 m of strong rope into your pocket. There is a belief, in general, that these two elements are quite enough for survival. Naturally, this is true for critical circumstances. The fact indicates, however, that the option of [knife](#) and [paracord](#) should be taken very seriously.

Instructions for manufacturing camp stove

A camping stove is another item about which it would be unfair to keep silent. Light and compact, it helps out under the conditions of a lack of firewood. Cones, dry grass, and tiny chips are enough to start a fire. Using this small device, not only can you boil tea or coffee water but also prepare a soup or main course. Try building a stove like this yourself. There is no need for special skills or capabilities, and materials will always be found for this. Thus, even a teenager can handle the task. But I would

like to point out the importance of keeping safety measures before proceeding with the instructions. The device is small, but it creates intense heat. Therefore, to remove dishes from heat, always use gloves or a handlebar. Another notice relates to the legislation on fire safety. It would be sad if an unattended stove triggered a fire of dry leaves or grass, resulting in the uncontrolled spread of flames. So make sure that your home-made unit doesn't harm people or the environment when you finish cooking.

Manufacturing process

You'll need a [knife](#), two tall cans of different sizes. Take a smaller container and make holes at the bottom. Then, backing 2-2.5 cm from the top edge, pierce the jar around the circumference in several places. This is important for a draught to be produced. Turn over the bigger jar and cut a circle equal to the size of a smaller container. Before that, make the holes around the perimeter on the lower edge. The final move is to insert the smaller jar upside down into the bigger one's opening, turned upside down. Now you can load the material for petrol. Create a stand to make it easier for you to throw firewood into the fire. You can use the tin out of another tin can to do this again. As you can see, there are many benefits of the camp stove: it is environmentally friendly, easy to make, and to use. If the old one fails, you can always create a new one too.

CHAPTER 2

HOW TO CHOOSE A KNIFE FOR HIKING

A [camping knife](#) used to look like a hand axe. Nowadays, compact models are more common because most people go to have rest in a tent, rather than to fight for survival. Let's find out what you should watch out for when you buy.

Types of knives

[Multitool folders](#) are famous for their portability and security. Although such a knife is fitted with a range of devices, from a corkscrew to a fork, it remains small and easily slips into your pocket. Still, it can't completely replace a proper blade. Too much load can cause the blade to loosen, and the folding mechanism to fail.

Varieties with a [blade fixation](#) are the best option. It will keep the knife from folding in unpredictable ways and protect against injury. In camping, [non-folding](#) knives are used more frequently. This choice should be used as a striking instrument or axe. It's important to remember, though, that there are limitations even for the best knife. If the penknife's

place is in the pocket, the ones that have the fixed blade are worn on the sheath belt.

BLADE MATERIAL

Blades are usually made of carbon or stainless steel. The first type of material offers sturdy and durable knives that hold the blade sharp for a long time. These are vulnerable to corrosion and at the same time need careful maintenance.

Clean the blade and wipe it dry. You may also need to have a polishing paste, as the formation of oxide spots is a common thing. Stainless steel provides great performance for outdoor use. Although the [knife](#) requires sharpening, it is much easier to sharpen than a carbon one. Any grinding machine is suitable for this. The material's name itself means that the blade is not afraid of moisture-it resists corrosion completely.

HANDLE

The handle's convenience is, in large part, a subjective problem. One thing sure that its length must be longer than the palm's width. The handles with finger recesses are ideally suited for relaxed use. Yet there will be troubles in use with the extra decor and ornate twists. The round form also stops the blade from being gripped hard. To follow the traditions, travelers are likely to opt for a [wooden handle](#) of a knife.

Wood in hand feels easy, strong, and pleasing to the eye. There are no arguments against this sort of material. The only peculiarity – a water-repellent must be used to clean the wood. Otherwise, it would be suffering from sweat, consuming both odors and dirt. Do not avoid any plastic varieties which are often superior in terms of quality to the same handles made of wood.

It is said that metal blades are the most durable. Yes, these models differ in price and look extremely impressive. When you intend to relax in warm weather, you will not feel any discomfort while using a knife like this. But it's worth noting that the metal is really hot when it's lying in the light, whereas on a frosty day you can only work with it in gloves. Whatever knife you pick, you must be careful not to lose them. You should fasten them to the belt using a [paracord](#) to do this. This weaving is regarded as a sword-knot. You'll get fast access to both the blade and the rope after you've designed such a tool.

NON-STANDARD APPLICATION OF KNIFE WHILE HIKING

The [knife](#) has plenty of uses, not just when you need to cut or cut off something. It can play the role of a real multitool after all and substitute a dozen tools.

When you need to open something

If your multifunctional tool with an opener and a corkscrew is out of order for some reason, use a [knife](#) blade to open a tin can, or remove a beer bottle's lid. You can even uncork the wine, but you need to behave properly. It is not about moving the cork inside. Attach 2/3 of the length of the blade and turn the bottle upside down to dampen the cork with the wine. Then rotate the blade gently in a clockwise direction, pushing it out slowly. Of course, a narrow blade is used as a corkscrew. Otherwise, you'll just cut half of the cork.

When you need to make a bonfire

In such a situation, firstly, you can get firewood or chop wood chips with the help of a [camping knife](#). That means to use it as a little hammer. Secondly, flint and a blade skillfully used as a fire striker will let you make fire without matches or a lighter. It doesn't mean that such a method is preferable, but one has to be prepared for all kinds of surprises while camping, including the need to create a bonfire unusually.

Instead of weights and rulers

Construction of a [knife](#) and a wooden crossbar doesn't need to be extremely exact. With its help, however, you can measure the number of cooking ingredients, or find out the approximate mass of the mushrooms or caught fish. You can use items with a fixed weight (canned or pre-packaged cereals) as weights. You can also measure the

length of the object "in knives." If you have information about the exact size of the blade, you can measure it in centimeters.

Screwdriver, scissors, shovel & even a hammer

Using a blade instead of the devices mentioned above doesn't make sense if you take them with you. We are talking about those cases where there is no point in wasting time looking for the right topic. A [knife](#), for example, can handle the job of pulling up a loose frame on glasses, cutting off a piece of fabric or paper, or digging a small hole. In the case of an emergency, it may be used to smash out car glass instead of a hammer. The knife is always at hand, but reach a hammer is hard sometimes.

CHAPTER 3

PARACORD

Any person in his or her life has faced the situation where he or she needed to tie or fasten something, to wrap or to rewind, to transport or to pass, to ascend or to go down, to pick up or to lower, to catch or carry, to attach or to pull off – a parachute line may do all this and many other things and is called a [paracord](#).

The development of military parachute systems has led to the invention of this thin, strong, light, elastic, and durable cord. Originally, the paracord was used in airborne troops during the Second World War, later the paracord was approved for use by the U.S. military forces, and was also used during the repair of the Hubble Space Telescope when the astronaut had to be securely fixed to the spacecraft in space. You can not entrust such a task to the ordinary wire, and the paracord has not failed.

Paracord rapidly gained attention and popularity outside the military use. Firstly, only the cut lines of the used parachute canopy were used, but soon the parachute manufacturers recognized the importance of their product and started to produce it for

commercial purposes. The paracord has become increasingly popular with visitors and travelers.

Today, maybe there is not a single field of tourism where a paracord is not included. Because of all the qualities-mentioned above, lightweight, solid, light, elastic, robust, it is used not only as of the main element of the equipment but also as an auxiliary and protection component.

Why does anyone prefer paracord when there are plenty of other tubes, ties, ropes, and threads that are equally durable? Precisely because in one product the paracord is a wire, a cord, a rope and a string! [Paracord](#) is a nylon casing in which seven ropes are woven, each of them is made from three fibers. A paracord is, therefore, a cable in general, but if you strip the ropes out of it, then the nylon shell becomes a lace. And if you unweave one of the seven cords, then we'll get three strong nylon threads separately. When the nylon casing is loosened, the same threads can be obtained.



Paracord

There are six types of paracord: I, IA, II, IIA, III, IV. The most common type III has a minimum tensile force of 550 pounds (250 kg), which is often called the "[550 cord](#)". You can compare the characteristics of all types of paracord in table 1.

A military-grade III type paracord may be thicker than a commercial cord since the standard requires the use of triplex bundles of the thread in the core. A military paracord usually has a thickness of 4 millimeters, whereas commercial options are thinner – about 3 mm.

Presented a parachute cord of the MIL-TEC type on amazon.com as a military one, consisting of nine threads three each with a minimum tensile force of 250 and a commercial paracord 7 * 2 with a minimum tensile force of 160 kg, as you can see the difference is dramatic and can often cost lives. An unprepared person, however, is unlikely to tell the difference visually. For example, the test for breaking different paracord brands can be seen on this [link](#). But, it does not apply to our commercial paracord of the [GW brand](#), which like the army version, has a thickness of 4 mm and the corresponding strength characteristics. The parachute cord military standards include the unpainted nylon casing, as for parachute cords, or painted in green protective colour. Commercial manufacturers use hundreds of different colours.

Table 1. Characteristics of types of paracord

Type	Minimum tensile force	Minimum tension (%)	Bulk weight, more than (g/m)	Number of threads in the core	Structure of braid
I	43	30 %	1,57	1	16/1
IA	45	30 %	1,42	absent	16/1
II	181	30 %	5,62	from 4 to 7	32/1 or 36/1
IIA	102	30 %	3,0	Absent	32/1 or36/1
III	249	30 %	6,61	from 7 to 9	32/1 or 36/1

HOW TO CHOOSE A PARACORD?

Choosing a parachute cord should be done very carefully, as careful as you take your own safety because a high-quality paracord will never let you down in any situation.

You need to pay attention to some of the characteristics when selecting a paracord. While selecting a cord in an online store, pay careful attention to the characteristics of quality, namely: fiber, number of threads in the heart, and weave. If the seller carefully avoids the paracord's composition and how much weight it can hold, consider choosing another company. Typically, general characteristics such as "qualitative," "solid," etc. stand for poor quality.

MATERIAL TYPE

Paracord should be made of 100% nylon without any additives or mixes of other materials. Remember that both paracord braid and core have to be made of nylon. Quite often, Chinese manufacturers make a polyester braid which is cheaper, wears out quicker, and does not have features of such strength as nylon. And the problem is not only that the polyester is itself weaker than nylon, but that producing a paracord from two materials that have entirely different properties is technically incorrect.

You may easily differentiate between polyester and nylon, cutting off one piece of paracord with a hot knife, if the core is attached to the braid, then both the braid and the core are made of nylon. The polyester is not fusing with nylon, and that is immediately obvious. Here you can find how to verify that and test results from different brands.

BRAID QUALITY

The braid must be woven of 32 or more threads. The weaving should be tight enough but elastic enough on the threads, without breaks, pellets, and knots. The braid should be smooth over the entire length and have a homogeneous structure and thickness.

INTERNAL CONTENT

Within the braid, there can be seven ropes and more. The style and colour of the inner ropes depend on the intent of the paracord and the specific manufacturer who can mark one of the ropes with a distinctive colour.

QUALITY OF ROPES

The main ropes within the braid should be made from three nylon threads and have a homogeneous structure along the entire length. In selecting a high-quality paracord, the MANUFACTURER is no less important. Good suppliers have a perfect reputation and respect the quality of their products. When selecting different types of paracord from different manufacturers, any variations from the characteristics above should be taken into account.

PARACORD APPLICATION

There are so many fields of application for paracord that it is not possible to list them all. They are limited only by your imagination.

Here are just some of the options for using paracord:

- as sturdy shoelaces;
- as a belt, suspenders for pants;
- if the tongue from the zipper slider on clothes or equipment is broken;
- to pull an awning, tent, tarp, raincoat tent, poncho;
- as a cable for lifting goods to a height;
- for clothes and equipment repair;
- as a belt for a machine gun and other weapons;
- like carbines, straps, loops, or attachments to equipment;
- as a rope for drying clothes and equipment;
- as a replacement of a climbing rope for descents and ascents;
- as a safety cable;
- as a leash when moving at night or in conjunction;
- for braiding the handle of a knife, sword-knot for a knife;
- as a cord for stretching or signaling;
- as a towing cable;
- for securing cargo and equipment to vehicles, military equipment;
- for transport and equipment repair;
- as a bowstring in the production of fire by friction;
- as a bunch in the construction of a home;
- to weave a hammock;
- to make a trap for animals;

- to make snowshoes from branches;
- to tie logs for the raft;
- to make a spear, a sling, a "bola";
- to anchor, moor the boat;
- like fishing line;
- for weaving mesh;
- for transferring or drying fish: pull the cord through the gills;
- to make a splint in case of a fracture or dislocation;
- for suturing;
- to make a stretcher: pull the cord between two sticks;
- to make a bandage for an injured hand;
- to weave a harness for carrying the wounded on the back;
- to remove the wounded from under the rockslide;
- to make a whip or a lash;
- like dental floss;
- to tie the hands, feet of the enemy, the criminal, to tie him;
- to bind, bind the animal to something;
- for a rope ladder;
- as a girth forelegs when climbing smooth tree trunks;
- to direct water flowing down a tree or rock into a container;
- for the manufacture of snares.

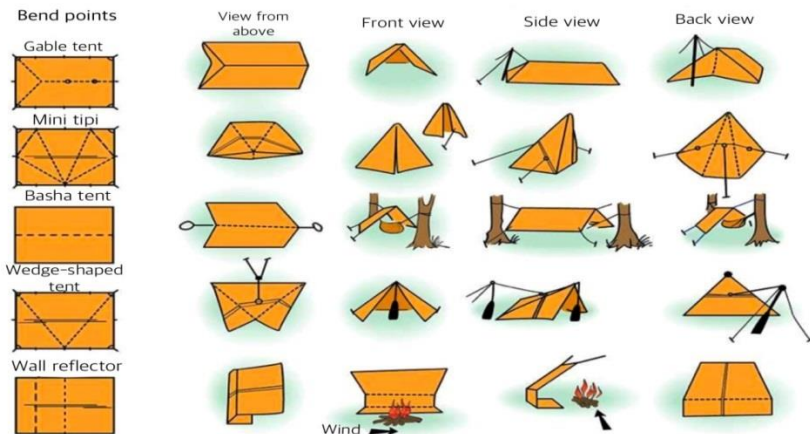
CHAPTER 4

PARACORD FOR CAMPING

Why do tourists take a [paracord](#)? Mainly for organizing camping. It can be, like setting up tents and attaching things, but also a bunch of other useful applications.

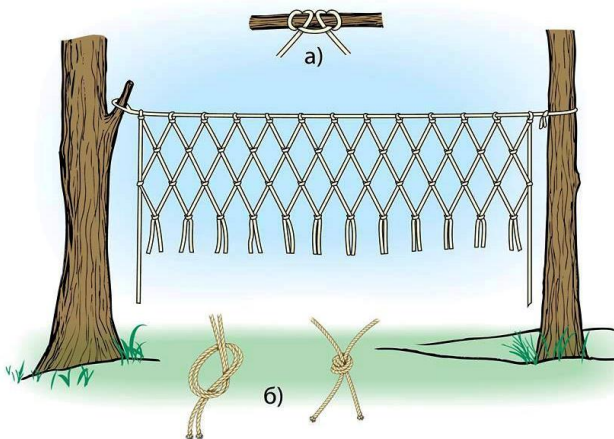
AWNING, TENT, CANOPY

You can use any type of paracord and in any condition to set up the tent, pull the tent and a canopy. To securely attach the fabric to the support, even the paracord wrapping is sufficient, while the internal content can be useful for other purposes.



LACES

Paracord can also be used as shoelaces if the old ones have worn out. Usage of a 1.8-2 meter long cord is recommended. Fire may melt the ends of the rope, making them a thin type of small caps in loops or shoe eyelets for more convenient lacing. But the peculiarity of the smooth shell is that the paracord will untie itself, so the use of the snake knot (link for this knot in Chapter five), which is considered one of the most effective knots for connecting synthetic threads, is preferred. It has plenty of interweaving, is symmetrical, and, when tightened, fairly compact.



Paracord network

FRICION FIRE

[Paracord](#) is useful also for friction-producing fire. For this, a small piece of paracord or braid is required as a string for a bow drill. In this case, the paracord increases the velocity of friction, which helps to get the fire faster.

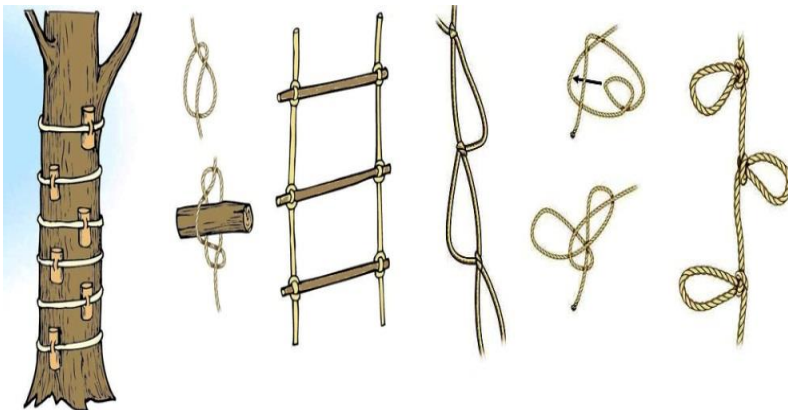


Paracord fire production

PARACORD STAIRCASE

Climbing a tree, going down into a gorge or ravine, climbing a high shelter, getting to a cave – a ladder is useful for all of this, and it can also be made of paracord.

For different purposes, different types of stairs are used. On the ground are knitted the first three steps, while the fourth can be knitted directly onto a stretched cord. They are all easy to produce and are very effective in operation.



Paracord ladder

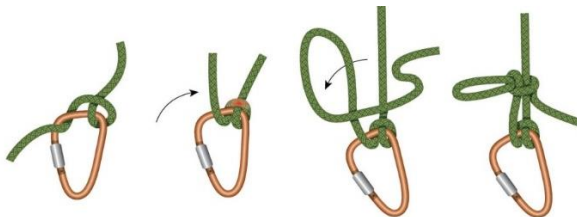
CLOTHES REPAIR

To repair clothes a nylon thread can be broken into three thinner threads, although it is easier to use the whole thread to repair shoes or to make shoes from improvised material. This can also be used as gear for fishing. The thread melts well, glides but doesn't decay, and is solid in both dry and wet conditions.

DESCENDING USING PARACORD

It is ideal to combine a paracord with a usual carbine or a mountaineering "eight" carbine for the urgent and safe descent from houses, rocks, and trees. In the first case, the paracord goes through a carbine is hooked by a double fire knot on a strong belt, which controls the speed. This knot is used when the climbing equipment has no unique elements.

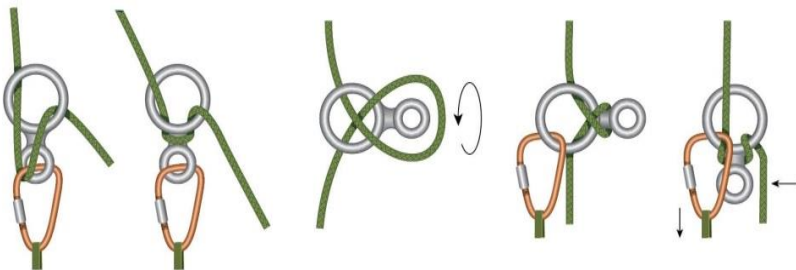
Without the equipment, you can put the paracord through the strong belt on your trousers using a fire knot, but that can only be done in emergency circumstances! The paracord's first position is used for safety, the second for braking, and the third and fourth for blocking.



Paracord with a carbine

In the second case, the paracord is used in combination with the mountaineering "eight" carbine (link for this knot in Chapter 5). Various combinations of paracord positions are made for a smoother and easier descent than using only one carbine. At the same time, the paracord is not rubbing as much as in the example above. The paracord's first position is used for speed descent, the second position is used for normal descent, in the third position the paracord is fastened to the "eight" carbine, the fourth position indicates the carbine's hooking point, and in the fifth – the position of the rope during the descent.

When descending with a paracord, you need to remember that the rope can withstand static rather than dynamic load. In extreme conditions, it must be used very carefully, without dynamic jerks, with an allowable load on the paracord, although it has the property of elasticity up to 30 %.

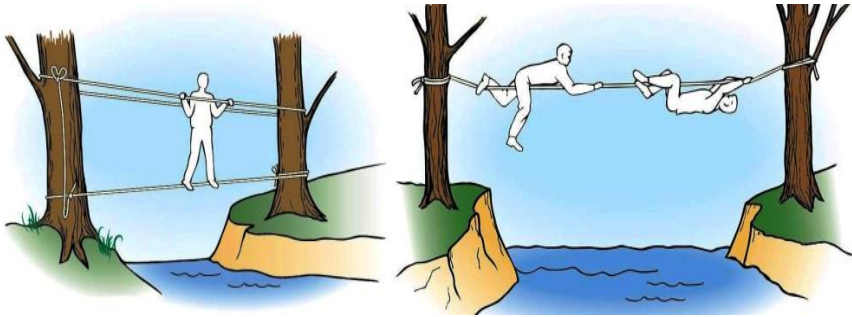


Paracord and climbing "eight" with a carbine

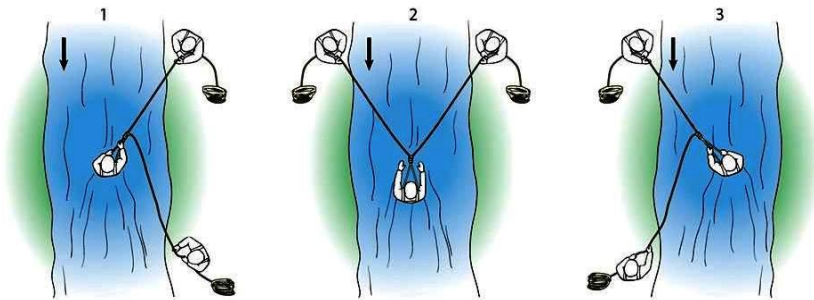
CROSSING THROUGH OBSTACLES

You can overcome obstacles horizontally, using a taut paracord. It can withstand not only climbs and descents but also the stress of rope railing.

Paracord is useful if you need to cross stormy rivers to the other side. In this case, it is a security element for the transported person's insurance.



Horizontal crossing



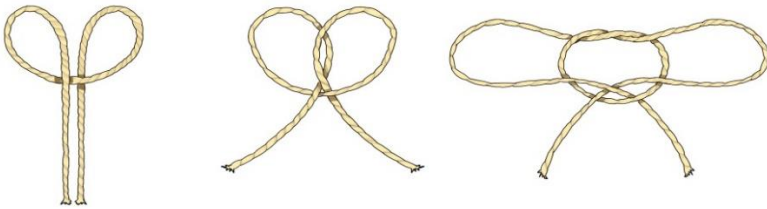
Crossing the river

For safety reasons it is necessary to ensure that the paracord does not touch the stones; otherwise, it may not withstand friction against sharp edges. The paracord must be tested for shabby spots after the

descent, and then used for its intended purpose, taking into account the defects identified.

HANDCUFFS

A double rope in the loop area is wrapped around the finger, threading the free ends through the loop to create handcuffs. This is done twice, after which both sides of the free ends are threaded to the formed knot, forming loops.



Handcuffs

The rope is pulled together, and the loops are placed over the arm, and the limbs are firmly tied, then it only remains to bind the loose ends in the form of a double simple knot or figure-eight. These handcuffs bind hands behind the back away from sources of fire and cutting edges.

CHAPTER 5

PARACORD KNOTS

In any case, this type of rope is better knitted with special knots appropriate for smooth nylon threads, as other knots can untie in the most inappropriate moment. When knitting knots, one should not forget to do additional safety knots at the ends of the tied ropes. Self-untying knots are tied with an extra loop in the knot on one of the ends of the rope or with a stick already inserted into the knot.

Paracord Thickening Knots

Figure-Eight Loop. It is used as a stopping knot, slipping through the locking hole.

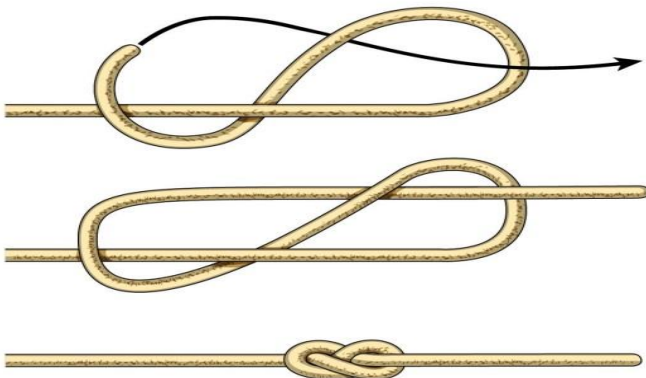
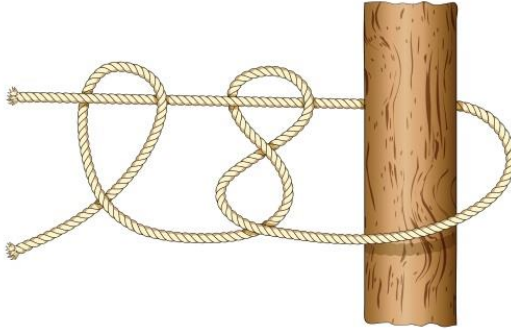


Figure-Eight Loop

Non-tightening knots

Hammock Hitch. It is used to tie in a hammock or to support a canopy. It is reliable and easy to untie. It can be used in all cases when working with a paracord when it is under strong traction in one direction.



Hammock Hitch

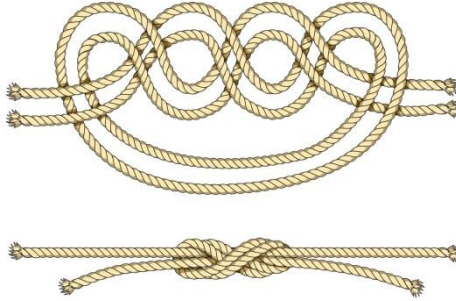
Hitch with a free end. In the situation when the direction of traction changes, the knot moves less along with the subject for which it is connected. When dealing with a paracord, it can be used in all situations when it is under heavy tractions in different directions.



Hitch with a rim

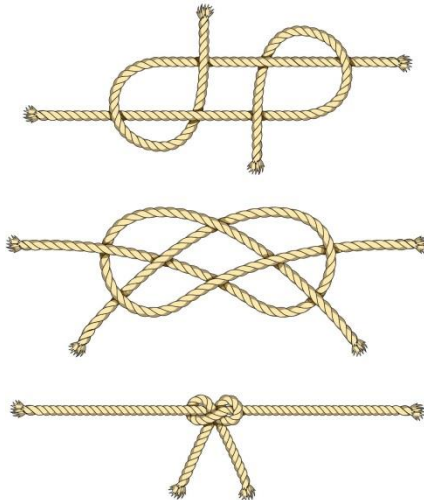
Knots for tying two cables

Water hitch. Simple and reliable. But, with strong traction, it is tightened so much that it is very difficult to untie.



Water hitch

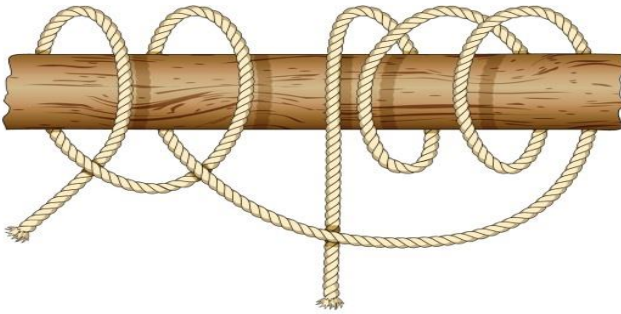
Herbal knot. Reliable and can endure great loads. When there is no traction, it's easy to untie. It is from the stopping hitches group and when you tighten the root ends the knot bends and takes a different form.



Herbal knot

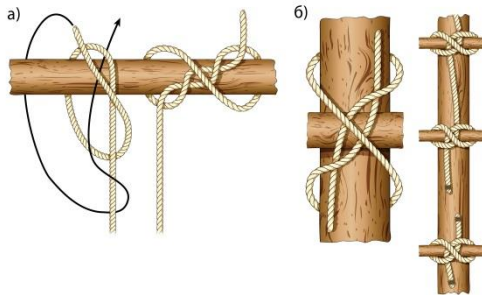
Self-tightened knots

Schwabisch Hitch. It is reliable and practical in any weather. It behaves predictably in all directions of traction if fixed on both a cord (rope) and a solid object. When correctly tied, it does not slip either left or right. It is always easy to untie it, even if it has got wet and tightened.



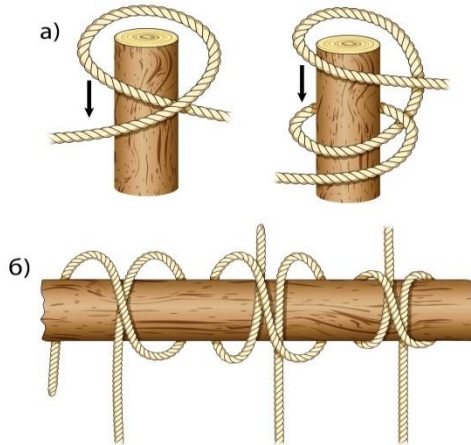
Schwabisch Hitch

Strangle Knot. Very strong and holds well, and tightens firmly (a). It may be useful when tying two transverse rails. When you connect them using this knot it will be much stronger than using nails. It can be used when building a raft of logs when one stick needs to be tied to another at the right angle (b).



Strangle Knot

Clove hitch. It is reliable, flawlessly holds on both ends of the cable when traction is applied. Convenient for attaching a paracord to objects that have a smooth surface, such as a log or branch.



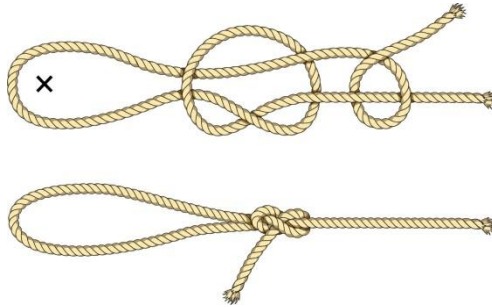
Clove hitch

The first-knot knitting method is used in situations where one end of the first object around which the knot is knitted is open and accessible (a), and the second method when the cord is wrapped directly around the object (b). You may attach the rope to a smooth pole or crossbeam with it, tie a bag, pull the rope between two poles, tie the bowstring to the bow, moor the boat, connect the rope to the thick cable.

Non-tightening hinges

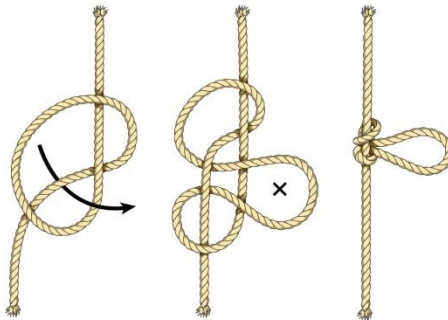
Eskimo Bowstring Loop Knot. It is used to attach a bowstring with a paracord to a bow and other similar items. For this reason, it possesses an important property: its size can change after the knot has already been tied.

The loop remains stationary when pulling over the main end of the cord.



Eskimo Bowstring Loop Knot

Trucker's Hitch. It is designed to apply the traction in any direction. It is easy to tie and is firmly kept. Before the load is applied to the loop, it should be tightly secured with your fingertips, as it tends to roll over and slip down the paracord when gets a sudden pull. Several loops connected in that way can help get out the car that got stuck, allow you to climb high, or get off a cliff.



Trucker's Hitch

Bowline Knot. It never tightens tightly under a great pulling, does not spoil the paracord, never slips along the paracord, does not untie itself, and is easily

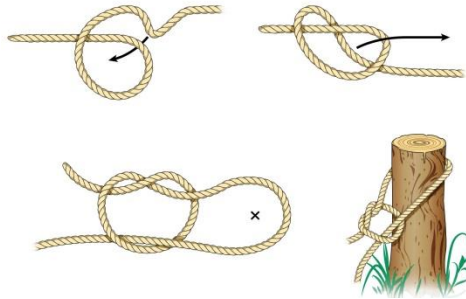
untied when necessary. The main purpose is to tie a person with a cord under the armpits as a means of safety when climbing or descending. You may insert the frame, or log into this knot's non-tightening loop. This can be used to moor the paracord and to connect the hook.



Bowline Knot

Tightening hinges

Noose. By pulling the main end of the rope, the loop tightens, but by pushing the running end of the rope to the side of the loop, the knot can be increased in size. You can tie the knot in any part of the rope. You can tie a bag with it, tie a bale, fasten a cable to it, moor a boat over a stack.



Noose

Snare knot. A fowling net made of horsehair or the thinnest nylon fishing line, with the help of such knot will work flawlessly. Snare knot is considered to be one of the most smoothly and easily tightened knots.

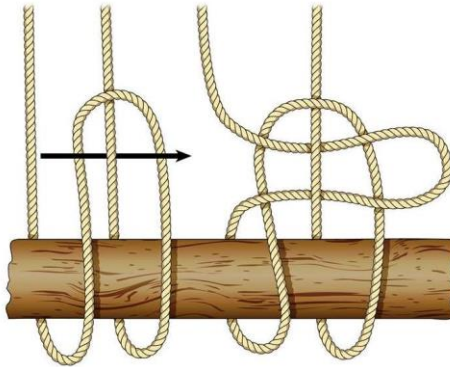


Snare knot

Fast untying nodes

The bucket knot. This type of knot can be untied distantly, so with it, you can, for instance, lower a bucket of water from the top, place it on the ground and pull the paracord up again, then you need to fasten the paracord with a bucket knot, go down its

main rope's end and untie the knot by jerking the moving end of the rope.



The bucket knot

The untying eight. If you make an ordinary figure eight with a loop, i.e., in the last loop of it, skip the doubly folded running end, you get a good quick untying stopper.



The untying eight

Slip Knot. It is the easiest stopper which can be given back easily even under a paracord strain. This will untie as soon as you jerk the running end. It can be used when you need to fasten anything temporarily so that you can release the rope at any time.



Slip Knot

Fishing knots

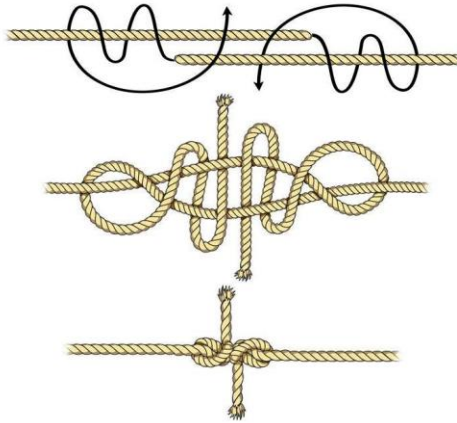
Stafford Knot. It is recommended to be used to change the transverse leash or quickly fastening the sinker.



Stafford Knot

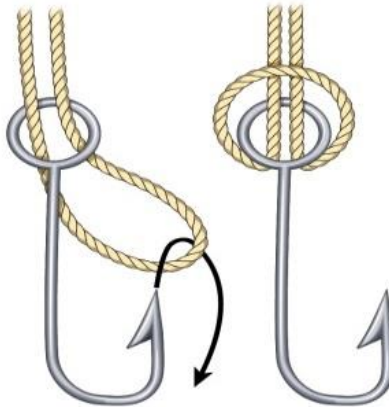
Blood Knot. It is considered to be one of the most reliable knots for synthetic threads. It has a lot of interweaving, it is symmetrical and relatively compact when tightened. It is used to tie two cables

made of any material, in case a strong, reliable connection is required.



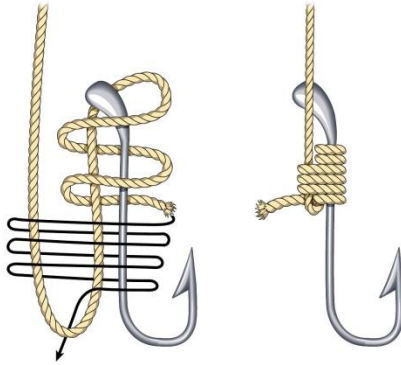
Blood Knot

Ring Hitch. Good for thin lines of polyamide and nylon threads – the core of the paracord. It is convenient to tie the sinkers to the fishing line in this way.



Ring Hitch

Bumper knot. It is used for fastening fishing lines to home-made or forged hooks.



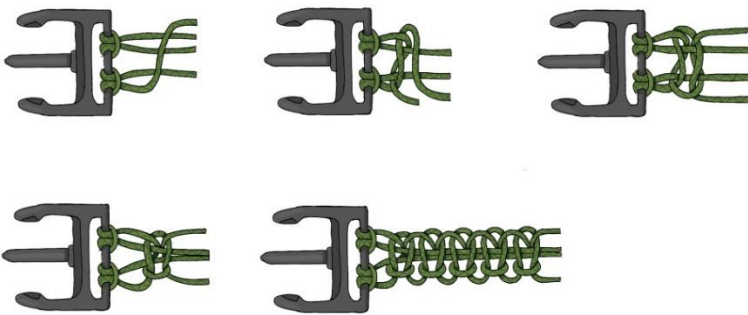
Bumper knot

While camping, all of these knots are useful for a variety of purposes, e.g. to attach a hammock to a tree, to moor a boat, to hang a load or a pot, to attach a tent, to repair clothing, to make tools and weapons for hunting animals, to weave fishing nets (Picture 6).

CHAPTER 6

Paracord Products

The paracord's lightness and elasticity allow you to take it with you without bothering about extra weight. It is quite convenient considering the characteristics of its high strength. Today paracord ["survival" bracelets](#) are commonly used, enabling the user to keep the paracord at hand and use it in an emergency. Anyone could knit a bracelet like this.



Weaving a survival bracelet

Manufacturers can have finished goods with all tastes: [bracelets](#), [key chains](#), etc. But if your goal is to use a paracord while camping, learning some forms of weaving makes sense. After all, no one knows how many times you need to untie the lace and then tie it again. Bracelets use

not only various methods of stitching, but different types of fasteners as well.

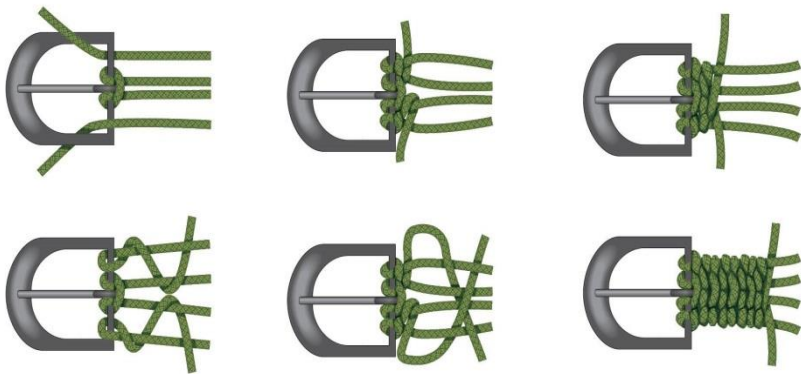
Each fastener has benefits as well as drawbacks. Metal fasteners are not recommended to be worn in winter, as metal can freeze the skin. The iron fasteners are durable, which can be both an advantage and a disadvantage. The advantage of this is that they can be used as a carbine, hook, connecting element for different purposes.

The disadvantage is that if you wear such a bracelet on your wrist, you might get hooked up and hurt yourself. That's why it is recommended to wear bracelets with plastic fasteners on hands, especially since they are with whistles, knives, flint, compass, etc.

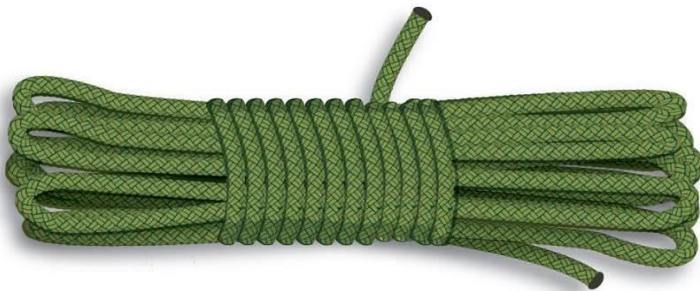
Bracelets with metal fasteners are best when you hook them to equipment elements. In an emergency, [Survival bracelets](#) can be untied in a matter of seconds. And a person wearing such a bracelet on his wrist always has a multifunctional cord supply of 3-4 meters at hand. When you need a stock of 10 meters or more, you can make a suitable paracord belt from a suitable string. This belt is very strong and has enough rope supply, even to travel from a height downwards. As with the bracelet, the belt can be woven on your own with a bit of patience and perseverance.

The speed of unbraiding a bracelet and paracord length depends on the type of braiding. Yet braiding

itself produces the paracord's grips and bends, which leads to a reduction in strength characteristics, so it is easier to move it in a skein, as shown on a picture, without knots and bendings. An ordinary skein allows you to quickly fold and unroll the required length of rope without wasting time on braiding, thereby prolonging the rope's strength, and providing the user with the necessary protection.



Belt weaving



A skein of paracord

The [paracord](#) braid's cleanliness and integrity should be monitored constantly since this affects the safety of its use. Therefore it is better to carry in a special case or pocket the required amount of rope.

The paracord is cleaned after use and checked for any damage. This must be done regularly! When the paracord is used in hostile conditions (gasoline, acid, kerosene), it could only be used for non-hazardous purposes. The same applies to situations when the paracord has worn out or has evident flaws.

CHAPTER 7

CLASSIC BRACELETS

There are many [classic bracelets](#) you can use to develop your knots knowledge on. The following section presents the most common designs for the bread and butter bracelets you will find.

THE COBRA



Also called: Solomon bar, square knot bracelet
Commonly mistaken for: other cobras/Solomon bracelet versions

The cobra knot bracelet is where paracord craft started. This knot is the most used knot out there when it comes to paracord bracelets, as well as macrame bracelets, popularized by soldiers, survival

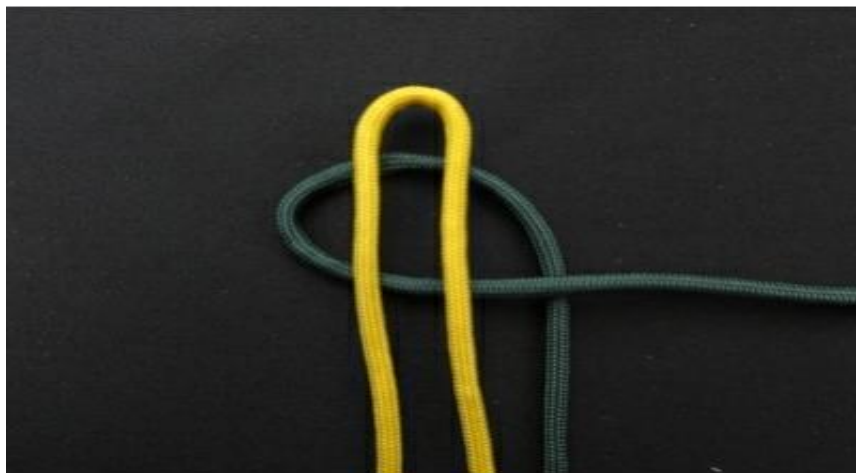
experts, and outdoorsmen. The cobra knot bracelet is the bracelet others refer to as the survival bracelet, and is characterized by the ease with which you can make it, as well as holding a reasonable amount of paracord. In the following chapter, we'll take a closer look at the safety bracelets. Let's focus for now on the cobra knot bracelet.

Difficulty	low
Time consumed	low
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	yes

A brief overview of the process: The famous cobra knot bracelet is made of the "four" shape knot. We alternate the knot by facing the "four" knot to get equal knots on each of the sides.

STEP 1

In this step, we make a knot on one side of the bracelet.



The "four" shape.



Pull the bottom cord through the loop.



Pull the cord through.

Tighten the knot.

STEP 2

In this step, we make a knot on the other side of the bracelet.



Four faces in the opposite direction.



Pull the cord through.

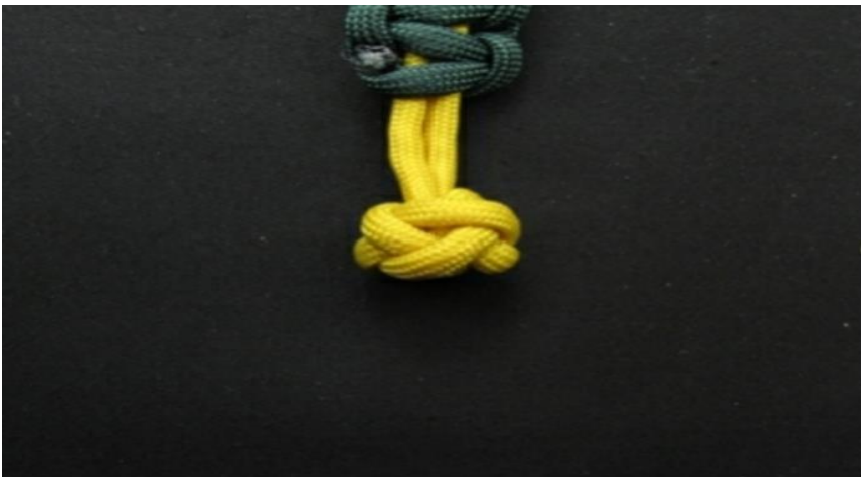


And tighten.

FINISHING



When you reach appropriate length, cut the ends and melt them. It is important to melt the ends and push them onto the bracelet, so they hold in place.



Finish the bracelet by making the lanyard knot. In further tutorials, this step will not be shown! I would get a bit repetitive!

KING COBRA BRACELET



Also called: double cobra knot bracelet, double Solomon bracelet.

Difficulty	low
Time consumed	long
Cord use	large
Child friendly	yes

This bracelet is beautiful; it stores enough paracord supplies and has a catchy name! It's just one of those bracelets that I feel guilty about making because it looks too good for the effort!

A brief overview of the process:

The king cobra knot bracelet is made from the cobra knot bracelet base, which we demonstrated in the previous

chapter. On top of the cobra bracelet, we make another layer, hence the name double cobra bracelet.

STEP 1

In this step, we make a knot on one side of the bracelet.



A four shape.



Pull the cord through.



Tighten.

STEP 2

In this step, we make a knot on the other side of the bracelet.



The four faces the other side.



Pull the cord through.



Tighten.

FINISHING



Finish as far down as you want, then snip and melt the ends.

THIN LINE



Also called: Red thin line bracelet, thin Solomon bracelet
 Commonly mistaken for: The cobra knot bracelet

Difficulty	low
Time consumed	low
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	yes

The bracelet of the thin line is a bracelet with a single cord through the middle. The bracelet is common, especially among many professions that can be represented using different colours.

For example:

- black bracelet with a red line is designed for firefighters
- white bracelet with a white line is designed to medics

- black bracelet with a blue line is made for security personnel

The best thing about this bracelet is that for just about every occupation, you can design your own colour mix. For soldiers, a black-green bracelet would be fitting, and for reggae fans, a multicolour rainbow line would fit.

A brief overview of the process: The making of a thin line bracelet is very similar to the cobra bracelet. The method is just slightly variable. You make it through the heart, by having one four, then a standard cobra knot. We'll start by making a simple cobra knot to connect the working ends to the centre and then continue with the pattern of the thin line.

PREPARATION

We attach one cord onto the other using a cobra knot.



Fold both cords in half and cross them like this.



A four shape.



Pull the vertical cord through the loop.



Tighten.

STEP 1

In this step, make a cobra knot through the two middle cords.



Pull the cord through the core.



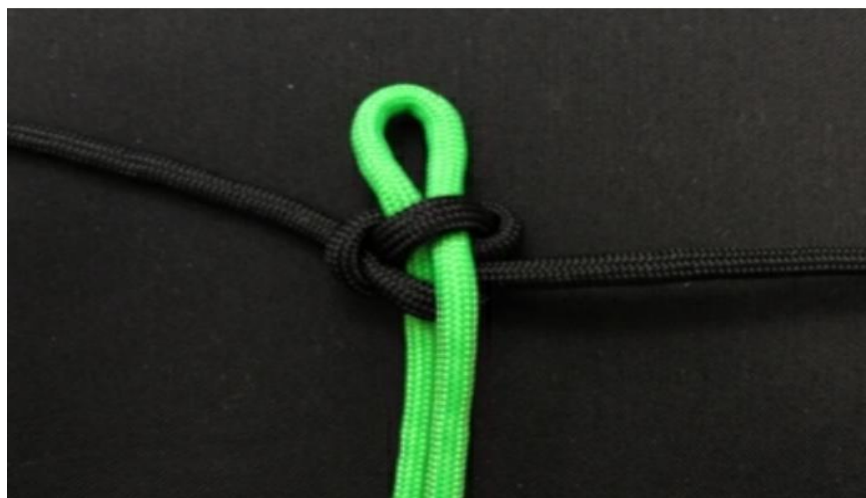
Make a four shape.



Pull the top left cord through the loop.



Pull the other cord under the core and through the loop.



Tighten.

Fishtail



Also called: Fishtail weave bracelet is commonly mistaken for: The trilobite bracelet

Difficulty	medium
Time consumed	medium
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	yes

The fishtail bracelet is popular among various bracelet making crafts. There is a paracord version of it as well! It is a popular bracelet design used in a single, two-colour or even four-colour version. It is commonly also used as a basis for advanced bracelet designs. A brief overview of the process: The fishtail bracelet is not made through the use of knots but by braiding. Braiding is best remembered as a process of going over and under, then repeating the sequence. Let's see that in practice!

Preparation

We prepare by joining the cords and separating them. The two on the right will form the core of the bracelet. We will be working with the ones on the left.



Make a four shape.



Pull the vertical cord under the core and through the loop.



Tighten the knot.



Pass the right core cord through the back.



Bring it over the right working end.



Bring it under the left core cord.



Pull the cord through. This is the starting position. The left two cords are now the working ends, and the right two are the core.

STEP 1

In step 1, we will weave the top left cord (now blue) through the middle and back.



Bring it over the first cord.



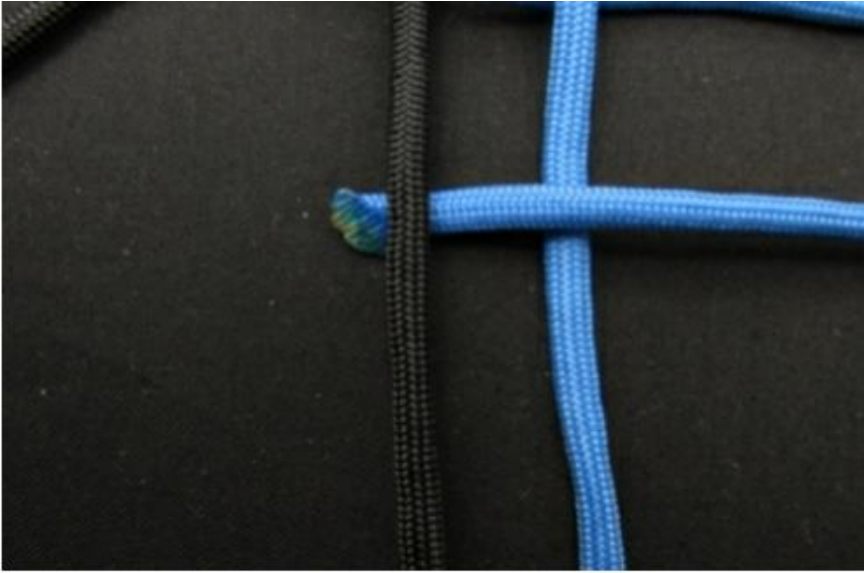
Bring it under the second.



Pull the cord through.



Bring it back over the second.



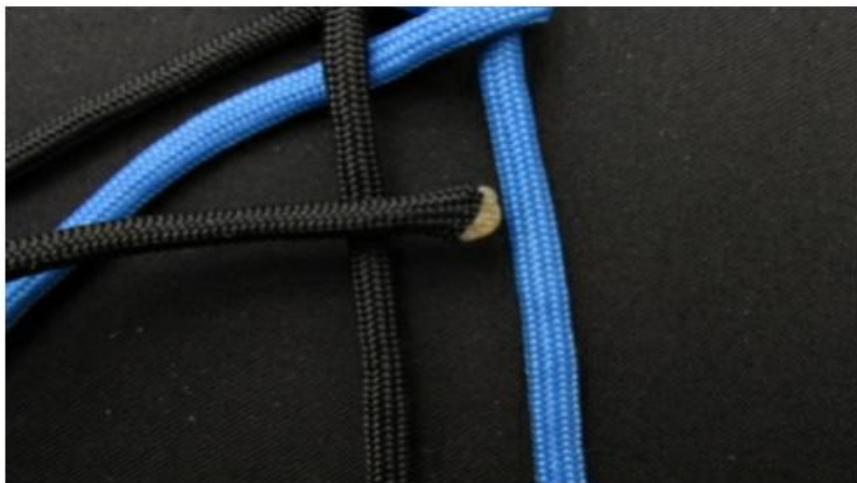
Bring it under the first.



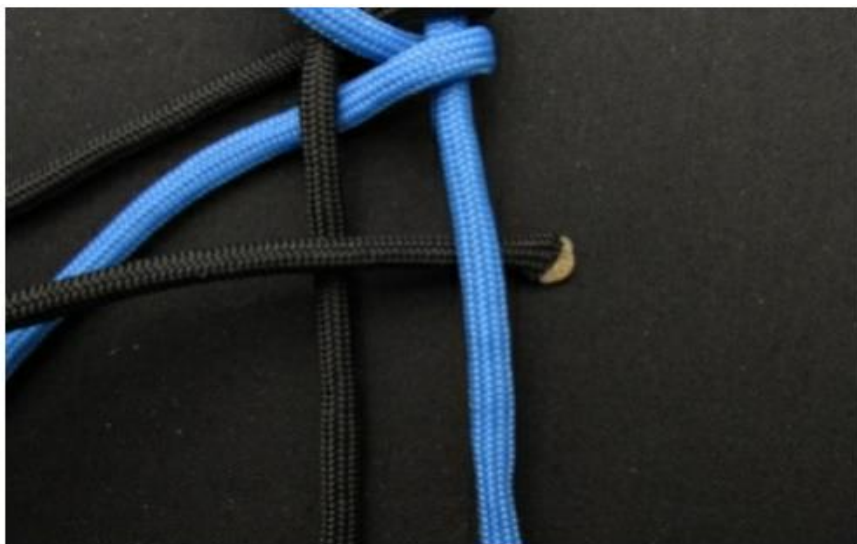
Pull the cord through.

STEP 2

In step 2, we will weave the top left cord (now black) through the middle and back.



Bring it over the first cord.



Bring it under the second.



Pull the cord through.



Bring it back over the second.

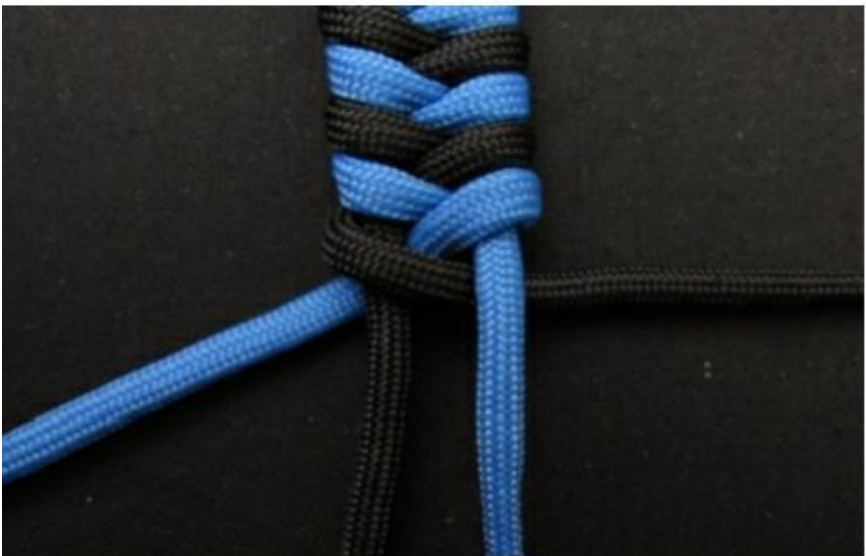


Bring it under the first.

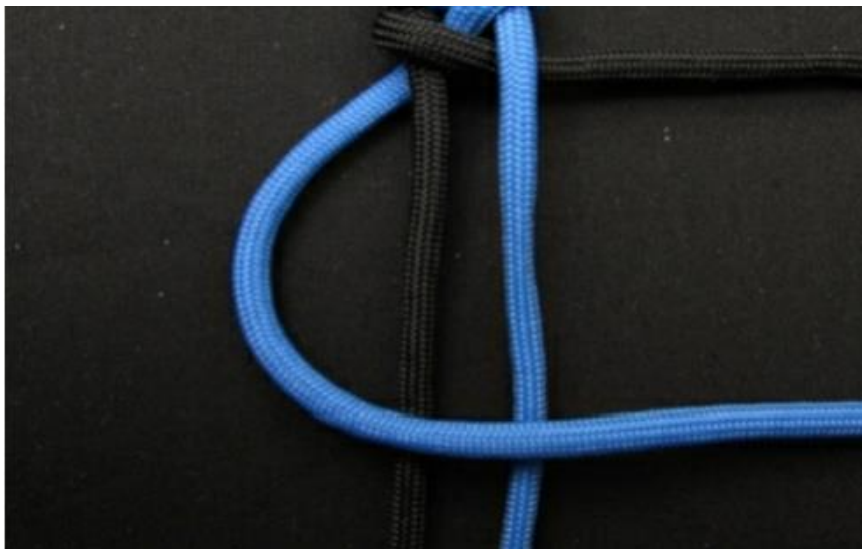


Pull the cord through.

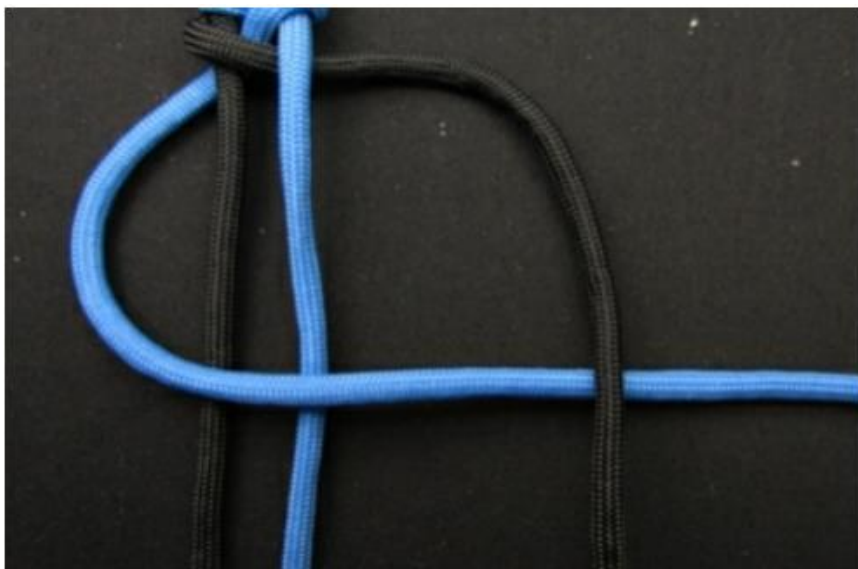
FINISHING



Pull the top left cord through the middle.



Place one cord over the middle.



Make a four.



Pull the vertical cord through the loop.



Tighten.

TRILOBITE



Also called: Ladder rack bracelet

Commonly mistaken for: fishtail bracelet

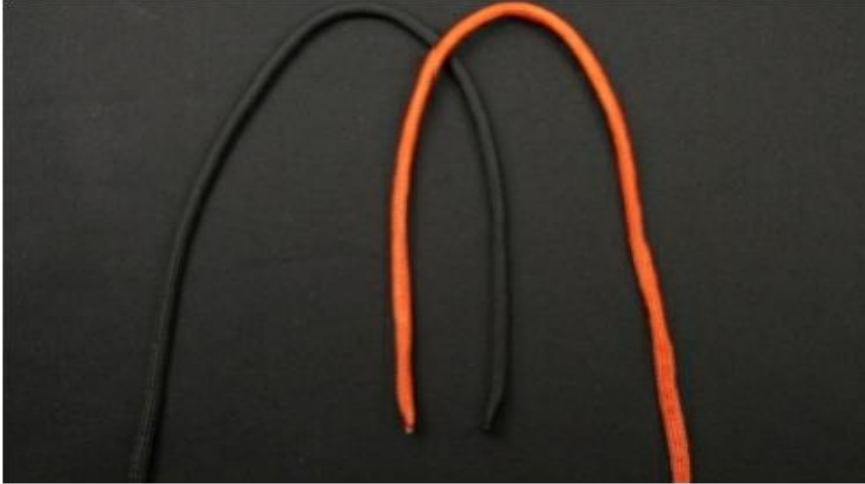
Difficulty	medium
Time consumed	medium
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	no

This bracelet is fairly wide and has a lot of applications.

A brief overview of the process: The trilobite bracelet is made like the fishtail bracelet in a very similar way. It involves weaving, just like the fishtail.

Preparation:

This time, we prepare by immobilizing the core two cords. The top is hooked onto a hook, and the bottom is duct-taped.

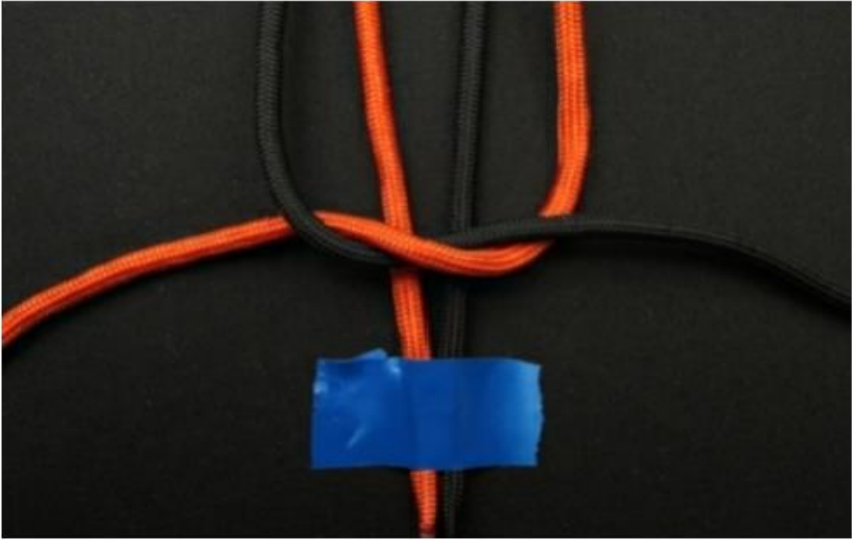




Place one working end over the other cords.



Pull the vertical end through the loop.



STEP 1

In step 1, we will weave the left cord through the middle.



Bring it under the cord.



Bring it over the right cord.



Pull the cord through.

STEP 2

In step 2, we will weave the right cord through the middle.



Bring it over the cord.



Bring it Under the left cord.



Pull the cord through.

FINISHING

We are finishing this bracelet by pushing all the weaves together. Then we tighten it by removing the slack by pulling all the strings in a row. We can finish the bracelet by simply melting the ropes. But I find that it works better to tuck the ends back into the bracelet. Note that you'll have two loops left. Pull out one of the bottoms, the core cords, to remove the loop.



Reach the top.



Pull each cord to remove the slack.



This will tighten up the bracelet.



At this point, you can tie the bracelet off.



Or use a lacing needle to insert the cords back into the bracelet.



SNAKE KNOT



The snake knot bracelet is round, unlike a lot of paracord bracelets. The two-colour version is the most popular and looks like a pattern you'd expect to find on a snake. It's that kind of bracelet that's pretty rare. It's made uniquely, too!

Difficulty	medium
Time consumed	medium
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	yes

A brief overview of the process: the snake knot bracelet is made in a rather unusual way. It involves loosening the knot to tuck into another cord, tightening it, then flipping the bracelet around the Y-axis, and loosening the knot again.

PREPARATION

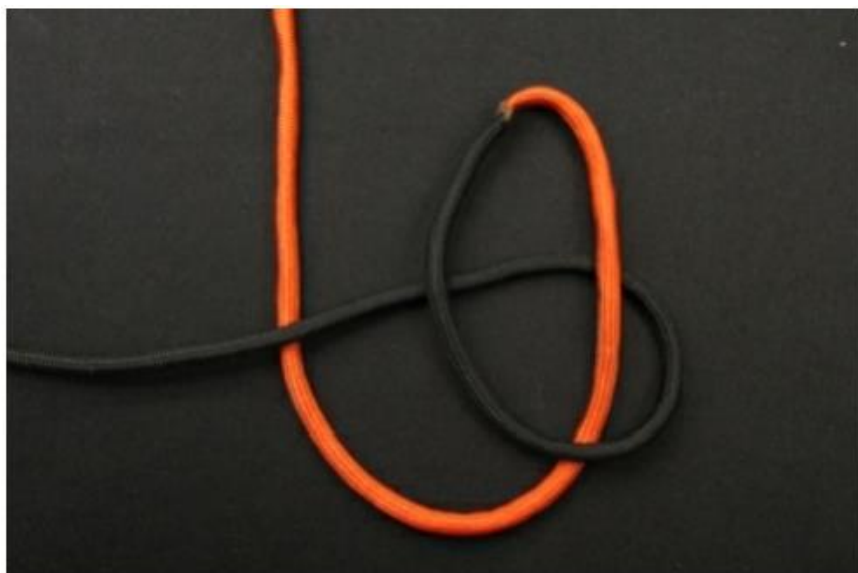


Join two cords together.





Pull the cord through the loop.



Bring it through the back of the black cord.



Tighten.

STEP 1

In step 1, we will pull the right cord under the left one, loosen the knot, then insert the cord we pulled under the left cord. We tighten the knot and flip the bracelet around on the Y-axis.



Pull the right cord behind the left cord.



Loosen the knot.



Insert the cord.



Tighten the knot a bit.



Flip the bracelet around the Y-axis.

STEP 2

In step 2, we will pull the right cord under the left one, loosen the knot, then insert the cord we pulled under the left cord. We tighten the knot and flip the bracelet around on the Y-axis.



Pull the right cord behind the left cord.



Loosen the knot.



Insert the cord.



Tighten the knot a bit.



Flip the bracelet around the Y-axis.

FINISHING

Pull-on all the loops, knots to remove any slack cord.



SHARK JAW BONE



Also called: The piranha knot bracelet is Commonly mistaken for: Dragon's claw bracelet.

Difficulty	medium
Time consumed	medium
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	no

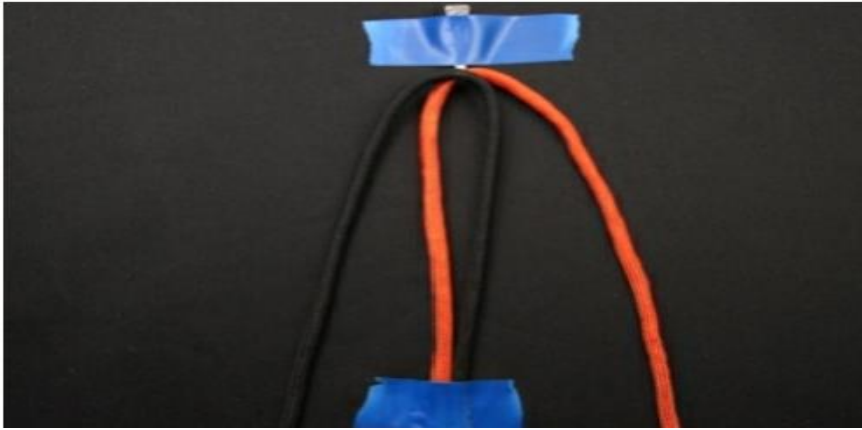
This bracelet is sure to turn a few heads, and you should at least make one, so you know you can do it, as well as show it to your friends. It is one of the best bracelets to consider the effort: the ratio of the result provided.

A brief overview of the process: I find that a lot of people are a little intimidated by the process of

making this bracelet, but that's mostly because the technique isn't clearly explained. I hope my instructions will give you a clear and simple way to make this beautiful bracelet.

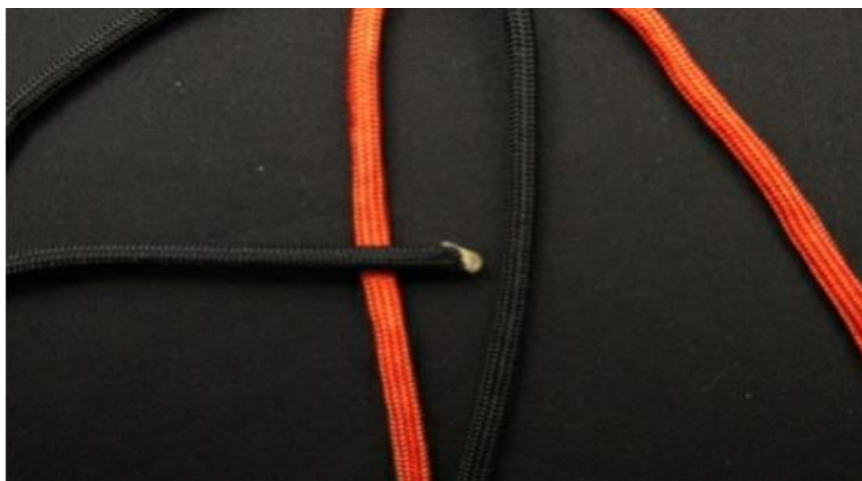
PREPARATION

We prepare by immobilizing the core two cords. The top is hooked onto a hook, and the bottom is duct-taped.

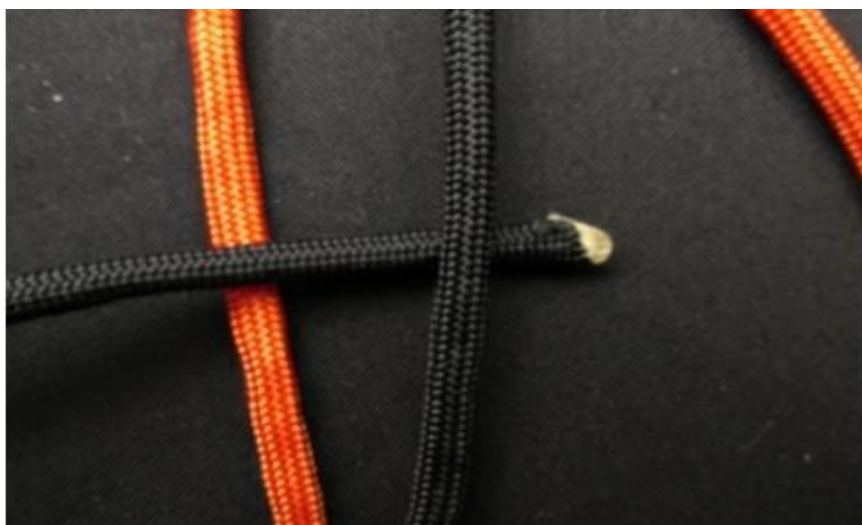


STEP 1

We will make a knot by placing the cord through the middle cords.



Bring it over the first, middle cord.



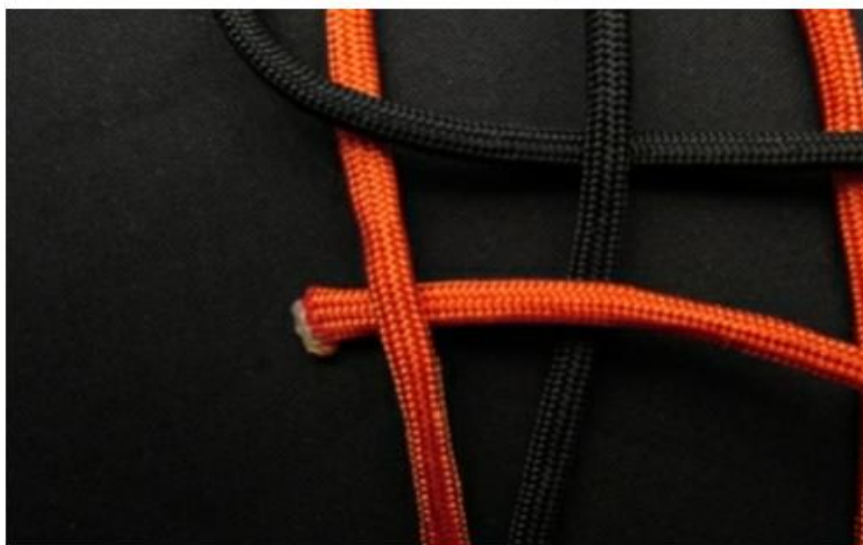
Bring it under the second middle cord.



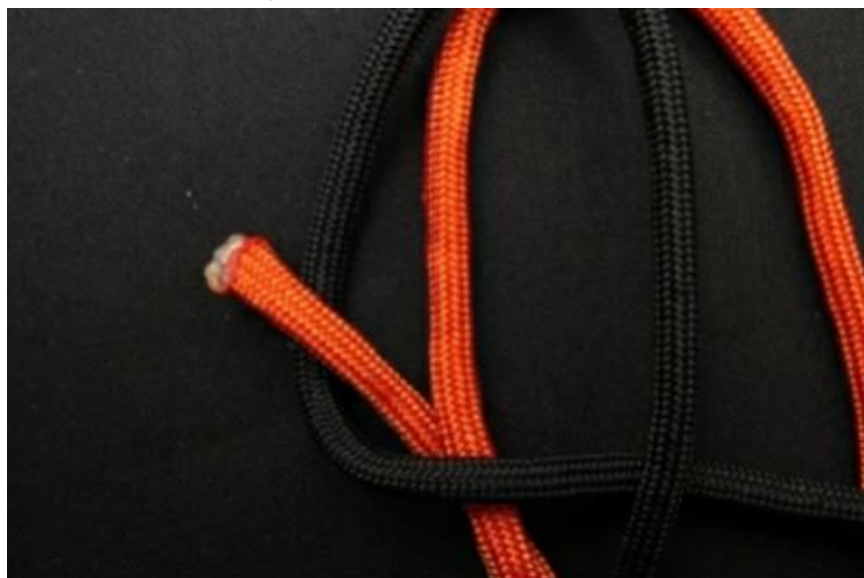
Pull the cord through.



Bring it over the first core cord.



Bring it Under the second cord.



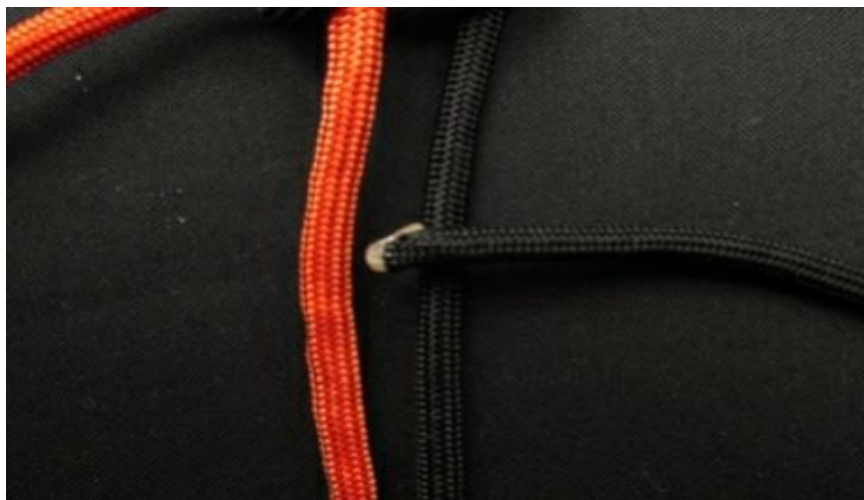
Bring it through the loop made by the first, black cord.



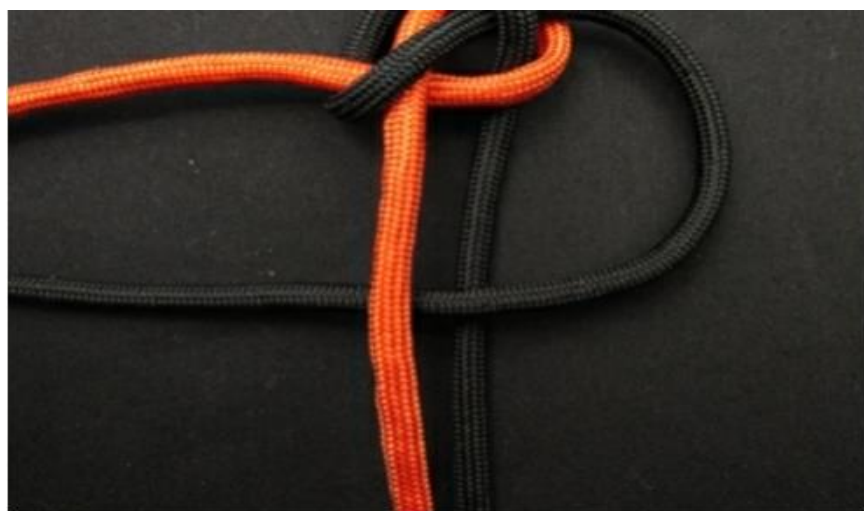
Tighten.

STEP 2

We will make a knot by placing the cord through the middle cords. As you can see, we always start using the same colour of the cord.



Bring it over the first, middle cord.



Bring it under the second middle cord.



Bring it over the first core cord.



Bring it under the second middle cord.



Bring it through the loop.



Tighten.

FINISHING

We finish by making a cobra knot.



Reach the desired length.



Pass one cord under the core.



Bring the other cord through the loop.



And tighten the knot.

BRAIDED



Among paracord bracelets, braided bracelets are a rare item. Very few people are wearing bracelets.

PREPARATION

Fold the cords in half and join them in the middle, as shown below.

Difficulty	medium
Time consumed	low
Cord use	medium
Child friendly	no

STEP 1

Take the top right cord and slide it behind to the middle of the left cords. Proceed by taking the cord and placing it to over the other cord and to the right.



Take the top right cord and place it in the middle of the left, blue cords. Go behind the other cords.





Place the same cord back onto the right, over the blue cord, this time at the bottom.

STEP 2

Take the top left cord and slide it behind to the middle of the right cords. Proceed by taking the cord and placing it to over the other cord and to the left.



Take the top left cord and place it in the middle of the right, black cords. Go behind the other cords.



After a few braids, remember to pull out a loop!

FINISHING

First, we make a square knot.



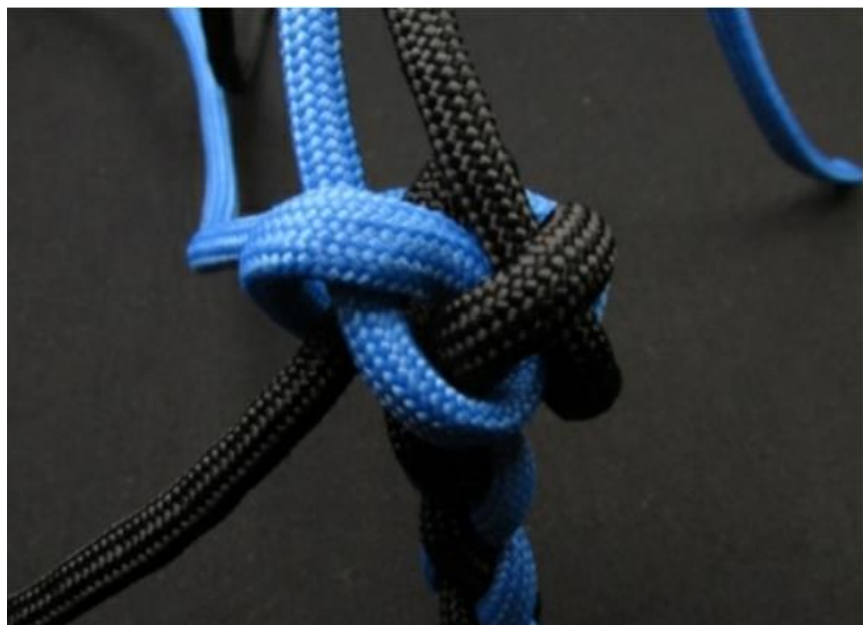




Now we loosen each cord and pass the end through it.







CONCLUSION

Careful planning is required for the camping to offer the necessary refreshment and pleasure of interacting with wildlife. Most beginners try to fit a lot of things in a backpack which they don't think they should give up on. It not only complicates the campaign greatly, but there is also a possibility that finding something with such an abundance of accessories would be incredibly difficult. The other extreme is carelessness, whose consequences can be tangible as it turns out the necessary item has remained at home. It's important not only to consider daily moments: where to sleep, what to eat. They need to be prepared for all sorts of surprises.

Therefore it would be very helpful to learn about the non-standard usage of common objects, such as a knife or an empty tin can. Although camping is very different from living in a civilized world, don't forget the hygiene and health issues. Ensure that the first aid kit and makeup bag take their place in the campsite set. It's frustrating when the perfect device fails unforeseen.

By purchasing [a knife](#) or [paracord](#), you now know how to mitigate the risk. And having mastered the easiest methods of weaving from a parachute thread, in the form of a sword-knot or bracelet you'll get not only functional but also a trendy accessory. We are sure you have complimented your piggy information bank on new life hacks. Seek to apply them, and give the outdoor recreation extremely good impressions!