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Foreword

Through this e-book we want to present you a few fun and easy to make paracord projects that will prove to be extremely useful in preparing your survival gear. We all know that you shouldn’t cut corners when it comes to the gear you use for survival but if your budget is tight and you are skilled with your hands, paracord can be the answer to all your troubles. For beginner in the art of prepping, paracord is a flexible, strong and extremely versatile type of rope that can be used in all sorts of activities.

You can actually make a profit out of your hobby as many outdoor adventurers (and not just them) love to have as many paracord products as possible. There are an infinite number of projects you can work on and it will be a fun and productive way of spending your free time. You get to learn a lot about survival equipment (many paracord projects are made to be used in the outdoor), you can meet new and interesting people and develop a number of very useful skills that will come in handy at different times in life.
Paracord Knots: Learn the Basics

Before you start working on paracord projects you need to know a few things about knots as they are the base to every successful project. Following you’ll learn how to make a few basic, yet important knots.

The Cobra Knot

This is one of the first paracord knots you are going to learn. As you can see in the image bellow, you are going to need two strings of paracord to make this knot. The technique is simple:

- Hold both strings with your fingers and make sure they are straight alongside each other;
- Take the left cord and form a loop while putting the rest of the cord behind the two main strings;
- The right part goes under the left string and back over when it goes through the loop you formed with the left string;
- Tight the knot up.

Visual instructions in the image bellow:
The Snake Knot

This type of weaving is a bit more intricate but the end result is really cool especially when you use two different colors. The snake knot makes this pattern look like the scales of a snake wrapped around your wrist. So besides the survival purposes, this knot is also quite decorative.

The technique on this type of paracord knots goes like this:

- If you’re using two different colors (recommended if you want the result to look cool) melt them together and bend the resulting piece of paracord by the melting point. If you’re using only one string simply bend it in half;
- Make the original loop, the one you will use to connect the two ends of your paracord bracelet together. Tie the loop tight with a knot;
- Now, after you have the first loop, you want to loosen the base knot a little bit and take the opposite string and pass it through. Tight the knot again;
- Turn the entire thing over and you can see that there is one end with two loops and one with just one loop. Loosen the knot on the side with just one loop and pull through the opposite string;
- Turn the bracelet over and continue weaving in the same manner.

The basic concept of this knot is pulling the ends through a loop. You can see more detailed instructions in the image bellow:
The Trilobite Knot

This type of weaving allows you to include more paracord in one project and the technique is similar to the one used when braiding using four strings. If you want your project to look good it is recommended to use two different colors. So, in order to make this cute pattern, you’ll need two separate strings of paracord, each of them bent in half.

The technique is quite simple:

- Hang the two pieces of paracord on a nail or on a hook and make sure that they are equal in size
- Use the two middle strings as core and the two exterior strings to weave the projects
- Each one of the exterior strings goes first around the nearest string and then under or over the two main strings

Visual instructions in the image bellow:
The Seesaw Knot

This is perhaps one of the fastest and easiest types of paracord braids that you can do, though it is essentially just a series of knots. This one also looks best with two different colors, as you’ll be knotting together two double strands of paracord to make your braid.

Depending on what you’ll be using the braid for, start your project off by securing one set of your paracord ends off in some fashion. Next make sure you find the center of your two equal lengths of paracord and do your slipknot there, so that you have four strands (two of each color) lying side by side.

The technique is simple: grabbing two cords at a time from one side, wrap them around the two cords on the other side to form a basic knot, or hitch. Then, grab the two cords from that side, and form a hitch around the other side. Continue in this fashion until you have the length you need.

Once you’re done, again, depending on the project you’re using it for, secure the ends with a couple of knots, and cut the excess off. Many people then take a lighter or match to the ends, which melts the nylon together, to prevent fraying.
The Fishtail Braid

This is another pretty basic technique that produces a really nice pattern. Ladies may already be familiar with this one in fact, as it’s done quite similarly to the very popular fishtail braid that’s being sported these days.

To start this one, you basically need three lengths of cord prepped and attached to whatever project you intend to use it for. The important thing is, two lengths of cord stay immobile, while a longer one is woven through them, so if you’re making a bracelet, you might start by first measuring and attaching your two lengths of unmoving cord to your buckles, and the third longer length of cord only at the starting end, so you can weave with that one.

Once you’re ready to start, the technique is simple: just take your long cord—which should be sitting on top of your other two—and weave it over and under the left cord, then up through the middle of the two. Then weave it over then under the cord on the right, and back up through the middle. Repeat the pattern, weaving the long cord, again, over and under the left cord, and through the middle, and then over and under the right cord.
**Dragon's Tongue Knot**

Take a long enough paracord (about 12 feet or less) and attach the paracord to one end of the buckle and then thread through the other end. Weave the cord’s ends one more time through the first buckle end. Now you should have two pairs of parallel cords. Again, fix any twists before you move on.

Start by taking the right free cord and place it behind the entire paracord. Then take the left free cord and thread it above the two middle cords and below the outermost cords to the right side. Pull that cord to tighten it and arrange it to stay close to the buckle. Now take the cord, which you placed below all of the cords. Now we’ll reverse the threading order - this one should be below the two middle cords and below the outermost cords. It will go from left to right.

Now again, you’ll have two free cords next to each other. Take the topmost, place it over the other and it goes below the outermost cords and above the middle two. Pull it through to the left side. Now take the second free cord (which is still on your right side) and goes below the middle cords and above the outermost.

In the image bellow you have the schematics for a paracord bracelet weaved using this special knot.
The Sharkbone Knot

You will need a buckle in order to secure your paracord pieces with a self-tie of the paracord. You’ll end up with two fixed cords and two loose ones. Now take the left cord and thread it from below between the two fixed cords and prepare a loop. Take the right free cord and again thread it between the two fixed cords and through the left loop. It should look like you're trying to tie your shoes by making the first tie.

Now, tighten well the knot and you'll have the two free cords with reversed positions. You'll have to do the same tie but you'll begin with the right cord this time. Thread between the bracelet cords, prepare the loop, and pull the other cord in between and through the loop. Tighten.

Proceed with weaving this pattern by beginning with the left, then right, then left, and so on like in the image bellow:
Putting Paracord Braiding to Good Use: Projects for the Prepper in You

With the basic braids and knots mentioned above, your imagination is the limit on what you can make. Here are a few fun, simple projects to get you started.

Paracord Bracelet

You can use your imagination and create an amazing mix of colors so your friends could admire your new amazing accessory. The bracelet can’t include too much paracord but it’s really good to have around when you need small pieces of rope or fibers for stitching and repairing different things when you’re in the outdoor. First, you’ll need a few items gathered together like:

- A candle
- A lighter or matches
- Scissors or a knife
- The paracord
- Measure tape

For fashion purposes and ease of work it’s best to have two different colored pieces of paracord. Take the measure tape and put it around the wrist to measure the length of the bracelet. You want it to be a bit loose, but not very loose so you lose it while you’re walking. It is recommended to add one foot of paracord for every inch around your wrist and one or two feet for back-up.

After the measurements are finished, divide the total length in half and take two pieces of paracord of the same length. Follow these steps to make your bracelet:

- Fuse the ends of the two paracord pieces by holding them on top of the candle flame. The nylon in the rope will melt and fuse the two pieces together. Make sure that the fuse is strong enough by trying to pull them apart.
- Take the paracord by the fusing place, fold it in two and straighten it up side by side. Wrap the paracord around your wrist so you know how long the bracelet is going to be and add about an extra inch and a half. Now you have the beginning of the bracelet.
- The next step is to make the first knot (we’re using the Cobra knot). Take one end of the rope and make a loop underneath the whole thing and then take the other end of the rope and, still going underneath everything, go through the loop. Remember to always use the same color for the same actions.
- After the first two knots, you need to create a loop by stretching the original knot. After the loop is made you can hold everything in place and tighten it up. Continue weaving until you reach the end. Make sure that what’s left behind is tight and neat.
Because we know that an image is worth a thousand words, here is a small graphic tutorial to get you started:
Rifle Sling

This is an extremely easy project to get you started, and can save you some serious dough (have you ever seen the price of a rifle sling? Ouch!). First off, you want to decide what kind of paracord braid you want to use. Since guns are heavy, you'll want to consider how comfortable the braid will be laying across your shoulder carrying some weight. I'd recommend the trilobite weave, as it has a nice flat shape to it, and can hold a ton of paracord, just based on its design. However, with that in mind, you'll want to have at least 75 feet of cord on hand to do this project.

Begin by getting the sling hardware off your gun. If you plan to use the trilobite weave, it'll be very helpful to mount the hardware to a piece of wood as you work. Keep in mind that this sling will not be adjustable, so measure how long you want it to be, then mount your hardware that distance apart. Other than that, it's as simple as working your paracord through the hardware!

Visual instructions in the image bellow:
**Dog Collar**

There is nothing more frustrating than breaking a dog collar in the middle of a walk. Paracord is some of the toughest stuff around though, so as long as your knots are tight, it’s not going to break under the pressure of an excitable Fido.

Making a collar is almost exactly like making a bracelet, except that like with the rifle sling, you want to design it with comfort in mind. If your dog pulls against it, you want to make sure the band is wide enough to distribute the weight evenly, so something like a cobra or trilobite weave may be your best bet.

Just get some sturdy buckles (this is where it pays to customize-get some metal ones if you can find them!), measure your dog’s neck (adding about a half inch for comfort), and start braiding!
**Paracord Belt**

Who doesn’t use a belt? It’s amazing to keep your pants up and you can hang all sorts of small things on it when in an outdoor adventure. It’s useful, it doesn’t add any extra weight to your backpack and you have a lot more extra rope with you in case of emergency. Also, it’s flexible and it doesn’t bother you when you move like a leather belt would. So, it’s cheaper than a normal belt, it has more uses, it’s more comfortable and it’s fun to make. There are a lot of advantages here!

So, after you get all the necessary materials, you can start working on the most amazing belt you ever had. For this project you are going to need a big side release buckle as the belt is wide enough to fit well through a standard pair of jeans’ eyelet. A good idea is to use a buckle that is also a high decibel emergency whistle (you can find one of these in outdoor specialized stores). This way not only you have 50 ft of extra rope with you for emergencies but you also have the possibility to announce other people that there is a problem.

The amount of paracord you’ll need for this project varies according to your waist size and type of pattern you use to braid it. The process is simple and you need to follow a few main steps:

- Start with putting the paracord through the buckle so you can figure out what length of paracord you are going to need;
- Fix the belt in place with both halves of the buckle and make the initial knot;
- Start braiding;
- Secure the ends in place.

Visual instructions in the image below:
Paracord Pouch

This project is a little bit more difficult and you should have some weaving skills already developed to be able to do this well. It’s not a project we would recommend for a beginner but it’s really cool when you actually manage to do it. The main question now is: what uses does a paracord pouch have in the wild? How is this little bag-like piece of equipment going to help me in an emergency? Well, in an emergency, you get to use the paracord used to make it but otherwise the pouch is very useful for various things:

- To hold your money, keys, and papers in a safe, tight place. If you make a pouch that can be tighten at the mouth, you can put your small valuables in it and they will be safe;
- You can hang it by the belt and keep snacks in it so you don’t have to reach to your backpack any time you want a bite.
- You can deviate a bit from the pouch idea and make a bottle protection or harness. This way you’ll keep the water temperature constant inside the bottle and it’s easier to carry it.
- To keep everything that is small and most likely to get lost in the backpack among bigger things (for example your multi-tool).
- To make a protection case for your survival tin box. You’ll be able to put more things in it and due to the pouch, it won’t pop open.
- To make a protection case for your phone.

Lots of uses for the pouch as well, as you can see, and if you’re the inventive kind you will definitely find more. Now, that we’ve shown you how cool it is to have a paracord pouch, let’s see how to actually make one. Follow the instructions in the image below:
Paracord Handle Wraps

This paracord project is absolutely great! You can make a wrap for anything you can think of; from axes to knives, from your strap bag to your backpack, everything can be in need of a handle wrap. The best way to use this type of paracord project is on tools. Having your tools’ handles wrapped in paracord is very useful because the rope absorbs the sweat, allowing you to get a better grip of the tool. It also adds an extra layer of protection for your hands. Take a look at the image below and follow the instructions on order to make your own paracord wrap:

1. Make a bight
2. Pull it behind the handle and through the loop
3. Make a bight again
4. Pull it through the loop from the right
5. Tighten the bottom left cord
6. Then the top right
7. Pull on the loop to remove the slack
8. Make a bight
9. Pull it behind the handle and through the loop
10. Tighten the bottom right
11. Then the left
12. Pull on the loop again
13. Once you reach the end, pull the cord out and place it inside the bottom bight
14. Pull the end at the top of the handle
15. Snip and melt it
16. Enjoy your wrap!
Paracord Lanyard Necklace

To make a paracord lanyard you will need several items and tools to help you.

- carabiner (alternatively, snap hook)
- paracord 550
- lighter (or some safe source of fire) to seal the ends of the paracord (where you will cut them)
- knife or scissors for cutting the paracord

Take two paracord lines. Choose them to be of contrasting colors so when you tie them in it will be easy to follow which end is which. For the purpose of these instructions we will use a black and orange paracord. Use the lighter and melt each end of the two paracord strings. While they are still hot and melted, stick them together (so you end up having one longer cord). Hold them until the paracord material has cooled and you can no longer separate the two cords.

Take the snap hook or carabiner and, with the joined end of the cord, fold it into two, place it through the carabiner/snap hook and thread it through itself. Next, separate visually the two (black and orange) cords. Let's start with the black. Make a loop of it, to prepare it to thread through it the orange cord. Then put the orange cord through the loop. Don't tighten it yet. Let it stay loose.

As the orange cord is through the black loop, take the orange cord and thread it one more time through the black cord, making a mirror loop. Then thread the black cord through the new orange loop. Remember the steps and order of the cords (which was above which). The process is like placing shoelaces through the shoe's holes - there is freedom for you to choose which side should be above or below the other, but you need to remember this order, so the knots are always consistent and harmonic.

Tighten the knot slightly, to see if it's alright. Otherwise, you still need to pull one more orange cord through the black loop, and as you do so, the orange cord will create another loop, keep a black cord in it. As you tighten you will have two orange cords in one black loop. If you flip over the paracord at that time you will see that the back should have two black cords tied in an orange loop (the colors change according to the side, but the basic tying is the same on both sides).

Slightly tighten the new knot. Again, you have to pull a new cord through. Take the black cord and pull it through the last orange loop, and thread through the black loop an orange cord. Now you can flip over the paracord knot like you did before and do the same thing - take an orange cord and thread through the last black loop, and keep a black cord through the new orange loop. Tighten slightly, and flip over again, and tie the black cord through the orange loop, and so on. You need to repeat this process until you have reached your desired length of the paracord.

Use the lighter again to seal the sticking end to the whole braid. The remaining cord (either the black or the orange part) will be left for your neck. It should be wide enough for you to place it on your neck. Before you start making your paracord lanyard you can
mark the cords where you need to stop making knots. This is to make sure you haven't made the neck area too tight.

Visual instructions in the image below:

These are just a few projects to get you started, but there are plenty of other things you can put your paracord braiding skills to use for. The next time you break a strap on a backpack, or outgrow a belt for that matter, don’t just go running to the store to buy a new one. Order yourself a big spool of paracord, and make something that will not only last, but will serve a dual purpose should you ever need it.