

Woven paracord bracelet/watchband

by [Stormdrane](#) on July 12, 2008

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intro: Woven paracord bracelet/watchband

This tutorial will show how to make a paracord bracelet or watch band using a weaving method. More knot work with related links and resources can be seen on my blog page, [Stormdrane's Blog](#).



step 1: Supplies

For this project, you'll need approximately 10 feet of paracord, scissors, lighter, tape measure, hemostats, watch, and a 5/8" side release buckle. I used a 5/8" ITW Nexus contoured side release buckle, but you can use other less expensive ones like those found at [Creative Designworks](#).

Paracord can be found at local Army/Navy stores or from various online sources: [Supply Captain](#), [Lighthouse](#), [Rotokid](#), [Cool Glow Stuff!](#), [ebay](#), etc...

The actual amount of paracord that will be used depends on your wrist size. My wrist is about 8.5 inches and I actually used around 8 or 9 feet after finishing the bracelet/watchband. So using 10 feet is a safe estimate for most folks, since having too much cord is better than coming up short when making your project.

*If making a watchband, the watch needs to have about 5/8" space between the lugs(where the watch pins go) so that 5 strands of paracord will fit.



step 2: To begin

Measure about 20 inches from one end of your length of paracord. This is where you'll loop onto one end of your side release buckle. Once attached, you'll have the longer section which will be your working end and the shorter end which is just attached to the buckle ends and will be tucked in when finishing the bracelet/watchband.



step 3: Add the watch and adjust for wrist size

If making as a watchband, this is where you take the strands of paracord from the looped section of the buckle and run them over the watch pin, under the watch, and over the other watch pins. Then you loop the paracord around the other buckle end twice.

At this point, you'll measure the distance between the buckle ends for your wrist size. The distance should be equal to your actual wrist measurement. The weaving process will stretch this original spacing of bracelet/watchband about another inch after tightening as you reach the finishing point.

*Don't include the prong section half of the male end of the buckle in your measurement. It is snapped into the female half of the buckle when worn and isn't used in figuring the wrist measurement.

Now bring the cord ends back thru the watch pins, along side your first pass, and around the starting buckle end.

*If you're just making a paracord bracelet, you'll just be going from one end of the buckle to the other without adding the watch.



Image Notes

1. If making as a watchband, this is where you take the strands of paracord from the looped section of the buckle and run them over the watch pin, under the watch, and over the other watch pins. Then you loop the paracord around the other buckle end twice.



Image Notes

1. At this point, you'll measure the distance between the buckle ends for your wrist size. The distance should be equal to your actual wrist measurement. The weaving process will stretch this original spacing of bracelet/watchband about another inch after tightening as you reach the finishing point.



step 4: Begin weaving

Now you begin weaving the long working end of your paracord. The shorter end will be left out until it's time to finish the bracelet/watchband, and tuck it into the weave.

This weaving process is called 'weaving with three warps'. You'll be going around the outer cord with your working strand, under the center two cords(which you treat as one cord), and around the other outer cord.

You weave it back over the center two strands and around the outer, continuing this process, back and forth. Try not to leave too much slack as you go to keep the weave uniform. Every couple of weaves, push your work tight, up towards the starting buckle end.





step 5: Threading the watch

Once you've reached the point where your watch will be centered, push the watch tight against the woven cord and bring your working strand thru the pin along side the other cords under the watch, and back thru the other pin.

*If making the bracelet, there's no watch in the way, so just keep weaving. ;)



step 6: Continue on the other side of the watch

Continue weaving the paracord, keeping a uniform look, and tightening as you go.

A pair of hemostats can help work the cord around as you get close to the buckle end, making the last couple of weaves.



step 7: Finishing up

To finish up, you'll take the working strand around one of the outer cord, so it's coming thru the under side of the bracelet/watchband.

*Check for a good fit on your wrist at this point. If it's too loose or too tight, untie, adjust your starting measurement longer or shorter to correct, and try again. I have to do this myself sometimes. ;)

Take your hemostats and work them thru about three of the center weaves, towards the buckle end. Grasp the working strand and pull it back thru the center weaves.

Trim the end with your scissors, quick melt the end to prevent the cord from fraying, and tuck it under the weave.

Now do the same with the shorter end of cord and you're done.

If you measure again, you'll see that the finished length is about 1 inch longer than the starting measurement. This will vary depending on your tightening of the weave as you go, but should make for a loose/comfortable fit.

Enjoy!

*Anyone that's worn a nylon/paracord bracelet/watchband knows it can get dirty and smell funky after a while of use. I use an old soft bristle toothbrush to scrub with soap/water in the sink to clean it(while it's on the watch(hopefully yours is water resistant/waterproof), and let it air dry overnight.

*A note on paracord shrinkage:

Ubradit.com mentions that paracord may shrink as much as 10%-12%(especially black and kelly green), so they recommend soaking the cord first. They note that it's the inner strands that shrink, not the outer sheath. I believe they use 450 or 650 grade paracord, which I think, has a few loose fibrous polyester filler cords instead of the <http://www.instructables.com/id/Woven-paracord-braceletwatchband/>

usual 7 twisted nylon strands, found in 'Type III 550 mil-spec paracord which isn't supposed to shrink up. I've mostly used the mil-spec type paracord, so if it's shrunk on me, it's not noticeable. YMMV ;)





Related Instructables



Paracord Bracelet with Monkey Fist Button by Tommi Potx



Paracord watchband/bracelet with a side release buckle by Stormdrane



Paracord wrist lanyard made with the snake knot by Stormdrane



Paracord bracelet with a side release buckle by Stormdrane



Paracord Lighter Wrap by METALBLADE



A pocket full of knots. by Kiteman



In-and-out Knot and loop Bracelet (slideshow) by kcardwel



How to tie a one-handed bowline (video) by landline

Comments

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tbird45039 says:
i like the z plus zippo insert, i think im gonna get one

Apr 20, 2009. 3:54 PM [REPLY](#)



amandets says:
Good job, it is great!!!

Mar 30, 2009. 1:18 PM [REPLY](#)



Jimichan says:
Check out cheaperhandirt.com for cheap paracord. I just got several skeins at 300 ft for \$12.

Mar 27, 2009. 2:22 AM [REPLY](#)



alwayslearning says:
This is an excellent instructable: very easy to follow.
I understand that this particular method leads to a band which can come apart with a pull. On which line do you pull?

Feb 22, 2009. 6:54 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
The end that is used for the weaving would be pulled to unravel, but the buckle on that end would need to be cut off for that to work, so it's not a made as a 'quick access' to the cord.

Feb 22, 2009. 7:17 PM [REPLY](#)



alwayslearning says:

Mar 3, 2009. 6:45 PM [REPLY](#)

I did figure this out after following your excellent Instructable. I wove paracord to create a lanyard. The bottom portion is wide like your watchband and attached to a heavy duty metal clip. I figured out which lines could be lengthened into a loop at the other end to leave a single strand neck strap.

In this way, the non-clip end can be undone and "stretched" to make unweaving moderately easy.

I will use the lanyard for a compass, which will can be worn comfortably inside my shirt to keep it from bouncing around.

Thanks again for the information!



Mattrox says:

Feb 14, 2009. 12:33 AM [REPLY](#)

Those look really cool.

5 stars

It looks like in one of the photo's you made the strap to small. I have don that before. Murphy's law I spend half an hour plaiting it then I try it on and its to small.



Stormdrane says:

Feb 14, 2009. 3:52 PM [REPLY](#)

Getting it to fit just right takes practice. A little loose is better than too tight. =)



fatcat2009 says:

Feb 14, 2009. 6:06 AM [REPLY](#)

I like your work but I was wondering how do you do the bracelet?



Stormdrane says:

Feb 14, 2009. 3:48 PM [REPLY](#)

The bracelet is made the same way, just leave out the step of adding the watch when running the cords between the buckle ends.



mrtotallysweet says:

Sep 6, 2008. 9:47 PM [REPLY](#)

dude, your instructable taught a whole shitload of infantry marines like myself how to weave one-point slings for our rifles.

If you make one of these weaves about a foot long and tie it to the handle on the back of your flak jacket its perfect.



whydoihavetosignup says:

Feb 10, 2009. 11:30 AM [REPLY](#)

I would love to see a picture of that if it isn't too much trouble.



Stormdrane says:

Sep 24, 2008. 2:53 PM [REPLY](#)

Thank you for your service. I'm glad ya'll found the instructable useful.



bowmaster says:

Sep 22, 2008. 8:18 PM [REPLY](#)

I am going to make a belt with this to go with my survival kit.



caled85 says:

Oct 12, 2008. 12:04 AM [REPLY](#)

Tis one of the best ways to store paracord for a survival kit, If i went into the wilderness with only two things it would be a good fixed blade knife and belt made of paracord in a similar fashion to this.



bowmaster says:

Oct 12, 2008. 8:55 AM [REPLY](#)

Does anyone know how much one of inner strands of 550 paracord can hold?



caled85 says:

Oct 12, 2008. 12:57 PM [REPLY](#)

yes, the outer of 550 is rated for 225 lb and each internal strand is rated for 50lb. If it's milsurp then it should have 7 which mens that the cord it's self should be rated at 575lb not 550 but it is rated at 550 to err on the side of safety.



bowmaster says:

Oct 12, 2008. 5:34 PM [REPLY](#)

Awesome!!! I wanted to know because I am making a bowstring.



caled85 says:

the type of nylon used in paracord it probably not the best thing to use as a bowstring, they can stretch up to 30%. You could use it but i wouldn't, if you do just remember that the string will stretch.

Oct 12, 2008. 6:57 PM [REPLY](#)



bowmaster says:

Oh, I'll just do the harder thing and use flax.

Oct 12, 2008. 8:03 PM [REPLY](#)



caled85 says:

cheers, and I hope to see an 'ible for it sometime in the future, but a bow made of a branch and paracord would make an acceptable survival bow, assuming you know how to make arrows. That is the hard part, any trained monkey can build you a bow, but it takes a good fletcher to make decent arrows. As well as how to hunt with such a bow.

Oct 12, 2008. 8:28 PM [REPLY](#)



bowmaster says:

I am going to make a flax bowstring instructable but first I need to grow some flax.

Oct 13, 2008. 3:54 PM [REPLY](#)



khaosmage813 says:

ty for this Instructibal. i subed the para cord for homemade hemp rope and made my GF an anklet

Feb 2, 2009. 5:53 PM [REPLY](#)



ChrisS_NC says:

DO you leave the in inner strands in the paracord or take them out for this?

Jan 31, 2009. 8:44 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

I leave them in.

Jan 31, 2009. 9:11 AM [REPLY](#)



BeadHeadBug says:

looks good. Nice job.

Jan 12, 2009. 6:54 AM [REPLY](#)



idogis1 says:

Does anyone know if the supplier recommended for the buckle is a reliable source.

Dec 24, 2008. 8:08 AM [REPLY](#)



testingthelimits says:

They are reliable. I bought from them a few months ago and the products were delivered promptly.

Jan 8, 2009. 7:18 PM [REPLY](#)



idogis1 says:

thanks

Jan 9, 2009. 1:07 PM [REPLY](#)



devilchasme says:

Yes. I bought some buckles recently from Creative Designworks and got them FAST and their prices are the best I found.

Dec 30, 2008. 9:19 AM [REPLY](#)



jonnyringo893 says:

reak quick.....do you gut the cord before you do this or do you leave it intact?

Dec 8, 2008. 8:18 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

I leave the inner strands intact. You can gut the cord, but it requires more care in keeping the cord from twisting as you weave, to keep a neat appearance, and the amount of cord may also vary as you can weave more cord into the same space with the thinner gutted cord.

Dec 8, 2008. 9:17 PM [REPLY](#)


















Carlos Marmo says:

Wonderful Work!

Congratulations!

Oct 30, 2008. 12:05 AM [REPLY](#)

-
-  **dontno** says: Oct 27, 2008. 3:21 PM [REPLY](#)
Made this bracelet today. I did do one thing different. I made a jig to hold the 550 cord. I used a scrap piece of 2" X 4" for the base and 8 brads 1" long. I marked off my wrist dimension on the base and nailed in 4 brads spaced about 3/8" apart on each diminution mark (Beginning & End). It worked out very well holding everything together. Great "ible."
-
-  **goldrush** says: Jul 16, 2008. 10:36 PM [REPLY](#)
I'm planning on making one of these watch bands very soon. What I'm going to do, is make the bracelet, and sew a piece of 5/8-3/4 elastic strip to attach the watch, just like the velcro band I've worn for years. the elastic is pretty heavy duty and is more forgiving when you catch the watch, instead of breaking the pins the elastic stretches and snaps back
-
-  **caled85** says: Oct 12, 2008. 12:06 AM [REPLY](#)
good idea
-
-  **gurtek** says: Oct 2, 2008. 11:11 PM [REPLY](#)
Great will try.....
:)
-
-  **Simpel_EU** says: Sep 28, 2008. 5:54 AM [REPLY](#)
well done
-
-  **Greywyn** says: Sep 24, 2008. 1:17 PM [REPLY](#)
Nice Instructable, i do want to know, how strong is the actual weave, would it be strong enough for a duffel bag strap or something?
-
-  **Stormdrane** says: Sep 24, 2008. 2:52 PM [REPLY](#)
If you use mil-spec 'Type III' 550 paracord, the weave should easily support a load from use as a handle or strap.
The section of this weave that would be the 'load bearing' section is the part that's looped onto the buckle/D-ring/rifle sling attachment, etc...
-
-  **bowmaster** says: Sep 22, 2008. 8:18 PM [REPLY](#)
Use 550 paracord it is the best.
-
-  **gps55j** says: Sep 8, 2008. 6:32 AM [REPLY](#)
Wow! This is amazing! can't wait to make one
-
-  **djsc** says: Sep 7, 2008. 12:32 PM [REPLY](#)
finished product looks really nice.
-
-  **Redgerr** says: Sep 6, 2008. 1:33 PM [REPLY](#)
thats really sweet :O
thanks!
-
-  **lordofthedonuts** says: Sep 5, 2008. 6:51 PM [REPLY](#)
that's awesome, I've been looking for an 'ible about this for months!
-
-  **blckthng** says: Sep 5, 2008. 10:38 AM [REPLY](#)
Now that is awesome if only i got my hands on that strapless wristwatch i saw at the store yesterday.....
-
-  **craftycrafter** says: Sep 5, 2008. 6:18 AM [REPLY](#)
I made this as a bracelet and added beads came out real nice .Great project for a class or group
-
-  **shilohjim** says: Sep 5, 2008. 6:03 AM [REPLY](#)
I may have to go buy a Timex just so I can make this watch band.=8) I'll keep my stainless steel band on my Seiko.
-



finnifog says:

Woo hoo! I have an unusually sized watch that I can't get a new strap for - now I can make my own :) Thank you so much for sharing this.

Sep 5, 2008. 1:56 AM [REPLY](#)



ateeq says:

u have done a beautiful work

Sep 4, 2008. 10:31 PM [REPLY](#)

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