

Paracord bracelet with a side release buckle

by [Stormdrane](#) on February 17, 2007

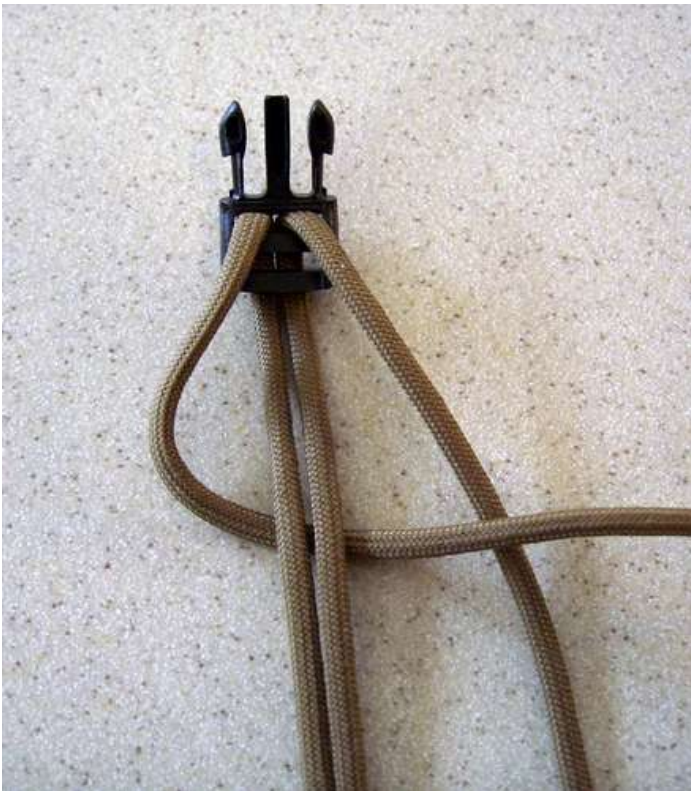
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intro: Paracord bracelet with a side release buckle

This tutorial will show how to make a paracord bracelet with a side release buckle. When made on a larger scale, you can make this for use as a dog or cat collar as well. I get my paracord from the [Supply Captain](#) and the side release buckles from [Creative Designworks](#). More projects, links, knot references can be seen on my blog page, [Stormdrane's Blog](#).









step 1: Materials

You'll need paracord, or equivalent 1/8" diameter cord, a tape measure or ruler, scissors, side release buckle, and a lighter(torch lighter works best). The amount of cord used can vary, but for this example, we'll use 10 feet of paracord to start with. Actual amount of cord used for the bracelet is about 1 foot of cord for every 1 inch of knotted bracelet length. So if your wrist is 8 inches, you'd use approximately 8 feet of cord.



step 2: Measure wrist

Wrap the paracord around you wrist and make a note of where the cord meets. Hold this point next to your ruler or tape measure and that's your wrist size.



step 3: Find the center of the cord

Hold the ends of the cord together and find the center of the loop. Take the center of the cord and pull it thru one end of the buckle (either side of the buckle, it doesn't matter). Now pull the cord ends thru the loop until it's tightened up and attached to the buckle.



step 4: Finding the bracelet length

Take buckle apart and pull the free ends of the cord thru the other part of the buckle, sliding it up towards the attached part. You're going to measure the distance between the two buckle ends for the bracelet size for your wrist. Add about 1 inch to your measured wrist length, this will make the finished bracelet a comfortable fit. You're measuring from the end of the female part of the buckle to the flat part of the male end of the buckle (the part with the prongs, they don't count for the measurement because the fit inside the female part of the buckle when the bracelet is closed.).



step 5: Start making the knots

The knot used for the bracelet has a few different names, cobra stitch, Solomon bar, and Portuguese sinnet. Take the cord on the left side and place it under the center strands running between the buckle ends. Now take the cord on the right side under the left side cord, over the center strands, and thru the loop of the left side cord. Tighten up the cords so the half knot you just formed is next to the buckle. Now take the right side cord under the center strands. The left side cord goes under the right side cord, over the center strands and thru the loop of the right side cord. Tighten up the cords(not too tight, just until they meet the resistance of the knot) and now you have a completed knot. You will continue doing the alternating the left and right sides as you go. If you don't alternate, you'll quickly see a twisting of the knots, just undo the last knot and alternate it to correct.



step 6: Continue knotting

Keep tying the knots until you have filled the space between the buckle ends. The knots should be uniform from one end to the other. Tie each knot with the same tension to keep them all the same size.



step 7: Trim the excess cord and melt the ends

You can now use your scissors to trim off the extra cord closely to the last knot you tied. I trim one at a time, and use my lighter to quickly melt the end I cut, wait a second for the melted cord to cool just a bit and then use my thumb to press the melt end onto the surrounding cord so it hardens as it attaches. You must be careful with this step. The melted cord is extremely hot, and it's possible to get burned, so you may use a soldering iron for the melting step if you wish, or even use something like a butter knife to flatten out the melted end of the cord to finish it.





step 8: You're finished

If you did everything correctly, it should look something like this finished one. Once you know what you're doing, you can vary the amount of cord used by making the knots tighter or looser and pushing the knots closer together as you go can use more cord.



step 9: Other variations.

Once you have the hang of the basic bracelet/collar, you can add another layer of cobra stitches overlapping first set of knots, called a king cobra stitch. The amount of cord used for a king cobra is about twice as much as for the regular stitch. Glow-in-the-dark cord can be found at CoolGlowStuff.com. Both the 1/16" and 3/32" sizes work well for the bracelets and can be used alone or combined with paracord.





Related Instructables



Paracord watchband/bracelet with a side release buckle by Stormdrane



Woven paracord bracelet/watchbar by Stormdrane



Wide Paracord Bracelet by Falcon_WOG



Paracord Bracelet with Monkey Fist Button by Tommi Potx



Natural Flea Collars-- Cheap, Easy and Non-irritating by TraumaComet



Water bottle - drinking bowl by Steeler



Condiment container by TripWir3



Paracord wrist lanyard made with the snake knot by Stormdrane



Comments

50 comments

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bfgreen says:

Nov 17, 2008. 6:21 AM [REPLY](#)

Been a long time fan of your blog and have tried several of your "projects" with great success. I just created my first paracord bracelet with side release clasp and it looks/wears awesome! Creative Designs was great to order from too - many thanks for the great instructions and pictures :)



JeF4y says:

Nov 7, 2008. 6:42 AM [REPLY](#)

Stormdrane - Thank you for this awesome tutorial. I just made 4 of the bracelets, all turned out nice. Single series of knots for the ladies & a double series (king cobra) for my son & I. Very fun, simple & looks great.

For terminating the ends, I left the final knot a little loose and ran the working ends back under it, Used a pliers to pull everything good & tight, cut it off flush & melted together. Even using pink paracord it still looks good.



JeF4y says:

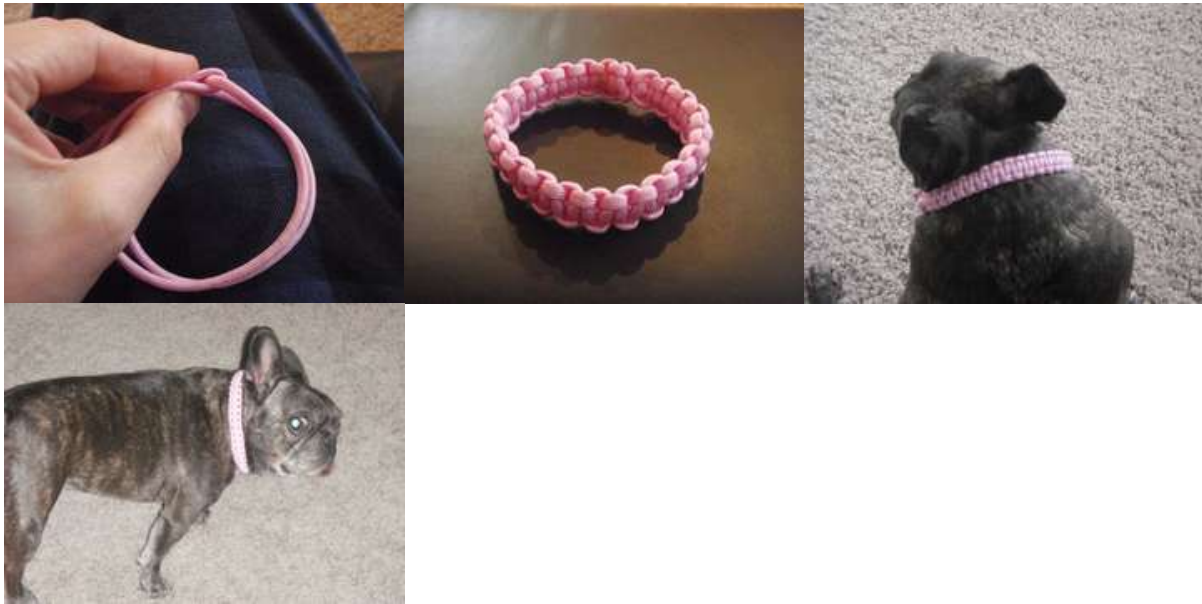
Nov 8, 2008. 2:01 PM [REPLY](#)

So a couple of comments with some pics.

My wife doesn't like the slide release, and prefers a bracelet that slips over her wrist (a bit bigger). So I simply made the whole loop with no buckle or anything but the cord. Was very easy to start the wrap, going over the center point of the cord and work my way around like that. When I finished, I turned the bracelet inside out so that the finished end was toward the inside.

Second is just a pic of making a dog collar out of this loop. Took about an hour and about 20' of paracord.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Paracord-bracelet-with-a-side-release-buckle/>



Stormdrane says:
Well done! Thanks for sharing. :)

Nov 8, 2008. 2:18 PM [REPLY](#)



billhs711 says:
I have coveted this item on a well-known international auction site, but thought it overpriced. I had an inkling it wouldn't be all that difficult to make, so searched the web and found these instructions. Fantastic! Well done for an easy-to-follow set of pictorial steps.

Nov 8, 2008. 7:19 AM [REPLY](#)



dhopper122 says:
I have found two different methods of terminating the paracord. First is using a butane torch to heat a general utility knife blade. The heat will seal the end of the cord and then you can melt the end to the surrounding cord. Second, you can use a soldering iron, if you don't like open flames. You get the temp to about 650°F and you can seal and terminate that way too. Both allow for shaping the molten plastic for a smooth finish. You can buy the butane at any 'Radio Shack'. It comes with both a soldering tip and torch tip. I tend to use the button method for terminating my bracelets and the torch heating the cord works nicely. Then I use the flat side of a blade to push it flat and clean it up with the same knife. Repeat as needed until a smooth, flush surface is achieved.

Nov 5, 2008. 2:57 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
Good tips, thanks.

Nov 5, 2008. 5:13 AM [REPLY](#)

I sometimes use a battery powered soldering iron (from Radio Shack - 3AA batteries) that works especially well with smaller diameter nylon/poly cordage I use for knotwork.



mammoo93 says:
Hey Stormdrane, great instructable and idea. I was wondering if there was another name for paracord or an alternative to it? It's really hard to find in Australia, the only place I have seen it is on ebay. thanks

Nov 2, 2008. 12:57 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
Parachute cord, paracord, 550 cord, Type III MIL-C-5040H... You can use any similarly sized/type of cordage to make a bracelet though.. cotton, hemp, nylon, poly, etc... Paracord is preferred because of its strength and alternate uses.

Nov 2, 2008. 8:46 AM [REPLY](#)



Samuel H says:
Exactly what size and type of buckle did you use there are a lot of different kinds on the site you posted!

Oct 30, 2008. 2:41 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
For this tutorial, I used a 1/2" curved side release buckle from Creative Designworks.

Oct 31, 2008. 12:05 AM [REPLY](#)



Samuel H says:
cool thanks!

Oct 31, 2008. 4:37 AM [REPLY](#)



Carlos Marmo says:

Wonderful Work!

Congratulations!

Oct 30, 2008. 2:08 AM [REPLY](#)



usafa2012 says:

I didn't think just melting the ends into the surrounding cord would be very durable, so I pulled both ends through the loop that holds it to the buckle, in opposite directions. Once through, I tied them with granny knots and melted the ends. They'll stay in place, but, if I want to pull them out for my emergency paracord, I can.

Oct 25, 2008. 8:17 PM [REPLY](#)



bunky11 says:

I made one and it is extremely cool. I was slightly confused starting it, but my wife figured it out in about 2 seconds and it went very smoothly. Thanks for the great idea!!!

Oct 23, 2008. 8:05 PM [REPLY](#)



eor says:

Just FYI for Stormdrane and/or instructables moderator-

PDF file is great to have for easy downloads. In this one, there is reference to additional directions (start King Cobra stitch) in a post March 16, 2007 but the pdf cuts off at Feb 08. I then jumped back online but could not find instructions or a link to instruction on that date.

Think I could probably figure it out. Just thought it was worth a comment. Thanks Stormdrane, I've learned alot from you!

Oct 17, 2008. 7:54 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

I don't know why the comments get out of order like that sometimes. That entry with links to photos of the king cobra stitch(March 16, 2007 reply to a question) is still there, but it didn't show the first time I looked, and did when I searched again.

Oct 18, 2008. 5:16 AM [REPLY](#)



zaida0228 says:

where can u buy paracord and those side buckels?

Oct 17, 2008. 7:58 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

Read the 'Introduction' part of the Instructable. I put links there for both the 'Supply Captain' and 'Creative Designworks'. Other sources can be found on ebay or by using Google.

:)

Oct 17, 2008. 8:27 PM [REPLY](#)



eor says:

Hey-- I just found the March 16 post online. Didn't expect the dated comments to be out of chronological order.

So, sorry for the confusion. The Mar 16 info still is not listed in the pdf.

Oct 17, 2008. 8:01 PM [REPLY](#)



turtleshane says:

my bro said this bracelet was stupid and not for a guy.....i think it is pretty cool tho....i think he said it becuz i used shoe lace and yarn. and the clips were quite huge.. suggestions.

Sep 2, 2008. 2:14 PM [REPLY](#)



downgrade says:

Kick him in the junk, and then do what you want.

Oct 14, 2008. 7:22 AM [REPLY](#)



turtleshane says:

lol ok thanx i will prob get to makin this as soon as i get the things to make it

Oct 16, 2008. 4:04 AM [REPLY](#)



semper says:

I made one and it's not as thick as yours and i have normal mil spec 550 cord why is this?

Oct 7, 2008. 11:44 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

Could be any number of things... how tight/loose you make the individual knots, there are several different manufacturers of mil-spec 550 paracord and I've seen slight variations in the diameter of the cords when I've bought from different vendors...


This particular bracelet has two strands for the core, but depending on the buckle size, it can be increased to a four or even a six strand core if you run it back and forth between the buckle ends before you start knotting over it.

It's easy to vary the look of the pattern by making the knots closer/tighter together, by pushing them towards one end after every two or three knots...


Play around with trying it different ways and you'll see the difference.


Oct 8, 2008. 1:02 AM [REPLY](#)

 **semper** says: Hey how do you make the over lapping knott? Oct 6, 2008. 6:09 PM [REPLY](#)


 **Stormdrane** says: Click on the 'view all comments', and look down to the March 16, 2007 comment to see a few links for photos of the 'king cobra stitch'. Oct 6, 2008. 7:51 PM [REPLY](#)


 **JamesRPatrick** says: YAY! You correctly spelled "You're"! 5/5 Aug 31, 2008. 4:38 PM [REPLY](#)


 **TheMadTinker** says: Hurray for someone else who thinks that the distinction between "you're" and "your" is important! Oct 2, 2008. 7:00 PM [REPLY](#)


 **Kryptonite** says: Wrist watch strap anybody? I got a watch and my wrist is about 10 cm (4") so of course, it's too small. I'm looking to either make this, or some other wrist strap so I can **wear it**. Sep 30, 2008. 7:08 PM [REPLY](#)

 **slu6alka** says: Looks great. I'll try to make one. Sep 21, 2008. 2:16 PM [REPLY](#)

 **Kharabe** says: most of the time when we make those bracelets we use boot laces. and if your going to use 550 cord, take the guts out of it. it makes them lay flatter and is way more comfortable Sep 2, 2008. 12:23 AM [REPLY](#)

 **eranox** says: No way! Leaving the guts in is much cooler--the bracelet can be unravelled in a survival situation and the guts used to construct a fishing net, animal snares, or basic shelter. MacGyver it! Sep 4, 2008. 1:53 AM [REPLY](#)

 **pammy727** says: How would you start and stop this process without a buckle. If you wanted two separate ends so that it could be adjustable. thanks for your help. pammy@fidnet.com Apr 28, 2008. 7:22 PM [REPLY](#)

 **eranox** says: Pammy, instead of the buckle, try using paper clips at each end. On the starting end, Tie a small overhand knot to give yourself a small loop. Make sure you have a little extra length, and instead of cutting and melting the ends, just put them through the end of the bracelet and then either tie a large knot or add a toggle, such as a small stick or a coin. The paper clips can be easily removed, and you can put the knot/toggle through the loop you made on the other end of the bracelet to secure it. Sep 4, 2008. 1:50 AM [REPLY](#)

 **AnarchistAsian** says: think you could hide a blade in the weave? (just for camping and stuff) Sep 1, 2008. 9:55 AM [REPLY](#)

 **DrCoolSanta** says: blades in a wrist band, I won't risk it. Sep 2, 2008. 6:34 AM [REPLY](#)

 **AnarchistAsian** says: but i will, doc (can i call you that?) Sep 2, 2008. 2:25 PM [REPLY](#)

 **DrCoolSanta** says: Everybody calls me that. I don't mind, and well lol? Sep 3, 2008. 9:47 AM [REPLY](#)



AnarchistAsian says:
lol

Sep 3, 2008. 2:28 PM [REPLY](#)



Pwag says:
That's be really cool until you forgot about it and popped off a metal detector...
Get an opinel and keep it in your pocket instead.

Sep 2, 2008. 11:23 PM [REPLY](#)



AnarchistAsian says:
opinel???

Sep 3, 2008. 2:28 PM [REPLY](#)



Pwag says:
It's a small (sometimes) single blade pocket knife. They are cheap, reliable and get a hell of an edge.
Opinel <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opinel>
They are cheap enough that a guy can keep on in the car, in the locker, in your pants pocket, and so on and so on...
And if you "forget" you have it while clearing security it's not going to raise a whole lot of eye brows.

Sep 3, 2008. 3:39 PM [REPLY](#)



AnarchistAsian says:
oh, cool.

Sep 3, 2008. 4:00 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
It's unlikely that you'd be able to put anything larger than a short/small replacement modeling blade into/under the knots, because of the curved nature of the paracord bracelet.

Sep 1, 2008. 3:09 PM [REPLY](#)

Somet type of thin/longer blade might work with a straight paracord lanyard/fob, like has been done by some folks with adding fire making flints into the center of some paracord knot work.



AnarchistAsian says:
enough for survival...

Sep 1, 2008. 6:38 PM [REPLY](#)

good job, you got 6 comments in one day. =D



DrCoolSanta says:
You call this macrame, you can check out some websites on macrame to find some other desings. Also you can add some beads in.
A replacement for the cord could be shoe lace, or you could use some lace that is meant for macrame. We get it in our school book shop as well.

Sep 2, 2008. 6:33 AM [REPLY](#)



turtleshane says:
could u buy paracord at a store or market instead of ordering it? same with the slide buckle

Sep 1, 2008. 6:39 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
You might find paracord at Army/Navy surplus stores or similar sized utility cordage at outdoor stores like REI. The same type places may or may not have side release buckles sold as repair/replacements for backpacks and such. Or you could buy inexpensive dog collars and remove the ones on those for adding to a paracord bracelet.

Sep 1, 2008. 3:14 PM [REPLY](#)



AnarchistAsian says:
i love rei!

Sep 1, 2008. 6:38 PM [REPLY](#)

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