

BOOMbox at Home

Paracord Crafts

Paracord is an extremely strong and versatile light-weight rope that was originally used by the U.S. military in the construction of parachutes. Over time, uses for paracord have expanded, and today, paracord is a valuable supply for all sorts of outdoor adventures. As useful as it may be, you probably don't want to carry around a bundle of rope. But how about a stylish bracelet or keychain? Learn how to make cool crafts that can be broken down into cord if needed.

Supplies

- paracord
- scissors
- buckles, carabiners, or key rings
- tweezers or pliers (optional)

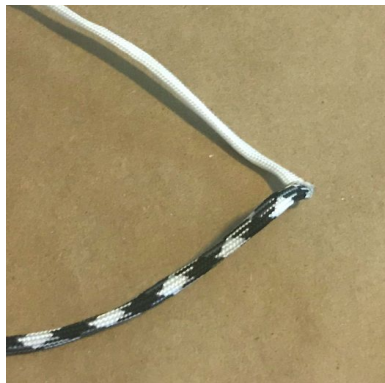


Instructions

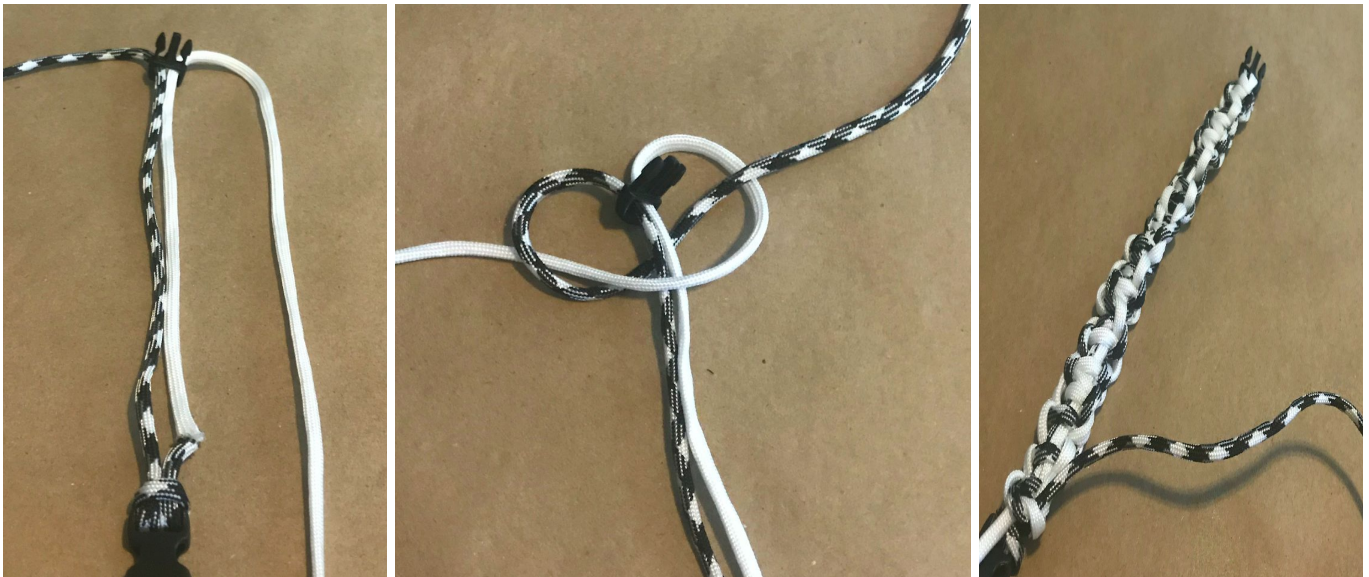
Cobra Bracelet

A great beginner paracord craft is this bracelet, made using the cobra weave. Learning this basic form will give you the foundation to try out dozens of other designs. For this bracelet, you'll need approximately 10 ft of cord. You can use one or two colors. For your first few tries, you may find it easier to catch any mistakes if you use two colors.

- If you're using multiple colors, ask an adult to help you fuse the two cords together. Use a lighter to melt the end of each cord, and carefully press the melted ends together. You can use tweezers or pliers to manipulate the hot ends.
- Measure your wrist.
- Tie the cord onto one segment of the buckle. First, fold the cord in half and thread the middle through the buckle. If you're using a fused cord, you may have trouble threading the fusion point through. In that case, shift the fusion point to one side. Then, bring the two ends of the cord through the loop created by the folded cord. Pull tight.



- Thread the ends of the cord through the other part of the buckle. You may want to clip the buckle together before doing this in order to make sure that both parts of the buckle are facing the right way. Be careful not to let the cords twist.
- Set the length of your bracelet. Add one inch to your wrist measurement, and position the two parts of the buckle that far apart. The extra accounts for the added bulk of the weave and ensures that your bracelet won't be too tight.
- Start weaving your bracelet! At this point, you should have two central cords between the buckles and two tails, one on either side of the central cords. Make a loop with one tail going **over** the central cords and a loop with the other tail going **under** the central cords. Pull the end of each tail tight through the loop created by the opposite tail.
- Repeat, alternating which tail goes under and which goes over. If you forget to alternate, your bracelet may begin to twist. Just undo that knot and redo it the other way.
- When you've reached the end, trim any excess cord, and ask an adult to help you secure the ends by melting them with the lighter.



DNA Keychain

Twisting may be a sign of mistakes in the cobra bracelet, but this design takes advantage of this twist to form a DNA-like helix. Depending on how long you'd like your keychain to be, you'll likely need around 3 ft of cord. As with the bracelet, you can choose to use one or two colors.



- If necessary, fuse your two colors of cord together as described above.

- Fold the cord in half, and pull the loop through your keyring. Bring the ends of the cord through the loop and pull tight.
- Decide roughly how long you'd like your keychain to be. From that point, make a loop with one tail going **over** the central cords and a loop with the other tail going **under** the central cords. Pull the end of each tail tight through the loop created by the opposite tail.
- Repeat, this time not alternating. If you notice that your keychain is not twisting, undo your most recent knot and redo it the other way.
- When you've reached the end, trim any excess cord, and ask an adult to help you secure the ends by melting them with the lighter.



Run out of cord? You can always use the lighter to fuse on more. Strategically place the fusion points so that they are covered.

Want to explore more?

These are just a few examples of the different crafts you can make with paracord. Check out these Youtube channels to learn more knots, patterns, and projects.

- [Paracord Bracelet](#)
- [Paracord 101](#)
- [BoredParacord](#)

What will you learn today?