

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



Survival Bracelet by tevers94



Survival Bracelet II by tevers94



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



Survival kits by paintballworld



Paracord Lighter Wrap by METALBLADE

Comments

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misses_soulful says:
Did you use a Flat Side Release Buckle or a Curved Side Release Buckle???

Feb 12, 2010. 5:34 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:
I used a curved(contoured) side release buckle, but you can use a flat one.

Feb 12, 2010. 8:08 PM [REPLY](#)



misses_soulful says:
Awesome! Thanks! I ordered the contoured one, it made sense to. Thank you so much for making this tutorial! I will let you know how it turns out :)

Feb 15, 2010. 9:40 AM [REPLY](#)



iangates says:
I couldn't fit the cord under the watch pins. So I took the 7 cores out of my cord for necessity. It turned out pretty nice. It's seems flatter. I also didn't have a lighter, so I just stuff the ends all the way through the middle loops to the watch. That gave the middle a slight hump. All of this saved me from having to buy a new watch over here at Kandahar Air Field. They are pretty expensive here for some reason :) Thanks for this.

Feb 13, 2010. 6:14 AM [REPLY](#)



n8man says:
This is great, my watch strap broke the other week. I am going to go try do that later.

Feb 9, 2010. 4:59 PM [REPLY](#)



n8man says:

Just found out my watch has a two screw design instead of a bar one. Any suggestions on how to make this work?

Feb 9, 2010. 6:07 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

I don't have any watches with a 'two screw design', so I'm not sure of a solution. If they're similar to a G-Shock type watch, there are band/strap adapters that allow the use of nylon/strap type band, like a ZULU watchband, to be used with the watch. I don't know if that would work with a paracord band though, since there would have to be enough clearance for the cord to fit through the adapter...

Feb 9, 2010. 6:34 PM [REPLY](#)



n8man says:

It is actually a timex so I am not sure it would work. But I will try it later and post pics here if it works so other people can figure out how.

Feb 9, 2010. 6:47 PM [REPLY](#)



foxtrot4697 says:

This pattern looks much nicer with a watch. 5*

Feb 9, 2010. 6:03 PM [REPLY](#)



hassi says:

C'est cool! 45 min start to finish (1:30 to 2:15)! Can't be beat. Stars to you!

Feb 9, 2010. 1:56 PM [REPLY](#)



limpach says:

This is a great design. I made something like this over the summer while I was working out in the backcountry at Philmont. Only problem I have found with these style of watch bands is once they start to smell it is hard to get the smell out.

Feb 9, 2010. 6:15 AM [REPLY](#)



kopomeroy says:

Your photos are some of the best I've seen. A lot of care went into making them so that they would clearly show the critical steps.

Jun 19, 2009. 10:25 AM [REPLY](#)



godofal says:

i completely agree, nice instructable! i might make one for my dad since i gave him a watch, but the leather is kind of short... il just ask him if he likes it ;)

Jun 22, 2009. 9:15 AM [REPLY](#)



Dianca1 says:

This would be a good Father's Day gift!

Feb 6, 2010. 7:20 PM [REPLY](#)



3DD3 says:

This would also work with "shock cord" aka elastic cord as a one piece design.(minus the buckle)

Jan 14, 2010. 5:32 PM [REPLY](#)



nmc4477 says:

Noel
looks very good. Thanks for the instructions.

Oct 14, 2009. 9:03 PM [REPLY](#)



angusbangus says:

If you trim the shorter end down to about an inch and place it in between the middle 2 cords, you can weave it right into the band. That leaves as clean a finish as you can get. Pull on the short end as you tighten the knots. But be careful not to pull it so much that you shorten the outside cord that it is attached to. On the last few weaves before you finish, you can use the end of a paper clip or safety pin to pull it tight. Remove the safety pin and voila... no more short cord to deal with and it's right where you would have laboriously put it later with the hemostats.

Oct 6, 2009. 1:21 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

Good tip, thanks for sharing!

Oct 6, 2009. 7:22 PM [REPLY](#)



Bubz.TH says:

Thanks for this Instructable!! I'm doing this tonight

Sep 8, 2009. 12:35 PM [REPLY](#)



pluie says:

it looks great. too bad after a while it smells stinks because of the sweat. especially if you live in tropic country like me. *sigh

Jun 30, 2009. 9:50 AM [REPLY](#)



iraaten says:

Here in the UK we wash things that stink of sweat, LOL

Aug 15, 2009. 9:43 AM [REPLY](#)



pluie says:

yeah, I tried that once too; but the paracord thread is, I don't know how to say it--misshapen? maybe I rubbed it too hard. and the worst part was, the stink still linger!
Perhaps my sweat contains too much acid in it.
=D

Aug 16, 2009. 10:07 AM [REPLY](#)



bashomatsuo says:

Worked well, going to do it again with a better quality paracord, images:

Aug 10, 2009. 4:53 AM [REPLY](#)



bashomatsuo says:

Pics of version 1 and 2 here : <http://www.outsidecontext.com/2009/08/13/tactical-man-watch/>

Aug 15, 2009. 11:47 AM [REPLY](#)



divyang6478 says:

Always my Favourite u r, my Best friend "stromdrane".

Aug 8, 2009. 10:56 PM [REPLY](#)



mtnman49 says:

Stormdrane, is it possible to make this bracelet with one center cord , so that you have only 4 cords running under watch, I can't get five thru my posts?

Jul 28, 2009. 3:09 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

Yes, instead of looping onto a buckle end as is done in Step 2 which creates the usual 4 strands that are woven around, you take about three times your wrist measurement plus a few extra inches to make a 3 strand core of the bracelet. Take your new measured length of cord and wrap around the starting buckle end a couple of times then take it from one buckle end through the watch to the other buckle end figuring for your wrist size, around a couple times, back through watch and wrap around buckle ends a couple times, back through watch and around buckle ends a couple times(now both buckle ends have been wrapped to fill up the space on them) and now you start weaving as you normally would. Hope that makes sense.

Jul 29, 2009. 4:54 AM [REPLY](#)



mtnman49 says:

Thanks, really love your instructables and blog site.

Jul 29, 2009. 8:20 AM [REPLY](#)



Roofiou says:

I just wanted to drop a BIG >thank you Stormdrane<. I followed your instructions and voila I had my good old watch back to life. Thanks a lot Stormdrane, your page is always an inspiration!

Jul 24, 2009. 2:07 PM [REPLY](#)



smashmeatchunk says:

I didn't see this in the other comments so I'll just type it up here: ITW Nexus will send you free buckles, so you dont have to spend money on that at least. Go to their website and ask for a sample. You get up to 5 pairs.

Jul 11, 2009. 2:36 PM [REPLY](#)



trevyboy says:

hey just a little tip when your doing this, duct tape eack buckle loosely to your table so it doesnt move around

Jul 6, 2009. 3:43 PM [REPLY](#)



trevyboy says:

wait so if you want to just make the bracelet you do the same thing but without watch right?

Jun 22, 2009. 12:05 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

Yes, just follow the tutorial steps without actually adding a watch to it.

Jun 22, 2009. 2:03 PM [REPLY](#)



trevyboy says:

ok cool can you get paracord at like home depot or somewhere like that cuase ive seen rope there on those big drums but i have never actually looked for paracord

Jun 22, 2009. 3:17 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

I've seen various sizes and types of rope and cordage at Home Depot, Lowes, True Value, and Ace hardware stores, but not any actual paracord. Other cord materials will certainly work for making the bracelets/watchbands, but paracord is preferred for it's feel, strength, durability, and utility as well as the variety of colors and it's still affordable, at usually 10 cents or less per foot, depending on how much you buy at a time.

Jun 22, 2009. 4:28 PM [REPLY](#)



trevyboy says:

ok thx

Jun 22, 2009. 6:01 PM [REPLY](#)



the duct tape skater says:

would wal-mart have it?

Jun 21, 2009. 10:43 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

Walmart doesn't carry paracord or the side-release buckles, but they do have other types of similar size cord that could be used, but it's just not the same as 550 paracord. You can buy the inexpensive dog/cat collars to use a buckle off of, or look for some on old bags/packs/luggage to scavenge them. Army/Navy surplus stores usually carry paracord as do some outdoor type stores like REI.

Jun 21, 2009. 11:16 AM [REPLY](#)



the duct tape skater says:

ok thanks

Jun 22, 2009. 10:25 AM [REPLY](#)



sac1128 says:

This is pretty cool. I have a few friends in rotc that will get a kick out of this. I will pass the word.

Jun 19, 2009. 11:23 AM [REPLY](#)



I1ng4n says:

Where did u get the paracord?

Jun 18, 2009. 4:37 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

There are a few links for paracord in 'Step 1' of the instructable, including the Supply Captain . You can also try your local Army/Navy surplus stores or google for more.

Jun 18, 2009. 8:55 AM [REPLY](#)



Mattrox says:

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.

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



Iridium7 says:

Lol. I think my entire life revolves around Murphy's law.

Jun 17, 2009. 3:48 PM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

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

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



pogoman12345 says:

HEY EVERY ONE!!!!!! if you live in saintjohn and dont know where to get paracord u can buy it at roys army surplus 50FT FOR \$4.00!!!!

Jun 17, 2009. 1:08 PM [REPLY](#)



fuzz579 says:

Hey What is the watch face that you used?

Jun 17, 2009. 12:33 AM [REPLY](#)



Stormdrane says:

That's a Timex Reef Gear with Turn and Pull Alarm.

Jun 17, 2009. 1:20 AM [REPLY](#)



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](#)

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