

PARACORD TIPS



*"This nation will only remain the land of the free
so as long as it is the home of the brave."*

Elmer Davis



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INTRODUCTION

This "101" tip sheet was created as a way of providing answers to the questions we get asked all the time about Paracord, "survival" and the items we make.

"Paracord Survival Bracelets" have now hit the mainstream. These versatile accessories really started in the military as a way to carry some of this very strong and useful cord to have it on hand if needed.

While wearing a Paracord bracelet is a fashion statement for some, for many others it is a handy little safety tool they can wear to be there when they need it. So, what's with the "survival" part of a Paracord bracelet?

The truth is most folks just like the way they look or the meaning they hold. For LEOs, Military personnel and their families, while they will most likely never deploy them in a true survival situation, the meaning far outweighs their practicality.

Being an U.S. Military Veteran I understand the importance of preparedness. Survivalists and "preppers" all make sure they have the basics (and then some) to ensure that their families have the necessities and protection they will require in the event of an unexpected disaster.

Throughout my tip sheet I'll cover the basics of why Paracord - and other tactical cords can be a handy and useful asset.

If you enjoy this PDF, talking about it on your site or Blog and linking to the [ParacordPaul.com download page](#) so others can get a copy would be greatly appreciated.

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At your service,

Paul

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WHY A 550 PARACORD BRACELET?

This comes from the fact that 550 Paracord is strong and versatile. Parachute cord, Paracord, para-cord or 550 cord are all names to describe a lightweight nylon kernmantle rope originally used as suspension lines of U.S. parachutes. 550 cord consists of a 32 strand woven nylon outer sheath with an inner core of seven, 2 ply nylon yarns.

When it comes to using this cord in a survival situation, not all Paracord is created equal -- especially now that China has jumped on the Paracord bracelet bandwagon. Don't count on that being military grade or having the tensile strength you would need to depend upon in a survival situation!

Whether you are making your own items, purchasing from me or others it behooves you to know where the cord for your items is manufactured. If you want to keep Paracord around for survival situations - you need mil-spec cord. The last thing you want to do is realize you've got junk cord when you need it! Unless of course you just want to make a fashion statement -- then this paragraph is moot.

All of my products are made in the U.S.A. with mil-spec MIL-C-5040H type III requirement cord and have a minimum breaking strength of 550 pounds (that's where the 550 comes from). My Paracord comes from the same U.S. factory that is a government contractor to supply the military, so quality is assured.



WHAT IS 275 TACTICAL CORD?

Our **275 Tactical Cord** is a Mil Type 1 Style Cord that we manufacture to our specs with a 4 strand core and 16 strand cover delivering a whopping 275 pound test break. It's some tough stuff!

Typically this cord is found in military applications and is black in color but is used similarly to 550 Paracord.

After hearing from hundreds of customers that they wanted something lower profile and not as "bulky" - that got us thinking.

What we did was have this type of cord made to my quality standards in some pretty neat colors - 25 to date.

From a survival point of view, this cord can be just as handy!



"Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die."

~ G.K.

CLEANING YOUR BRACELET

If you wear your bracelets every day like I do - they get dirty. Because quality Paracord is so versatile it is pretty easy to clean. All you have to do is use a toothbrush with some dish soap to gently clean your bracelet then set it on the counter to dry.

When your Paracord bracelet gets wet there will be a bit of shrinkage. I take that into consideration when I knot up every item to ensure a good fit if the bracelet gets wet.

If you find that your bracelet shrinks so much that it is too small and no longer comfortable - it looks like you may have purchased a bracelet made from sub-par cord. Don't make that mistake again (hint-hint) and look for a discount code at the end of this eBook. ;-)



DEPLOYING YOUR BRACELET

Your Paracord bracelet stays together due to the ends being heat sealed so your item does not unravel. On higher quality knot work you may have a hard time finding the connection point - but it's there.

If you find yourself in a situation where you need to actually use the Paracord in your bracelet or item, here is how you deploy it for use:

1. Look on the inside of your bracelet close to the clasp or buckle for the attachment point where the Paracord was sealed. This will generally be a darker color than the Paracord around it.
2. Use a utility knife to carefully pry the Paracord apart and then unravel.
3. You will have separate lengths of Paracord depending on how many colors are in your bracelet. That is why if you really want a true "survival" bracelet you want it to be knotted up in all one color.



"Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way."

~ General George S. Patton

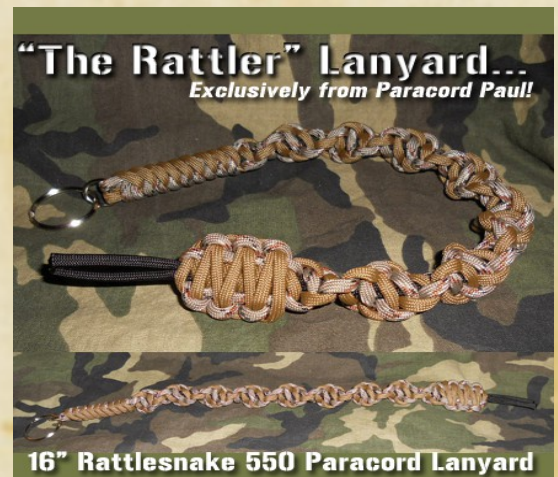
USES FOR 550 PARACORD AND 275

TACTICAL CORD

1. Replace tent tie downs that are lost or missing by using your Paracord to secure your tent tie downs.
2. Use a length of Paracord to create a clothesline to dry socks, pants and other materials.
3. Nothing like hiking or being out in the wilderness and your shoelace breaks. Paracord to the rescue!
4. Use Paracord to secure your raft or boat to a shore tree or pier.
5. If you are a bow hunter, Paracord can make a temporary bow string if needed.
6. Just like tent tie downs, you can use your Paracord to secure a shelter or tarp.
7. Paracord can be used as a tourniquet if you are injured.
8. Use 2" pieces of your Paracord to mark your path so you can find the way home or signal to other hikers (or search personnel) where you have been.
9. Zipper pulls are one of the many uses for small lengths of Paracord.
10. Use the inner strands of your Paracord as dental floss
11. If the need arises you can use the inner strands as sewing thread to repair clothing or equipment.
12. Paracord can secure a sharp stone or makeshift arrow to a "spear" for hunting purposes.
13. Use your Paracord to hang your food in a tree up away from bears and other wildlife.
14. Paracord is excellent for knotting up fish nets, snares and traps.
15. Along the same vein, use the inner core of your Paracord to use as a fishing line.



16. Use your Paracord to attach items to your backpack or harness. This is actually what military tactical cord is used for as it is smaller and lower profile.
17. Securing equipment to your ATV or vehicle.
18. Camouflage nets can be secured over your shelter, to trees and vehicles.
19. Keep a pack of wide holed beads in your hiking kit so that you can use those beads on a strand of Paracord as a pace counter to estimate distance covered.
20. With a strong stick or tree limb and some Paracord you can create a leg or arm splint to keep broken bones in place until further help arrives.
21. Relax at your campsite by stringing up a hammock.
22. Make a sling for your rifle, gear or other weapons.
23. Tie some brightly colored Paracord to your knife so you can find it when thrown
24. If needed Paracord can be used as a restraint on others who need to be controlled or are perceived as dangerous.
25. Secure yourself with some Paracord to a companion during unexpected visibility or unexpected whether situations.
26. Create a trip wire for perimeter security.
27. Combine wood, logs or other floatables to build a raft.
28. Devise a large monkey fist type devise with a stone or other weighted item to use for protection or to hunt for food.
29. Use as a fish stringer to keep you catch fresh.
30. Paracord can be used with tree branches to make a stretcher or branch drag to transport the injured.
31. Hang a Zombie from a tree. ;-)



SETTING UP A BUG OUT BAG

Having a "survival bracelet" really isn't enough if you are serious about being prepared. While wearing a bracelet can help out with unexpected situations when outdoors, hiking or camping and the like, it is really a good idea to have a couple hanks of 550 cord included in your survival kit.

Here is a list of some of the items you should minimally have in your bug out bag:

Water and Hydration:

1. Heavy-duty plastic water bag (large heavy-duty ziplock bag will do)
2. Iodine water purification tablets
3. Large bandana or triangular bandage made of cotton

Heat, Light and Signaling for Help:

1. Compact magnifying lens
2. Magnesium fire-starter
3. Disposable lighter
4. Waterproof match case with waterproof strike-anywhere matches
5. Long burning candle
6. Box of birthday candles
7. Plastic whistle (metal whistles can freeze to your lips in subzero temps)
8. Stainless steel double-surface mirror to use for signaling
9. Flashlight with fresh batteries (AA or AAA)

Temporary Shelter:

1. Heavy duty plastic trash bag
2. 550 Paracord: 50' or 100' hank
3. Transparent vinyl tape
4. Lightweight insulating sheet

Direction Finding:

Good quality liquid-filled luminous compass - don't cheap out here!

Knives and Tools:

1. Swiss Army Knife (or utility knife)
2. Knife sharpener
3. Hemostats
4. Small "ignition point" file
5. 6" sharpened piece of hacksaw blade
6. 4" extra-heavy duty sewing needle
7. Heavy duty rubber bands

General:

1. Basic First Aid Kit
2. Mosquito net (for fishing or insects)
3. Safety pins, small, medium and large
4. Duct Tape

In Addition to your Bug Out Bag think about...

1. Individual ready-to-eat canned food. Small cans can add up in weight. So be prudent and selective here.
2. Detailed maps of your area and where you want to go. Making notes about your plan and important points of interest on your map in advance is a good idea too!
3. Prescription medications you must have.
4. Small transistor radio (and batteries). Solar or windup radios are even better.
5. Extra pair of eyeglasses in unbreakable case. When you get new glasses, put your old pair in your bug out bag.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change." ~ Charles Darwin



Items to Stock for Barter

Heck we don't know what lies ahead. But it won't hurt to stock up on the following items which will greatly enhance your bartering power...

- Cigarettes - even if you don't smoke store a carton away just in case.
- Alcohol - for rubbing (antiseptic) and drinking.
- Matches, Lighters - can't have enough of these!
- Bleach - for sanitation and cleaning.
- Batteries - the more the better.
- Sugar - to sweeten pretty much anything.
- Water Bottles - clean and with secure lids/tops.
- MRE's - food is a great motivator.
- Toilet paper - a must have convenience.
- Bars of Soap - can make anyone feel better instantly.

Of course you'll need some bug out bag tags, right?



"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty." ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy

ONLINE RESOURCES

Below are some of the sites I visit to keep up on the latest survivalist tools, tactics and products:

SHTF Movement: This is Judi's favorite - you'll find her there as "Knotty Judi". She highly recommends and talks about the great group of folks who hang out @ SHTFM! If you stop by and learn from all the great resources and posts please make a small donation to the forum to support their efforts.

Another great site is **The American Preppers Network.** APN is a Family Oriented National Survival and Preparedness Organization and one of our favorite sites to get all the information you may be interested in when it comes to prepping.

A few other sites ...

- **The Preparationist**
- **Survival Tube**
- **Zombie Squad Forum**
- **Survivalist Boards**
- **Off Grid Survival**
- **Survival Monkey Forum**
- **Wildwood Survival**



**PARACORD GARROTE NECKLACE
WITH SAFETY BREAK-AWAY CLASP**

"The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." ~ Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

WALL OF HEROES

I hope you don't mind me using this tip sheet as an opportunity to bring attention to our Wall of Heroes. This is an area on ParacordPaul.com where we post photos of the items we make for fallen soldiers and law enforcement Heroes. We also post photos sent to us by their families.

Without these folks out there supporting our freedom and way of life, I know I wouldn't have the opportunity to live the life I do.

But The Wall is not just for Paracord bracelet photos...

We also welcome the submission of photos of Heroes to be added to our site. If you have a photo or know someone who has a friend or family member that has paid the ultimate sacrifice, please do let them know that we would be honored to post their photo on The Wall.



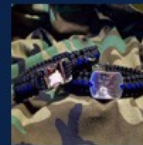
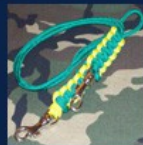
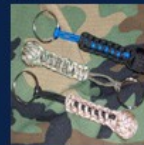
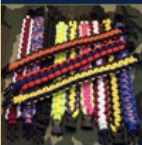
IN CLOSING...

I hope you found the information in this little tip sheet helpful!

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