GENERAL

how to make paracord lanyards

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Paracord lanyards have become a staple for campers, hikers, and everyday enthusiasts who love a blend of style and practicality. Whether you want to carry your keys, ID badge, or a small tool, a paracord lanyard offers a lightweight, durable solution that looks great and feels secure. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through everything you need to know about **how to make paracord lanyards**, from choosing the right materials to mastering the knot that keeps your lanyard strong and stylish.

Why Choose a Paracord Lanyard?

Paracord, originally designed for parachute lines, has evolved into a popular craft material. Its tensile strength, versatility, and vibrant color options make it ideal for lanyards. Some key benefits include:

- Durability – Paracord can withstand thousands of miles of wear.
- Lightweight – Adds minimal bulk to your gear.
- Customizable – Choose colors, patterns, and add accessories.
- Emergency Use – Paracord can be unraveled to provide rope in survival situations.
- Cost Effective – A small roll of cord can produce multiple lanyards.

Materials You'll Need

Below is a quick checklist of supplies to gather before you start:

1. Paracord – 3 5 feet of your preferred color (10–12mm diameter works best).
2. Paracord Lanyard Clip – a brass or stainless steel clip with a 5mm hole.
3. Scissors or a sharp knife.
4. Heat source (optional) – a lighter or hot iron for sealing.
5. Measuring tape or ruler.
6. Optional: Decorative elements (e.g., metal charms, beads).

Most kits sold online include a pre cut length of cord and a clip, but you can easily create a lanyard from scratch using a standard roll of paracord.

Understanding Paracord Construction

Paracord is typically made of a 3 strand nylon core, a 7 strand nylon sheath, and a 27 strand nylon outer layer. The core is the strongest part and can be used for emergency rope, while the outer sheath adds color and texture. Knowing this helps you decide where to cut or weave your lanyard for optimal strength.

Step 1: Cutting the Paracord

Measure out 3–5 feet of paracord, depending on how long you want your lanyard. A length of 4 feet ("H1.2 meters) is common, giving a comfortable 12–18 inches of lanyard when folded. Use scissors or a knife to make a clean cut.

Step 2: Preparing the Lanyard Clip

The clip is the heart of your lanyard. It should have a small hole (usually 5mm) to secure the cord. If your clip

doesn’t have a hole, you can drill a small one using a fine drill bit. Make sure the hole is centered to prevent uneven wear.

Step 3: Attaching the Paracord to the Clip

Thread the end of the paracord through the clip’s hole. Pull the cord through until you have about 1–2 inches of slack. This slack allows you to adjust the length after the knot is tied.

Step 4: Tying the Paracord Knot

The most common knot for paracord lanyards is the **Paracord Lanyard Knot**. It’s simple, secure, and leaves a neat finish. Follow these steps:

1. Hold the clip end in your left hand and the free end in your right.
2. Wrap the free end around the clip twice to create a loop.
3. Cross the free end over the loop and pull tight.
4. Repeat the wrap for a total of four turns around the clip.
5. Pull the free end through the loop you just created.
6. Adjust the length by sliding the knot along the cord.
7. Trim the excess to 1/4 inch beyond the knot.
8. Seal the cut with a small flame from a lighter or a hot iron to prevent fraying.

Once tied, your lanyard should hold securely and look tidy. If you prefer a different look, experiment with decorative knots such as the *Double Loop Knot* or the *Fisherman’s Knot*.

Optional: Adding Decorative Elements

Personalize your lanyard by embedding small charms, beads, or metal tags. To add a charm, simply thread it onto the paracord before tying the knot. For a more elaborate design, consider weaving a **paracord braid** or a **color blocking pattern** using multiple strands of different colors.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

- Loose Knot – If the knot feels loose, re tighten the wraps and ensure the free end is pulled snugly through the loop.
- Frayed Ends – Always seal the cut ends with a flame or iron. This prevents unraveling and maintains a clean look.
- Uneven Length – Adjust the slack before tying the knot. A well balanced lanyard looks more professional.

Safety Tips When Working with Paracord

Although paracord is generally safe, it’s essential to follow basic precautions:

- Use a cutting tool that’s sharp to avoid accidental slips.
- When sealing the ends, keep your fingers away from the flame.
- Store unused paracord in a dry place to prevent mildew.
- Always keep a small fire extinguisher or water source nearby when using a lighter.

Creative Uses Beyond Keychains

Paracord lanyards can serve many functions beyond holding keys or badges:

- Emergency Rope – The core can be unraveled to provide a strong 7 strand rope.
- Carabiner Loop – Attach a carabiner for hiking gear or a small pocket.
- Badge Holder – Perfect for uniforms or volunteer IDs.
- Accessory for Crafts – Use as a decorative element in jewelry or home décor projects.

Maintenance and Longevity

To keep your lanyard looking fresh, wash it occasionally with mild soap and warm water. Avoid harsh detergents that can degrade the nylon fibers. If the lanyard becomes frayed at the knot, simply re seal the ends. With proper care, a paracord lanyard can last for years.

Where to Buy Paracord and Accessories

There are many reputable suppliers for paracord and lanyard clips. Look for vendors that offer:

- High quality nylon paracord in a range of colors.
- Durable clips with secure locking mechanisms.
- Bulk purchasing options for cost savings.
- Detailed product descriptions and customer reviews.

Final Thoughts

Creating your own paracord lanyard is a rewarding project that blends creativity, practicality, and a touch of adventure. By following the steps above, you'll produce a sturdy, stylish accessory that can carry your keys, ID, or even serve as a quick access rope in the wilderness. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or a beginner looking for a simple DIY, the process of **how to make paracord lanyards** is straightforward and enjoyable.

Experiment with colors, knots, and decorative elements to make each lanyard uniquely yours. Remember to handle tools safely, seal the ends properly, and enjoy the satisfaction of a finished product that's both functional and eye catching.

Happy crafting, and may your paracord lanyard keep you connected to the world—literally and figuratively!

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