

The Round Braid Lanyard

The round braid lanyard is relatively easy to make, and shouldn't take you more than a couple of hours your first time. After that, figure an hour for a complete lanyard. You can make these lanyards with as many or as few drops as you want or need.

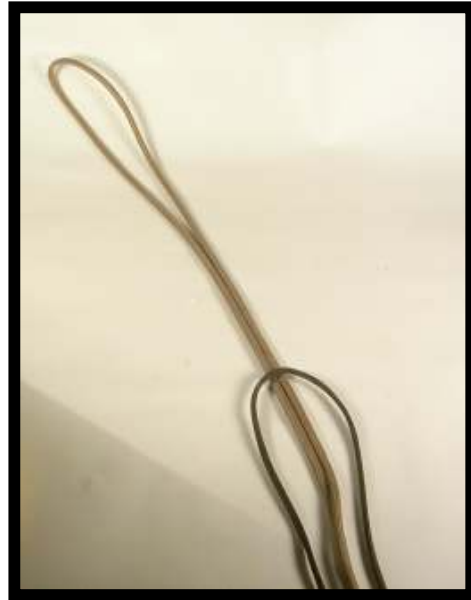
To begin, we need the following items. It is best with this braid to use two contrasting colors of parachute cord.



16 feet of one color paracord
18 feet of a contrasting color paracord
2 6' pieces of paracord for side drops (if you want them)
some fly line backing or ice fishing line
thin super glue

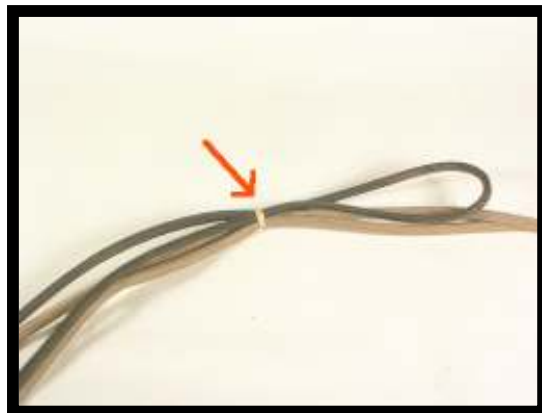
The first step is to double your two strands of parachute cord and make sure they are equal lengths. One color will be a foot longer than the other.

Lay them together on a table or bench so that the LONGEST is on the bottom and the shorter on top and about 8 or 9 inches below the longest.



The next step is to bind these two sections together with our fly line backing or ice fishing line. You want a strong material, that is not bulky to do this, which is why we use fly line backing or ice fishing line. Both are water proof and strong with little bulk.

All we are doing here is keeping them together so we can braid the strands easier.



Now we can start our braid. You are going to need a place to hang your lanyard while you braid it. I have a simple cup hook screwed into one of the beams in my shop for this purpose. I have also used one of the plant hanger hooks in the living room, but it does get funny looks from the significant other. Whatever you use, it will need to be sturdy enough to hold a bit of tugging on the strands. In this article I am using one of the drying rack pegs on my bench.

Hang your strands by the long loop and then separate them so that you have the same two colors on each side. Here I have the olive on the left and the tan strands on the right. This is an easy braid to master because after each pass, you always end up with the same two colors on the same side and on the side you started originally. It sounds harder than it is. You will get the idea as we go along.

I find it easiest to always start on the right hand side. Take the outer most tan strand and bring BEHIND all of the other three remaining strands



Then bring it up between the two olive strands



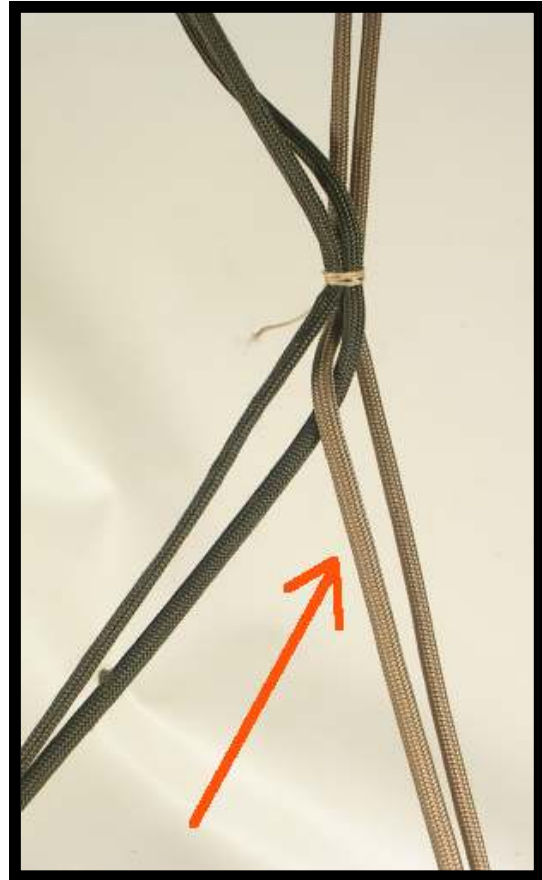
Now bring it ACROSS the two center strands so it is on the side it started out on.



Grab the two olive strands and the two tan strands and snug it up a bit. You won't be able to do much at this point, just get it snug and we will start our second pass.

Notice that the original outer strand is now the inside tan strand on the right side. With each pass, the strands go from being on the outside to being on the inside. This is important, so please pay attention to it.

Here you can see that the strands have been snugged up a bit and the original outer strand is now on the inside on the tan side.



Now we are going to do the same thing on the olive side.

With this braid, you switch sides with each pass. You always bring the OUTER strand behind and OVER the two center strands, and strands change position with each pass, going from being the outer strand to the inner strand each pass.

Take the OUTER olive strand and bring it Behind the two center strands



Again, after snugging things up a bit, the original Outer Olive strand is now the Inner Strand on the Olive side. This is what you should have before we begin our next pass.



And then back over the two center strands back to the Olive side where it now becomes the Inner Strand.



Remember, we switch sides with each pass, so now we are going to start on the Tan Side.

We take the OUTER Tan strand and bring it behind the two center strands



Pull it through and over the TOP of the two center strands where it becomes the inner Tan stand again.



And then back over the top of the two center strands.



Start on the Olive side, take the Outer Olive strand and bring it behind the two center strands



Continue braiding this way, keeping everything taught and snug. After a few passes it should start to look like this



Here's a tip.

It never fails that when you start to make some real progress in your lanyard you have to stop to take the cat away from the dog or something else distracts you and you have to stop right in the middle of your braiding.. When this happens to me, I tie a loop knot in the side I need to do next so I can stay on track



While this braid may look a little complicated, it is really an easy braid to do. Once you make one or two, you will develop a rhythm and they won't take you any time at all to braid.

Once you have your lanyard braided to the length you want it, and the easiest way to do that is to test it by looping it around your neck from time to time, it is time to tie it off and put some drops on the side if you want. We will cover that next.

The first step is to tie the ends off just as you did when you started your lanyard.

Now we will tie the entire lanyard together to form a loop.

Look closely at your lanyard and you will see that the braids for a line of the same color on 4 sides. Make sure when you tie your lanyard together, that you don't twist it. Keep everything lined up straight.



Then tie it off and put some thin super glue on the thread wraps, making sure not to get it on the braid.

If you remember back to when we first started our lanyard, we made one section longer than the other. This section will become one of our drops. This long section ensures that we have a good tight connection all the way through the lanyard when we tie it off and put in our drops



I like to use drops of different colors, and for this lanyard, I am going to use one Olive and One tan, and make the wrap to hold it all together Olive also. The choice is always yours, there is no set rule here so do whatever you like.

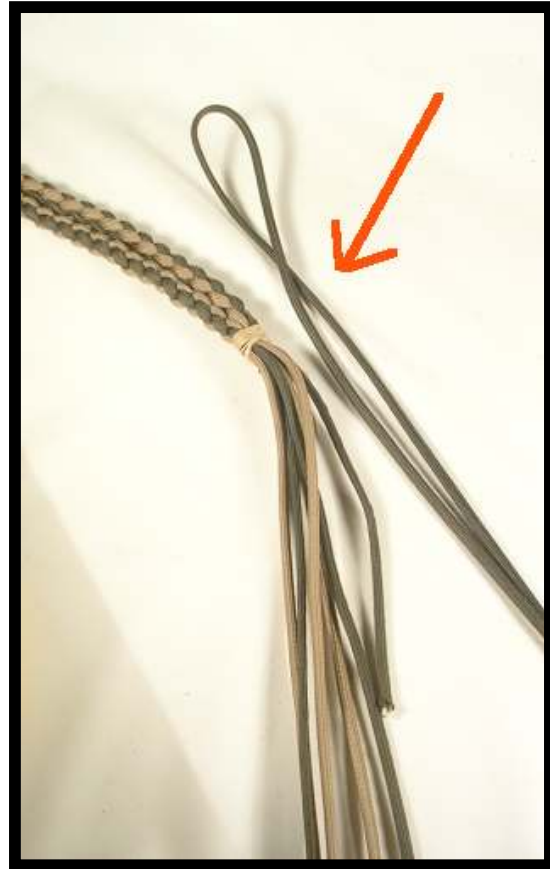
Begin by cutting the small loop close to where you tied your lanyard together.



Now cut one end of the long loop off close to the wraps also, and tie an over hand knot in the end to remind you that it is one of your drops.

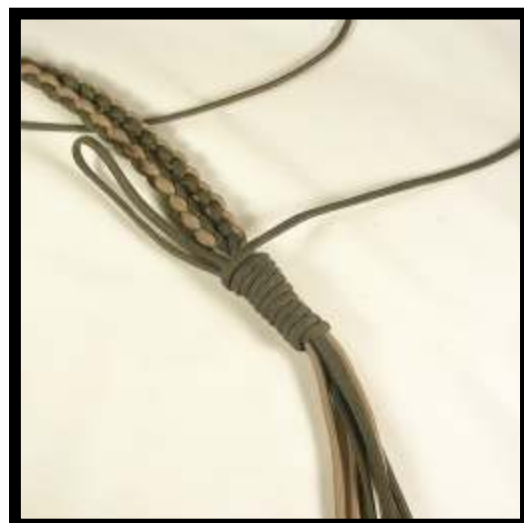
The next step will require a piece of parachute cord about 12 inches long. I normally just cut one of the excess pieces off to get this section. We will use it to tie off the lanyard.

Lay the piece you cut off along side all the ends sticking out of your lanyard end as shown in the next picture.



Now choose the color strand you will want for your finishing knot, I am using Olive.

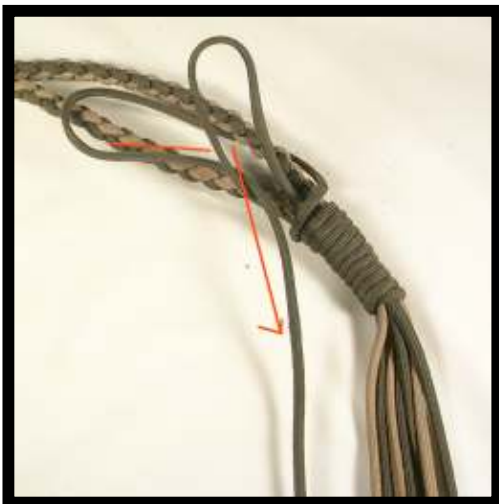
Start wrapping over all the strands and the loop you just laid in from the BOTTOM up to the top.



10 to 12 wraps should do it. Make them tight. On your last wrap, bring the end you are wrapping with up between the sides of the lanyard as shown by the red arrow below.



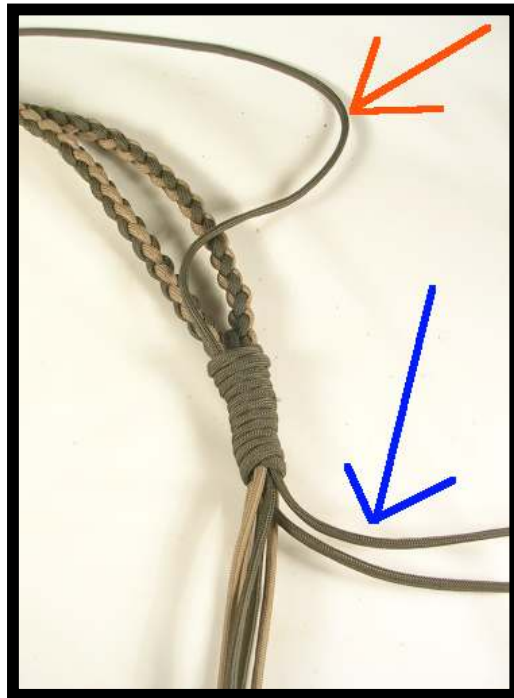
Now, insert the end you wrapped with in the loop you laid in.



Now the fun begins. Grab a pair of pliers for the next step.

We are going to pull the strand we wrapped with (red arrow) back under the wraps by pulling on the end strands of our loop (blue arrow)

Keep the wraps tight when you do this, the tighter the better. It will take some work, but the tighter you can get it the more strength your lanyard will have. Work the strand back under the wraps.



This is work, and you will have to really put some effort into it. If you don't get it the first time, it is not hard to untie it and start over. After a time or two, you will know why I use lanyard keepers on my own lanyards.

Once you have it where you are happy with it, cut the excess end off about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from your knot and single them with a lighter. Make sure you don't cut your drops off!

Here is what you should have at this point.



Now just tie in a couple of hangman nooses for your bottom drops.

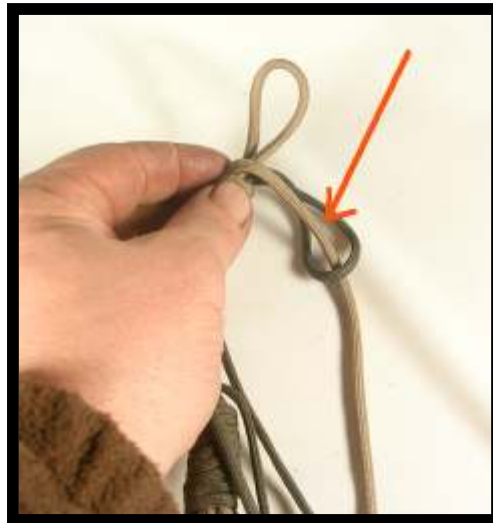
Take one of your drops and form a loop. Now take a spare piece of para cord, make a loop with it and lay it along side the loop you made with your drop strand.



Using the tag end of your dropper strand, wrap from the bottom up over both the tan and olive loops. 5 or 6 wraps should be good.



Slip the tag end of your lanyard loop through the other loop you laid in (olive in this case) and pull it back under the wraps as we did with the finishing knot.



Pull the tag end while holding the loop until the knot is tight, then cut the excess off and singe with a lighter.

Do the same for the other dropper loop.

It will end up looking like this



You can have as many drops on the end of your lanyard as you want, but make sure you stagger them so your calls do not bang together.

A good number of drops seems to be between 2 and 3. Any more and it gets a bit heavy around the neck with side drops, which we will tie in next.

You can put side drops on a lanyard in many different ways. Some guys just “drop a loop” while braiding. Others just tie them in with an overhand knot or use a large snap ring to attach the drop to the side of the lanyard.

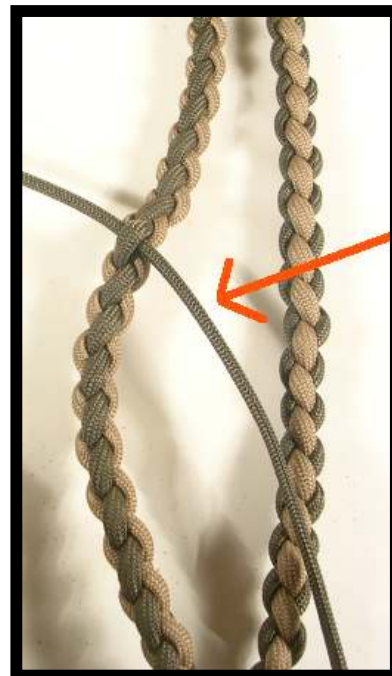
If you use the snap rings, just tie hangman’s nooses to attach them. You can get some black snap rings at any fishing store. Then slip them through one of your braided loops in the side of your lanyard.

I am going to tie in the side drops on this lanyard. We are going to need two lengths of para cord about 4 feet long each. This method is a very neat and strong way of attaching side drops, and they look like they were braided right into the lanyard.

The first step is take a small screw driver or an awl and pry open one of the braids on the side of your lanyard..



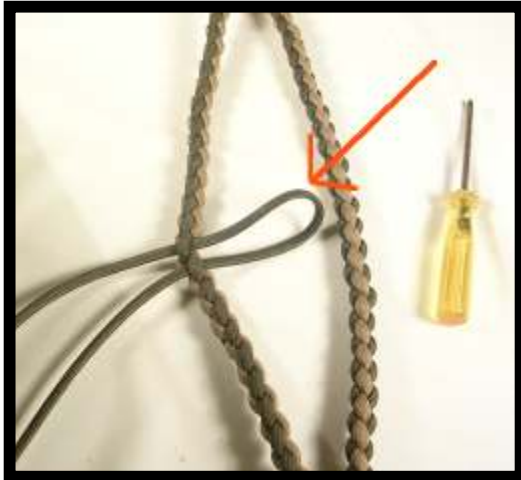
The key here is to use the same color parachute cord for the side drops as the color of the loop you pry open.



You can see that I am using an olive strand because I pried open an olive loop.

The next step is to pry open the adjacent olive loop as we did the first, and insert the other end of our para cord that will form our side drop through the hole.

The second key is to make sure that you form the loop on the INSIDE of the lanyard as shown by the red arrow.



Now, bring the two tag ends up and through the loop we just formed.



Pull the loop tight. It will look like this when you are done.



It will look like the drops have been braided right into the lanyard. This is a very neat and strong attachment, although it is permanent.

Do the same thing on the opposite side.

We will now tie in the hangman's nooses and be done.

The following is for lanyards that will use calls that only have one attachment point.

If you use a call that has a lanyard groove on both the barrel and the stopper, just eliminate the next step and tie in two hangman's nooses.

Take one strand of your dropper, usually the shorter of the two if there is one, and lay in a loop of para cord next to both dropper strands



Then bring the end you were wrapping with through the loop you formed with your spare para cord and pull tight.

It should look like this. Cut the tag end and singe it with a lighter.



Wrap from the bottom up about 4 or 5 times over all the strands



Tie in a hangman's noose on the other end



Repeat the process for the other side of your lanyard and you are done!

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