

Wide Flat Braid Lanyards

The wide flat braid lanyard is not only very durable, it is also comfortable and functional. On top of that, it is one of the easiest lanyards to make. While you can make them a solid color, when first starting out, it is easier to make them out of two colors. For this article, we are going to use Black and Tan 550 Parachute Cord.

You will need the following materials:

1 22 to 24 foot length of Parachute Cord in one color

1 22 to 24 foot length of Parachute Cord in a contrasting color

3 7 foot lengths of Parachute Cord in the same color as you want the middle of your lanyard to be

Super Glue

Braided Ice Fishing Line or Fly Line

Backing (20 pound test if best)



The first step is to take one 7 foot length of parachute cord and put it between the two lengths of 22 foot parachute cord and tie them all together as in the picture below.



We can now start our braiding. This is a VERY easy braid.

We start by taking one of the long pieces of parachute cord and form a loop with it as in the picture. It does not matter which side you start on or which color you use, but the color you make your first loop with will be the color you make ALL your loops with and will be the inside color of the lanyard. I am using black for my loop and inside color.



Next we take the tan length of parachute cord and bring it over the end of the loop as in the picture below.



When you are done, it should look like this. Pull the end tight in the direction of the red arrows



Now take the Tan parachute cord and bring it behind the center strand and up through the loop of black. Pull it all the way through. This is the only hard part. You will be pulling 22 feet of paracord through the loop each time.

This is what it will look like after you tighten it up. Notice that the long black strand of parachute cord is now on the opposite side.



Again, we use the same color to make our loops with each time. So we use the black strand to form another loop



Bring the Tan length of parachute cord OVER the end of the loop formed by the black parachute cord

And then behind the center strand and up through the loop and pull it all the way through.



Pull the strands tight in the direction of the red arrows.



This is what you should have now. Again, notice the black strand is now on the other side.



Let's do one more so you get the hang of it. Make your loop...



Bring the Tan length of parachute cord
Over the black loop

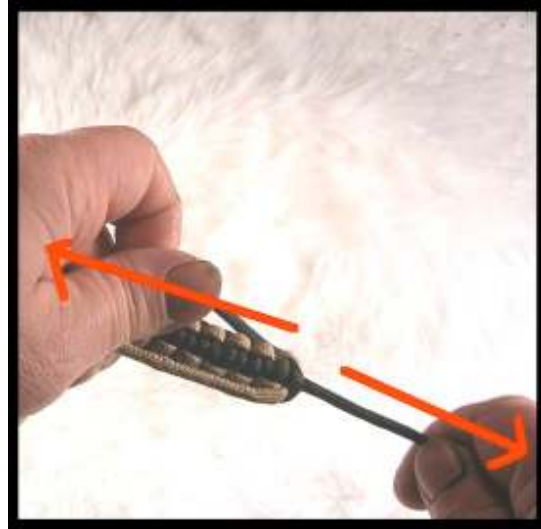


And then behind the center strand and up
through the loop. Pull it all the way
through and then pull the strands in the
direction of the arrows. Make it tight.



Continue braiding this way.

Once you do 5 or 6 passes, hold on the
braided part and pull down on the single
center strand. This tightens up your
loops and makes your lanyard tight.
Always do this after every 4 or 5 passes.



Continue braiding until you are ready to
lay in your drops on the sides of your
lanyard. I count the tan loops on one side
as in the picture with the arrows. I like to
have at least 20 loops on one side before
I put in my side drops.



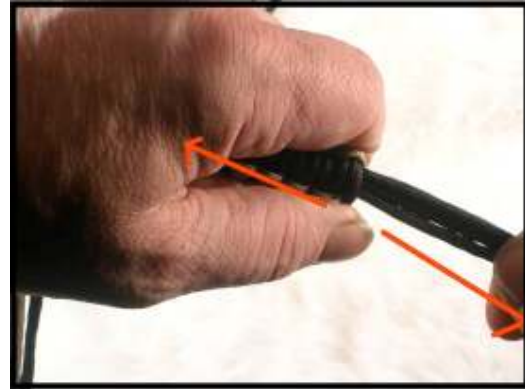
Now take the other two 7 foot sections of black parachute cord and lay one on each side of the center strand. Make sure they lay over the outside strands as in the photo and make them hang at least 18 inches from where you laid them in so you have enough cord to make your drops.



Continue to braid the way you did in the beginning, just bring your tan strand around all three center strands when you make your pass to bring it up through the black loop. After a couple of passes, it should look like this.



Continue braiding. Always make sure to pull on the center strands and the braid as in the photo. This will really tighten up your lanyard and make it much more durable



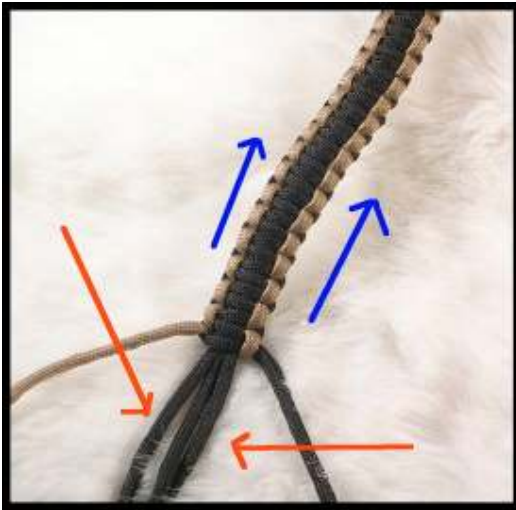
Your lanyard should start to look like this



How long you make your lanyard will depend on how tall you are, but for an average person who is 5'10" to 6', if you count 80 to 85 loops on one side from where you laid in your side drops, your lanyard should fit perfectly. In total you will have between 120 and 125 loops on one side for a complete lanyard. To make sure, test the fit by hanging your lanyard around your neck from time to time.

Once you find a point that your lanyard looks like it will be the correct length, you will want to lay your side drop strands up and out of the way so you can finish braiding your lanyard.

Take the two side strands, with the red arrows pointing to them and lay them up in the direction of the blue arrows in the picture.



Continue braiding until you have 20 tan loops on one side. Measure again the opposite side.

At this point, your lanyard should be starting to look like a lanyard.



The next step is to tie your lanyard together at the ends. I use the ice fishing line or fly line backing for this and put some super glue where the red arrow points to in the photo. Make sure you pull everything tight after you tie it up so there is no slack in your strands where they come together. You need to let the super glue soak in and dry for about a half an hour or so.



Once dry, we are going to finish off the end of our lanyard. I usually use a wooden or antler keeper on my lanyards, but you don't have to. We are going to use the parachute cord to finish the end off.

Get a loop of extra paracord and lay it along side the lanyard.



Now bring it on top of all the strands as in the picture below.



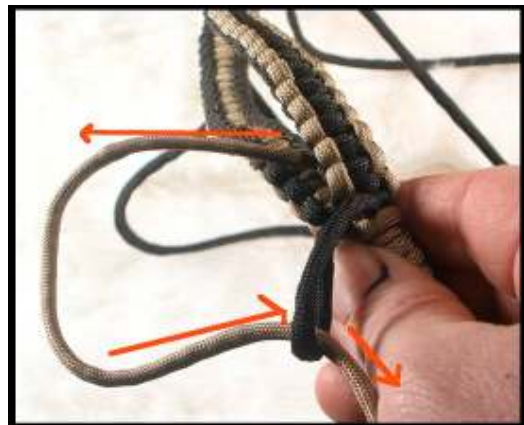
Using one of your longest strand at the end of the lanyard, wrap from the bottom towards the top over all the strands and the loop you laid on. The tighter the better.



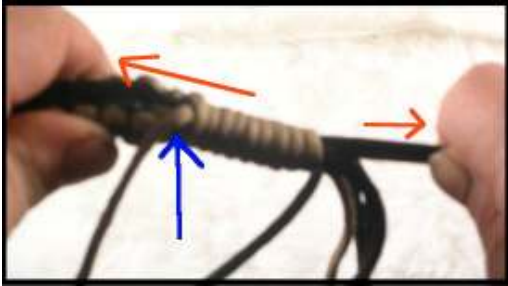
Continue all the way to the where the braids on each side of your lanyard meet. 10 to 12 loops is a good number for strength



Once you get your wraps all the way to the top, a trick to make your lanyard stronger is to take the cord you were wrapping with and bring it between the sides of your lanyard and then put it through the loop you laid in at the beginning of this step. Try and follow the arrows.



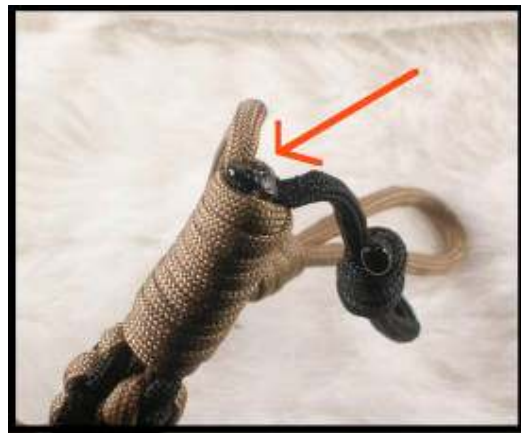
Now, pull the end of the loop you laid in so that you end up pulling the strand back under the wraps as in the photo.



It will take some work to get the strand under there, but keep at it. When you are done, it should look like this



Now, if you are sure your wraps are tight, trim off all but the two longest strands of parachute cord about 1/2 inch from the end of the wraps. Once you have them trimmed, use a Bic lighter to singe the cord so it does not fray or ravel. This also makes it harder for the wraps to come apart. Tie in a couple of hangman's nooses for your drops and trim the ends afterwards. When you are done with the end, it should look like this.



Now we just have to finish off our side drops and we will be done.

Lay in a loop of paracord along the two strands that come out of one side of your lanyard as in the photo



Take one strand and wrap it around the two strands and the loop you laid in. I usually make about 3 or 4 wraps.



Now pull on the ends of the loop you laid in and pull the strand under the wraps. As soon as you get it through, tie an overhand knot in the end of the strand. This will help you remember which one to cut off in the following steps.



Now bring the end of the paracord you used to wrap around everything and put it through the loop you laid in.

It should look like this



Now do the same thing about with the other side. When done, cut off the ends with the knots and tie a hangman's noose in the other ends for your call drops and you are DONE!!!

The lanyard should look like this.



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