

# Paracord watchband/bracelet with a side release buckle

by [Stormdrane](#) on April 27, 2007

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**Intro: Paracord watchband/bracelet with a side release buckle**

This tutorial will show how to make a paracord watchband with a side release buckle using the alternate half-hitch. It can also be made without a watch for use as a paracord bracelet, or on a larger scale as a dog or cat collar. More projects, links, knot references can be seen on my blog page, [Stormdrane's Blog](#).





**Image Notes**

1. Tip: The paracord is looped around the side release buckle twice to fill in the extra space on 5/8 " sized buckles.











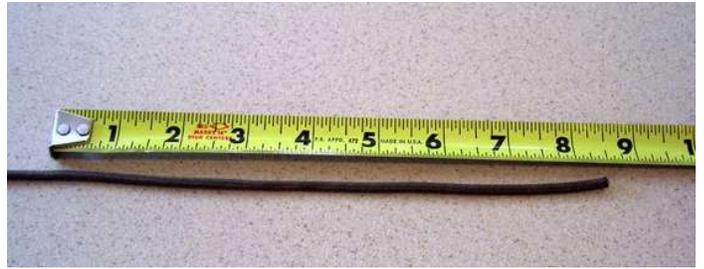
### Step 1: Supplies

Supplies needed: 10 feet of paracord, scissors, torch lighter, tape measure, a watch with the watchband pins, and a 5/8 inch side release buckle. The 5/8 inch curved buckles can be found at Creative Designworks or ITW Nexus brand ones on ebay, either will work fine. I use paracord with the 7 inner strands from the Supply Captain, but other similar types/diameter of cord will work as well.



### Step 2: Measure your wrist size

Measure your wrist size by taking the end of the length of paracord and wrapping it around your wrist. Take note of where the end meets the other part of the paracord and lay it out along a tape measure to find your wrist measurement.



### Step 3: Attach the paracord to one end of the side release buckle

Attach the paracord to one end of the side release buckle by finding the center of the length of core and putting that end thru the buckle and run the free ends of the cord thru the loop. Because this 5/8 inch buckle is wide, you need to run the free ends around the buckle one more time and back thru the loop again so you have four loops showing inside the buckle.



### Step 4: Attach the watch

Attach the watch by sliding the two free ends of cord over the pins, under the watch, and back out over the other pins. Slide the watch to about what will be the halfway point between the two parts of the buckle once the other buckle is attached.



### Step 5: Loop onto the other part of the side release buckle

Loop onto the other part of the side release buckle, and loop it a second time so there are four loops filling the gap in the buckle. At this point you make sure the length is your wrist size and no more than a 1/2 inch more than your measured wrist size. The length tends to stretch out as you tie the half-hitches, so before you trim and melt the ends, try it on. You may have to untie it and reset the length making it longer or shorter depending on if it's too loose or tight.



### Step 6: Now you'll start tying the alternate half-hitches

Now you'll start tying the alternate half-hitches by taking the working ends of the paracord, start with the left piece. Take the left cord under the two center cords and then back thru the loop of the left cord and tighten. Now take the right side cord going under the two center cords and back thru the right loop and tighten. Again with the left, under the two center cords and back thru the left loop, etc.. continuing alternating the left and right cords.



#### Image Notes

1. Tip: The paracord is looped around the side release buckle twice to fill in the extra space on 5/8 " sized buckles.



**Step 7: When you get about halfway, run the working ends of cord along side the center cords under the watch**

When you get about halfway, run the working ends of cord along side the center cords under the watch and slide the watch tight up against the finished portion before you continue the half-hitches on the other side of the watch.



**Step 8: Keep tying until you reach the other buckle**

Keep tying until you reach the other buckle, then you can trim off the excess cord with scissors. Take your torch lighter and melt the ends and press them so they attach to the surrounding cord. \*Be careful not to burn yourself on the molten cord, you may use superglue instead of a lighter if you prefer.



### Step 9: You can make the alternate half-hitch without the watch

You can make the alternate half-hitch without the watch for use as a paracord bracelet, and on a larger scale as a dog or cat collar. You may also use two colors of paracord. If using two colors, instead of one 10 foot piece of paracord, use 5 feet of each color and melt or sew the two ends together and go from there.



### Related Instructables



**Survival Bracelet II** by tevers94



**Survival Bracelet (Updated!)** by tevers94



**Woven paracord bracelet/watchband** by Stormdrane



**Cobra Weave Key Fob** by tevers94



**Paracord bracelet with a side release buckle** by Stormdrane



**How To Make A Paracord Dog Collar Using The Seesaw Knot** by Doggie Stylish

## Comments

44 comments [Add Comment](#)



**mrelement** says:  
were do you get the actual watch part?

Dec 30, 2010. 7:33 PM [REPLY](#)



**Stormdrane** says:  
When making a paracord watchband, most folks use a watch that they already have. You can use an old watch or buy a new one, and remove the the band that came on it, keeping the pins to work with the paracord band you make.

Dec 30, 2010. 8:17 PM [REPLY](#)



**mrelement** says:  
OK thanks

Dec 31, 2010. 8:46 AM [REPLY](#)



**jmonty** says:  
that watch is AWESOME!!!

Dec 30, 2010. 4:34 PM [REPLY](#)



**joseph55** says:  
Great instructable! Thanks a lot ! and I will try one !

Dec 8, 2010. 8:31 AM [REPLY](#)



**magic1969** says:  
vver very nice thanks

Dec 7, 2010. 1:21 PM [REPLY](#)



**shveet** says:  
any ideas on how to remove the battery once it dies?

Dec 6, 2010. 6:21 PM [REPLY](#)



**Stormdrane** says:  
Remove one of the watch pins, remove and replace battery at the now accessible backside of the watch. Then replace watch pin back under paracord. You can also remove both watch pins to change to a different watch, using the same paracord band. This applies to the other patterns of paracord watchbands too.

Dec 6, 2010. 7:42 PM [REPLY](#)



**mikroGanesh** says:  
simply wonderful

Dec 5, 2010. 9:16 PM [REPLY](#)



**tbcross** says:  
Here's my take on it. I found my future hubby's old dog tag out in the garage on a lawn mower keyring. So I thought I'd make something a little nicer for it to hang out on.

Nov 15, 2010. 3:00 PM [REPLY](#)



**kmpres** says:  
Very nicely done! I am perpetually breaking watchbands. They never last as long as the watch itself so I am forever replacing them. I also wear a Suunto watch that has a special molded band that must be replaced about every three years with an identical one -- from Suunto. And they're not cheap, about \$45 each. So this is perfect for me. I will try it when my current, and now last, molded band breaks. Thanks for the great write-up.

Mar 26, 2010. 7:34 PM [REPLY](#)

One question though; How comfortable is the band to wear? If it itches could the skin side be lined with a more comfortable cloth, perhaps?



**james\_roy** says:

Oct 24, 2010. 4:39 PM [REPLY](#)

which suunto do you have? I have the core, which came with a black band and your right, the polymer broke down super easily, I bought a band at my local scuba shop for c-tech, its super sturdy with stainless hardware, also, I have a survival bracelet that I made of 550 and wear, its not uncomfortable at all.



**kmpres** says:

Oct 25, 2010. 5:01 AM [REPLY](#)

I have a Suunto Observer. I just found out that I have a very narrow space between the watch studs and the watch body, only about 1mm. If I remove the stud and force it back on over the paracord I can get two cords in the space. I doubt very much whether I can get four in there. I don't want to have to trim some metal off my \$300 SS watch housing to make more room for the paracord. Which brings up a question:

None of the pictures show the watch back side after the band has been assembled. Are there two, four, or no cords running underneath the watch after the band is fully assembled? Because my watch is quite thick, I would prefer a band that had no paracord running underneath it. Is there a paracord procedure that can accommodate this?



**james\_roy** says:

Oct 25, 2010. 9:03 AM [REPLY](#)

You can "gut" the 550 cord, that should make it much thinner, or as I said I just bought a 1" thick watch band from c-tech, it was about 15 bucks, I think it should work with the observer as well...go to [dolphinscuba.com](http://dolphinscuba.com) to order one I think  
James



**Stormdrane** says:

Oct 25, 2010. 6:36 AM [REPLY](#)

I don't know if this will work with a Suunto, but paracord watchbands can be done in two pieces, like a regular watchband, without any cords running under the watch as is done with a paracord bracelet watchband.

Here's a [link from my blog](#), with a couple of different watches with two piece bands. If you have limited space between lugs and watch pins, you can use gutted paracord sections between the side release buckles and pins, and then knot over that with regular paracord.

It's very difficult to get the sizing right, as every watch is different, so it's a lot of tying and untying, until you get it right kind of project.



**Stormdrane** says:

Apr 6, 2010. 9:21 PM [REPLY](#)

I've found the paracord bracelets and watchbands very comfortable to wear. Some people have found that if they sweat a lot and the band gets dirty, that it can irritate their skin. I frequently wash mine with a little liquid soap/water and scrub with an old soft bristle toothbrush to keep 'em clean.

When they wear out, it's easy enough to make a new one, and they're still inexpensive to make.



**N2L** says:

Sep 25, 2010. 4:00 PM [REPLY](#)

Used this to add a handle to a bottle I wrapped from your blog. Can't upload photos sadly. The sites not too phone friendly...

[http://i26.photobucket.com/albums/c136/Voonka/IMG\\_20100925\\_174037.jpg](http://i26.photobucket.com/albums/c136/Voonka/IMG_20100925_174037.jpg)



**Stormdrane** says:

Sep 25, 2010. 4:43 PM [REPLY](#)

Looks good! :)



**rhaubejoi** says:

Apr 8, 2010. 7:00 PM [REPLY](#)

A measuring tape works well for this too.



**sparrowmict** says:

Feb 17, 2010. 3:37 PM [REPLY](#)

Master Stormdrane i am humbled at your feet. have followed your blog and your instructables and now have a paracord addiction. My wife thanks you. just finished my first watchband looks great. big pain getting the size right but looks good and now everybody wants me to do it for them. i will post some pictures of the bracelets, crosses and watchbands that i have made. i do have a question. when does the pain in your hands go away?



**Stormdrane** says:

Feb 17, 2010. 7:53 PM [REPLY](#)

Blisters eventually turn to calluses, but I've yet to find a solution to remedy hand/finger/joint pain... :)



**cutiesweetie08** says:

Jun 28, 2009. 8:05 PM [REPLY](#)

I really like your steps and very easy to follow. I do have a question though where is the best place to buy a watch faces for this project? If you can help me it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks



**Stormdrane** says:

Jun 28, 2009. 9:51 PM [REPLY](#)

You can use any watch that you like, as long as there is enough room for the paracord strands to fit between the body of the watch and the spring bars(pins) from the original watchband. That means about 1/2"(inch) wide between the lugs(the parts where the spring bars(pins) are placed) and about 1/8" of space between the watch and spring bars. Timex is a good, inexpensive watch brand, with a variety of styles, and they've held up well for me with some rough treatment over the years. Victorinox, Wenger, Casio, Seiko, Citizen, and Luminox are other watch brands that I've owned and made paracord watchbands for. I've bought a few online from ebay and Amazon with no problems. So as long as there's room for the cord, just a watch that you like.



**R4Man18** says:  
how to you get to the battery cover? HMMMMMMMM?

Dec 2, 2009. 8:01 PM [REPLY](#)

and w007 paracord



**Stormdrane** says:  
To access the battery cover(snap on type or screw down), you just remove one of the watchband pins and the watch flips up for access to the cover. Remove the cover, replace the battery, put the cover back on, then hold the cords down to re-insert the watchband pin into the lugs.

Dec 2, 2009. 8:14 PM [REPLY](#)

I've done this with all the knot variations I've used for paracord bracelets with no problems. If you have similar sized watch bodies, you can switch them out as well.



**gardengate32** says:  
just decided to make one today out of some of the paracord in my camping stuff and an old buckle i had laying around. very easy once you get started. 10 feet of cord ended up being an 8 1/8 inch bracelet, which was just the right size. any shorter and it would have been too short, so i may advise starting out with a couple of feet of excess cord. maybe i tied the hitches a bit tight...

Mar 15, 2009. 8:19 PM [REPLY](#)



**doobuzz** says:  
Very cool! I'll be making this one as soon as i can find out where to get my hands on some paracord. This would be a great project for the guys down at cadets

Apr 28, 2007. 7:16 PM [REPLY](#)



**JMan5** says:  
www.armysurplusworld.com has tons of different colors, and they sell it lots of different lengths, too.

Mar 14, 2009. 9:26 PM [REPLY](#)



**MakerBreaker** says:  
go to countycomm they sell for \$7 for 100 feet. this is were i get mines. best deal

Dec 14, 2008. 4:03 PM [REPLY](#)



**stwhite82** says:  
Google 550 cord. you can find places that sells different colors.

Nov 5, 2008. 5:54 AM [REPLY](#)



**chew socks** says:  
Try looking at an Army Navy store, its like 5 bucks for 50 feet.

Feb 16, 2008. 7:41 PM [REPLY](#)



**mph19** says:  
Nice site. When I was in Iraq, a friend made me a paracord bracelet with my dog tag in the middle. I'd like to know how he did it, but he never got around to showing me. Do you have any ideas? It's like it was 2 separate bands and was latched with a button from my uniform through a loop at the end of the band. Thanks

Dec 22, 2008. 7:16 PM [REPLY](#)



**Stormdrane** says:  
Here's a link showing the 550 cord bracelet made without a buckle and using the button/loop method.

Dec 22, 2008. 11:15 PM [REPLY](#)

Without seeing the bracelet with the dogtag, I'm not sure how it was incorporated into the knotwork. I just would imagine that the knots would just be expanded over the dogtag keeping it in place... maybe done with a second layer of knots(king cobra stitch)... just guessing.



**constant-C** says:  
i'm so happy to find this watch band. my son is a cpt. in the Marines and very hard to buy gifts for. i'm going to make this very cool gift for him for Christmas. he will actually be here this year. the last 2 he was gone. he has served 3 tours in Iraq and we will have him home for a month and 1/2.

Oct 31, 2008. 1:16 PM [REPLY](#)



**Carlos Marmo** says:  
Wonderful Work! Congratulations!

Oct 30, 2008. 2:01 AM [REPLY](#)



**clarissa2k6** says:  
cool...

Mar 4, 2008. 12:32 AM [REPLY](#)



**Paul the Mole** says:  
Very nice instructable. I have the buckle and the paracord, but I'll have to buy a new watch, because there isn't enough space between the watchband pins and the watch itself... Shit

May 21, 2007. 4:24 AM [REPLY](#)



**benHUDSON** says:

This is awesome... need some paracord :) I could make it with sisal, but that would itch like hell :P

May 3, 2007. 1:05 PM [REPLY](#)

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**sam noyoun** says:

Great instructable! Thanks.

Apr 28, 2007. 6:27 AM [REPLY](#)

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**reclusivemonkey** says:

Wow, this looks awesome. I was wanting to replace the metal bracelet on my Traser watch for something more comfortable. If my paracord is long enough, this will do the trick!

Apr 28, 2007. 4:43 AM [REPLY](#)

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**thewoodcarver** says:

Very nice work , I have lots of old watches that dont have bands and i dont like many they sell

Apr 28, 2007. 12:49 AM [REPLY](#)

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**benjamenjohnson** says:

This is cool! But how comfortable is it? It seems like it should be very flexible and move well with your wrist, unlike a leather band. But I wonder if it would chafe if you start sweating.

Apr 27, 2007. 7:41 PM [REPLY](#)

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**Stormdrane** says:

I find the alternate half-hitch to be more comfortable than the cobra stitch paracord bracelet, it also has a slightly wider footprint. The feel of the paracord can be softer if do the half-hitches without making each one tight, but you have to pay more attention if you tie them that way or you won't get a nice uniform look to the knot pattern. I have never had a problem with paracord chafing when wet with water or sweat, YMMV.

Apr 27, 2007. 9:21 PM [REPLY](#)

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**admanrocks** says:

sweet! im gonna have to do this

Apr 27, 2007. 6:27 PM [REPLY](#)

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