



Patriot Day

Center Stitched Fishtail Bracelet

When you think about the word “patriot”, you probably think of the colors red, white, and blue. This Patriot Day, also known as 9/11, the day that so many lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Flight 93, we are using different colors to honor those fallen heroes and civilians.

The firefighters of New York City, in their gray and yellow, remind us of the sacrifices, overseas and at home, that have kept the USA free. If you lost someone on 9/11, or value peace and freedom, make a Patriot Day bracelet to show your support.

This bracelet uses 8-10 ft. of gunmetal gray #550 paracord as well as 5 ft. of reflective neon yellow #95 paracord. A type I fid needle is required for the stitching portion.



1. Form a cow hitch by inserting the exact middle of the #550 paracord through the top of the metal buckle. Fold the loop over the top of the buckle and tighten.



2. Flip your project. Insert both ends of the paracord through the top of the other piece of the buckle.

3. Put the buckle together and cinch the bracelet around your wrist. Leave enough room for one finger underneath.



4. Detach the buckle and lay out the bracelet at the appropriate length with one cord on each side of the bracelet. Make sure that the portion between the two buckle ends is untwisted.



6. Cinch it tight against the buckle. The even-ness of this weave depends on how tight you can make it. Each time you change cords while weaving, make sure that you start and end on the left side.

7. Now, weaving with the right side cord, put it over the top of the cord that you first weaved.



8. Weave this right-side cord into the bracelet. Pass it over the right core strand and underneath the left.

9. Bring it back again to the right by going over the first cord and under the second.



10. Make sure to grab the top cord each time when weaving.

11. Again, over-under to the left, over-under to the right. Cinch tight.





12. Continue the pattern all the way down the bracelet, always starting and ending on the right. Remember to always pull your cords tight and squish the weave together.

13. Keep weaving until you can no longer fit the paracord through the middle of the core.



14. End by inserting both cords down through the middle, side-by-side.

15. Cut the ends 1/4" from the bracelet and melt them. Use the side of the lighter to flatten the melted ends against the bracelet.



16. At this point, you will need to thread the 95 cord onto the fid needle. Turn your bracelet over so that the back faces up. Thread the needle through the last three loops of your fishtail.

17. Pull the 95 cord through until the end is just out of sight. Don't pull too hard or it will fall out.



18. Poke the fid through the middle of the bracelet, just underneath the first wrap of your fishtail.

19. Pull the excess cord through. Again, don't pull hard just yet.





20. Flip the bracelet over.

21. Count two stitches down on the right side and hook the gray cord loop from bottom to top with the fid. Some tutorials will show you how to stitch both the right and left sides at the same time, but this tutorial show how to go down on the right and up on the left.



22. Pull the stitch tight. The end of your 95 cord should be secure by now and will not pull out.

23. Do the same thing again. Count down two stitches from where you last came up. Hook underneath that cord and come up right above it.



24. Continue to the end of the bracelet. This is what your stitching should look like. 95 cord has a tendency to get twisted and tangled. This is normal. You will need to twist the cord back to get it untangled before pulling the excess through.

25. When you get to the end, hook the loop of your beginning cow hitch and come up on the left side of the fishtail.



26. The left side will need to be stitched in reverse. Count up two stitches and poke the needle underneath that gray cord, aiming down.

27. Pull tight. Notice that the working end of your cord comes up in the middle instead of on the outer edge.





28. As you continue, on each stitch the needle MUST be threaded toward the inside of the previous one. Notice how the needle pokes out the middle of the stitching.

29. When you get back to the start, poke the needle through the bracelet so that it comes out on bottom.



30. Thread the needle through the last three stitches of the fishtail on the left side.

31. Pull the cord tight, cut the end 1/4" away from the bracelet, and melt the end. Press the melted end against the bracelet with the side of your lighter.



“Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.”

—Barak Obama

“One of the worst days in America’s history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans’ history. We’ll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice.”

—George W. Bush



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