

# RANGER BEADS

Pace Counter



Don't forget your tools!



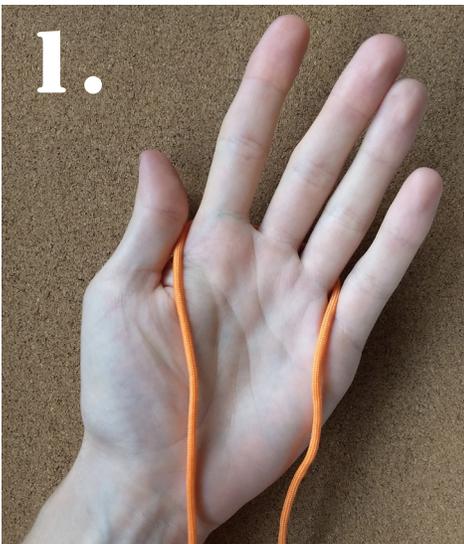
Use this ancient method of distance measurement—made entirely out of paracord! Pace-count beads, or “ranger beads” were a common device used by US troops in Vietnam. However, their pace counters used plastic beads instead of DIY paracord ones.

Making ranger beads is a great project to take on while sitting around a campfire. It can lead into great discussions on wilderness navigation with kids!

This project requires about **10 ft.** of 550 paracord in the bead color, and **5 ft.** in the lanyard color.



1.



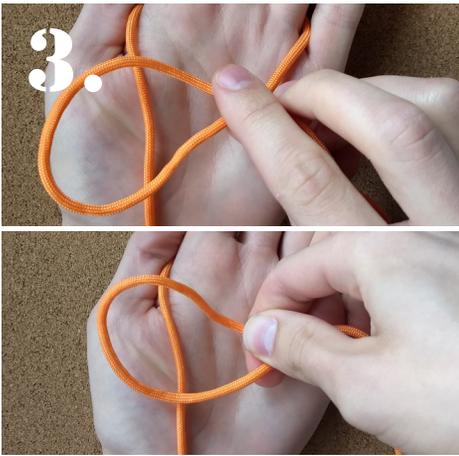
2.



## LANYARD

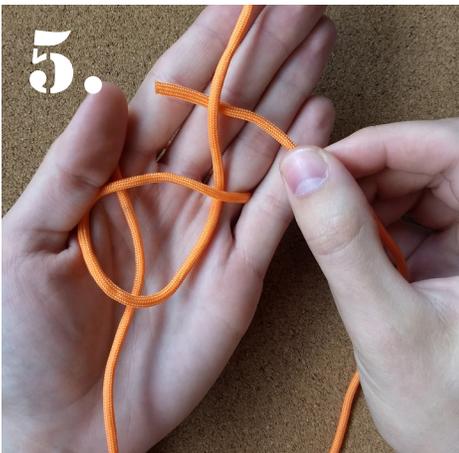
1. A bright color is used for tutorial clarity. Loop your 5 ft. piece of paracord over the middle three fingers of your left hand with the ends laying across your palm. This loop will be the loop at the top of your lanyard. This is the only part of this knot that will be behind your fingers. The rest will be tied in your palm.

2. Make a loop with your right cord.



3. Flip the knot upwards to make it an underhand knot.

4. After doing so, it should look like this.



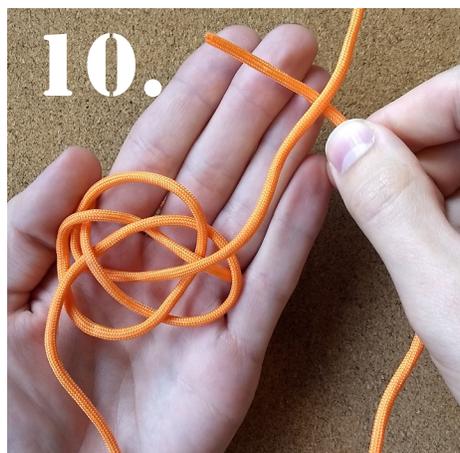
5. Take the bottom cord around behind the tail of the top cord.

6. Bring it over the top cord, under the middle and over the bottom.



7. Dress the knot thus far so that it all fits into your palm. You will notice that it is a symmetrical, Celtic-looking knot.

8. Now ring the top cord counter-clockwise around toward the base of your thumb. Pass it underneath the knot and bring it up through the center of your knot.



9. Pull it mostly through, but leave a little bit of slack.

10. Now do the same thing with the other cord. Bring it around counter-clockwise and underneath the top cord.





11. Bring it to your middle finger and then underneath the knot.

12. Pull it up through the enter of the knot.



13. Dress the knot. Do not simply pull on both ends. You will have to gradually feed each cord through until the knot is tight.

14. Your first lanyard knot is done. You will make two more later.

### RANGER BEADS

Each ranger bead will take 6" of cord, but you will need 10" of cord in order to tie it. To avoid wasting 4" of paracord on each bead, start with a 10 ft. piece and cut off the excess as you go. This will make the beads a little bit more cumbersome to tie, but will waste less paracord.



15. You may have to adjust your knot a little so that it lies 4" from the end.



16. Lay the first 3" of your bead cord over the lanyard you just made. The lanyard loop should be on the left.



17. Loop the long end up behind the lanyard and lay it down across itself. The loop should be oriented toward the left.



18. Do the same again, but on the right. Loop it around back and down cross over itself





20. Insert the cord through the bottom of the left loop.

19. Flip the entire lanyard upward.



21. Insert the left loop into the right one.

22. It should then look about like this. Notice how a new loop is formed.



23. Insert your top cord down through this new loop.

24. To finish off the bead, take your short tail end on the bottom and tuck it through the middle of your bead so that it emerges on the left.



25. Tighten the bead by feeding the excess cord through the weave. Have patience; it's a process.

26. Snip your ends about a 1/4" to 1/8" from the bead.





27. You may want to slide your beads down to the end of your lanyard before you melt the ends of your bead. That way, if you singe your lanyard in the process, you will do it on a part that is going to get cut off later.



28. Slide your bead back up toward your lanyard knot and make a total of 4 beads for now.



29. Refer back to the beginning of this tutorial to make another lanyard knot. It should rest about 1" from your last ranger bead.



30. Now make 9 more ranger beads!



31. Make a final lanyard knot 1" from your last ranger bead.



32. Add any decoration to the end of your lanyard. I opted for one more lanyard knot.