

West Country Whipping

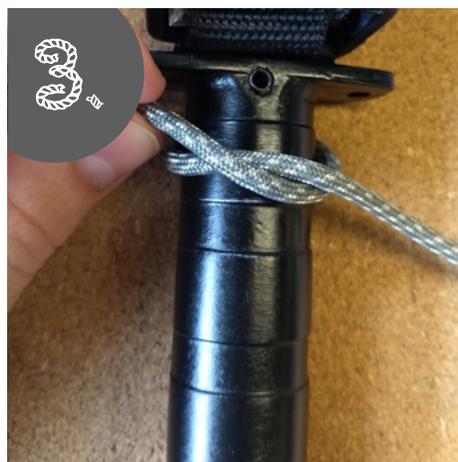
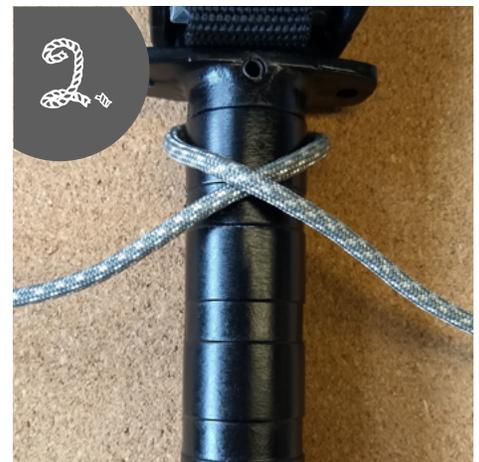
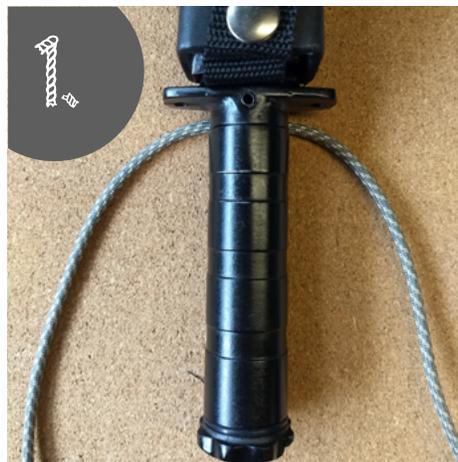


This easy handle wrap is a great starter for someone who is intimidated by more complex weaves. It gives handles a nice finished look and an even grip. It is ideal for round handles, such as survival knives, hiking sticks, and bike handles.

While it shouldn't be considered a quick-deploy wrap, by any means, it is not difficult to undo. The handle pictured can be unwrapped in under 2 minutes. In actuality, the West Country Whipping is not a handle wrap at all. Whippings were traditionally used as a binding for the ends of large diameter ropes to keep them from fraying.

For a handle with a diameter of 1", you will need about 40" of paracord for every inch of handle you want wrapped.

1. Begin by laying your handle on your work surface with the middle of your paracord positioned underneath.
2. You are going to make a simple overhand knot. Cross both ends over the handle, with the right-to-left cord over the top.
3. Pull the right side cord up so that it crosses over the top of the other cord.
4. Pull the right cord underneath the other cord so that it again aims down. You can start with the bight (middle of the cord) and then pull the rest through.



5. Your overhand knot should look like this when completed. Notice how the right cord points up and the left cord points down.

6. Flip your handle over so that the knot you just made is now underneath the handle.

7. Make another overhand knot. Make sure the same cord goes over/under each time you make this knot.

8. Continue flipping your handle and making this same knot, all the way down your handle. Every couple of passes, tighten your knots and push them toward the top.

9. When you have about half an inch of handle left, stop. Cross your cords, with the right-to-left cord on top.

10. Now, disregard everything you were told about flipping and knotting. You will need to keep your last knot face up and tie a knot the other direction. Take your right cord and put it through the loop.

11. Tighten the knot. You may recognize it as a square knot. Cut your cords about a quarter inch from it.

12. Melt the ends with a lighter and press the hot ends against the knot with the flat edge of your scissors. You are done!

