Paracord Zipper Pull

by bekathwia

This zipper pull is easy to make and useful for several reasons:

- Replace a broken zipper pull
- Make it easier to zip your jacket whilst wearing gloves
- Keep an extra piece of useful cord around in case you need it

What you'll need:

- Paracord in a color and length of your choice (14 inches / 36 cm is a good starting point)
- Scissors
- Lobster claw swivel clasp
- Lighter (or candle)

To keep up with what I'm working on, follow me on YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and subscribe to my newsletter. As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases you make using my affiliate links.

https://youtu.be/VtzpSPInyD8

Step 1: Affix Cord to Clip

Cut a length of cord and fold it in half. Thread the loose ends through the closed ring of the clasp and then back through the loop of paracord and pull tight.

Step 2: Establish Length With First Stitch

Position the cord/clasp in your hands as depicted in the first photo here: with the clasp facing down and the two strands of paracord extending up through your hands. Coil the left strand's tail across the two strands so it extends perpendicularly to the right.

Wrap the right strand over the left tail (second photo), then coil it behind the center two strands and thread the tail through the loop created by the left strand

(third and fourth photos).

Pull the stitch tight. It is at this point in your project that you establish the overall length of the zipper pull-- closer to the clasp will make a shorter one, and further away will make it longer. It's really up to you but I tend to like to make the first stitch about two inches from the clasp.

Step 3: Create Second Stitch

To move on to the next stitch, coil the right tail in front of the center column, then wrap the left tail in front of the right tail before coiling it behind the center column and threading it through the loop to the right. Pull to tighten this second stitch against the first.

Step 4: Third Stitch Just Like the First

You've got the basics, now just alternate stiches one and two! Begin with the left strand crossing in front of the project, then capture the tail with the right strand as it travels in front of it and then behind the project and out the left's loop.

Step 5: Repeat and Trim Ends

Continue repeating stitches until you reach the clasp. Pull the last stitch extra tight and then trim off the excess paracord.

Step 6: Melt Cord Ends

Using a lighter or candle, singe the ends of the paracord to prevent it from fraying. This also bulges the ends just a bit so that they are less likely to come unraveled. Don't burn it so much that the end melts to another part of the cord, unless you want the connection to be permanent. Be careful to let the ends cool completely without touching anything (the table, your skin) because it stays hot for longer than you might think, and can burn you and your work surface.

Step 7: Enjoy!

Clip one of these onto every jacket and enjoy! Now when you need a piece of cord, you've got it handy, and in the meantime you don't have to take off your gloves to zip up or down! Thanks for checking out my Instructable and I'd love to see your zipper pulls in the comments section below!

Thank you for a really good clear set of pictures and instructions! I used this instructable for my #001 make in #Makevember

Awesome!!

They're great for key fobs, watch fobs, stocking stuffers, and easy identification of backpacks and suitcases. These are great beginning projects for kids because they're small and can be made in one class period (the teacher or other adult may have to do the final end-melting). If they enjoy these projects they can go on to longer ones, such as watch bands and belts. You're correct about the melted ends being Hot! Hang them out of reach for a couple of minutes. Kids (of all ages!) also enjoy making the little dolls with this type of pattern. Great 'ible, thanks!

Try using a woodburner or soldering iron with a flat, thin tip to cut the paracord, rather than scissors or a knife and then fusing the ends with a lighter. It cuts and fuses the end in one step and can even be used to shape the end without the possibility of actually setting the end on fire.

Great suggestion, thank you! Of course use the tools you have around. My soldering iron is kept super clean for electronics, and I get a cringe when I think about using it on plastic. But I have plentiful fire sources and scissors, so there you have it. =]

I just use a small flat bit of metal to smooth down the ends once they're melted, makes the ends nice and clean and helps keep them tight.

It makes a handy key tag too!

Thanks for the inspiration.

Nice! Thanks for sharing.

Super clean pictures. Thumbs up from me!

Thank you! Gotta love that "this is white" dropper in the photoshop curves tool!

Thank you!