

The background of the slide is a solid dark brown color. Overlaid on this background are several large, stylized leaves in various shades of brown and tan. The leaves are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating or falling, with some leaves partially overlapping others. The overall effect is a warm, autumnal theme.

# Braided Leashes

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## Materials:

- \_ Block of 2 x 4
- \_ Lighter
- \_ Thin wire Coat Hanger-Cut and rounded to blunt point
- \_ Scissors
- \_ Hemostats
- \_ One Arms Length piece of Parachute Cord
- \_ One Double-Arms Length Piece of Parachute Cord





\_ Remove insides from both pieces of cut parachute cord and discard



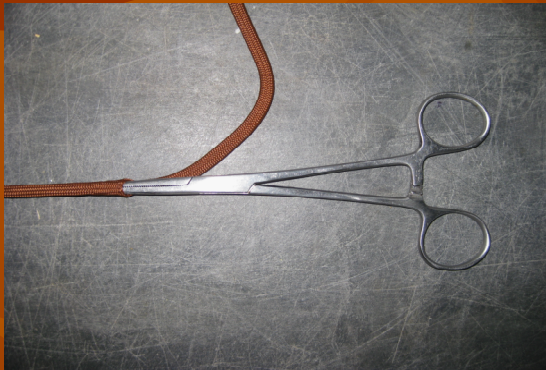
- Light one end of your parachute cord. Let the cord catch on fire, then immediately blow the flame out and let the end come to a blunt point and cool. (Caution, the burnt end of the parachute cord is very hot!)
- Here's a tip: To make sure you have a well formed blunt point, hold the parachute cord perpendicular to the ground as it cools down. A well formed point will help you with the future steps of this project. Also, use the block of 2"x4" to catch any of the hot drippings.







\_ Find the center of the parachute cord. On one side of the cord, create a hole with the blunt end of the wire coat hanger. Be sure not to go through the opposite side and to only make one hole in the center. Be careful not to tear the cord. Tearing the cord decreases the integrity and strength of the cord. (see photo 1)



\_ Once hole is created remove the hanger and insert both jaws of the hemostats into the hole feeding fabric up towards the joint of the hemostats. Remove hemostats when done. This will increase the diameter of hole and make future steps easier. (see photo 2)



\_ Take your smaller piece of parachute cord and insert the hanger using technique above into the fabric roughly 3 inches away from burnt end of cord. Be careful only to go through one side of the cord ending with hanger in the center. Push hanger inside of cord until the point reaches the burnt end. (see photo 3)



\_ Holding the longer strand of parachute cord at the point where you made your hole, insert the smaller piece of cord at the burnt end into the hole at the center point of the longer strand and feed inside. The short piece of cord should be fed inside the longer chord about 4-5 inches.

\_ Once pushed in about 4-5 inches carefully remove the coat hanger **only**, being careful to leave the cord that you have pushed inside. What you have left should look much like what you see in the adjacent picture.

\_ Form the loop of your leash at the same point you just stuffed 4-5 inches of cord inside your long piece of parachute cord. The loop should be between 1 to 1 and 1/2 inches long. Holding the forked point of the cord either in your right or left hand cross the double thick portion of your cord between the fork with your opposite hand adjusting for loop diameter as desired. Once you find a desired diameter (standard being about the size of a quarter) continue crossing left strand over your now center strand while alternating strand pieces from left to right in a traditional braiding fashion. See photos below



Note: When finding the desire diameter of your loop make sure some of the “double thick” portion of your cord is braided into your leash. This will ensure your loop stays secure and doesn’t loosen with time.



\_ When braiding your leash make sure you “FOLD” your strands over at a 45 degree angle back and forth and pull tight. This folding action will allow you to avoid holes in your braid, which are areas where toes can get caught and could be dangerous for your birds



\_ The photo to the left shows a braid applying the folding method. Notice it is tight between braids and has no holes.





\_ To make braiding your leash easier you can use a dog clip or caribeaner and attach your leash at the loop end to your shoe laces. This will allow you to braid quicker as it will make your leash “taught.”



\_ If using your shoe is uncomfortable you can attach your leash through the loop to a cage or other object with a dog clip or caribeaner.



\_ If you need to step away from braiding your leash, no problem, you can attach a set of hemostats at our current ending point and come back later!



**\_ Sealing your Leash:** Once you've reached your desired leash length (these instructions result in a leash roughly 60 inches long) it is time to seal your leash. Attach hemostats to braid as if stepping away during the braiding process and cut off a piece of your excess chord not incorporated into braid. This will be used to seal the braid.

**\_** Light one end of this piece of chord and allow it to catch fire. As it is burning, drip the melted chord onto your leash just above where you attached your hemostats.

**\_** Continue dripping the melting chord onto the end of your leash until you cover all surface area of three braid lengths. Once covered turn your leash over and repeat on opposite side.





\_ Once the braid is sealed cut off excess cord right up to the edge of the melted braid and discard

\_ Using a lighter, lightly melt this freshly cut end of your leash and any rough edges

Note: Do not hold lighter directly on leash for too long as this will melt off your sealed end and result in having to reseal your braid.



\_ This is what your leash end should look like. There should be no sharp points or edges ensuring the safety of your birds.



**You now have made a braided leash!**