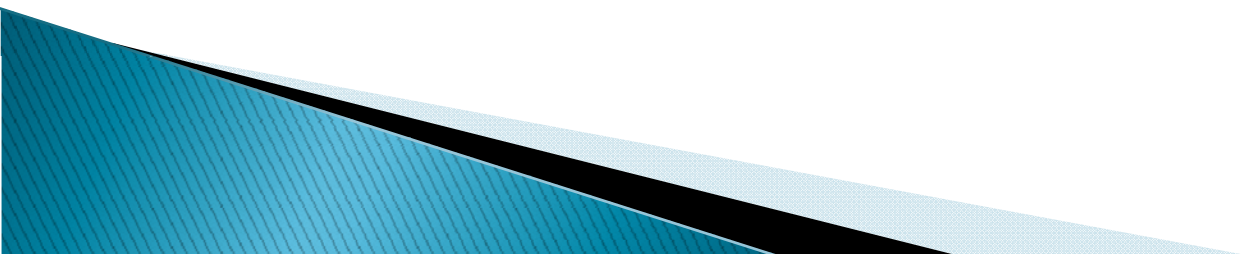


# Parachute Cord Jesses

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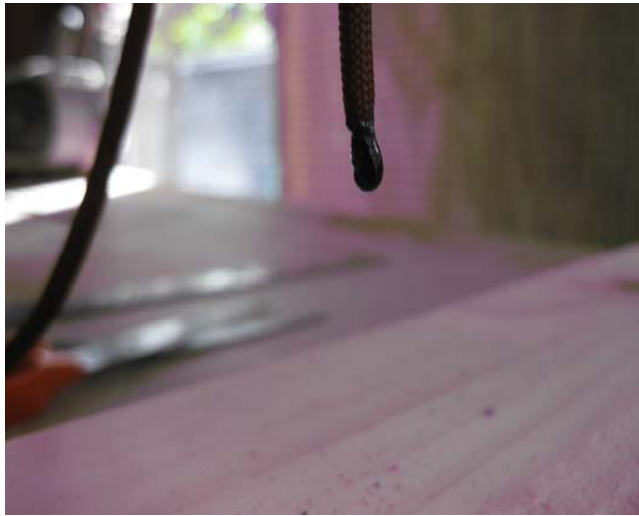
# Materials Needed

- ▶ Block of 2" x 4"
- ▶ Lighter
- ▶ Thin wire coat hanger (cut and rounded to a blunt point)
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Hemostats
- ▶ Two 2' long pieces of parachute cord

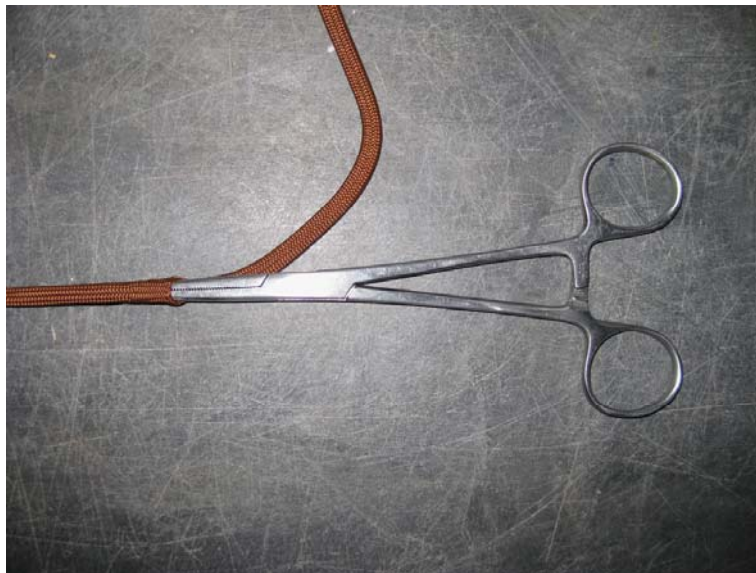




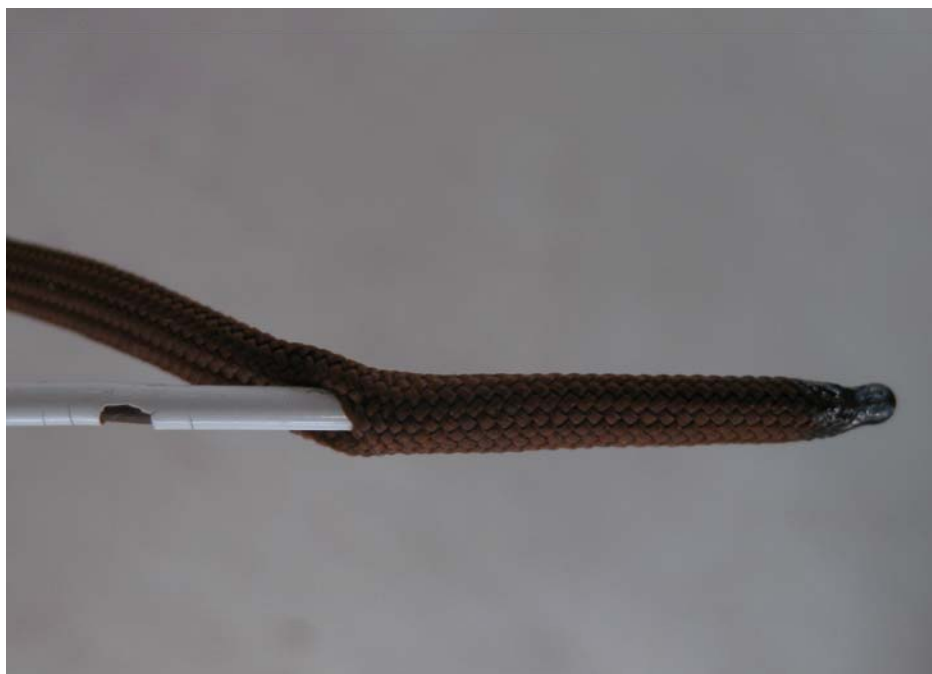
- ▶ Remove insides from both pieces of cut parachute cord and discard



- ▶ 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. (See the top photo.) Tearing the cord decreases the integrity and strength of the cord.
- ▶ Once you have created this hole in the center of the parachute cord, remove the wire coat hanger. Place both jaws of the hemostats into the hole. Feed the hemostats into the hole until the cord is about one fourth of the way up the jaws, being careful not to tear the cord. This will increase the diameter of the hole, which makes future steps easier. (See bottom photo.) You can also achieve the same goal by placing the closed hemostats into the hole and gently opening the jaws, stretching the hole open. Again, just make sure you do not tear the cord.



- ▶ Next, take the previously burnt end of the cord and measure roughly 3 inches below that end. On the back side of the cord (the side opposite of the hole that was just made in the center of the cord), insert the wire coat hanger. Once again, being careful not to go through the other side of the cord. Push the hanger inside of the cord until the point of the hanger reaches the burnt end of the cord.



- ▶ Now take the burnt end of the cord (with the coat hanger still inserted), and push it through the hole that is in the center of the parachute cord. This will create a loop at one end of the cord.



- ▶ Push the burnt end through the cord using the coat hanger until it exits the opposite end, leaving a loop at the top. (See top picture)

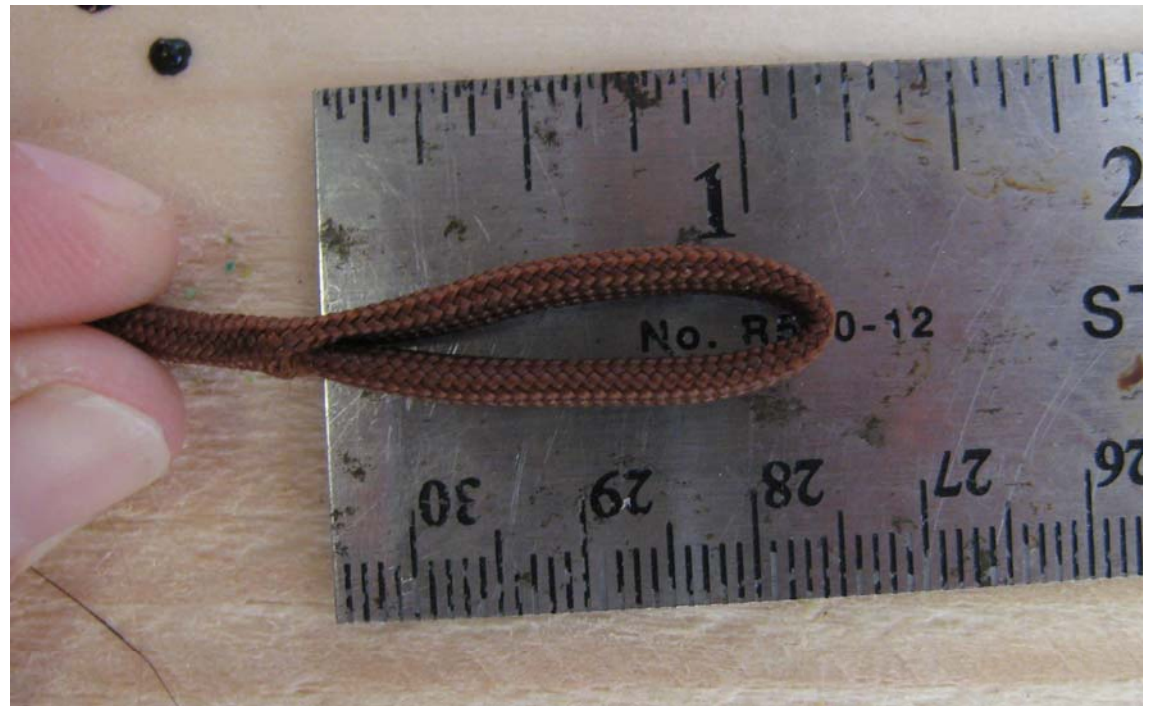


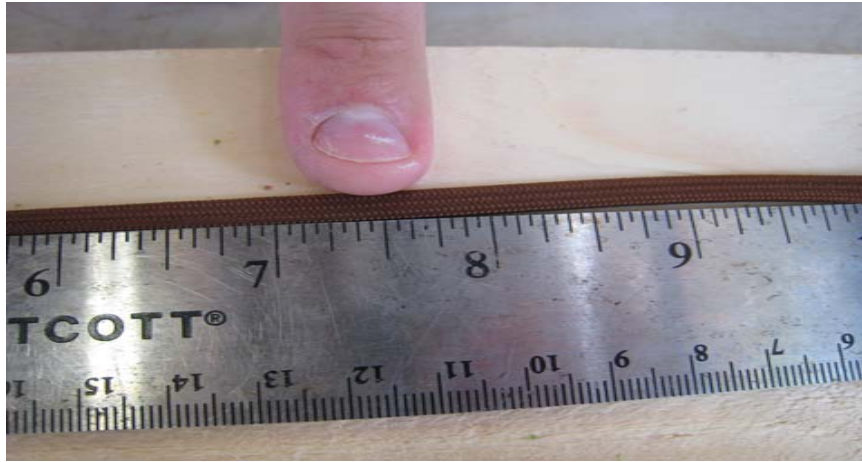
- ▶ While holding onto the burnt end of the cord, remove the wire hanger. (See bottom picture)



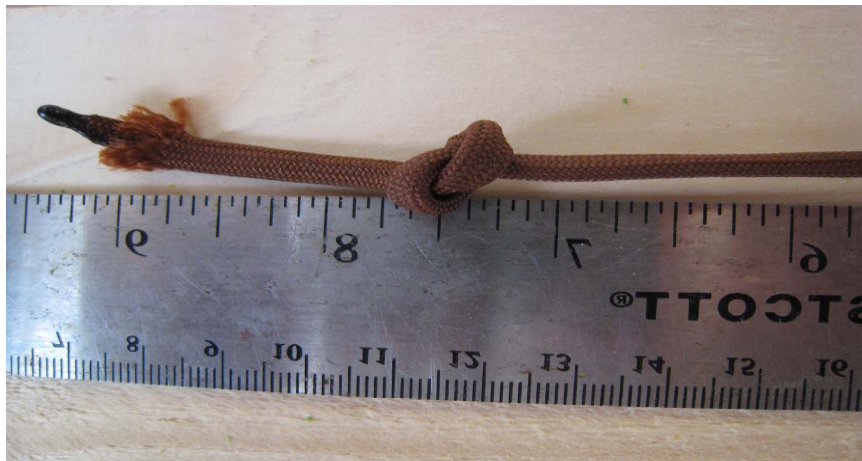


- ▶ Pull on the burnt end of the cord until you have a loop at the top that is about 1 inch long. Once you have the loop size you want, hold the loop end and smooth the fabric toward the burnt end of the cord. This is to make sure there is no extra cord on the jess.





- ▶ Measure the jess to the appropriate length, which is about 7 to 7.5 inches, depending on the species you are working with.



- ▶ Then tie an overhand knot at the measured length. The length of the jess should still be 7 to 7½ inches once the knot is tied.



- ▶ Cut off most of the excess cord so that there is only a knot at the end with about a quarter of an inch of nylon extending from this knot.



- ▶ Take an excess piece of cord (with insides removed) and light it on fire. Then drip the melted cord onto the knotted end of the jess. Cover the top end of the knot like you would ice a cup cake, as this will seal the knot. Try to keep the melted cord only on the knot and not on the rest of the jess.



- ▶ Follow the same process to create the second jess. They should be the same length, so be sure to measure the second one to the first before sealing your knot to make sure your measurements are accurate. Then you will have your finished product, two jesses!!