

## Drag Leashes by Sharon Barth

Feel free to call 512-771-7374 if you have questions

Items needed:

**550 paracord** – preferably US made nylon/nylon from EL Wood (available at several online retailers such as ParacordGalaxy.com (Reference number will begin with 163-) and BoredParacord.com). You will need 2 lengths of 17 feet for a “standard” length leash. Leashes can be made any length. 2 different colors make it easier to keep track of where you are, but isn’t mandatory. For beginners, suggest using different colors.

**Scissors** – a nice sharp pair makes it easier. I use Fiskars.

**Lighter** (preferably single flame torch lighter) (but a Bic will do)

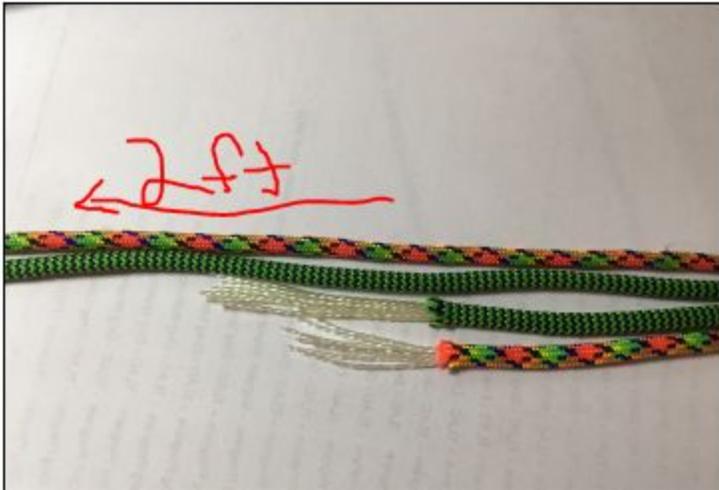
**Ruler**

**Swivel Snap hook** (I use a  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” snap hook from Strapworks.com). ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ” refers to the inside diameter of the bottom part –  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” is the perfect size for 4 strands of 550 paracord.)



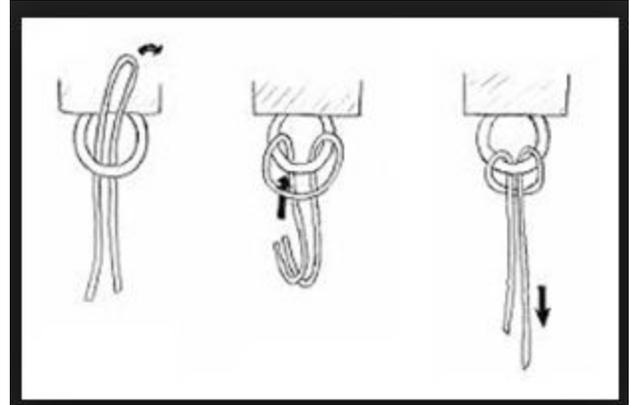
### Step One:

Find both ends of both cords. Start with making an offset – take one of each color and measure about 2 feet using your ruler. Pinch the cords with the offset, and find the middles of each cord at the other end.



## Step Two:

Use a cow's hitch (search youtube for video) to attach each cord (one at a time). See the illustration. Thread the cord at the middle through the snap hook, fold the cord over the hook, and bring the trailing ends through the loop. Do this for both cords. I like to put one cord through the front and the other cord through the back. This is not mandatory but makes things easier.



## Step three:

To set up for braiding, we need to get the colors to opposite sides. Also, at this point, you should have some sort of anchor to keep the hook steady. You can simply tape it to a desk, or find a solid point to attach the hook. I sometimes use my foot ☺. The anchor also helps you get a tight braid.

Take the left most strand and put it in between the two middle strands and separate the cords to each side.



From here, the braid starts. This is a 4 strand braid (search youtube for videos). Take the right most cord, and bring it UNDER and through the middle of the other two cords and then over the middle cord and back to the right to return to the start position. Then do the same on the left - take the left most cord, bring it UNDER and through the middle of the other two cords and then over the middle cord and back to the left to return to start. After each you should have the colors separated just like the start. Tighten after each pass.

This is how it should look after doing one from the right and one from the left:

Keep braiding (always remember to go UNDER), until the SHORTEST cord of the 4 is about 9—12 inches long. Measure 12 inches of the braid for the handle. Fold over to create the handle. Hold onto this as best you can.

To secure the handle, we need to do a Cobra weave (search youtube for videos). Arrange the cord ends so that the short cords are in the middle and the longer cords are on the outside. This is tricky so you'll have to work with it a few times but don't go nuts, it won't affect the strength if it's not perfect.



To start the cobra weave, take the left cord and bring it over all the middle cords (leave an open loop on the left). Take the right cord and loop it over the left cord, then bring the right cord UNDER all the cords and up through the loop on the left. Tighten. Once you have this tightened, give the middle cords a gentle tug to tighten them. Now, you start on the right side (this should be the same color you just did on the left). Bring the right cord over the middle cords (leaving an open loop on the right). Take the left cord and loop it over the right cord and bring it under all the cords and through the loop on the right. Tighten. Repeat this until you get about 10 or 12 loops on each side. You should have enough of each cord left to make an overhand knot in each to secure. I start with the two middle cords. I tie the overhand knot in each, then I tie the two outer knots. The knots should be as tight as possible to the leash. Then you cut each tail to about 1/8" and use the lighter (BE CAREFUL) to melt the cords to seal.





## COBRA WEAVE DETAIL



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This tutorial will start with the left patterned cord making it the center in the design. If you would rather have the solid cord in the middle, start with the right solid cord.



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Bring the left cord over the center two cords and under the right cord as shown.



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Bring the right cord under the center cords and up through the loop created on the left.



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Pull tight being careful not to move the buckle and adjust the length if needed.



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Now reverse the steps and bring the right cord over the center two cords and under the left cord.



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Bring the left cord under the center two cords and through the loop on the right.