

America 250 Woggle

Celebrate the America 250 event with a red, white and blue paracord woggle you make yourself.

Supplies:

- Paracord 550 (each length is 16.5 inches / 42 cm) in Red, White, and Blue available from many vendors.
- Polyurethane glue (e.g. Gorilla Glue) and cotton tipped applicators or other fabric hardener compound.



Helpful options:

- A heat source to fuse ropes (soldering iron, lighter, etc) or polyurethane glue
- “Third Hand Tool” to hold the heated cord to fuse together without burning your fingers or hold the cord until the glue sets for fusion.
- A wood burning tool or soldering iron is safer and works better than a flame for fusing / cutting.

Preparation

1. Cut 3 equal lengths of each color. The lengths noted above can be adjusted, keep each cord the same size.
2. Paracord likes to frizzle on the ends so heat fuse or apply a dab of polyurethane glue (takes a few hours to set).

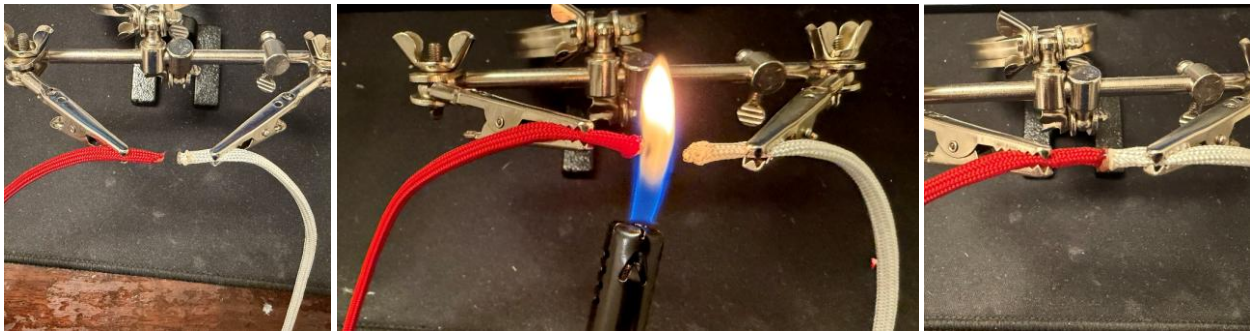
= Injury warning =

Heat from fused ends of each cord can cause skin burns during heating.
Avoid using so much heat that the cord ignites.

3. A tool such as a “third hand tool” can hold both cords for heating. This tool can prevent burns as the melted cord is hot enough to burn you as well as secure the weld until cooled.

A flame-free safe alternative is to join the ends with polyurethane glue.

4. Move the two cords together to fuse while the ends are still melted. Let it cool down for 10 seconds or longer.



5. White should be in the middle section of your fused paracord. You can start the woggle with either the blue or the red end. (with the supplies I bought, blue was stiffer than the other colors, it offered a more stable tie up).



6. **Follow the instructions in the attached sheet for the knot tying** (pages 3-4)

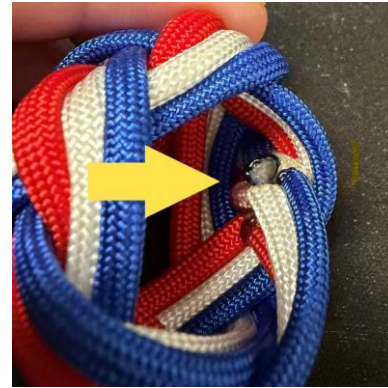
Source of help sheet is from other Scouters and Wood Badge courses

7. During tying, the end of your color being tied should meet its origin. If it is too long or short, rework the knot to dress it into a shape that allows them to lie adjacent. Stop with each color change to adjust the color change so they match, this will improve the symmetry and lay of the cords when completed. This trick can help hide the ends and fused areas, so they are below an overlying triple strand covering them.

Woggle at the beginning of the 3rd wrap, with the origin blue cord on the left, blue/white fused ends next, and white/red beginning on the final wrap.



Completed woggle with ends hidden underneath



Paracord can be flimsy with use resulting in the color positions shifting with repeated use of the woggle.

After fabrication, you can stiffen the inside of the woggle by applying in two ways:

1. Mod Podge Plaid Stiffy Fabric Stiffener (8-Ounce), 1550 dip contents into a sealable cup, dip woggle, let excess drip and lay out to dry.
<https://www.amazon.com/Plaid-Stiffy-Stiffener-8-Ounce-1550/dp/B00114Q5DA>
2. Polyurethane glue (e.g. Gorilla Glue) coating only the inside of the woggle. This has a tendency to show in between small gaps between the cords if you use too much. I found the Mod Podge product to be simpler and faster.



Optional single strand color – no cord fusing required

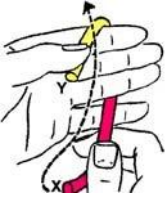

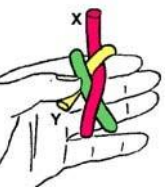






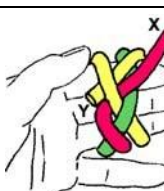
Captain America paracord (red, silver, blue) available from Paracord Planet (no financial interest)

Adapted from the Wood Badge instruction set

For Scouts: The Turks head knot (aka “woggle”) is a challenge to tie – **especially the first time**. Even adults feel challenged tying it. **Feel free to undo it and start over.** It gets better and may take a half dozen tries until you start to understand the unique weave pattern of a knot you haven’t tied before. Search on YouTube for tutorials on “Woggle” or “Turks Head Knot” to help you out. Seek out a leader’s help if you have trouble.

One each of Red, White, Blue cords cut to 16.5 inches / 42 cm in length (total 49.5inches / 126 cm)
Join cords together in this order Red > White > Blue with white in the middle resulting in a single cord made of the 3 colors.

In the figures below, the **yellow** cord is to indicate the stationary end (Y) or to indicate the first wrap, the **green** is to indicate a previous wrap, and the **red** is the working end (X) or final wrap.

	1. Place the cord around three fingers (two, if they’re large) of the left hand, palm up. Hold the stationary end (yellow Y) with left thumb. The working end of the cord is red (X).		2. Bring the (red-X) working end over the (green) previous wrap and under the (yellow-Y) stationary end.
	3. After step 2 is done, it should look like this. Note that the (red-X) working end is now towards the back of the hand.		4. Turn the left hand over, palm down.
	5. Pull the second wrap (green) over the first wrap (yellow). Hold the green wrap in position by placing the forefinger of the right hand between the green and yellow wraps.		6. Thread the (red-X) working end under yellow and up through the crisscross eye formed by yellow and green.
	7. Thread the (red-X) working end over the green and under the yellow again.		8. After step 7 is done, it should look like this.
	9. Turn the left hand over, palm up. Bring the (red-X) end alongside of and parallel to stationary (yellow-Y) end by threading the strand over green, under yellow, and over green again.		10. After step 9 is done, it should look like this. At this point, you may find it easier to work with only two fingers inside the woggle.

The start of the second wrap is indicated in 10. Lay the working end on the right-hand side as you follow the yellow strand around the knot. **Follow / Trace the same course going over and under as if the free end of your cord was an inchworm crawling beside the first wrap you made.** The third wrap follows the second courses path in the same pattern and will finish the red/white/blue color pattern.

At some point, it will be easier to remove the woggle from your fingers as you thread end X around for second time. It is important to adjust the slide as you go, so that it will be neat, as well as the right size.

The Turk's-head neckerchief slide (aka woggle) is formed by following the strand around two (or three) times. The braided strands are parallel to each other all around the slide. The slide will end at the same point at which it was begun. It will likely be necessary to go back around the knot and take in any slack. When complete, tuck both ends underneath a convenient strand and trim.