

Trident sling

Materials:

Paracord - Around 30 feet
A ring to attach the ends of the sling
14 gauge wire – 2 feet

Tools:

Measuring tape, scissors, a lighter (to melt the ends of the paracord), pliers, wire cutters

In order to build a sling to carry a trident while swimming, first braid the sling itself, then create the clips where the trident is to attach.

In order to braid the sling, I followed the instructions in the how-to pages below. I used a 3 string braid, but the methods below allow different numbers or different kinds of rope. Just make sure to begin with enough cord, and then continue braiding until you're satisfied with the length. The right amount to start with for each cord is around three times the final expected length. This is because you're going to begin with each cord folded in half, so you want double the length, and then another length is added to allow for the shortening effect of braiding. To finish it, I passed the cord through itself and knotted it off.

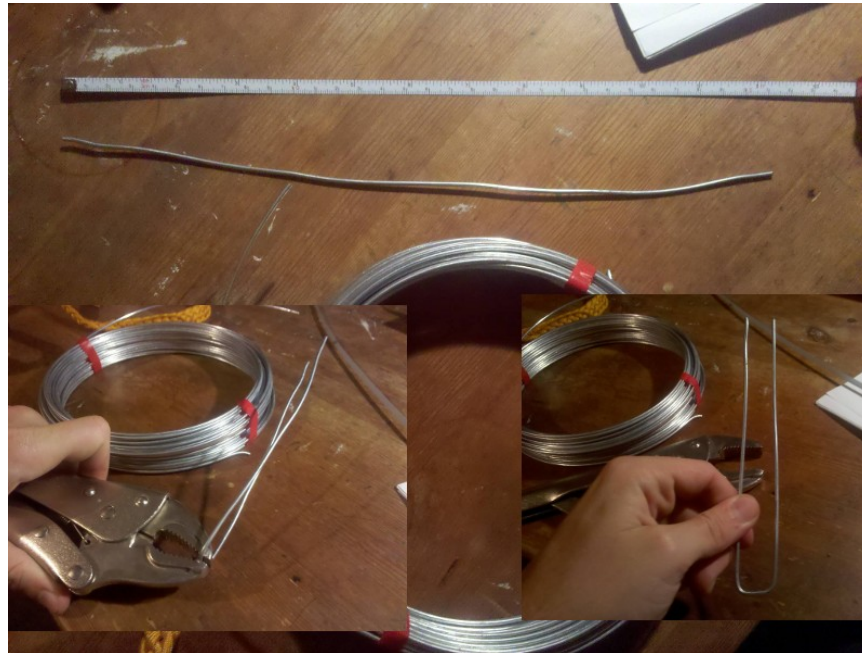
<http://www.instructables.com/id/Braiding-eight-cords-into-a-flat-braid/>

<http://www.seekyee.com/Slings/howtos/6strand1.htm>

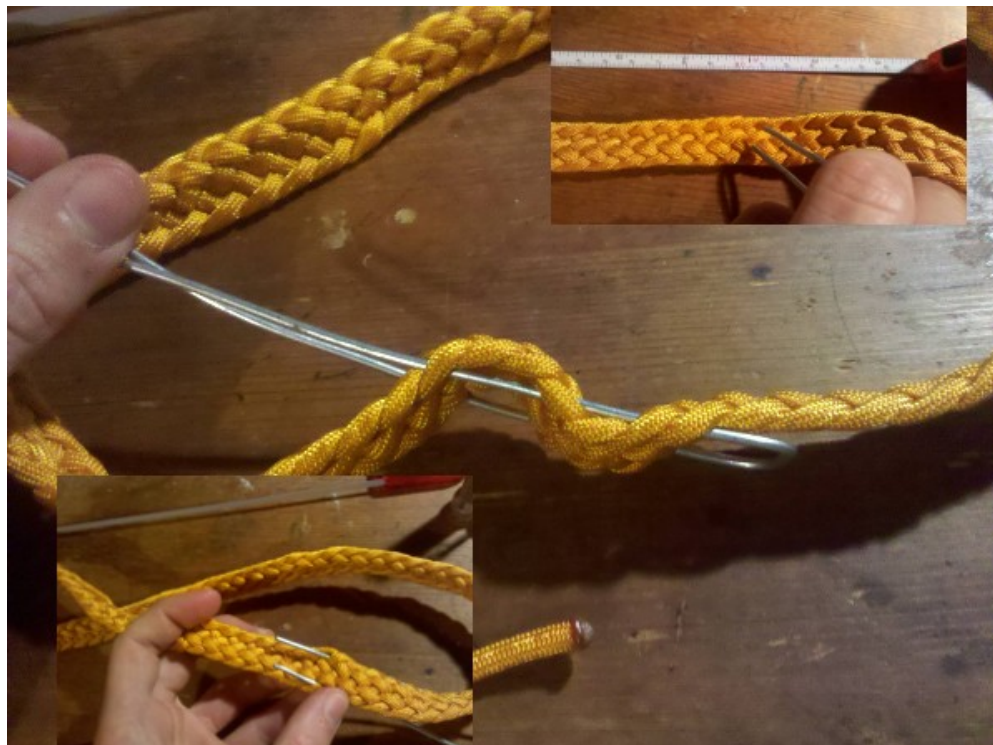
The sling will provide the major visual element, so use this opportunity to decide what kind of look you want. You can use different colors, thicker or tighter braiding, or decoration to make it look more like kelp. When I finished my braid, it looked like this. I still need to cut off extra cord, but it doesn't matter for the clips. I already have one clip done here, just ignore it.



Cut off a foot of wire. I used 14 gauge steel because it was on hand, and it worked pretty well. A thinner or softer metal might work just as well, however if you're using any stiffer wire, you'll need two sets of good pliers. I made mine with a vise grip and my hands.



Insert this into the sling, by pushing the tips of each end through holes in the braid that are far towards the edge. Then work the wire through twice more, and bend the wire so it passes through without distorting the sling.



Bend the two ends 90 degrees so that they are perpendicular to the sling when it lays flat. Place the trident you plan to use between the two ends and wrap the wire around the staff. You will need to bend it rather far around so that it takes a nice firm hold, then bend each side back towards itself. These pictures are from the second time I did it. Although it looks tricky, I was able to do it twice without too much trouble. I tried to make the each loop have a long side, since I find that it makes it easier to snap the trident into place.



When you bend each loop back, you'll want to bend it far around the staff. Then, work each end through two different holes in the braid. I just bent the remaining wire out of the way so that they couldn't poke skin. If you have two good pairs of pliers, I'd bend them more attractively.



Try the sash on, and if it works okay, then make another clip around 9 inches from the first. The staff of a trident should clip into both nicely, then let the whole thing hang over your back.



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