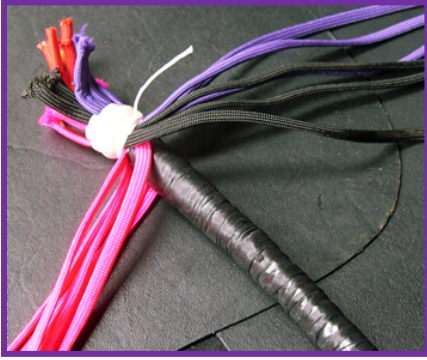
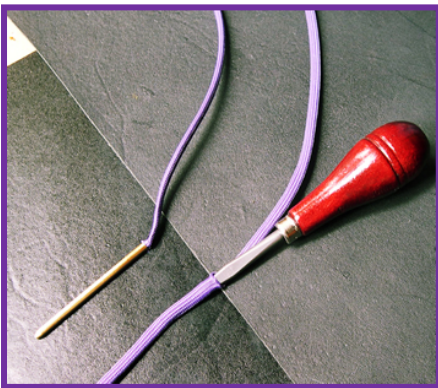


NYLON SNAKEWHIP TUTORIAL

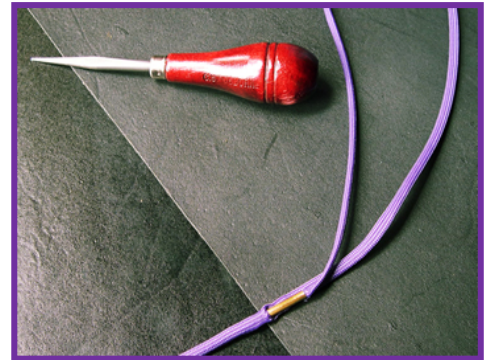


You can see here where I have bound over the taping using good old artificial sinew. The 12 strings are tied on, as you are making a 4 foot snakewhip you'll want to cut your strings at 8 foot. You're almost ready to start plaiting.

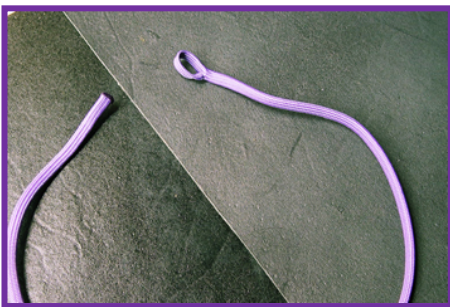


Before you start plaiting you'll need to make yourself a fall or you will get to the end of the whip and not be able to finish it off. Take three and a half foot of de-cord paracord and thread one end into a needle (these are the jumbo ones, you can buy them from Tandy or good old Ebay). Use your fid and

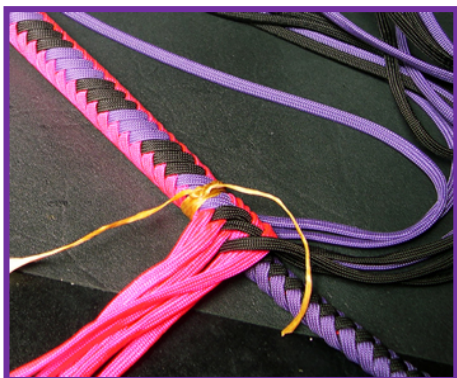
force a hole into the cord around the half way mark, like in the picture. Now remove the fid, push the needle into the hole and feed the cord back into itself.



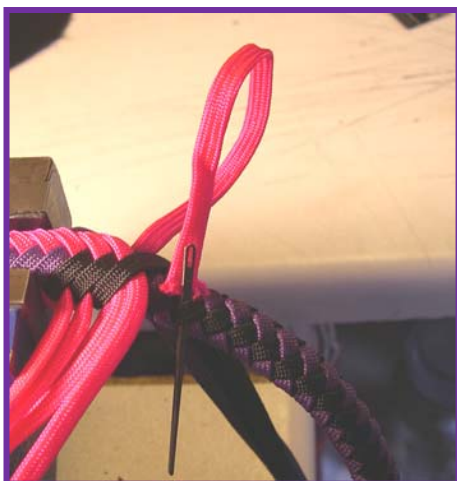
Leave a loop at the end like in the picture, and cut it off at 18 inches. No longer as after this length it becomes a little bit fly away. The end that you have cut run through a lighter flame, this will seal it off and stop it fraying.



Hitch yourself a cracker on the end and that's it, now you are already to start plaiting your overlay.



I've had to assume for the purpose of this tutorial that you can already do the basic plaits (if not then I strongly recommend the Ron Edwards books). 12 plait is under 3 over 3, you'll then drop to a 10 plait which is under 3 over 2, your next drop is to 8 plait which is under 2 over 2, then to 6 plait which is under 2 over 1, and last but not least 4 plait which is under 1 over 1.



As you can see dropping strings with nylon is much easier than with leather. Pull your plaiting real tight and then the strings that you are going to drop feed through the strings on the belly plait, cut them off snug and weld them together with a lighter flame. Then you just continue plaiting. No lumps and bumps almost like magic.



When you reach near the end, feed the strings through the loop of the fall, tighten everything up and start putting the hitches in. Start with your highest string for your first hitch and after that in any order you like.



You can see here that although you have finished in a 4 plait there are 6 hitches. I like to do this for extra security. Once you have hitched all four strings, take the first two, one at a time, and put an extra couple of hitches on the end. The last one you hitch feed back through the fall loop as you can see in the photo. Now pull everything really tight, snip the string that

goes through the fall loop, at around about an inch, then run it through a lighter flame and weld it to the thong. The strings that come out the bottom of your hitches again cut off at about an inch and run them through a lighter flame to stop them fraying. I also like to run the lighter flame over the knots themselves, this welds them together and stops them ever coming undone.



This is how your whip will look now, the fall end is dealt with so now we have to go up to the other end and deal with that.



Bind the end and cut it off in a nice neat line, then weld it altogether using your trusty lighter.



This is the time to attach your wrist strap if you choose to have one, the one in the photo is a basic 3 plait. Use a bit of artificial sinew and build yourself the foundation for the turks head. Again for the purpose of this tutorial I have had to assume you can tie a basic turks head. If not Ron Edwards does a couple of books that are quite helpful, or you will find any number of tutorials on the internet.



Hopefully now you'll have something that looks like the picture on the left, its weighted and tapered right and its pretty damn close to replicating a leather whip. Its one of those things the more you do, the better you'll get at it. If you follow the instructions to the letter and remember to plait tight and pull tight you'll not go far wrong.

If you would rather make a Bullwhip, the formula is exactly the same, except you attach your core strings (the ones with the ball chain in) to an 8mm steel pin.