



playful posies brooch

This project is especially exciting to me. My background is in sculpture, and I was thrilled when I discovered I could use paracord as a material to mold and sculpt. Paracord can be melted, frayed, stacked, and manipulated in so many intriguing ways. I love the idea of taking a material like paracord, that is so utilitarian and masculine, and transforming it into beautiful feminine little flower blooms.

1 Cut five 5-in. pieces of wire. Cut five 4-in. pieces of each color of paracord. Remove the white core, or kern, from each paracord piece.

2 Hold one paracord tube between your fingers. With the index finger of your other hand, press into the end of the tube **(a)**. While applying pressure, spin the tube between your fingers. This will cause the end of the tube to splay out.

3 When a lip has formed, hit the very edge with the lighter's flame **(b)**. Melting the edge will prevent the paracord

from continuing to fray. Repeat this process on one end of each paracord tube **(c)**.

4 Stick a scrap piece of wire through the un-flared end of a pink tube, bend the wire in half, feed the wire through the orange tube, and pull the wire ends to pull the pink tube in place. Remove the wire and repeat to get the orange tube inside of the green tube. Repeat this process for all the paracord tubes **(d, e, f)**.

5 Trim one tube grouping to about 2½ in., and hit the cut end with the lighter to stop the fraying. Make sure not to melt the tube closed. This first tube will be the core branch.

MATERIALS

- 5 6mm vitrail medium Swarovski crystal marguerites
- 25 in. 22-gauge gunmetal wire
- 1 in. pin back finding
- 20 in. hot pink paracord 550
- 20 in. bright orange paracord 550
- 20 in. dark green paracord 550

TOOLS

- high-durability scissors
- chainnose pliers
- roundnose pliers
- wire snips
- butane lighter
- awl
- E6000 jewelry adhesive



🕒 tip

You may notice when buying paracord 550 that some feels thicker and more solid than others. The sturdier paracord has a tighter woven mantle. When coaxing the paracord to splay out, the tighter weave prevents the mantle from just falling apart.



6 Using chainnose pliers fold the very end of a 5-in. piece of wire over, creating a stop at the end. String a crystal onto the wire, then string the wire down through the trimmed, melted tube (**g**).

7 To add more branches, place a tube group where you'd like a branch. Trim the tube to the appropriate length and at an angle that allows this second tube to lay flush to the first tube (**h**). Melt the end of the second tube. String a wire through a crystal and down through the tube. Stab the wire end into the core branch where you'd like to add the second branch. You may need to use an awl to get the hole started. Feed the wire down through the core branch (**i**).

8 Repeat step 7 until all five branches are connected.

9 Grasp the end of one wire with roundnose pliers. Turn the pliers to create a coil, and continue coiling until all the wire is used up and the branch is secure (**j**). Repeat for all the wires.

10 Glue the pin back to the back of the core branch (**k**).

