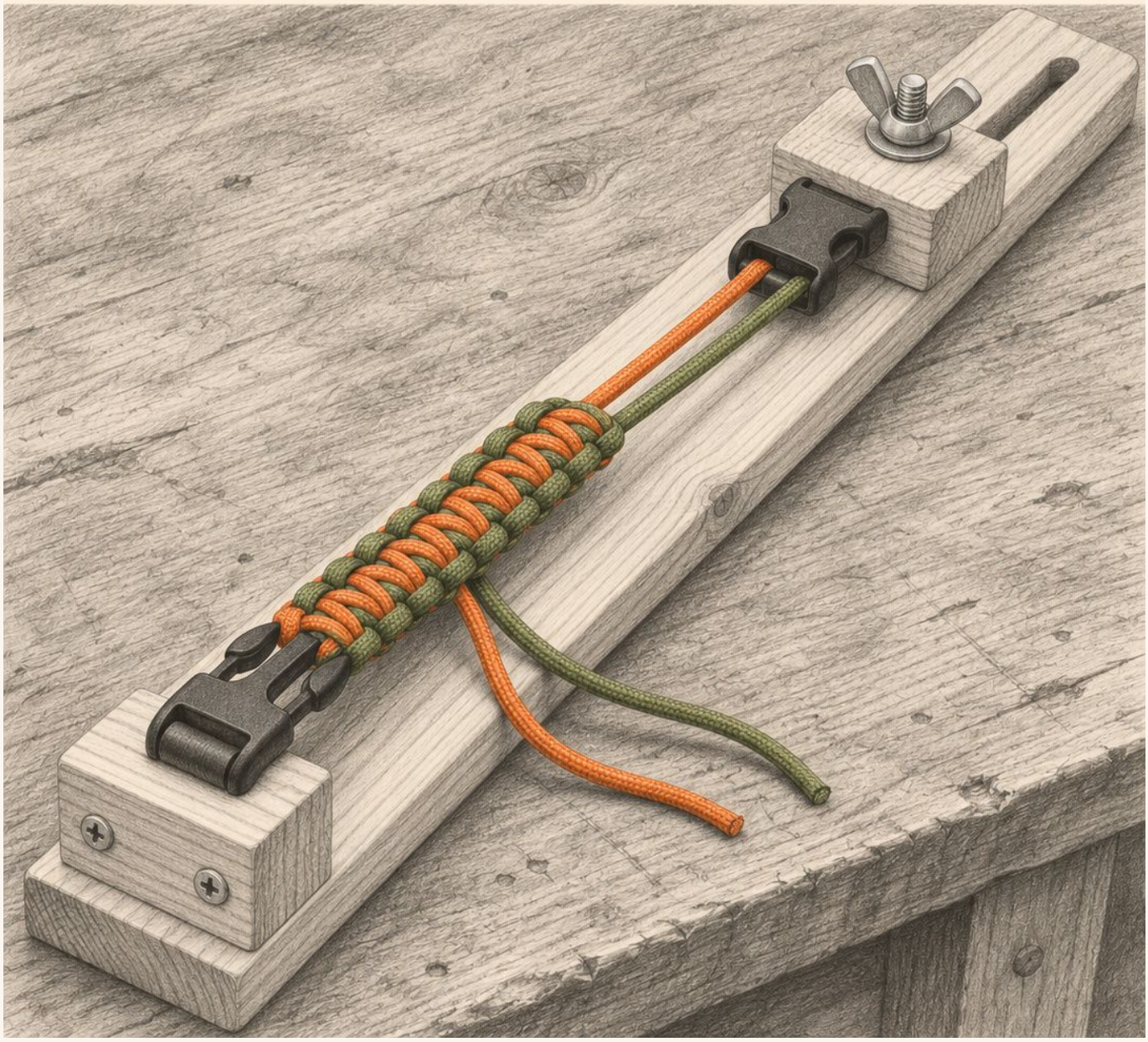
BONUS 2

Build Your Own Paracord Jig

Hands-Free Weaving for About $15

A Henry Clawson bonus for readers of the Paracord book

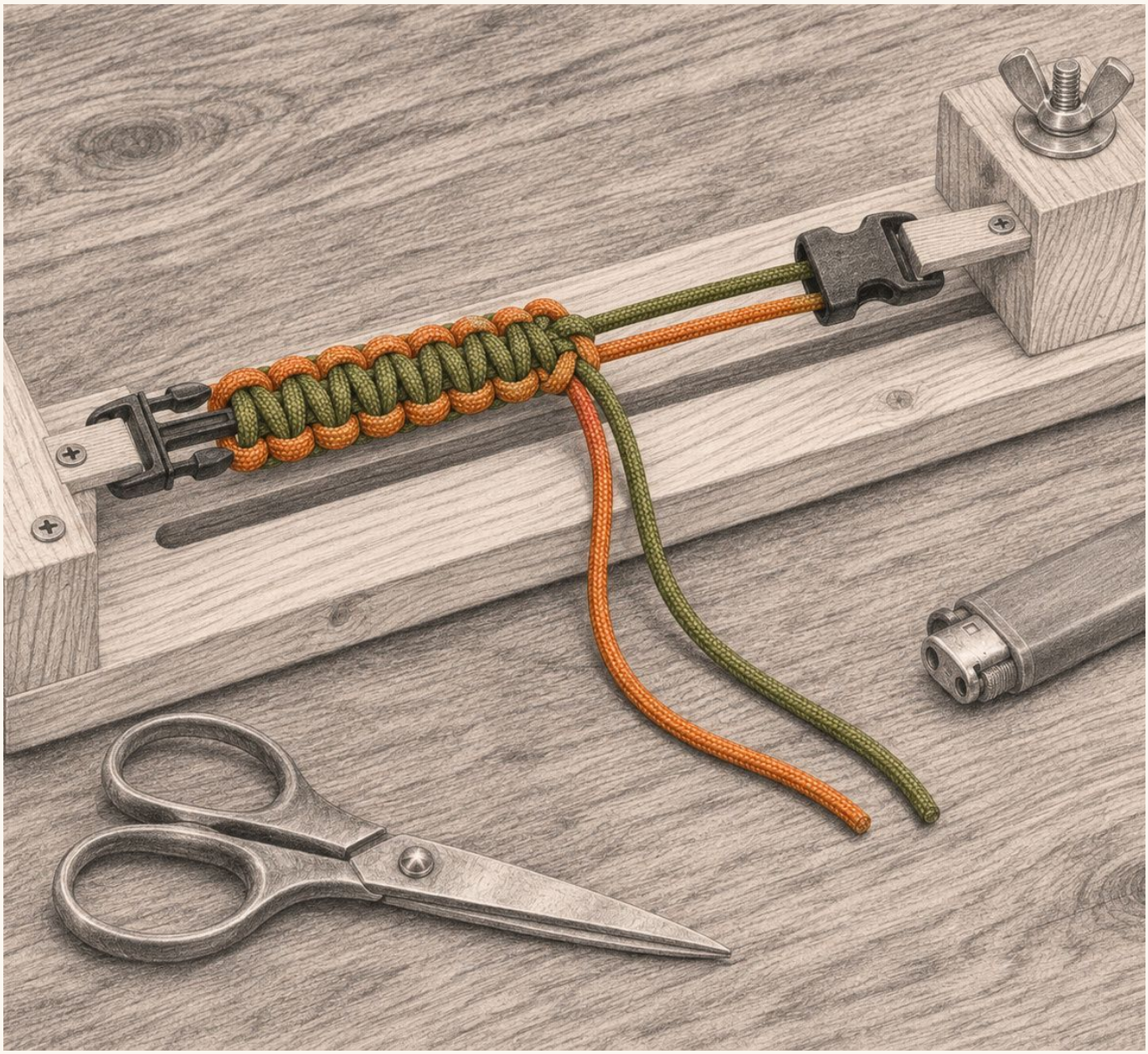


Why a Jig Changes Everything

After your third or fourth bracelet you'll notice it: you spend half your attention holding the buckles, not weaving. The core goes slack, the knots go uneven, and your fingers get tired.

A jig holds both buckles at the exact length you set, keeps the core tight and leaves both hands free for the knots. Store-bought jigs cost $20 to $40. This one costs about $15 in hardware store parts and takes an afternoon to build.

It works for every buckle project in the book: P06, P07, P08, P09, P12, P19 and P21.



Parts and Tools

Parts (about $15):

- 1 pine board, 1x4 (actual size 3/4 x 3 1/2 in), 30 in long
- 1 wooden paint stirrer stick (free at most paint counters)
- 1 carriage bolt, 1/4 x 2 in, with 1 flat washer and 1 wing nut
- 4 wood screws, #8 x 1 1/4 in
- Wood glue
- 1 self-adhesive measuring tape strip, 24 in (inches)

Tools:

- Hand saw or miter saw
- Drill with 1/4 in and 1/8 in bits
- Jigsaw or coping saw (to cut the slot)
- Screwdriver, sandpaper, pencil, ruler, 2 clamps

Cut list (from the 30 in board):

- Base: 22 in
- Fixed block: 3 1/2 in
- Sliding block: 3 1/2 in
- Two buckle tongues from the paint stick: 5/8 in wide, 2 in long



Step by Step: The Base

1. Cut the base, the two blocks and the two tongues. Sand every edge.
2. On the base, draw a line down the middle of the board, from 6 in to 21 in from the left end. This is your slot.
3. Drill a 1/4 in hole at each end of the line.
4. Cut along the line between the two holes with the jigsaw or coping saw. Keep the slot just wide enough for the bolt to slide.
5. Sand the inside of the slot until the bolt slides from end to end without catching.



Step by Step: The Blocks

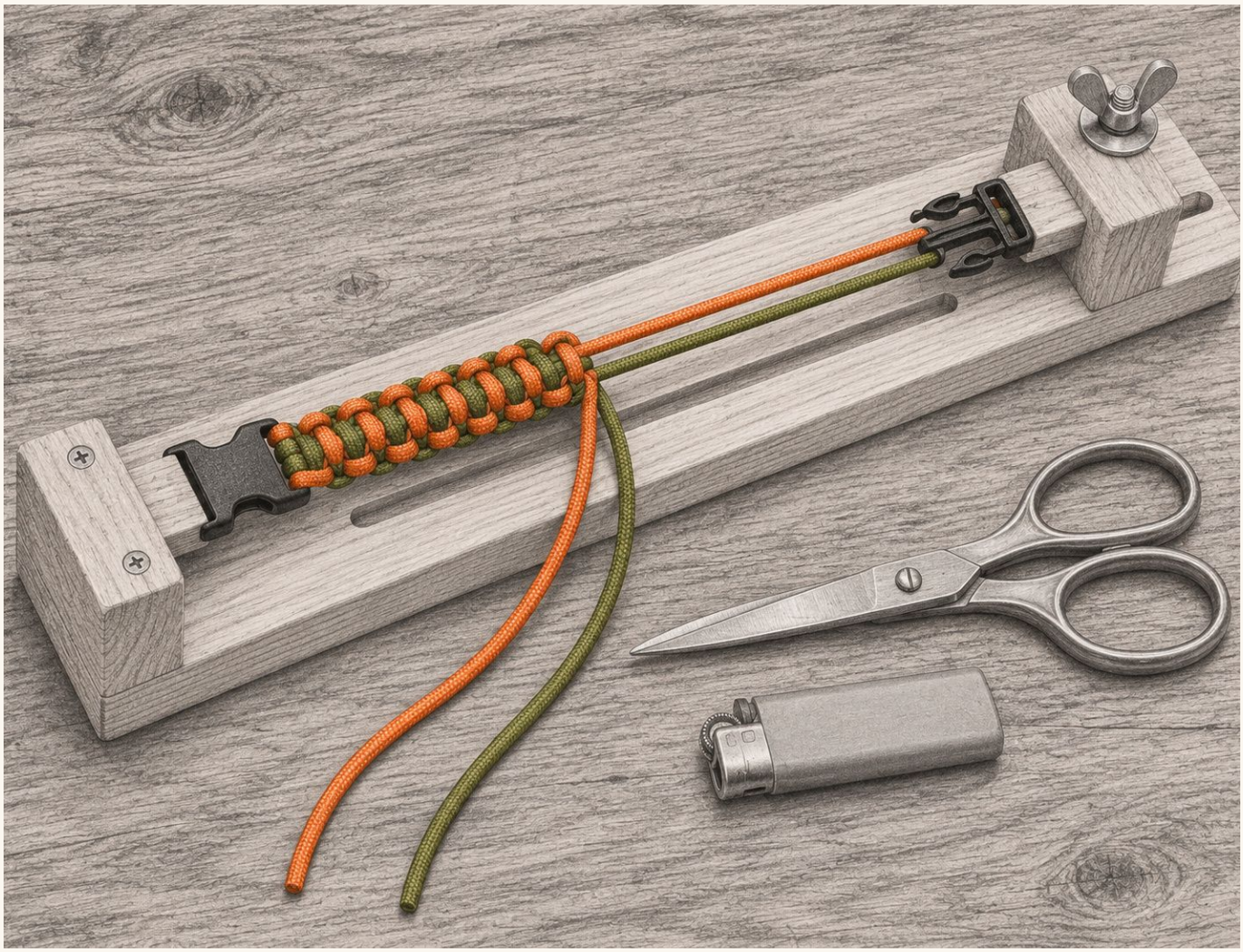
1. On each block, cut a slot 1 in deep and as thick as the paint stick, in the middle of one end. A hand saw cut is usually the right width.
2. Glue a tongue into each slot so 1 in sticks out. Clamp and let it dry for one hour.
3. Fixed block: glue it at the left end of the base, tongue pointing right, and secure it from below with 4 screws. Drill 1/8 in pilot holes first so the wood doesn't split.
4. Sliding block: drill a 1/4 in hole through the middle of it. Push the carriage bolt up through the slot in the base and through the block, tongue pointing left.
5. Add the washer and the wing nut on top. Tighten: the block must stay put. Loosen: it slides.
6. Stick the measuring tape along the edge of the base, with 0 exactly at the tip of the fixed tongue.

How to Use Your Jig

1. Slide one buckle half onto each wooden tongue, through the strap opening.
2. Loosen the wing nut and slide the block until the tape reads the finished length you want, measured from tongue to tongue.
3. Tighten the wing nut.
4. Set your core between the two buckle halves as in the book (P06, steps 1 to 3).
5. Weave with both hands free. The core stays tight from the first knot to the last.

Tip: If a buckle slips off its tongue, wrap the tongue with one layer of masking tape to make it a little thicker.

Important: The jig only holds tension for weaving. Never stand on it or use it to test loads.

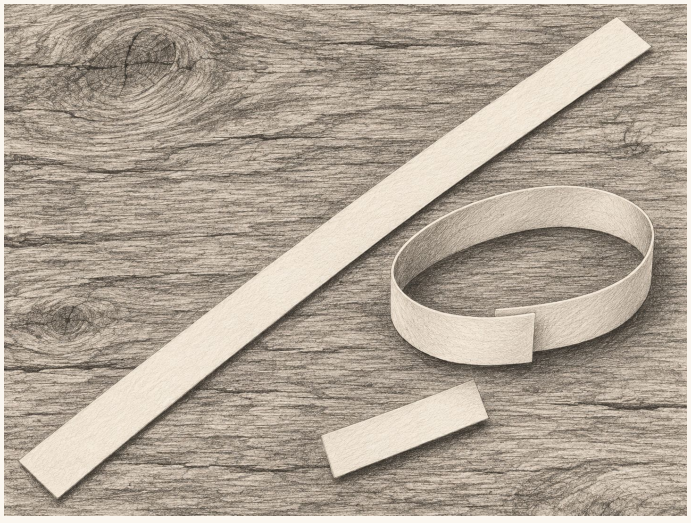


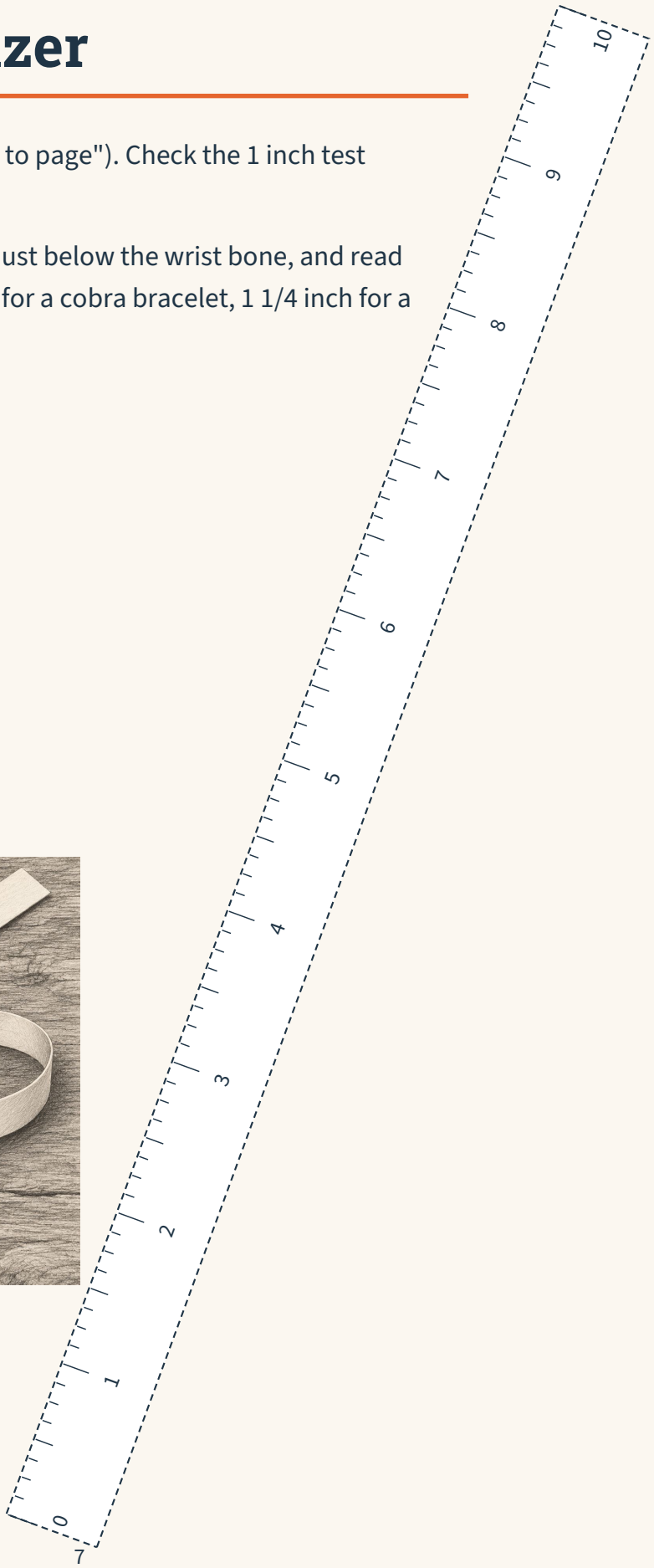
Printable Wrist Sizer

Print this page at 100% (Actual size, no "fit to page"). Check the 1 inch test square with a ruler before you cut.

Cut out the strip, wrap it around the wrist just below the wrist bone, and read where the end meets the scale. Add 1 inch for a cobra bracelet, 1 1/4 inch for a king cobra.

1 in





Printable Ruler and Size Card

Print at 100% and check the test square first.

Use the ruler to measure your cord and your test inch. Use the size card to write down the wrist sizes of everyone you make bracelets for.

1 in



Name: _____	Wrist: ____ in	Bracelet: ____ in	Colors: _____
Name: _____	Wrist: ____ in	Bracelet: ____ in	Colors: _____
Name: _____	Wrist: ____ in	Bracelet: ____ in	Colors: _____
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