

GEFORCE GARAGE ANTEC 900 SERIES

HOW TO BUILD CUSTOM HAND-LACED CABLES

FEATURING
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Creating your own custom hand-laced cables is one of the most functionally and aesthetically effective mods you can apply to a rig. (Skip ahead to [10:27 in our video](#) to see exactly what we're talking about here.) It's also one of the least expensive mods as well, requiring only some thread and an assortment of scissors and clamps that you can buy for a couple bucks at a craft shop or drugstore.

It does, however, require patience and dexterity to do well. But don't let that deter you. The techniques you'll learn in this tutorial are pretty much like learning to tie your shoes: Once you do it correctly a few times, muscle memory takes over and after that it's a breeze.

As you might recall from your Boy or Girl Scout days, it's tough to learn how to tie knots from illustrations in a book. So we've designed this PDF to identify each stage of the hand-lacing process depicted in the video—from the initial "Starting Stitch" to the "Chicago Stitch"—so that you can confirm you understand the technique before moving onto the next stage. Once you've nailed each stage, you'll be able to hand-lace your cables to conform to whatever layout your rig requires.



For once we don't have to beg you to keep face shields, Kevlar vests, and EpiPens arounds to protect yourself during a mod. Nonetheless, keep in mind that you're using scissors and it's surprising how much damage they can do when you're not paying attention, so be careful.

LEVEL:
TECHNICIAN

TIME:
4+ HOURS

COST: \$\$\$

MATERIALS:

BEADALON WILDFIRE THREAD
(OR SIMILAR WAX-BASED STRING)

TOOLS:

ELECTRICIAN'S SCISSORS

GINGHER SEWING SCISSORS

2 MEDICAL CLAMPS (HEMOSTATS)

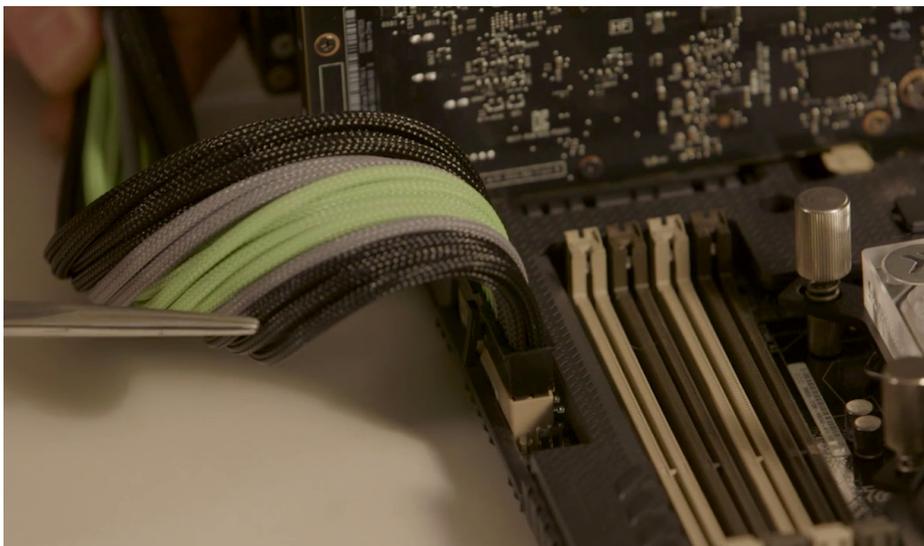
PAPER CLIP



STEP 1:

Pre-sleeve your cables.

You'll want to begin with fully sleeved cables, and lucky for you we've got video that demonstrates how to build your own custom-sleeved cables [here](#). Don't trim or finish the cables yet, however. Wait until you've run the cables inside your rig so you know exactly how long each individual cable needs to be.



STEP 2:

Choose your cable configuration.

You'll need to plan in advance the path your cables will take from one component to another so that you'll be able to identify exactly where the cables will need to be laced as they twist, curve, overlap, lay flat, or bend at sharp angles. Here, Jon's identified the first two bends in his cables—one above the motherboard connector, and the next where the cable twists toward the videocards.



STEP 3:

The Chicago stitch, part one.

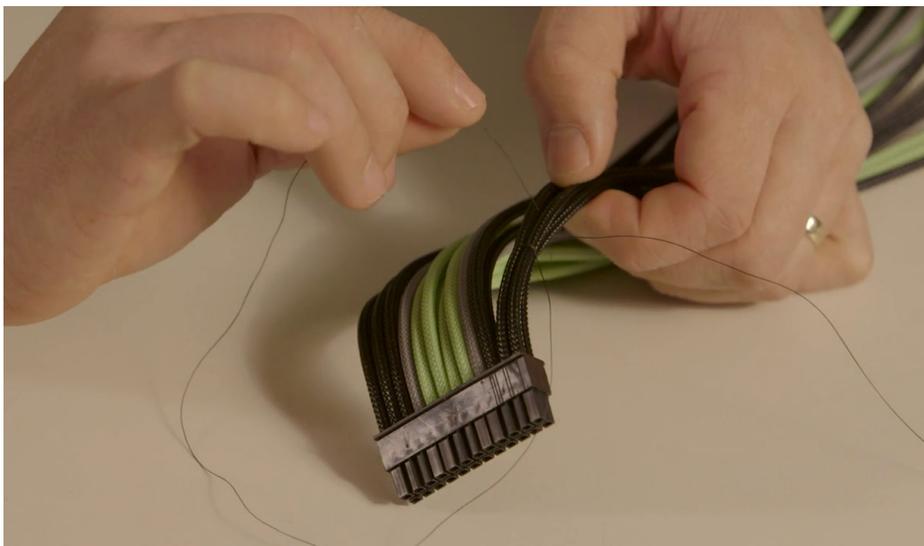
As we begin the main event, Jon demonstrates what's called a Starting stitch that binds two individual cables to each other.



STEP 4:

The Chicago stitch, part two.

At [6:24](#), Jon continues onto the Chicago stitch by binding the first pair of cables to the adjacent pair. As you practice the technique, pay careful attention when he cautions against allowing the threads to cross each other (put on your Ghostbusters outfit and say it: "Don't cross the strings!").



STEP 5:

The Chicago stitch, part three.

At [7:36](#), Jon completes the Chicago stitch with a final knot. Then he repeats the Chicago stitch process for the remainder of the cables (use the paper clip as a hook to pull your thread between them).



STEP 6:

Tidy up the Chicago stitch.

Once you've completed the stitch across all the cables, you can take a moment to tidy up the stitch by gently nudging them into perfect alignment (if necessary), then tie off the whole shebang with a double knot.



STEP 7:

Complete remaining segments.

Note how Jon is using a clamp to maintain the curve in his cable that he planned in Step 1. Without the clamp, he might end up stitching a cable only to find it buckling out of shape due to the differences in lengths between individual cables as they're twisted inside a case.



STEP 8:

Combining sets of cables.

Here, Jon shows you how to stitch cables together when they overlap using the same initial Starting Stitch. The humble but awesomely handy paper clip makes an appearance again.



STEP 9:

Trim and affix cable connectors.

The final step is, obviously, to trim your cables and attach their connectors. The flexibility of your hand-laced cables will allow you to gently adjust their positioning inside the case and still look ten thousand times better than zip ties poking out everywhere inside your case.

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