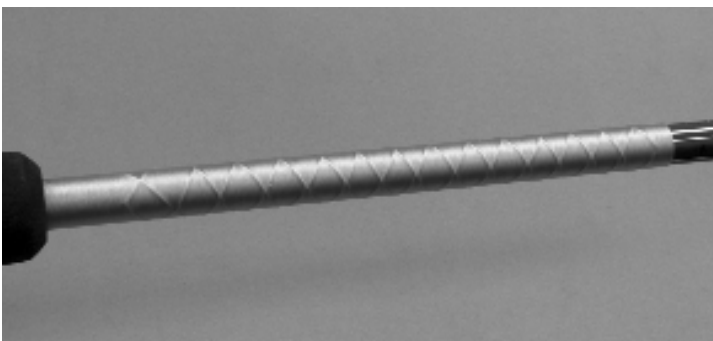
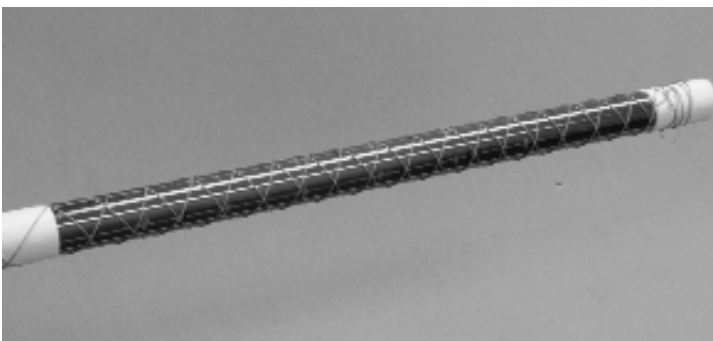
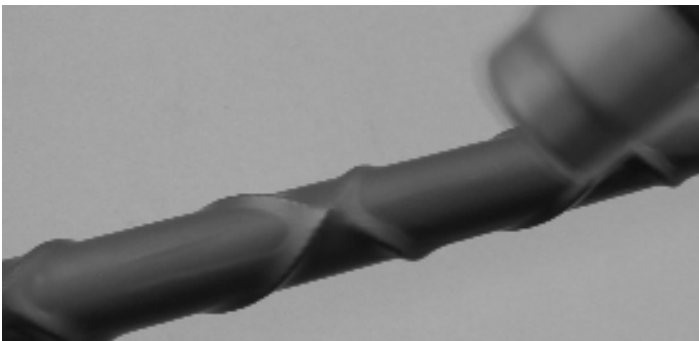
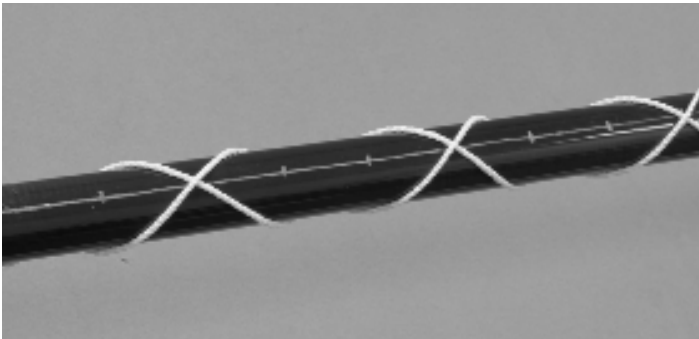


Texturizing Grips and Wraps

Here's two simple ideas for improving your shrink grips and making your decorative wraps sparkle!

story and photos by Dave Gottfried



You can add texture to your shrink tube handles and your decorative wraps just by making a diamond or similar wrap of heavier cord or thread underneath. On grips this helps give you a more secure surface. On wraps it provides a “faceted” look like the facets on a diamond. Both are easy to do.

Start by making a straight alignment line down the blank where you are going to put your shrink tube or decorative wrap. This is the same thing you do when setting up for a decorative cross wrap.

For a handle a simple one pass diamond with heavy nylon cord is enough to provide good grip texture. But you can add more diamonds if you want. Instead of a simple two-axis diamond, try a four-axis diamond.

For a decorative wrap I always do at least a four-axis diamond. Making a six or even eight-axis diamond makes an even better effect. In the interest of time I only show a four-axis diamond on the photos I took. But you should be able to get the general idea from them.

On the decorative wraps I use either heavy size “E” or even “EE” thread for the diamonds. Then I overwrap with A for the greatest effect. The photo shows a D overwrap so it shows better in the picture. But A will give you a smoother top finish.

In either case you can just tape down the ends of the diamond cord or thread. Carefully apply your shrink tube over the cord being careful not to disturb it. Once the tube is shrunk it will stay in place.

When you reach the end of the decorative wrap just cut the base diamonds at a point where the diamonds cross and continue the overwrapping thread for just a short distance to finish off the end.

That’s all there is to creating texture and facets on your next grip or decorative wrap!

Top to Bottom:

Making the grip texture diamonds with heavy cord.

Shrinking the tube over the diamonds.

Making the facet diamonds with E or EE thread.

The overwrap on top of the facet threads.