

Full Review: The 'Wazoo Survival Gear' Minimalist Survival Bracelet

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Firstly, this is an entirely unbiased review. I am not being paid for doing this review. I became aware of the Minimalist Survival Bracelet and its innovative Firestorm buckle (more on that in a minute) and I just knew I had to get hold of one to feature on the website.

Wazoo Survival Gear (WSG) are a company based in the US that makes wearable survival kits disguised to blend into your everyday life.

The Minimalist Survival Bracelet

So what is the 'Wazoo Survival Gear' Minimalist Survival Bracelet? Well the best way to describe it is as a paracord bracelet on steroids! If you think standard paracord bracelets are useful, wait until you see this beauty...

Before I get on to the features and what it does, I just want to tell you about the packaging. 'Wazoo Survival Gear' have done a awesome job with the packaging. Very minimal, very well branded, excellent information/product features and very importantly, easy to open.

So on to the bracelet itself, how is the Minimalist Survival Bracelet different from every other paracord bracelet? Well with a normal paracord bracelet, you just get several feet (dependant on wrist size) of paracord, which is great in itself, but with the Minimalist Survival Bracelet, you get a whole lot more, but without any additional bulk.

Here's what you get (standard paracord bracelet):

- Several feet of 550 paracord

Here's what you get (Minimalist Survival Bracelet):

- Several feet of 550 paracord
- Firestorm buckle with integrated firesteel and survival whistle.
- A Needle which is statically charged to float on water and can be used for navigation. The needle can also be used for sewing or to fashion an additional (that's right, it already has a normal fishing hook!) fishing hook
- 20 feet of 50lb fishing line which can be used for fishing or snares.
- A fishing hook!
- A drinking straw
- A stainless steel name plate which can be used as a striker for the firesteel or a sinker or spinner for fishing. It could also be sharpened as a small blade or possibly used as an improvised signal mirror.
- Everything apart from the buckle is woven into the bracelet itself and is not visible.

Given the weight and bulk of both bracelets is the same, I know which one I would rather be wearing if I was stuck out in the wild.

The Firestorm buckle (with integrated firesteel and whistle)

I know what you are thinking how on earth have they managed to fit a firesteel and a whistle into a paracord bracelet, without adding to the bulk? Check out the photo below to see how.



Once again I think I know what you are thinking... That firesteel must be tiny and useless (which is what I was concerned about). Well you are right, it is tiny, I'd say it is about 2cm long, but surprisingly enough it does work quite well. After a bit of practise I managed to get consistent sparks and managed to light cotton wool no bother at all. The thing to remember about this firesteel, is it is not supposed to be your main 'go to' means of starting a fire, it is for back up, emergency use. Due to its size and where it is located in the buckle, it has obvious limitations, but it does work. If you can use a normal sized firesteel, you should be able to use this one without too much difficulty.

I should also mention the whistle, which again whilst being tiny, works well. I am not sure what the Db is but I can testify that it is extremely loud for its size. Another interesting feature with the whistle is a small removable stopper which when removed allows you store small items inside the

whistle chamber. You wouldn't get much in there, but you could definitely fit some charcloth or similar in there. My only concern with using this feature is it can be quite tricky removing the rubber stopper. If you have stored something in the whistle and for example you are injured and need to use the whistle for signalling, the whistle will not function without removing whatever is stored in the chamber, which as said, can be quite tricky to do.

Cost

The 'Wazoo Survival Gear' Minimalist Survival Bracelet currently retails at \$29. Yes, this is more expensive than standard paracord bracelets, but I have seen standard paracord bracelets in this price range as well. This is a premium product, with many additional features. I should also add it is made in the USA! The bracelet can be purchased here: wazoosurvivalgear.com I should also note that you can purchase the bracelet unassembled for just \$8.00, you get all the components in a bag so you can create your own bracelet.

Conclusion

I think the 'Wazoo Survival Gear' Minimalist Survival Bracelet is awesome! The Firestorm buckle is one of the most innovative things I have seen in a long while and all together the Minimalist Survival Bracelet is a truly unique product. There are no gimmicks, everything included on the bracelet works as intended. It is amazing the extra features this bracelet manages to fit in, without increasing the bulk in any noticeable way.

The bottom line - would I recommend the 'Wazoo Survival Gear' Minimalist Survival Bracelet? Absolutely YES! It is a bit more expensive than standard paracord bracelets, but it is a premium USA made product with many additional features and uses. This is a new product to the market, so be one of the first to get one!

If you would like to purchase a 'Wazoo Survival Gear' Minimalist Survival Bracelet, head over to the [Wazoo Survival Gear store](http://wazoosurvivalgear.com)