

Knotting Matters

Newsletter of the



"KNOTTING MATTERS"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

President: GEOFFREY BUDWORTH

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Editorial

This is my penultimate newsletter. The next is my last. There will be no more, and this would be a great loss because 'K.M.' is now read and enjoyed worldwide: indeed, for overseas members, it is often the only tangible evidence of our Guild's existence.

It is time, however, someone else had a go. As I have no stand-in (there is no assistant-editor) somebody or other must - if 'K.M.' is to continue - rush on from the wings to proclaim; "Don't worry. Leave all this to me." And s/he must do so by April 89's A.G.M.

Whoever is prepared to do the job will have my 27 issues (nearly 7 years' worth) to see how I did it. My scissors-&-paste style should be easy to copy. Or, a better product might result from a word processor. Then again, there are printing firms who produce magazines free, as long as they can use them for advertising. The editor (and we surely MUST have one) can pursue his or her own ideas. It is time 'K.M.' grew up a bit.

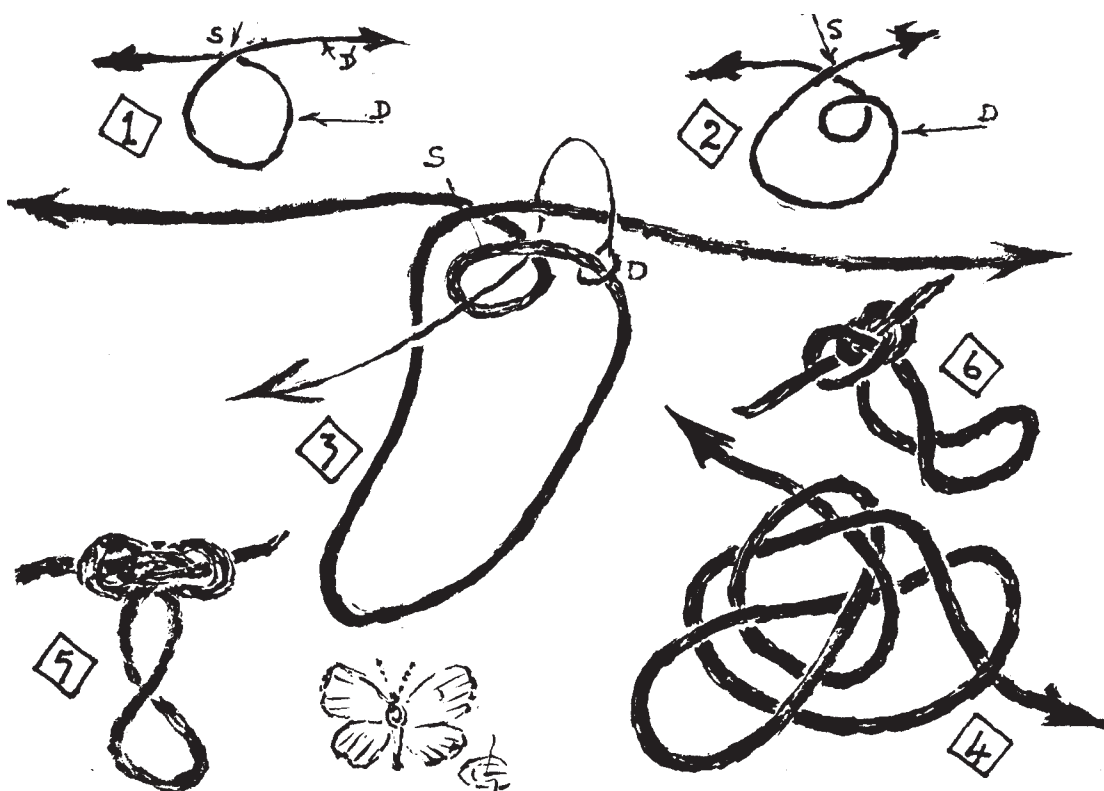
There is no dearth of material for the newsletter. Copy accumulates faster than I can publish it. 'K.M.' can continue indefinitely, providing its original mixture of knotlore: but all will be lost unless an able hack comes forward to save it.

WHERE ARE YOU

NOW WE NEED YOU?

The Butterfly Knot

A neat & easy method
of tying it, shown us
by Lester COPESTAKE



The Butterfly Knot

In the spring of 1940, I saw a description of this knot pinned up in the porch of the Fell and Rock Club's hut at Wasdale Head. The Alpine Club, from whose journal the description had come, said it was a good knot for middlemen. I have remembered it ever since and use it often. It is easy to learn, versatile, secure, strong, and can be adapted as a bend. It takes pull on any of the four ends and is easily untied after loading. It is in the Ashley book as #1053 the lineman's loop. He gives an elegant method for tying it but most people seem to prefer the one in the picture once they see it.

A way to tie it as a bend is given in Harry Asher's *New System of Knotting*. (Vol 1 fig 23.)

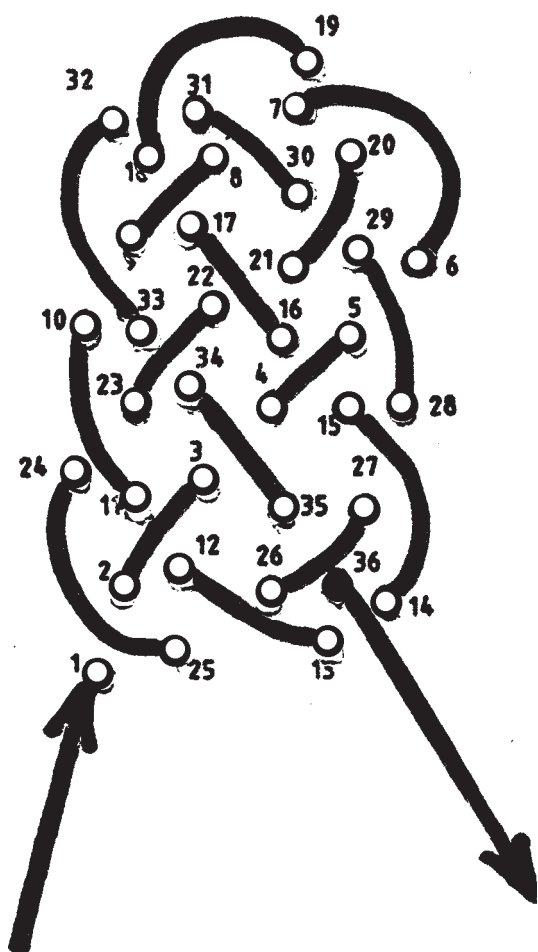
The sketch below shows how a rope can be made fast with a Butterfly and a slipped half hitch. If the butterfly is previously tied in the right place this holdfast is easy to adjust and cast off under load.



Do It Yourself

A PHOTOCOPY of this great little exercise was handed to everyone who arrived at Rotterdam's Maritime Museum Prins Hendrik during the Dutch knot fair, 1987 (which was reported in 'K.M. No. 22, pages 3-5). As with Allan C. McDowall's "origami" method for Turk's heads, you simply tear the paper guide to shreds to be left with a successfully completed knot as a souvenir...which you did yourself.

Organisers of displays elsewhere might like to copy this neat idea.



CEBRUIK 85CM SISAL PAKTOUW AAN EENZUDE MET PLAKBAND BEZET

NUWERK 20.6.1987
T.C.M. SLIJKERMAN

Maak zelf je OCEANMATJE

Pak het touwtje bij het plakbandje vast en steek het door het gat bij 1. Haal het door tot JE ongeveer 5cm over houdt.

Steek het bij 2 weer omhoog en vlecht het door de volgende gaatjes tot het eind.

Als je klaar bent met vlechten scheur je het papier er voorzichtig af en je matje is klaar.

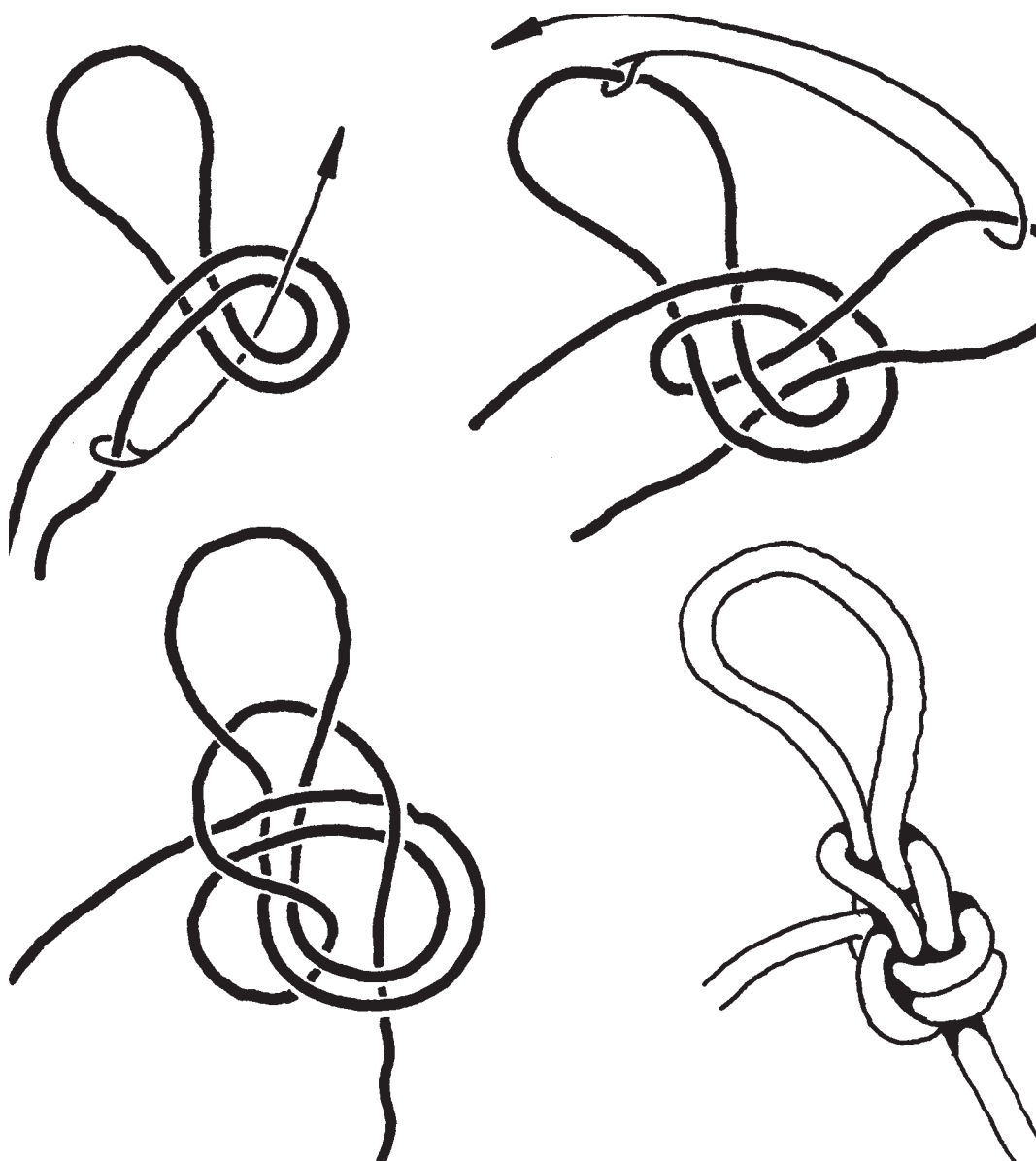


Trambles

Devotees of Desmond MANDEVILLE's ingenious "trambling" approach to knot-tying will be pleased to learn that further instalments are to hand, for publication in future issues.

The Daniel Harness Loop

from Roger CARTER in New Zealand



ROGER submits this loop knot on behalf of a friend. It seems a good knot in every way - easy to tie, capsize and untie; strong and secure; pleasing in its balance and symmetry. It is also versatile, in that it can be made to face in either direction along the rope depending on which way the first bight is turned, making the knot useful for a drag rope or as a foothold on a climbing rope, perhaps.

Roger can find nothing exactly like it in his library, so - the question is - does anyone know this loop knot already?

Euphemism

"STABBED WITH A BRIDPORT DAGGER!"

It meant; 'To be hanged' (Bridport made so many gallows ropes)

Witch, Hitch?

New Zealand T.V. recently showed an English documentary programme about witch-craft. During the course of this the witches held a sort of combined A.G.M. and garage sale (or swap meet). Amongst the goodies for sale, our Roger CARTER spotted on a stall behind a witch who was being interviewed, were cellophane packets containing knotted cord. These were too far away to be seen in detail, but each was clearly labelled "ALBION KNOT".

Question: Does any member from "Perfidious Albion" know this knot; how is it tied; what does it signify to witches?

"Up..... and Away with Cy CANUTE

Imagine a piece of rope laid along the ground. It has weight and it would take more than a puff of wind to move it.

If, however, the length and diameter of that rope were halved, its weight would then be one EIGHTH of the original; but its surface area would have been reduced to only one quarter the original.

Each time the dimensions of the rope halve, therefore, the surface-to-weight ratio doubles!

Eventually you end up with a spider's thread which can be lifted up by any stray ascending convection current of hot air through the friction of the air acting upon the thread's comparatively large overall surface. This - we are now told* - is how spiders apparently float through the air and cover considerable distances. Such "ballooning" spiders were amongst the first species to re-establish life on Krakatoa after 1883's volcanic explosion.

* Andrew Brice, 22, of St. Alban's, a runner-up in the Daily Telegraph's 1988 'Young Science Writer' Awards.

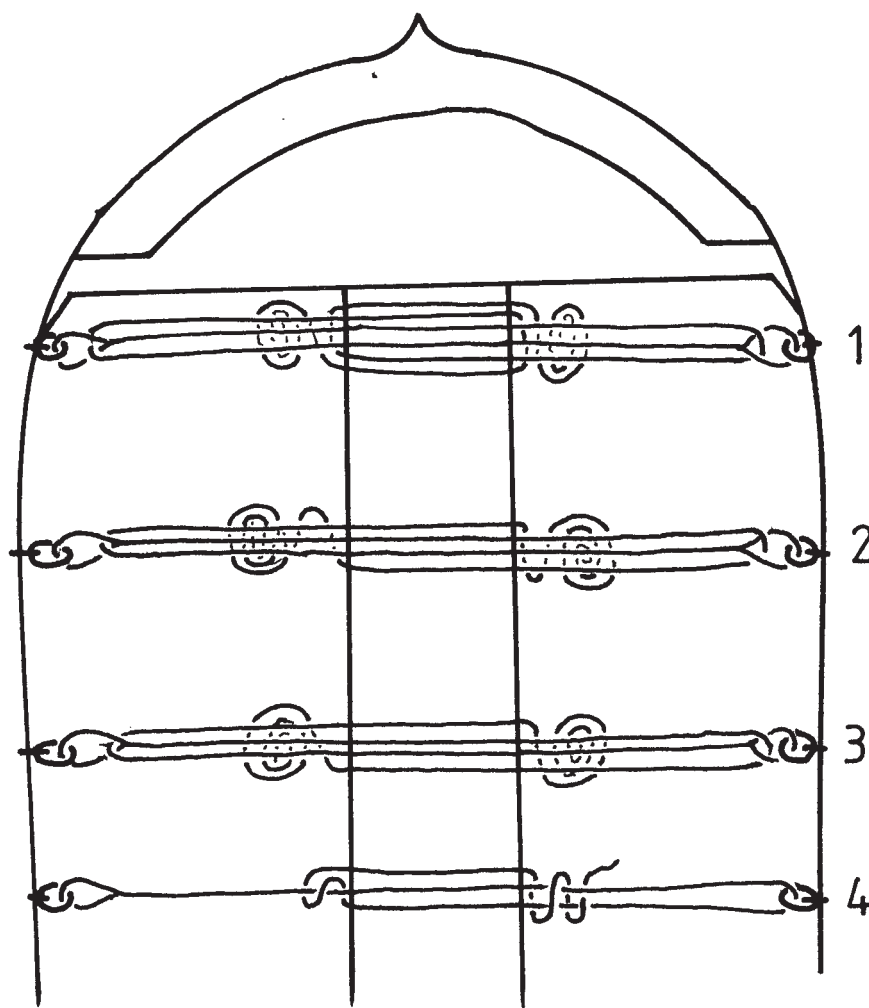
1692 Barfleur

We are indebted to Lieutenant Commander D. 'Spud' MURPHY and Bernard CUTBUSH for this evocative historial anecdote, which they spotted in the Wardroom of H.M.S. Drake in Plymouth, Devon, England, during a recent Navy Week.

"Gallant Admiral Tourville with Flag in the 'Soleil Royal' after an hour and a quarter of close action with the 'Britannia' (Admiral Ressel) was forced by the quick broadsides of the latter to haul out of action in order to KNOT AND SPLICE. Five French ships came to his aid and for an hour were hotly engaged with the 'Britannia', 'London' and 'St. Andrew'."

String Ties via Robert JACKSON

extracted from the inland waterways newsletter 'Friends of President'
No. 13, July 1988.



1 PREFERRED METHOD FOR FRONT 3 STRINGS.

2 & 3 ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR FRONT 3 STRINGS.

4 REMAINDER OF STRINGS. by Tony MILLATT

with help from
Tony JACKSON

Turks' Heads by Brian FIELD

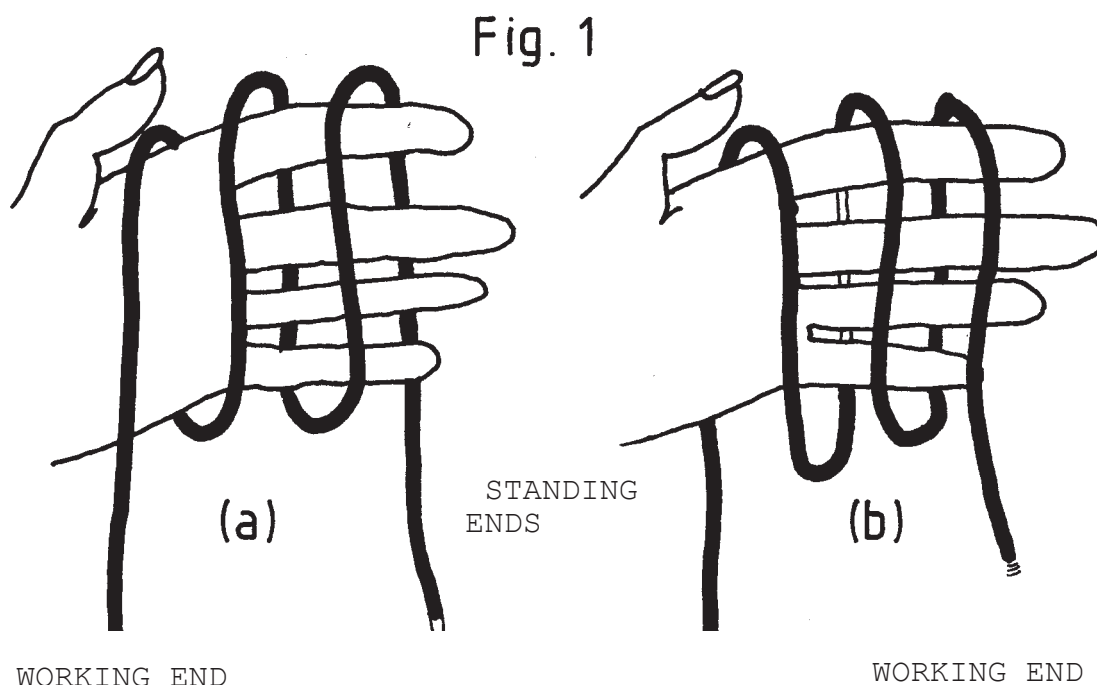
Here is a simpler method of teaching (and learning!) Turks' Heads. The idea was suggested by a 5-year-old watching a demonstration who said; "That's how I plait my hair." Thinking about this, I evolved a method which others have commented on favourably and which works equally well for left or righthanded people. It requires only a prior knowledge of plaiting, so, if you can't plait, get hold of 3 pieces of line and any 10-year-old girl to show you.

TURKS' HEADS (continued)

(Any 3-lead Turk's Head is a circular plait - even though it is made with one piece of line rather than 3 pieces.)

The method is as follows:-

Just wrap a piece of line around your hand 3 times (Fig. 1). It doesn't matter which way you wrap it (clockwise or anticlockwise) or which hand you use. You will inevitably have one end nearest you and one end finishing away from you; and one of these ends will be on the left and one on the right...and it doesn't matter which is which. The end NEAREST you is the working end. The end FURTHEST away from you is the standing end.



Plaiting is just a matter of putting one side over the centre, and then the other one, pulling the working end through when necessary. There are only 2 possible ways of starting, either by using the WORKING END first or by using the STANDING END BIGHT first.

A TURK'S HEAD IS FORMED

WHENEVER THE 2 ENDS

COME OUT ON THE SAME SIDE

(and one end - it doesn't matter which - may then follow the other end to double the knot)

TURKS' HEADS (continued)

No. of times ends are on same side	Working end start	Standing end start
First time	3 lead, 1 bight T.H.	3 lead, 2 bight T.H.
Second time	3 lead, 4 bight T.H.	3 lead, 5 bight T.H.
Third time	3 lead, 7 bight T.H.	3 lead, 8 bight T.H.

Although the middle line of the table (above) represents the most commonly used 3-lead Turks' Heads, the first line is invaluable because these T.H.s may be promoted by very simple steps to provide 5-lead T.H.s of 3 and 4 bights respectively.

Having worked this lot out and used it for teaching to groups as varied as a class of 6-year-olds in a local Primary school and Scout leaders at an International Jamboree, and having finally got down to writing it out, I thought I'd better check up in "the bible". You've guessed it: No's 1317 and 1318 in Ashley!

So why was this new to us all? Were you, too, also stuck in the mud of "traditional methods"?

You can also use a similar method to tie 2-lead T.H.s and any 2-lead T.H. with an odd number of bights will promote via the same easy steps to a 4-lead T.H....so who needs to learn lots of different starts? I'm not a "modernist" or a "traditionalist",
just a "SIMPLIST".

Necktie Knot-4

...just a couple
from YOUR EDITOR

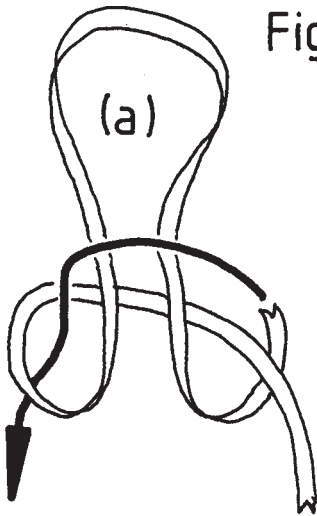
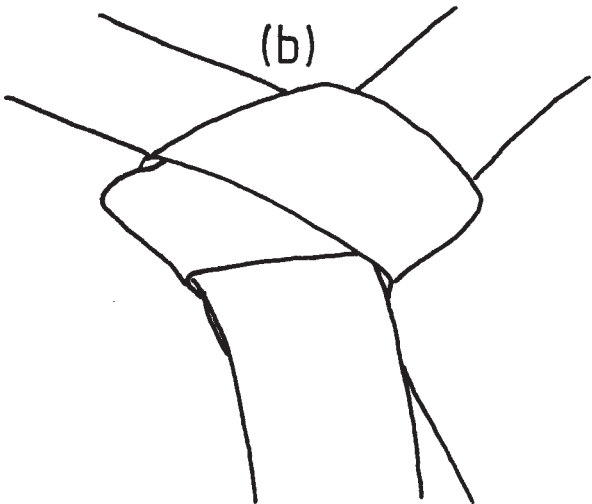


Fig. 1



Inspired by my new acquisition, 'THE TIE BOOK' (see 'Book Review' in this issue of 'K.M.'), it seemed to me that some sound sailor's knots had been left untried. My first effort (Fig. 1 above) was a 2-strand Matthew Walker lanyard knot - or, if you prefer, Ashley's #2579 - his "Whatnot" - which worked out nicely in tubular flat 1" wide climber's tape.

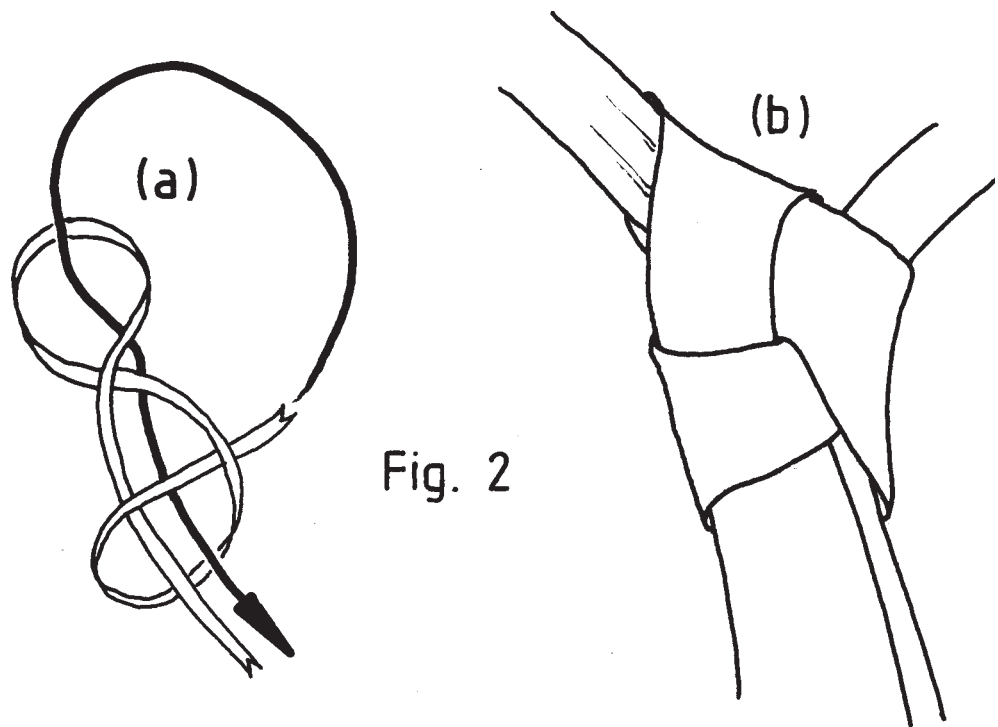


Fig. 2 shows the outcome of a sort of running Ground Line Hitch (Ashley's #1680).

Both make eye-catching fillers of the gap over a man's top shirt button, or the open V-neck of male or female tops. There is a boring lack of imagination these days in the tying of scarves and neckties. We - of all people - really should do our bit to break the mould with a few divergent effects!

(For another necktie knot, see 'The Hunter' in 'K.M.' issue No. 14, p.19)

Quotation

"I might give my life for my friend, but he had better not ask me to do up a parcel."

Logan Pearsall SMITH (1865-1946)

Obituary

News has just arrived of the sudden and untimely death of Surrey Branch member John FLETCHER. We will miss him sadly.

Flyping the figure of Eight Knot

by Harry ASHER

Illustrated by Phil VERNON

'Flyping is a term used by topologists, and its application to the Figure of Eight Knot was described and illustrated by Desmond MANDEVILLE in 'Knotting Matters' No. 23, page 9. I learnt the broader meaning from my wife Patria, who said; "Oh, anyone from Scotland will know how to flype a sock or a stocking: you grasp the heel from the inside, and with the other hand you push the top edge of the sock forward, so turning the whole of the part above the heel inside out. The foot now slips smoothly into the foot part and then the rest of the sock unfolds ('unflypes') over it onto the shin." (See Fig. 1)

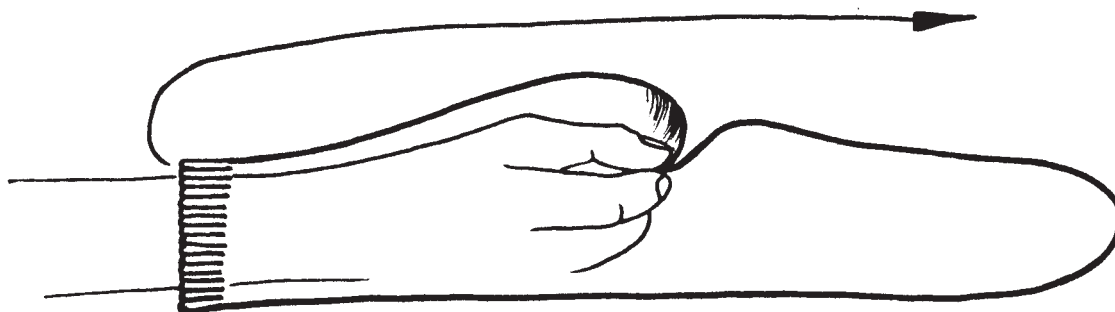


Fig. 1



A Figure of Eight Knot may be flyped in much the same way as a sock (Fig. 2). At the half-way stage a Pretzel Knot is formed, and the completed flype produces a second Figure of Eight Knot; note however that the positions of the right-handed and left-handed portions are now reversed. Before the flype the Eastern half was right-handed; after the flype the new Eastern portion is left-handed. For an explanation of "right-handed" and "left-handed" turns, see 'K.M.' No. 8, page 2.

By repeated flyping a Figure of Eight Knot may be moved progressively along a rope. The exercise is peaceful, and, if performed at the end of the day with the tele switched off, a sound night's sleep will be assured. A stiffer exercise is to flype a slipped Figure of Eight Knot; only a single flype can be made, and in one direction only. Thus the knot of Fig. 3 can be flyped once only - Westward - and then back again, Eastward.

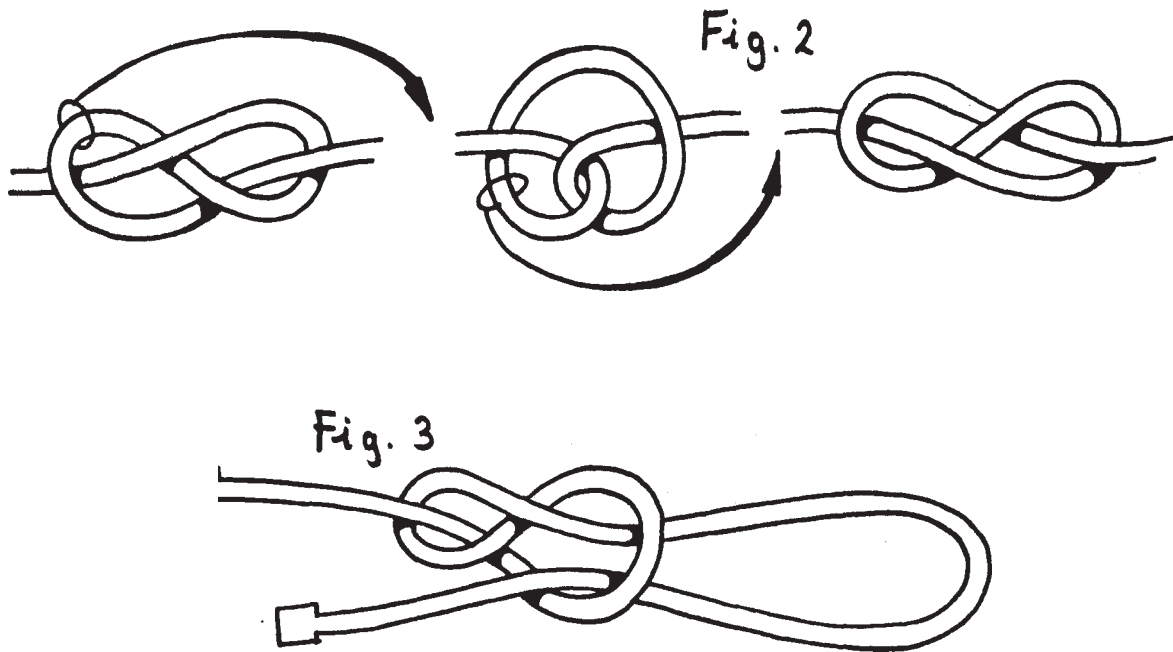


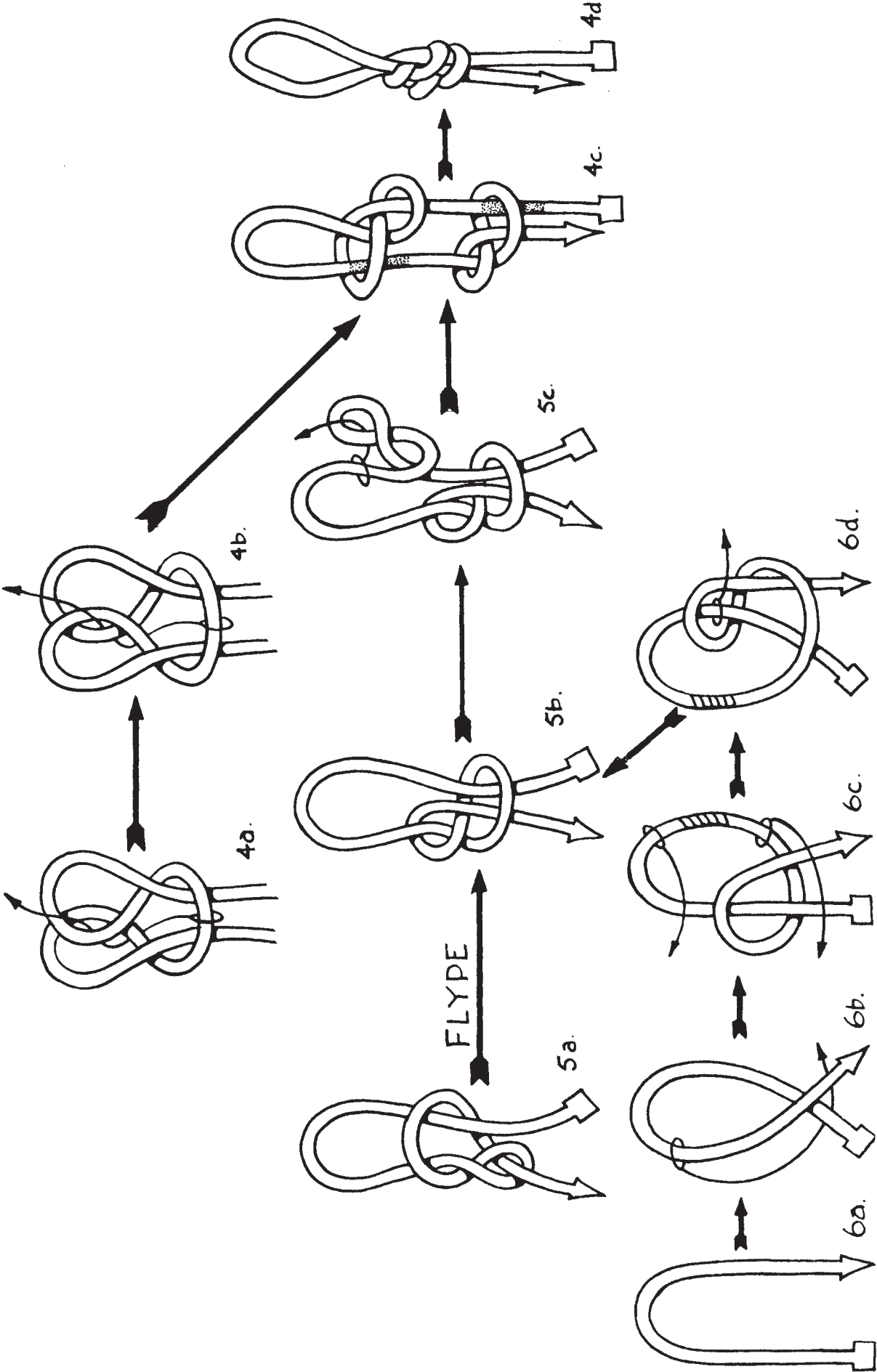
Figure of Eight Englishman's Loop (Fig. 4a, b, c & d)

Method (i)

Fig. 4a is the Ashley original but erroneous drawing which does not produce his final knot of 4c and 4d. In Fig. 4b I have corrected the error by reversing the overlap of the two loops. Further small modifications have been made to 4c and 4d to show running and standing ends for cases when the knot is used as an end loop. Even after these corrections, tying the knot from the drawings can give erratic results. Ashley himself says; "Sometimes this knot will give a little trouble. You may either retie it or else attempt to arrange the two component knots into the form of the third diagram (Fig. 4c)."

Such vague remarks may drive a reader to distraction, but more accurate guidance can be given in terms of FLYPING. We may think of the Northern 'eight' of Fig. 4c as flyped into its Northern setting (flyped as far North as it will go), and the Southern 'eight' as flyped into its Southern setting. When this knot is tied from the Ashley illustrations, as the component 'eights' form, both tend to flype into their Southern settings. The error must be corrected by flyping the Northern 'eight' Northward. With practice the unwanted flype of the Northern 'eight' can be stifled at birth, and all should then be well. In each 'eight' of Fig. 4c one part has been darkened: these are the parts which are free to slide through one half of an 'eight' (or to allow the 'eights' to slide along them). In the Northern 'eight' the free portion passes through the Northern half; in the Southern 'eight' the corresponding free portion passes through the Southern half.

There is a similar knot, the Improved Englishman's Knot, in which the two Overhand Knots replace the two Figure of Eight Knots, and - like them - they slide along free portions. However the method of tying is completely different, each Overhand Knot being tied separately. If Ashley ever tried and failed to find the corresponding method for the 'eights' of the knot under discussion, the reason could be that news of flyping had not reached him. But flypers can handle the problem, see Method (ii) below.



Method (ii) (Fig. 5a, b, c, and Fig. 4c & d)

First make the slipped Figure of Eight Knot destined to be the Southern 'eight' of the pair (5a). Note that the Northern half is right-handed and that the free cord passes through it. This is wrong, because as we have seen (4c) the free cord should pass through the Southern (right-handed) half of the Southern 'eight'. Matters must be put right by flyping the 'eight' Southward (5a & b). Now the Northern half is left-handed, and the free cord passes through the right-handed Southern half, as required (5b).

Next, in the free cord, tie a second 'eight' to the North of the first, and make the Northern half left-handed (5c & 4c). The free cord will pass through the Northern half, and the two 'eights' will slide together and fit snugly. The method is interesting theoretically, and perhaps even useful to any knotter skilled enough to make a smooth swift flype, but I prefer Method (iii) below.

Method (iii)...Do and Undo...(Figs. 6a, b, c, & d, and 5b, & c, and 4c & d)

It is far easier to find ways of untying a knot than of tying it. Therefore, to learn a new way of tying the knot in question without flyping, first learn to UNTIE it without flyping. Watch what you do, reverse the procedure, and there you are with the new method revealed. It is illustrated in Fig. 6a, b, c & d; 5b & c; and 4c & d, but the reader may prefer to work it out for himself by applying the principle of Do and Undo, and so come to appreciate how effective it can be. Others may like to work mainly from the illustrations but to use the working end (or even the standing once) to get over a difficult patch, and then later tie in the bight the whole way.

CORRECTION (See 'COILING & KINKING', issue No. 25, pages 4-5)

Our hard-pressed Editor inadvertently changed para. 3, sentence 1, which should read; "Hold the rope firmly with the left hand, and with the right hand apply one 360° rotation with the lay (clockwise).

Also note that the printer turned the illustration (Fig. 1) through 90° and the text must be interpreted accordingly.

Danger Warning

A Guild member ("No names, no pack drill", as WWI soldiers used to say) had an unnerving experience recently. He was using a small pair of round-billed (jeweller's) pliers to tighten a knot, when one of the pointed bills snapped off without warning. It spun up wickedly towards his face and he was lucky to escape uninjured. The tool was one made to strict Government specification and so no flaw or weakness could reasonably be expected. We should be aware of the risks we run and take what care we can to avoid them.

I once stuck a fleshy wound in my chest when a large sailmaker's needle slipped under pressure: and I recall the late Jim NICOLL had a blunt wire loop go right through and out the other side of the fleshy web between his thumb and index finger when he was stubbornly trying to force one last tight tuck in burying an end.

DANGER WARNING (continued)

The Health & Safety at Work, Etc. Act, 1974, and the various Regulations and Codes of Practice which have ensued, do not extent to individuals working in their homes. So we must take steps to safeguard ourselves. We should, wherever possible, contrive to work away from ourselves with tools of the largest size for the job in hand. Protective gloves have always been a good idea. Now, it seems, we must seriously consider goggles and chest protectors sometimes! These items can be had from industrial and janatorial wholesalers and retailers.

Perhaps the family and other loved ones (including pets) should be excluded from the area by a newly minted sign:-

DANGER
KNOTS (WO)MAN AT WORK!

Book Review

'THE BOOK OF TIES' by David MOSCONI, fashion photographer,
and Riccardo VILLAROSA, journalist
published by Tie Rack Ltd. (1985)

There is a wealth of interest and pleasure to be gleaned within the 190 pages of this superb "coffee table" book. It informs, amuses and gives comprehensive insight to knots for necks - their history and tying techniques. Ties - bow ties - cravats - scarves - kerchiefs - cords - strings - ribbons. Ready-made to D.I.Y. Whether you prefer the conventional old four-in-hand, or yearn to shock with something extravagant and bizarre, you will find the neckwear for you.

There are abundant, fascinating archive black-&-white photographs of celebrities (wearing ties of one sort or another) from Kruschev, Valentino and Mussolini, to Johann Sebastian Bach and Garibaldi. Up-to-date colour plates of models pose in appropriate costume. The text is thoroughly researched and packed with information. Detailed tying instructions are included.

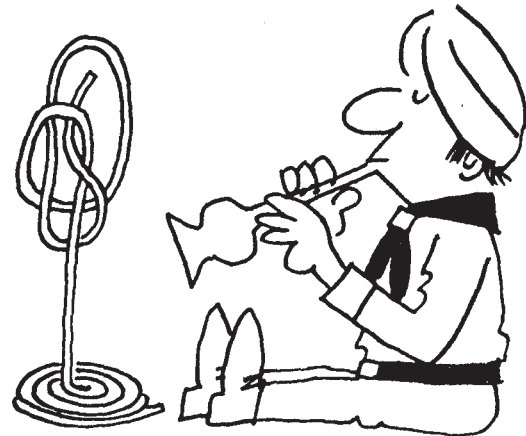
This is a book for the avid knot tyer; but friends, relatives and other visitors will all want to browse through it.

G.B.

Price: £12-£15

Cartoon

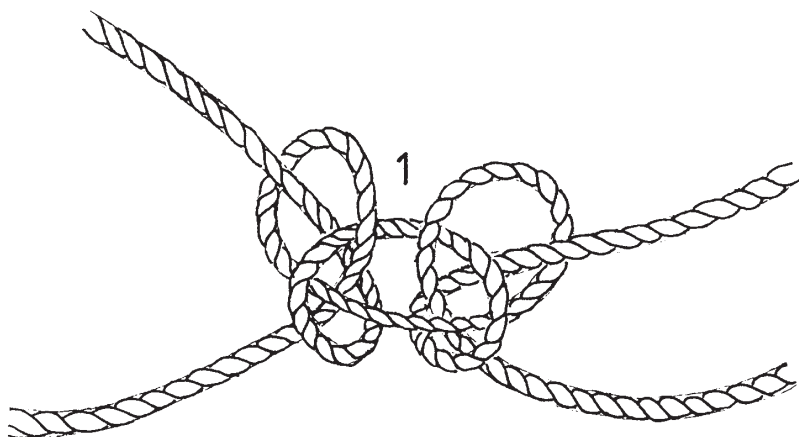
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November, 1985



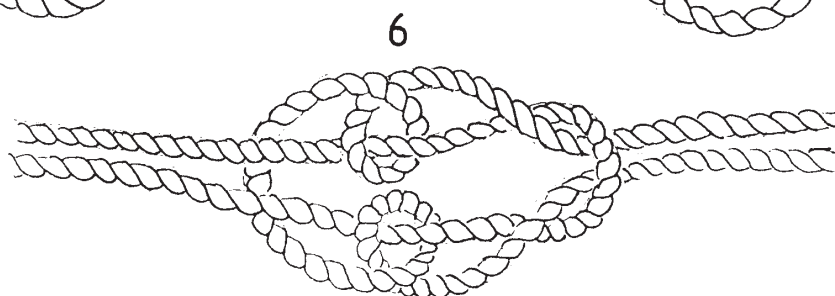
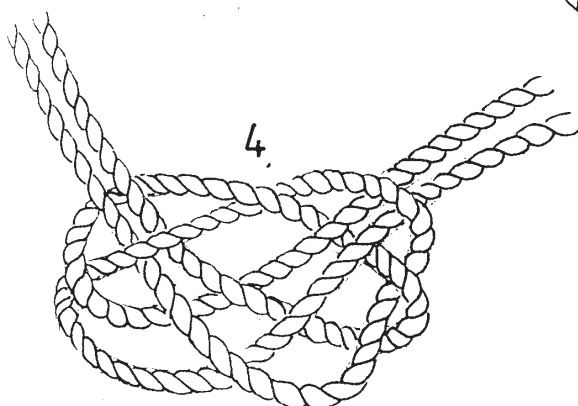
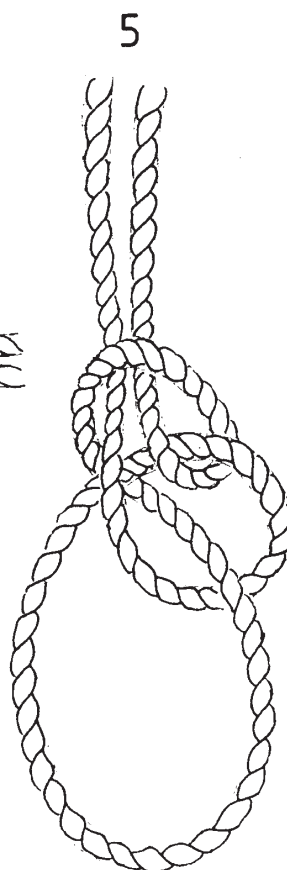
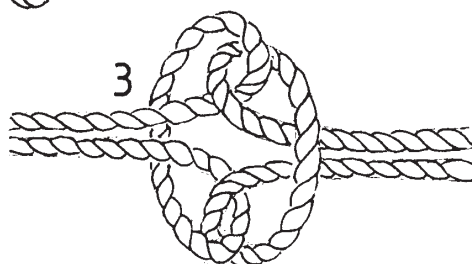
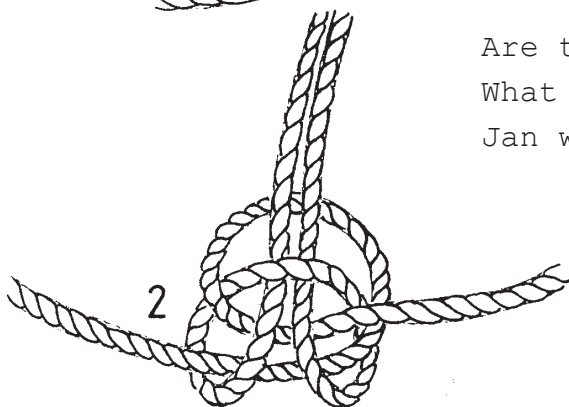
Rainy Day Finds

from Jan HOEFNAGEL

of Dordrecht, Nederlands

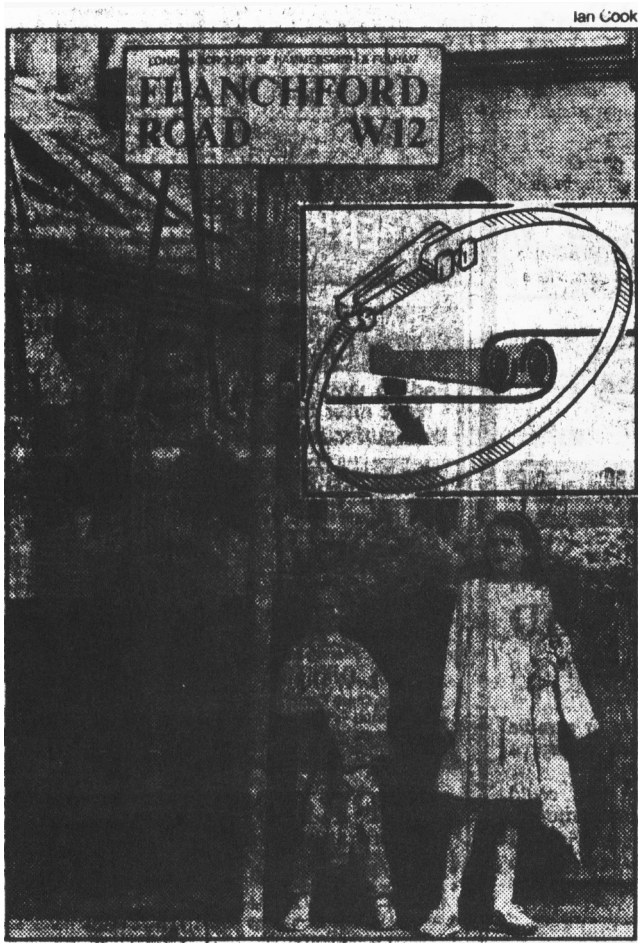


Are they original, or useful?
What do we call them?
Jan would welcome your comments.



Dear Geoffrey,

The enclosed cutting is from The Sunday Times today. Coming so quickly after the article you included in the last Knotting Matters, it makes me wonder if more fame and fortune arises from ignorance of knotting than from knowledge of the craft.



TYING down a load on a roof rack can be tricky, writes Philip Beresford. As soon as a knot is attempted, the strap goes slack. Now the frustration could be ended with Fastrap, a tightening device that does away with the knot and can be used on anything from roof racks to parcels.

The Fastrap is a small plastic clip. It has two prongs around which a rope or strap can be wound. By turning the clip, the straps progressively tightened. When it is taut enough, the clip is notched into the strap where it can take loads of up to half a ton - an ability shown off in the picture by William Johnson, the professional inventor who dreamt up the Faststrap.

Johnson reckons the device could be mass-produced for around 10p.

It could come in a variety of sizes. Tiny versions would be useful in the Post Office to tighten loose string on parcels. Bigger ones would be useful to the motorist or yachtsman.

The Fastrap could find its way into everyday life. In fact, Johnson believes it could be as important a breakthrough as the safety pin.

Perhaps Mr. Johnson gun's should be spiked by telling the Patent Office that the idea belongs to the common domain; Ashley #2140 lacks the smooth plastic technology but has the rustic charm of economy and availability.

John (SMITH)

14th. August, 1988

*50 Arethuisa Way,
Bisley,
Woking,
Surrey GU24 9BX.*

What's 'is Name?

SIR THOMAS K N O T

(Author of the 'Law Dictionary', 1820)

Letters

Dear Geoffrey,

I haste into print in defence of the reef knot. Having done considerable research on this most beautiful knot, I conclude circumstantially that it is probably older than Homo Sapien Sapien. This means that we have had something over 60,000 years to practise...and still we get it wrong!

As Clifford Ashley points out, it is a BINDING knot, not a bend. To paraphrase the maxim that it's not the gun that kills but the person holding it, so too our knot is innocent: it's the person who misabuses, abuses, misapplies and mis-ties it who is guilty.

As its name implies, it worked for centuries perfectly well lashing up bundles of relatively soft material, and was easily and quickly untied. I respectfully suggest that the reference to parcels quoted by Mr. BLANDFORD (K.M. issue No. 23) meant this kind of parcel, and not a "hard" parcel such as a boxed item.

It is of interest to note that Pliny the Elder (23-19 A.D.) states in his book on natural history that a wound will heat quicker if the bandage is tied with a reef. (Actually, he called it the 'Nodus Herculis', the Hercules Knot, for the god credited with its invention.) Somewhat later, an English school teacher published a book (in 1895) entitled "Various Occupations in String" in which she calls our knot the "Flat Ambulance Knot".

Coming rather more up to date, when I did a St. John Ambulance first aid course, I was taught to tie arm slings with a reef knot because it lays flat and does not hurt the patient's neck. I humbly submit the foregoing a reasonable precedence for reef knots in bandages.

Roger CARTER

18 Moana Road,
Plimmerton,
New Zealand.

Dear Geoffrey,

.....once again THE NAME. I know that some feel that The International Guild of Knot Crafts is ungrammatical. The term "craft guild" is an ancient one, virtually unchallengeable I would think, so why not rearrange the wording to The International Knot Crafts Guild? It really seems neater and utterly unobjectionable on any realistic ground. What do you think?

29 Sep 88

All the best,
Stuart GRAINGER

Corner Cottage,
Main Street,
Merton,
Bicester,
Oxon OX6 ONF,
England.

Dear Geoffrey,

I am opposed to a change of name for the Guild, and hope a minimum time will be spent discussing it. Percy's point is sound. Alan McDOWALL made the same point to me with great force.

Oct 15/88

All best wishes,
Harry ASHER

19 Oakfield Road,
Selly Park
Birmingham B29 7HL,
England.

Hon. Editor,
M. Geoffrey Budworth,

Dear Sir:

I like especially the idea that members can contribute something besides long-winded letters. The bell rope puzzle (K.M. No. 10, page 24), the maze (K.M. 24, p.9) and apt caption bought cartoon (K.M. 24, p.16), were real mind-teasers.

Saw the video of the "Extravaganza" making the rounds here in the States and it just shows me that I missed out on a great celebration and missed the opportunity to meet some wonderful people who share my interest. My hat is off to your unselfish volunteering of time and devotion to the ultimate success of the program. Congratulations....

.....So yet another winter is upon us and thoughts of bell ropes and sea-chest beackets in the making are turning in the brain. Also planning to turn some fids for a friend who has some cocobola and purple-heart stock. He decorates his book store with items "nautical". But he's also a great sailor and as of now I can't get him enlisted in the Guild. I'll keep trying.

My regards to Mr Harris,

Best wishes,
Dick ROMING

Box 80, Costa Road,
MO 20651,
U.S.A.

18 October 88

Dear Geof,

I was one of those who voted against the proposed change of name of The Guild of Knot Tyers. At the time, I think it was more instinctive than anything else, coupled with a dislike for the suggested alternatives. Since then I have given the matter considerable thought.

The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary gives the following definition of Guild:- a contraternity or association formed for the mutual aid and protection of its members or for the furtherance of some common purpose. Well, that's us all right! But it's about people - not abstract things, so we cannot have a Guild of Knot Crafts. Knots Crafts are not people. You could have a Guild of Knot Craftsmen but that might well be considered chauvenistic since we have an appreciable number of Lady members who are skilful knot tyers.

The fact that there is, perhaps, a slight touch of the ridiculous in our present name is more in the nature of an asset than a hindrance. People inclined to say; "You're having me on," or similar phrases, when first hearing the name will (because of that slight touch of the ridiculous) remember the name where another name might well pass from their minds. So we have a built in advertisement.

I have thought all round the subject and have come up with the conclusion that we already have the perfect name and I salute the genius within that first ad hoc committee who came up with the name.

Finally, I do not think that this question should be voted on at the A.G.M. Less than 25% of the membership will attend the meeting and no vote would therefore be representative of the membership. It

would be better done by a referendum, a suitable questionnaire inserted in *Knotting Matters* with a request for an immediate reply: allowing for overseas replies and sea mail, every one that is coming would be with us in - say - 2 months and we could see what the response is.

27 October 1988

Yours sincerely,
Eric FRANKLIN
(Past President)

63 Aylward Road,
Merton Park,
London SW20 9AJ,
England.

Dear Geoffrey,

I was appalled to read in the 25th. issue of *Knotting Matters* that there is a proposal to change the Guild's name to "International Guild of Knot Crafts" - a ridiculous title, and, as Percy Blandford and Edward Hunter have pointed out, both inappropriate and ungrammatical.

If the name of the Guild must be changed (and why should it?), may I propose the title "Riggers' Guild"? This would cover ropework in all its forms and sounds more nautical than our present name.

Some time ago you printed my reply to a letter about Japanese sword knots. I was quite snowed under with letters from members asking further information. In the journal of the Dutch society of sword collectors I have now found a reprint of a very complete article on the subject which they had from the American To-Ken Society. I am trying to get a copy of the original article with the full size illustrations, as well as permission for a reprint in *'Knotting Matters*. All those who wrote, please be patient a little longer.

30 October 88

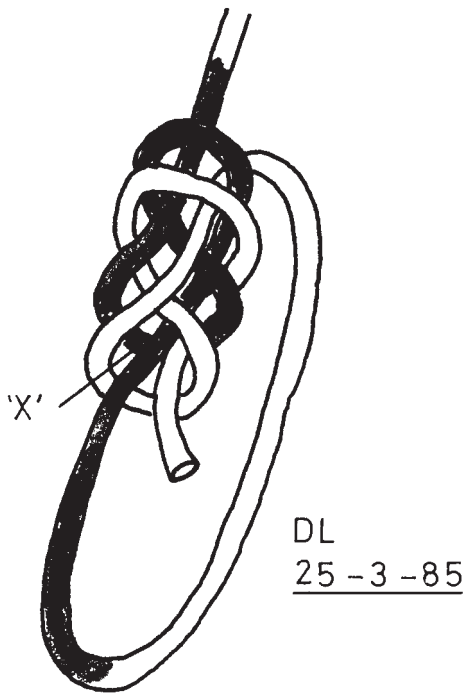
Yours sincerely,
Taco NOLF

29 Breadalbane Terr.,
Wick,
Caithness KW1 5AT,
Scotland.

Dan Lehman

I saw this loop in use as the "clip-into" loop of top-roping rock climbers. Two advantages of tying the Figure-of-Eight in this way are: the loop may be pulled wide open (from 2 directions) without opening/loosening the knot; the pull from the top end, by the loop part, MAY keep the knot loose enough to untie.

NOTE - It is generally recommended that point 'X' should lie on the outside of the knot's first bend for greater strength.



Sciences

celtic Design music

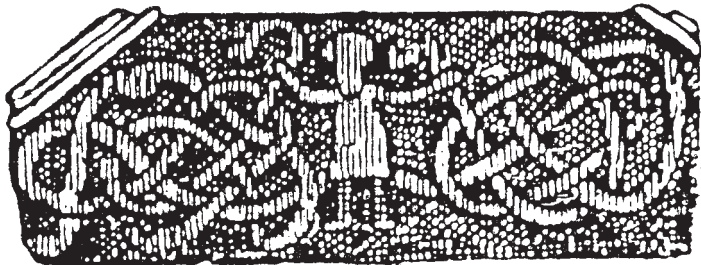
Fiona O'Mull

Walter NORTON, M.D. spotted a controversial article in 'Tournaments Illuminated', which is the magazine of the Society for Creative Anachronism (and some souls think our Guild's name is a hoot!), a group of folk who study the Middle Ages. In it the authoress explains how certain Celtic interlaced knot patterns may represent music. Reading the intersections of these endless designs, one may discover melodies.

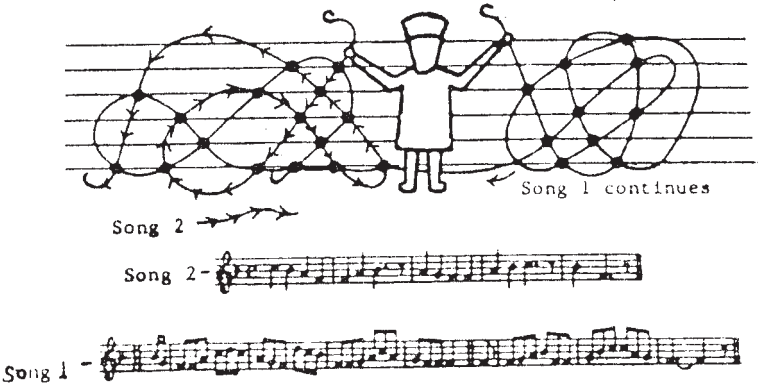
By tracing the line and counting each intersection where the ornamental line crosses itself or another ornamental line, and counting each crossing point as a note, such melodies may be determined. The notes are then plotted on a music staff or stave of lines or interpreted as tonic sol-fa.

The authoress admits that, because of the nature of Celtic art and music's relationship to numbers, some Celtic designs that may be deciphered into musical sounding tunes were not produced by the artist with that intention. But she also claims it is possible to detect clues that show when the artwork WAS a musical design.

The article is written in a somewhat scholarly style, quoting sources and listing an esoteric bibliography. This curious essay smacks to me, however, of back-tracking from an inspired idea to find confirmation for it. Still, 'Celtic Design Music' by Fiona O'Mull has to be the most original interpretation I have ever heard for Celtic interlaced designs.



A human figure with arms extended, and a winding band issuing from each hand. from Thomas J. Westropp, Churches with Round Towers in County Clare, p. 156



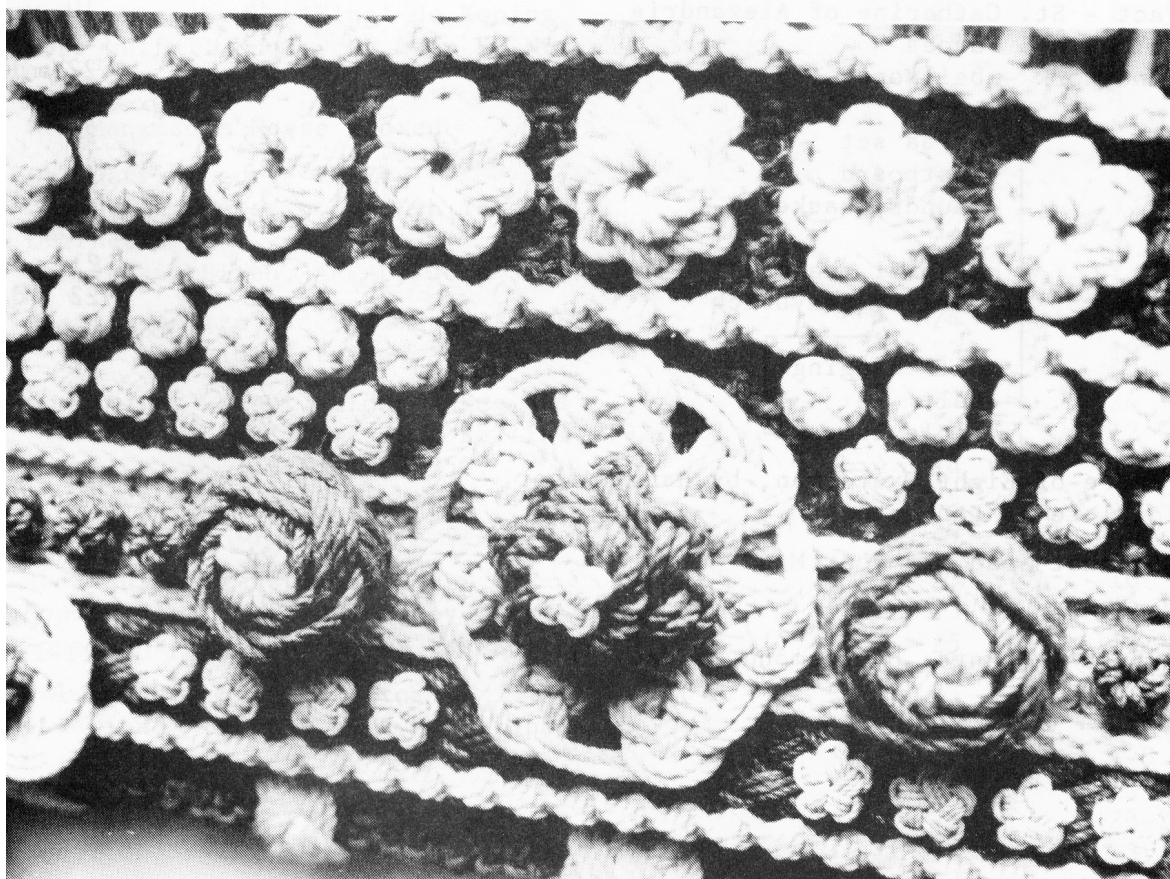
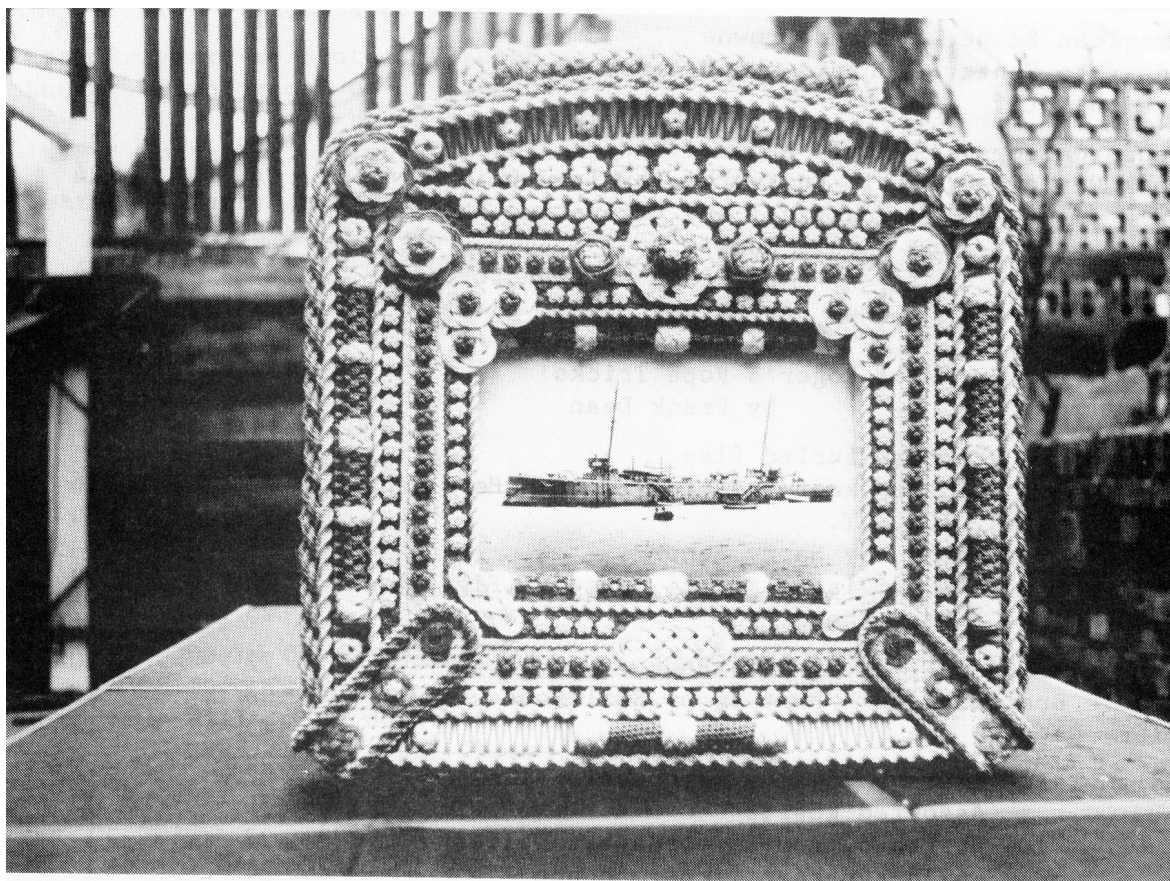
Acronymim

F.I.D.S. FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES SURVEY

Fancywork

by ex-'Warspite' boy seaman

Bernard CUTBUSH of Nottingham,
England



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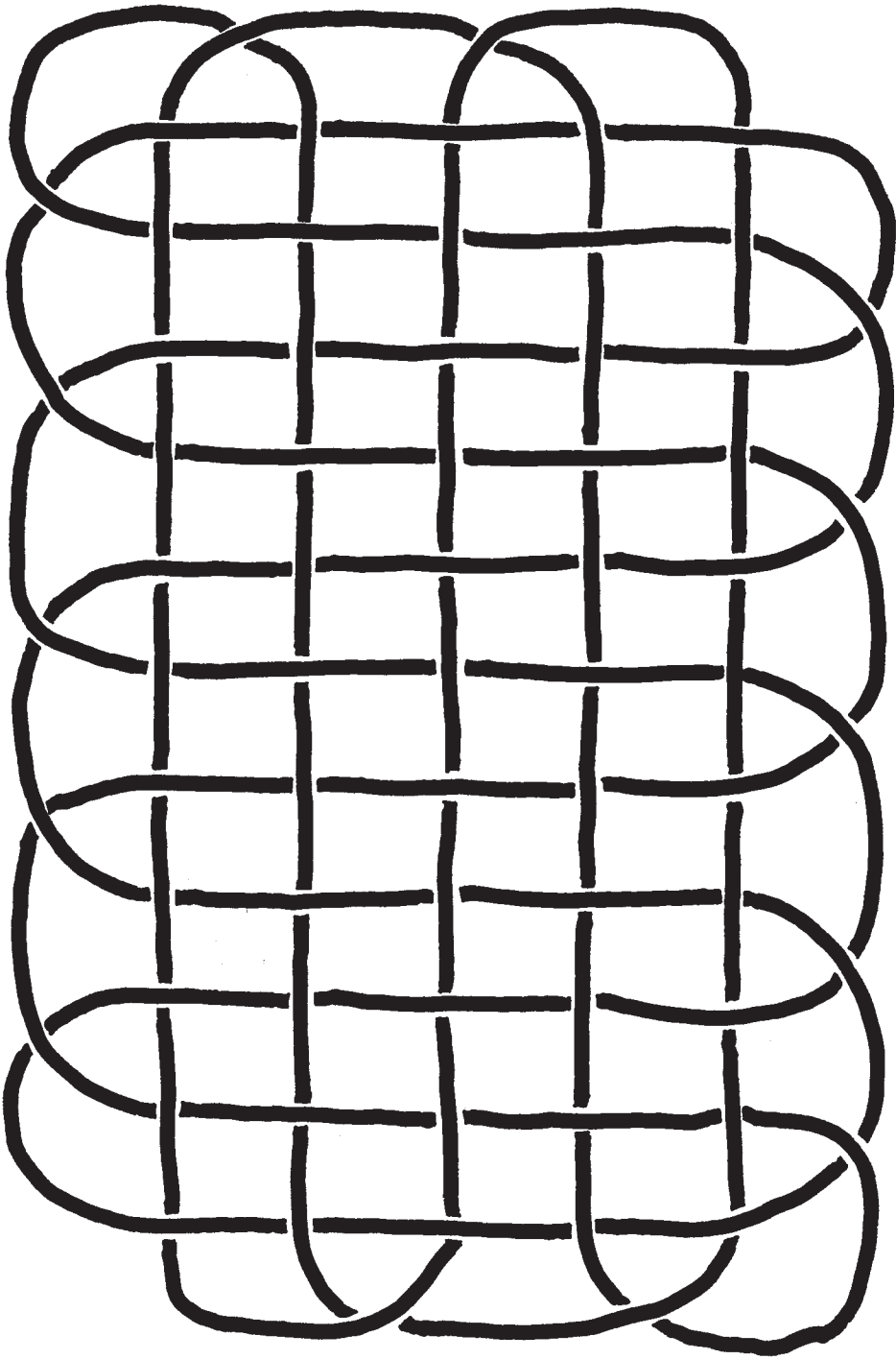
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- - - oOo - - -

'Endeavour' Mats by Charles THOMASON



1 x 7 crossings

Others are possible; e.g. 1 x 13 or 7 x 13

