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Knotting Matters

Newsletter of the

The logo is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "INTERNATIONAL" at the top and "GUILD OF KNOT TYERS" at the bottom, separated by small gaps. In the center of the emblem is a detailed illustration of a reef knot (square knot), also known as a reef knot or reef knot.

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KNOTTING MATTERS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS
ISSUE NO 55 - MARCH 1997

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HON VICE PRESIDENT Dr Vaughan Jones FRS

**PAST PRESIDENTS Percy Blandford - Geoffrey Budworth -
Eric Franklin - Jan Vos - Stuart Grainger - Glad Findley**

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KNOTTING MATTERS

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EDITORS BYTES AND PIECES

Live long and prosper! Another year has started and it's just as busy as the last one. My apologies for your Christmas issue not getting to you until after the holidays. It was held up at the printers waiting for the new membership list to be printed to save hundreds in postage money by sending the two together. Waste not and stay out of trouble with the membership I say.

I have received the expected regular correspondence with suggestions on how to improve the look and presentation of **KM** from John Addis and Charles Warner. Their letters are always studied closely. Some of their points suggest that I should clear up some confusion about how you should send in 'Camera - ready - copy'. We send **KM** to the printers as A5 (148 x 210 mm or 5.83" x 8.27") laser printed pages with page numbers and footnotes at the bottom. We use a scanner to copy drawings and photos into the text, using Microsoft Word software package. Page layout is two column, 0.5 inch margins all around, using 12 point type, and boxes without shading. It has been suggested that we use hyphenation, and no larger than 10 point type face. We will try that in the next issue. The printers may be reducing the pages (and thus the type size) down slightly, but since I don't get much information or communications directly from the printers I have to assume that what I am sending him

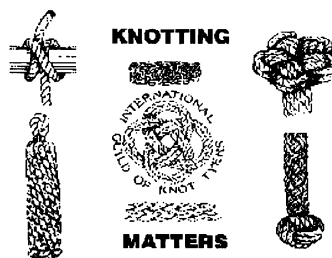
is the best for printing. Others have noted that when drawings are scanned, the even flow of curved lines sometimes gain a stepped effect. I apologize if this is distracting. The alternatives are to photocopy to size and literally cut and paste to the page or redraw to size directly on the page. Although Stuart Grainger himself did not point it out to me, his usually excellent graphics sometimes have this stepped effect. This is because I have had to scan the drawings to put small articles into a single column. He is too much of a gentleman to ever mention it, but I do apologize for having to lower the quality of his work. Some original freehand drawings we receive are easier redrawn than trying to clear up ragged lines.

It has been said to me that the Editors job is to select only what is interesting and well written. I try to do that. There is so much that is interesting enough to someone, for them to write it down and send it to me. Some of it goes over my head but it is well written and complete. Some articles never come to anything, like the article sent to me by a teacher whose hobby is making wigs. It was a long and, I thought, interesting article on the history, technique of tying and tools with drawings and explanations. But the illustrations weren't numbered and the text wasn't clear on a couple of points. So I spent a lot of time on it and I sent it back with my questions all marked out. She has never written back and I am still sad, because it was interesting and you would have enjoyed it.

Sometimes very small articles raise the most interest, like the slicing knife letter, and large well written and researched reference works get no response at all. I wonder whether it was too technical for this format or has it said everything so well that no comment is necessary? Hard to know sometimes. So, what is this leading up to? Well, my point is this, if a subject interests you, it will probably interest someone else. Write to me about it. We are not short of material, as you can see by the, now usual, bumper issues. But don't be put off, thinking there won't be room for your bit of trivia or that you'll get around to it the next time the Editor pleads for more material, because in all likelihood you will never do it. Do it now. Write to me with your idea if you like and I will be glad to give you my opinion as to whether it would be good for **KM** or not. If you think it could do with more work, send in what you have and we'll work on it together. I wonder why we don't get more Scouting stories, or Naval stories or 'I went to Oxford on business and met Guild member Ed Knotter and saw all his wonderful "Gameboys made from packing twine" stories!! I know why I don't get many 'Members Profiles', but I would like to know more about our overseas members in America, Australia and on the continent. Its hard to know who to ask when I haven't met them but then that is what the profiles are for, aren't they? If you know an interesting character that can tell a good story, write and tell me about them. I will plead with them for

a profile and the rest of us can get to know them too. If you write to me and don't get a card back within a couple or three weeks, write again. I try never to ignore a letter but I don't get all the mail I am asked about. I will still send you a card and tell you I received it and am considering it. That was why I chose the postcard for acknowledgements. Sometimes it takes a couple of weekends to get to all my mail but I try not to miss any I have received. We read the letters and articles and sort them into folders for typing into the computer. We are both in Scouting, Margaret is Akela to 30 Cubs and I am Group Scout Leader to 120 Scouts and Leaders. Between days of fund raising, weekend camps, days out to theme parks and weekday evenings 'Scouting', we DO the **KM**. Some single page articles are great, like Woody's Knots and the Knotmaster series and all the wonderful stuff that Stuart Grainger and Geoff Budworth send in from their own correspondence helps to fill in some half or quarter columns and finish a page.

Thanks again to Anne Dyer for explaining to me in very simple terms how to get Gordon Court's continuous cord net knot (**KM54** page 56) to pull through from fig 3 to fig 4!!



FROM OUR POSTBAG

*From Ann Dyer Shropshire
England.....*

Gordon Court's letter in KM54 has solved a long standing mystery among Filet Lace makers. I had asked the writers of two books on filet lace, and they couldn't tell me how early Victorians made the very fine net, with mesh far too small to allow any shuttle through.

Thank you.

Ed: Glad KM could help.



*From Joe Schmidbaeur
California, USA
(Re KM54)*

Just after I posted my last letter to you about a *Bowline on a Bight* that I thought was "unknown", I finally did find it in the literature. I came across it in the *Encyclopaedia of Knots and Fancy Ropework*, by *Graumont and Hensel*. The best view is on page 490, plate 266, figures 303. They tie it a little differently than the example I showed you but it is basically the same knot. It is a very

handy knot but not as unusual as I thought.

and on the same subject:

Geoffrey Budworth writes.....

Trapped in the house by freezing January wind and snow straight from Siberia, I wish that I was in California with Joe Schmidbauer. Responding to his query, the **single Bowline in the bight** by the method shown appears in the *Encyclopaedia of Knots and Fancy Ropework* by *Raoul Graumont & John Hensel*, published (1939) *Cornell Maritime Press*. Plate 266, fig 303, but, if you have the 4th (1952) edition, it has moved to Plate 12, fig 213.

Ashley in 1944 calls this knot an Angler's Loop (#1017), gives the same tying method, and awards it his star (best for the purpose).

When Graumont then collaborated with Elmer Wenstrom for *Fisherman's Knots and Nets*, published (1948) *Cornell Maritime Press (New York)*, they too referred to it as the Angler's Loop and wrote that it was 'undoubtedly the most popular of all leader loops, as it is universally used by fishermen throughout the world'.

The UK author Stanley Barnes, in Angler's Knots in *Gut and Nylon*, published (1948) *Cornish Brothers Ltd.* misleadingly names it the Blood Loop (it is nothing like a blood knot).

In *Practical Fishing and Boating Knots*, published (1975) *A&C Black Ltd*, by *Lefty Kreh & Mark Sosin*, it is the Perfection Loop; and, in my 1983 knot book - I regret to admit, since at least one later knot writer copied me - I knew no better at the time than to copy them. I also stated that the knot dated from about 1870, and I have since mislaid the source of that bit of information. Help anyone?

The Angler's Loop is recommended in KM13 (three separate places-pages 1,3 and 5), and many subsequent knot books feature it. This direct method of tying was given impact by the American IGKT member and mast rigger Brion Toss in his excellent *Rigger's Apprentice*, published (1984) *International Marine Publishing Co. (Camden, Maine)*, as the Tugboat or Flying Bowline, after which the imaginative Surrey (England) branch member

John Smith, was seen demonstrating it to music.

The late Guild member Desmond Mandeville, bless him, was right when he wrote wittily (of knots without names):

**"But worse than those that have not any,
Some knots there be that have too many".**

Ed: Wow Geoff you were imprisoned for some time weren't you?



From Roger Miles Queensland Australia Reference the review on his book in KM54 by Lester Copestake.....

I'm glad to see that a review of my book has appeared in the latest KM. However, I do hope to see included some details about it.

Ed: Sorry we should have spotted the lack of information, normally included in book reviews by the reviewer, so here goes:

SYMMETRIC BENDS: HOW TO JOIN TWO LENGTHS OF CORD by Roger Miles-Publisher: World Scientific (London Office: 57 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, WC2H 9HE) 1995. Volume 8 in the

series 'Knots and everything' 163 pages (including 16 pages of colour plates) £22 US\$32. ISBN 981 02 2194 0.

In the same letter from Roger....

With regard to Owen Nuttall's article in KM54 (pages 31-33), his Folded Arms is none other than Harry Asher's Sleeping Beauty. In fact, a huge picture of this knot appears on the front and back cover of *Asher's Alternative Knot Book (Nautical Books 1989)* in which it is described on page 65. It is also the knot labelled A15 in my book.

Ed: We do hope we have finally got your review right for you, Roger.



From Peter Crago, Montana, USA....

Re Plastic Whipping, KM53, Heat Shrinking Tape as well as tubing is available in a variety of well stocked electrical supply retailers, it may also be found at Radio Shack Outlets, open flame or hairdryers also work.

A cheaper method is to simply wrap 2-3 turns of electrical vinyl tape or duct tape about the cordage and cut through the

middle of the tape leaving one half of the tape on each cut end of cordage.

Ed: Many thanks Peter, we are always grateful for cheaper alternatives, to anything in our hobbies.



From Mike Lucas, Devon, England....

I have been involved in boats and yachting most of my life and have special interest in the practical applications of knots used by the modern yachtsman. I am also particularly interested in knots suitable for modern synthetic fibres.

Your comprehensive report of the AGM at Gilwell Park covered reports by various speakers, which were as usual well informed. The exception were the notes which referred to the talk by Peter Goldstone of the Surrey branch, whose comments regarding the appropriateness of the original six Tenderfoot knots surprise me. They were ill informed and demonstrated a lack of awareness of the use of the basic knots referred to. It is in my view very important to correct some of these misconceptions and I do

hope that there will be others who comment on his reported remarks:

1) **Reef Knot:** He stated that it was used for slings and rarely used today except for tying shoes. In fact, the reef knot was widely used as a means of tying in reefs in working boats during the first half of this century. Most gaff rigged yachts still use reef knots for this purpose. The main virtue of this knot was that the reefed sail could be released by 'capsizing' the knot, by pulling firmly on either of the two working ends. This meant that in taking out a reef, one could do this single handed, using the other hand to maintain steadiness on the deck of the boat.

2) **Clove Hitch:** To suggest that this was used for pioneering and is now no good for BT plastic rope must surely upset any sailor who reads this article. The Clove Hitch is most useful on board a yacht and has many applications. These include tying fenders to guard rails, securing dinghy painter to pushpit at the aft end of a yacht, securing line to ring or post, tying burgee halyard to burgee or pennant

staff. This is also an invaluable knot when securing a rope to the ring of a mooring buoy where a round turn and two half hitches is commonly used. In this application, the round turn should be tied as a clove hitch, drawn up tight so that the rope does not chafe, due to the motion of the buoy in the water. There are other applications too numerous to mention.

3) **Round Turn and Two Half Hitches:** To suggest that this is tied as a round turn and a collapsed granny knot, indicates a complete lack of experience in tying this knot. Almost always, the knot is used where the standing part is under load and where the round turn is put on quickly to reduce the load on the working end. Half hitches are then formed, one after the other in the same direction and this would never be tied as a granny knot. Other common uses of this knot are as an anchor bend for securing the anchor warp to the large shackle in the end of a short length of chain. Because it is a knot that is easily remembered and tied, it is used by a good many boating people who are unfamiliar with

some of the other excellent more difficult knots to tie. Where there is a danger of slipping (which he mentions), then the easy solution is to put in a third half hitch and draw the knots up tight. A better solution is to tie a buntline hitch, where the second hitch tied is closest to the yard (or post) around which the knot is being formed (see Ashley 1711).

4) **Sheep Shank:** There is no real application for this knot amongst yachtsmen and it is not generally known. It could be used however, for just the purpose described, where chafe has weakened a rope. As a short term expediency, the sheep shank can be formed around the frayed part, to ease the load in this part of the rope.

5) **Bowline:** He suggests that this still has a use to form a loop. Of course it has, because this is the purpose and it is probably the most widely used knot by small boat sailors and yachtsmen. There is not a serious seagoing sailor who is not familiar with the bowline, and not used it frequently. Of the many applications, there is tying sheets to foresails, belaying

end of ropes to blocks and shackles, fender lines to fenders, dinghy painters to dinghies, mooring warps to rings. I can find more than 20 bowlines on my own small yacht at any one time.

To suggest a Fisherman's bend is more appropriate than a bowline, is a further nonsense. The correct knot for joining two lines of equal size could be a Hunter Bend, a Carrick Bend, or even a Sheet Bend (or Double Sheet Bend). I do, however, like using the Fisherman's Bend since it is simple to use, fairly symmetrical and easy to tie. However, if it comes under load, it is very difficult to untie.

6) **Figure of Eight:** This is not the right knot to form a safe loop in the end of a line, unless after tying it, a further half hitch is put around the standing part. It is then, a useful knot, but little known in this form. I have never seen it tied by anyone else on a boat. A noose would be better (see Ashley 1114), locked with a half hitch.

The figure of eight is the ideal stopper knot to tie on the end of sheets, guys and halyards to ensure that the end does not pull

back through the fairlead or cleat. To suggest you would use a double figure of eight in the middle of a rope is strange. I cannot think of any practical application for doing this.

Perhaps Peter Goldstone has considered these knots from a Scout's point of view and has not considered the use of knots at sea and afloat in small boats. I trust my comments will be helpful and I shall be pleased to contribute further on this subject. I shall also be pleased to talk to Peter Goldstone in terms of further contributions if he wishes to take his survey further.



Ed: So how about it Peter can you take up the challenge further, let us know.



From Paul Evans, Hartlepool, England....

I have noticed that in the Members Handbook, that the Royal Navy have their own designated Secretary, but the Merchant Navy has nobody assigned to

them. As a Bosun in the Merchant Navy, the reason that I joined the IGKT was to learn and preserve some of the rope work that many of the older seamen did not pass on to the younger seamen. I would like to suggest to the council at their next meeting that maybe they could appoint a person to do the same for the Merchant Navy as the gentleman does for the Royal Navy. Unfortunately, my periods of duty onboard the ship have prevented me from attending any meetings, but as soon as I get a chance I will be there.

Ed: Good idea Paul, how about you doing the job. Let the council know through KM or the secretary.



From Judith Duckett, Cumbria, England....

In previous years I demonstrated lace making in the craft tent at our local Field Day. I decided to have a change this year and thought of knots. Then panic took over and I abandoned the idea, in spite of help from Des Pawson. Then having been fixed with the steely look of the organiser I was compelled to think again.

So at the 12th hour my husband and I did a knotboard. As he is an ex Assistant Scout Leader he did the knots and I did a few fancy bits and pieces. We fixed the knots to the board at 1 am on the day or should I say night of the show. Anyway, it was great success, and according to some people, more interesting than lace! We couldn't have done this without the help of Des Pawson and the authors of the various books and of course the IGKT. So thank you everyone. All this came about through me finding 'Turkshead Alternatives' in the museum at Stoke Bruerne.

Ed: 'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow'.



*From Joseph P Schmidbauer,
California, USA*



I am sending this picture for possible publication in Knotting

Matters, in memory of my friend Paul Bertain, ex Boatswain's Mate 2/C US Coast Guard. We were young Knot Tyers stationed together some twenty years ago in Hawaii. I loaned Paul my copy of the '*Encyclopaedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work*' and he came away with this wonderful knot board! Those were the days when Paul and I would explore my (then) new copy of Ashley's, trying to decipher this new world of knotting we'd discovered.

On another subject, I couldn't help but notice while leafing through my copy of '*A Field Guide to Western Birds*' by Roger Peterson (published Houghton Mifflin, Boston 1961) that there is a bird called a KNOT. Has this ever been noticed by any other Guild member? If you are interested it is called: KNOT - *Calidris cantus*:

I have also been trying to get a display set up at my local library about the IGKT, showing some of my knotting and knot books, hoping thereby to generate some local interest here in Southern California.

From Bob Stroud-Kent, England

Three rope ends went into a bar and one asked the bartender for three pints of beer. I don't serve old rope he replied. The 2nd one tried and got the same answer. So the 3rd one tied a knot in his upper end, ruffled up the ends of his strands and called up for 3 pints. The barman said "Are you another bit of old rope" to which No 3 replied, "No, I'm afraid not". (A frayed knot).

TEE HEE, good one Bob. Any more out there folks.

From Stephen Perich, Victoria, Australia

I am most fascinated by the Appledore style knot shown on page 19 of issue No. 51. two questions if I may:

- i) What/who is an Appledore?
- ii) Are there instructions on how to tie this knot or related knots? If so, I would appreciate receiving a copy, reference to the text for this knot or the name of someone who can help.

Ed: The mat shown by Des Pawson at the 95 Half AGM was new. Appledore is in North Devon. I did ask Des for an article about his interest in mats, as it seemed to raise so much conversation and debate. At the time he was writing a book and was very busy. Perhaps he has

more time now to do something?



from Russell Hammond, N.S.W. Australia.

With reference to the Texel Anchor on page 17 of KM 39, I would like more photos or better details of how to make one for my local sailing club. I have written to B. Plokker but have had no answer

Ed: The photograph of this five foot tall, four-claw anchor was given to Jan Hoefnagel by Mr B Plokker. It stands proudly in front of the Marine Base of Texel on the first of the Frisian Islands. It was made by an instructor there in about 1991. Perhaps Jan can tell you more. his address is: 23 Willy Martenstr,
3314 XV Dordrecht
The Netherlands

IGKT MEETING: NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

From Brian Field, Essex, England

The North American branch of the IGKT is holding an important meeting at the New Bedford Whaling Museum on 7, 8 and 9, August 1997.

This meeting is a major three day programme in conjunction with the Museum and Parks service to honour Clifford Ashley's life and work and to formalise a submission to the USA Postal Service for an Ashley commemorative stamp.

The issue of a commemorative stamp is a significant matter in the USA and will involve members of the Federal and State Legislature, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Parks Service, other organisations and members of the Ashley family.

The NBW Museum has offered the use of their auditorium, meeting rooms and lounge, free of charge, in exchange for the participation of Guild members in the Ashley programme.

The Ashley Stamp project is the brainchild of Dick Blackmer

and it is due to his enthusiasm and hard work that this project has taken off. The Guild in North America should benefit tremendously from this venture, both in publicity and contacts made.

The preliminary schedule of events is as follows:

Thursday 7 August, evening lecture(s) and reception for the Friends of the Museum, the Ashley Family, IGKT Members and representatives of other involved bodies.

Friday 8 August, IGKT (NAB) business meetings and public lectures.

Saturday 9 August, Public showing of the Ashley Display and opening of the IGKT display to members of the public. Members to be available to explain and demonstrate to the public.

Confirmed speakers include members Vaughan Jones FRS (IGKT Vice President), Pieter van de Grind, Dick Blackmer and Brian Field.

There is a wide range of accommodation available and in

the absence of application forms, those members wishing to take part in this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity should contact Chris Malhoit (address at the end of the article).

Members are asked to help the Ashley Stamp project by writing letters of support to Dick Blackmer. The wider the national and international support, the more likely this undertaking is to succeed, and your letters will form an important part of this process.

Dick is also asking for ideas on the stamp design and for the choice of knot to be shown. Ashley #1453 has been suggested but other ideas will be welcome.

More up to date information is available for those with access to the computer web by contacting the IGKT (NAB) web site at <<http://www.w12vax.net/easy/igkt.html/>>.

Details of stamp project: Dick Blackmer, 109 Oakwood Drive, ScotiaNY12302.
Tel:5183843799. E mail.
easy@wizvax.net

Details of New Bedford meeting, accommodation etc:

Chris Malhoit, 3432 Sylvania Ave, Toledo OH42623-4407.
Tel: 419 473 0500
E mail: .malhoit@ao1.com

SCREW THREADED NEEDLES

From Martin Coombs, Alaska

I just wanted to pass on a knotting technique that one of my fellow Alaskans showed me. Daniel Callahan, a retired rigger and also an IGKT member called me up one day to introduce himself, he has a place over on the mainland in Anchorage called 'The Knot Shoppe' he told me about these brass needles that he has made to work with parachute cord.

I ordered some line from him and one of the needles he told me about and I sat down at my kitchen table to figure it out. I finally figured out how to melt the end of the nylon cord and drag it across a piece of paper to form a taper, Dan melts it and shapes it quickly with his fingers, I haven't mastered that technique yet, then just screw it in the end of the needle, the nylon cord will harden and form threads like a screw when you

twist it into the needle so that if you are tying a 6 strand starknot you can just unscrew it off of one strand and screw it on the next. After I figured it out I tied a perfect 6 strand starknot in about 20 minutes without having to use any needlenose pliers. This is one of the best tricks that I have come across and I'm sure that there are others out there that will appreciate this tool, I have used it for a few months now and it works very well on starknots (I haven't made a loose one yet with this needle) and it helps out a lot with turksheads also and I'm sure there are other applications for these needles that I just haven't found yet. Dan Callahan said that he saw a needle like this in a hobby shop but the shop went out of business so he found someone with a lathe to make him some (maybe if no one else claims this invention we can call them 'Callahan Needles' and immortalise him in the knot tying world). I have used the needles with several types of small nylon line with very good results, Dan is also making some larger needles now to handle larger lines but I

have not tried them out yet. If you would like more info on these needles you can contact Dan at the address below:

The Knot Shoppe, PO Box 202607, Anchorage, Alaska, 99520-2607. Tel: (907) 274-2321.

Email: the_knot_shoppe@wow.com

INDIAN ROPE TRICK

from Europa Chang

While travelling from a Zoroastrian wedding canopy to a Rajashani camel girth, I called on a friend to return a book. He showed me some photos of a bridge that his father in law had built in 1926, and this is the tale he told over a cup of coffee. I have his permission to relate it here.

In 1925 the Mehtar of Chitral, on the North West Frontier, bought two new cars. When these were delivered, it was discovered that the existing bridge was too narrow, so that the Mehtar could not drive in state to his palace, but had to begin

and end each journey in a carriage. After some negotiation, the Royal Engineers, Indian Army agreed to widen the bridge if in return the Mehtar would discourage his subjects from using the frontier patrols as target practice.

After surveying, it was decided to construct a stayed bridge. As Chitral is so remote, the materials were taken from the nearest sources, however, the great hawsers had to come from Britain. The cables were transported by boat to India, by train across India till the rails ran to an end and then in carts drawn by gun teams till the road became too narrow. For the last stage, along a winding track, the hawsers travelled by camel! More than 30 camels were brought to the campsite; the hawser was coiled, alternatively clockwise and anticlockwise, and each camel was roped to a single coil. Then the caravan went along the narrow path until it reached the river bank.

The hawser was unwound by feeding the end round a tree bole, again to ensure there were no kinks. There was a faded sepia photo showing four men

round the tree holding up the hawser and a fifth man paying it out. (Alas, there wasn't a photo of the camels!). The 'new' bridge at Chitral is still standing; but being part of a frontier fortification, photos are no longer permitted.

Ed: do you think this could possibly be one of the most expensive bits of road ever built?

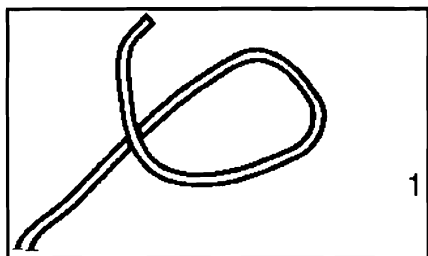
WOODY'S KNOTS THE END OF A ROPE

If a rope is cut, then even the smallest amount of handling will cause it to untwist. This is known as unravelling and fraying. While it is possible to relay an unravelled rope, it is difficult for anything more than a short distance, and the end still needs treating so that unravelling and fraying do not happen again.

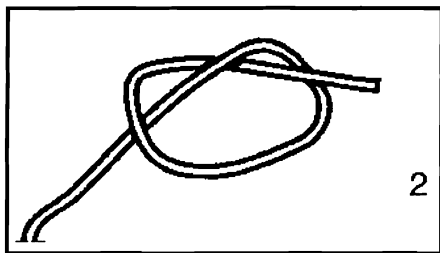
The simplest way to prevent unravelling, though it should only be used as a permanent measure in string or finer thread, is to tie to thumb knot (also known as overhand knot) in the end of the cord.

I have mentioned this knot in a number of earlier 'Woody's Knots', but always as a stage in tying something else.

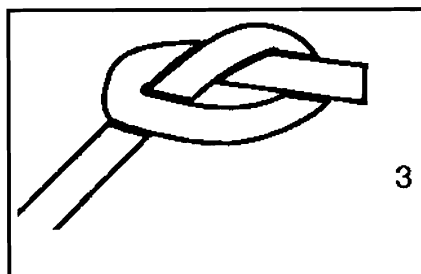
It is the simplest example of a stopper knot, which is a knot used to prevent the end of the cord being pulled through a hole.



Take one end of the cord, and make a turn so that the end crosses the standing part as in diagram 1.



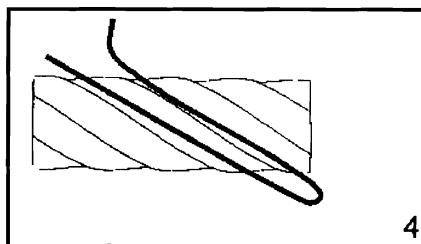
Tuck the end through the loop you have just made (as in diagram 2) and work the knot tight so that it looks like diagram 3.



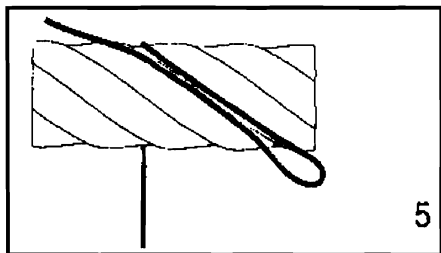
For any piece of cord which is to be used and re-used for different purposes, a stopper knot in the end can be very annoying. In a really heavy piece of rope, you will probably not be able to work the thumb knot tight enough to stop it falling apart.

So, for a number of reasons a whipping is a better way of finishing off a rope's end. You must have a finer piece of cord, (often called 'small stuff') to use to make the whipping.

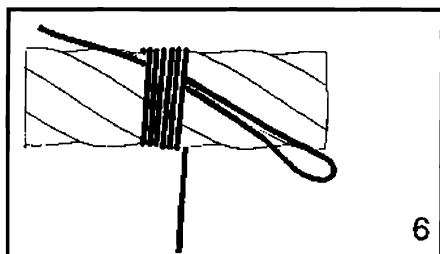
Start by making a bight in the



end of the whipping twine, and place it with the lay of the rope and the loop pointing towards the end of the rope (diagram 4).

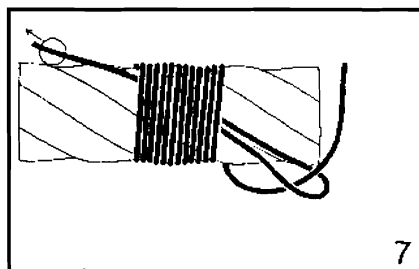


Adjust the bight so both sides of the bight fall into a groove between the strands of the rope.



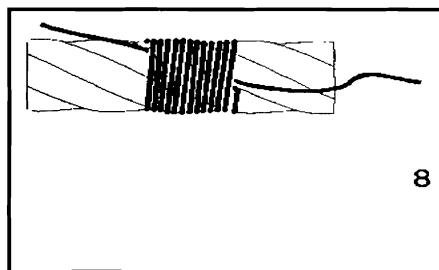
Now wind the small stuff round the end as tightly as you can, pinching the bight into the groove between the rope strands. Note that the wraps spiral round the rope's end in the opposite direction to the lay of the rope. Keep each turn of the small stuff as tight as you can and as close as possible to the preceding turn.

When the length of wrap is a little bit more than the diameter of the rope you are working on, poke the end of the small stuff



through the exposed loop (diagram 7).

Carefully pull the free end of the bight so that the loop draws the other end half the width under the wrapped turns.



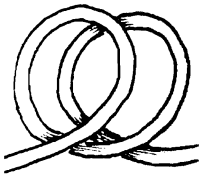
Cut off the ends and the 'simple' whipping is complete.

ADDRESS CHANGE

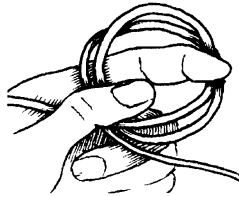
Untill 30 April 1997

my address will be:

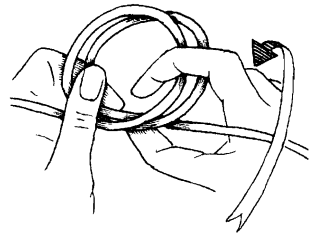
Henry R. Gillespie
4100 Ocean Beach Blvd.
Apt.307
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
USA



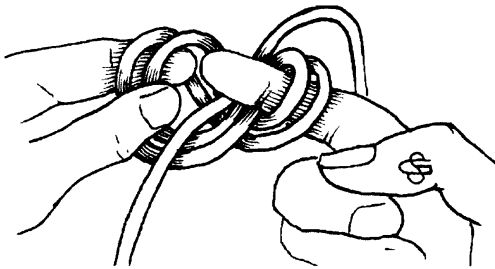
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

THE BOA KNOT.

1. Form two identical Half-Hitches, quite loosely, one lying above the other.
2. Push the left index finger up through the loops of the Half-Hitches and hold them between finger and thumb.
3. Push the right index finger down through the loops of the Half-Hitches and rotate the wrist clockwise, until the knot appears as in 4.
4. Transfer the loops from the left index finger onto the right, which now carries all four loops. The knot now appears in its final form and can be slid onto whatever is to be secured. Pull both ends to tighten and ensure that all lies snug, as in 5.

A Hen`s Tooth?

A sample of this knot and a rough sketch showing how to tie it were recently sent to me by Peter Collingwood*, who said that he had "invented" it - his inverted commas, not mine - a few days before. He asked whether I knew it and I replied that I did not, but that I would pass the information to Geoffrey Budworth, for his comments. I accordingly wrote to Geoffrey the following day, with the observation that a newly invented knot is as rare as a hen`s tooth, but we always live in hope of finding one.

Geoffrey`s prompt response is quoted in part below:-

"I think it is a superb, rugged and (as far as I can see) original creation that is quick and easy to tie.....Peter Collingwood is to be congratulated on his discovery of this previously unsuspected knot that is effectively a beefed-up Strangle and Constrictor Knot combined."

I agree wholeheartedly with Geoffrey`s comments - this is a really practical and worthwhile knot that is easily and quickly tied and, as far as we know, **it is new**. So what is it to be known as? In his note to me Peter Collingwood called it "Strangulation Knot", but again I agree with Geoffrey Budworth when he says that "Strangulation is an ugly word and four syllables is too long." It could be simply "Collingwood`s Knot", but that might be confused with H.M. naval training establishment of that name and, in a few decades, future knot tyers may wrongly assume that it originated there. After considering these points, Peter Collingwood has decided that the new knot shall be "The Boa Knot". The snake may have thought of it first, but in my mind it will probably remain "The Hen`s Tooth"!

** Peter Collingwood is very well known and highly regarded in the field of weaving and textiles and was awarded the O.B.E. for his original work in weaving, although he started out in life as a medical Doctor. He has exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and has also exhibited in galleries in Europe and the U.S.A. He has travelled extensively throughout the world teaching and studying the weaving and knotting techniques of ethnic groups. He has published numerous books about weaving and is currently working on one about ply-splitting techniques , which is eagerly awaited.*

Stuart Grainger - 30/10/96.

SINGLE BOWLINE ON A BIGHT

*From Frederick Udall
Birmingham*

Reference the article by Brian Glennon illustrating the Single Bowline on a bight.

This knot is described in the book "The Riggers Apprentice" by Brion Toss and is named in his book as the "Tugboat Bowline".

As both Brian and Brion are in the rigging profession and are both American it would appear this knot is used mainly in the Americas, I cannot recall seeing it illustrated in any British knot book I have read.

QUOTATION

*From Geoffrey Budworth
Tonbridge, Kent*

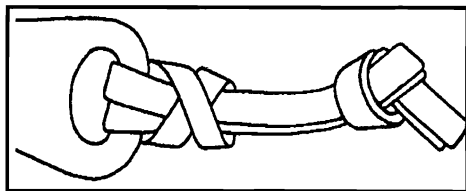
"To make the perfect brush take the bristles from a white hog, then tie them onto a stick using a ploughshare knot."

Cennino Cennini (b.1372), seen on a Daler Rowney advert for artists materials.

PIWICH KNOT REVISITED

*From Heinz- Prohaska
Horsching, Austria.*

I wrote an article with this title for KM52 and showed that the knot published with these names which can only be seen rarely in print it used for different applications in several countries and seems to have numerous inventors. I have found a further application now, and that on the zip of a mountaineering rucksack bought in the autumn of 1995. The rucksack was produced in Ireland by the American producer LOWE. I don't know if this application has a long tradition or not. People with older rucksacks from LOWE or other producers or with other products with a zip could perhaps be able to trace the knot back.



REPORT OF THE NORTH WEST BRANCH MEETING

From Dave Walker, Chester, England.

The North West Branch of the IGBT held their latest meeting on Sunday 10 November at their usual venue, The Albion Inn, Chester. Several members turned up for the evening, David, Graham Smith and their wives from the West Yorkshire branch, were our guest judges for the evening.

The theme of the evening was a knot tying competition, classes were side fenders, bow and stern fenders, fancy work and knot boards. The range of work covered leather flowers and insects from Fred Burkes (leather specialist), to key fobs, fenders, multi-strand mats, bell ropes and knot boards etc.

After much nailbiting, followed by a nervous silence, the judges duly decided that 1st prize, side fender would be awarded to Ron Long. 1st prize bow/stern fender to Bob Mitchell, 1st prize, fancy work, to Tony Jones, 1st prize knot board went to Ron Long.

The theme of the next meeting, suggested by Ron Long is that each member should demonstrate their own favourite knot. The next meeting will be held at the Albion Inn, Chester 12 January, at 7.30 pm.

During the meeting Arthur Campbell volunteered to approach Liverpool Maritime Museum and offer to build and develop a rope work section, we shall wait and see what happens.

Ed: Really was Ron's night wasn't it.

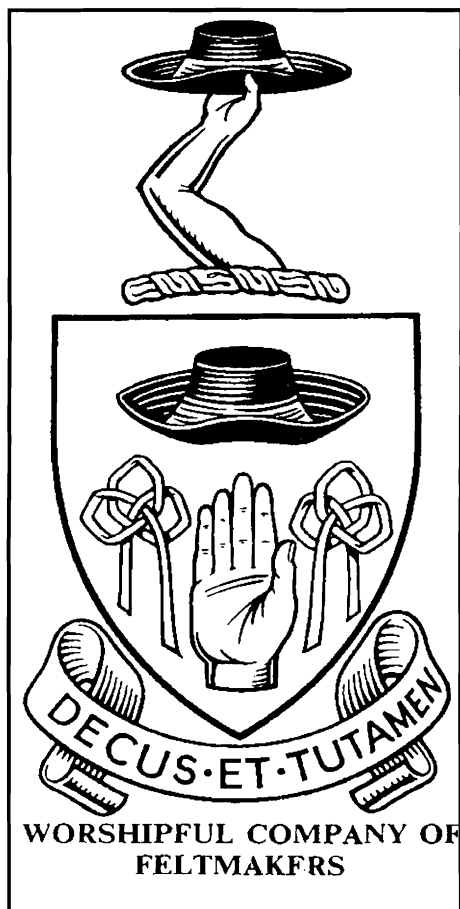
KNOTTING HERALDRY

From Richard Hopkins, Keynsham, England

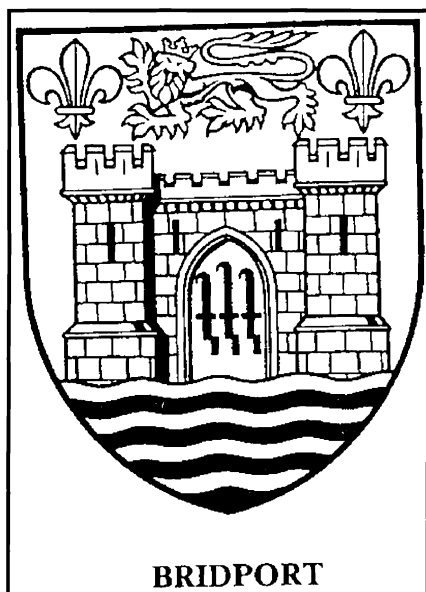
Recently, for reasons too confusing to enumerate, I was searching some books on Heraldry for Arms bearing Locks or Keys (another hobby of mine) and thought about Knots and associate items on shields.

I know that in a previous KM, an article showing heraldic knots was published so I looked for other items that might be of interest.

There are about ten standard heraldic knots that occur too frequently to be listed but it seems that The Union Discount Company of London have a sheetbend as part of their Armorial Bearings.



The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers has two Hat-bands nowed, and they are depicted as only one step away from a three lead four bight Turks Head, while Bridport has three rope-makers spinning hooks on its Arms.



This searching led me to other fields. I had already found that there seems to be only one stamp with a knot as its pattern. This a Norwegian stamp* that uses the same pattern, a Reef Knot, but in different colours for different values.

** See Brian Field's article re a US stamp for Ashley in this edition.*

Chance then led me to consider Flags so I contacted The Flag Institute in Chester whose Director Dr W Crampton was most helpful. Dr Crampton is currently the President of the Federation Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques. FIAV is the International Organisation of Vexillologists, or Flag enthusiasts, and brings together enthusiasts from all over the world holding international meetings every two years.

He was able to advise me that, apart from flags showing part of conventional Arms, there are only two flags with knots on them. He kindly supplied illustrations for KM.

One flag, the World Scout Flag, will be known to many Guild members, while the other flag is that of FIAV itself.



They chose this device to represent the fixing of a flag to its halliard.



The next organisation that I contacted was The Military Heraldry Society where their publicity officer Lt Cdr Thornton came up with the following:-

Insignia containing the knot as part of their design:

Royal Army Service Corps - soldiers qualified as seamen in the Marine Branch wore a brown reef knot on a yellow disc as a speciality badge (now obsolete).

The North Staffordshire Regiment and the South Staffordshire Regiment both carried the Stafford Knot on cap badge and collar badges.

The RAF No 2 Squadron had a knot on its Crest.

Boatswain's mates in the Brazilian Navy are distinguished by a reef knot as were Volunteers in the pre Republic Italian Navy and ex-apprentices in the US Navy.

Navel Cadets at the Italian Naval Academy wear the Savoy knot on a collar patch.

I am sure that there are many other representations of knots on for instance Ships Crests and would be pleased to hear of them.

All this may seem to be a waste of time to many Guild members but if the Guild is to be acknowledged as a World Authority on Knotting matters then all information connected with Knots in whatever context should be collected and collated and possession of this information is just as important as being able to recommend fifty books that only tell you how to tie the same few knots, or being an expert tyer of one specific series of knots.

I hope that other Guild members will keep any eye open for further representatives of knots in different walks of life and will write in to KM with their feelings.

Ed: If any of you visit Bridport in Dorset, visit the old Ropemakers factory (hence the rope and knots in their Arms), also the Ropemakers Pub next door, Lonnie has spent many happy hours in the factory, they are very helpful and happy to talk ropes, preferably calling first.

CORDERIE ROYALE FRANCE

From G MacLachlan, Suffolk, England.

Last summer I went to the 'Charente Maritime' region of France which is a little south of Brittany.

While I was there I paid a visit to the 'Corderie Royale' (Royal Ropery) on the banks of the river Charente in the town of Rochefort. The building is approximately 400 yards long and built of sandstone with an elegant 'concave and pitch' tiled roof, that which the French do so well.

In fact it looks more like a stately home than a ropery and is nothing like the grubby, drab works at Chatham.

The decision to build was taken by the 'Ministre de la Marine' Monsieur Colbert in 1661.

At that time the French had a navy of only 10 ships of the line and Louis XIV 'Le Roi Soleil' wanted more. Of course, for their great fighting ships they needed rope.

I suppose that the site at Rochefort was chosen because it is well away from the UK. The banks of the Charente are not very stable, mainly consisting of an accumulation of silt. Consequently, very solid foundations were needed.

The silt was found to be over 100 feet deep which made 'footings' or 'pilings' inadequate. Their ingenious solution was to build a giant raft of wood on which the ropewalk could stand (or float!).

Apparently 30,000 oak trees were used for the construction of the ropery raft, which when placed end to end makes about 1700 miles of tree trunk.

It worked well and even today there is very little evidence of subsidence. In all 2000 builders worked for 3 years and the Cor-

derie Royale opened for business in 1669.

Unfortunately, fire broke out in 1944 (presumably as a result of fighting) and much of the interior and what it contained was lost.

As a consequence the museum display is very limited, taking only a quarter of the available space.

There are 2 exhibitions, one permanent and one temporary. The permanent exhibition treats rope making in a very thorough, though concise manner.

There are a number of rope making objects to see hailing from both sides of the rope making industry (ie the small artisanal enterprise and the huge industrial concern).

Both natural and synthetic fibre ropes are examined. The temporary exhibition changes regularly while I was there the theme was lighthouses and before that Joseph Conrad.

Although not knotting, I'm sure of interest to IGKT members. All texts are rendered in English as well as French.

In the gardens is to be found the 'Aire de Grèements' which consists of the fully rigged 18th

Century sailing ship masts designed by the naval historian Jean Boudriot.

As hard as I tried I could not get permission to scale the ratlines. All in all the Corderie Royale is well worth a visit by anyone interested in rope. It isn't as complete as Chatham but it is different and it helps fill in the picture.

Open every day except Tuesday and the price of admission is 30francs.

The address:

Corderie Royale, 17300 Rochefort, France.

Au revoir.

DONE IT - AT LAST

from Cyril Canute

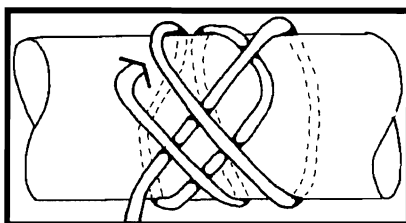
The endless frustration of being unable, since 1982, to tie the 8 part x 5 lead Turk's Head (illustrated and explained on page 15 of KM1) has prematurely aged an entire generation of Guild members and so undermined our self esteem that we meet regularly for supportive group therapy.

Fear not, my friends. A miracle cure is available. *The*

wretched drawing is WRONG.

Using my corrected sketch, with clarified instructions, we Turk's Head addicts can once more feel fulfilled. So, take a 5 mm dia. boot lace about 120 cm long (that's a thick-ish four feet in old money), sit back and enjoy.

8 LEAD X 5 BIGHT TURK'S HEAD TIED DIRECTLY



From the diagram's arrowhead:

Pass left to right -

over 1, and under 2;

TURN Go right to left -

under 2, and over 2;

TURN Go left to right -

over 2, and under 2;

TURN Go right to left -

over 1, under 2, over 1,

under 1, and over 1;

TURN Go left to right -

under 1, over 2, under 1,

over 1 and under 1;

TURN From right to left -

insert the final regular locking tucks alternatively over 1, under 1, over 1, under 1, over 1, under 1, over 1, under 1 and over 1;

TURN (last time)

Insert the working end under 1 to parallel the standing start strand.

---oOo---

SPHERICAL TURK'S HEAD RE-VISITED

From Tom Hall, Texas, USA

Re KM43, Patrick Ducey's article, on Spherical Turk's Heads was appreciated greatly. It was telling of a knot and the method of tying this knot, that was taught to him by his grandfather. Patrick was wondering if he was the only person that knew this knot, and said it was not in 'Ashley's Book of Knots'. Well, Patrick is not the only person that knows this knot, and this type of knot is in 'Ashley's' book. There are at least two knots of this type in Ashley's book, that are properly formed with one strand. These knots are #2216 and #2217. Then you will find many of these knots that are formed by interweaving two knots together. Some of these knots are #2218, #2219, #2220 and #655. Knot #655 is the same knot as #656, and these knots are the same knot as #593 only #593

finishes with the ends a little different.

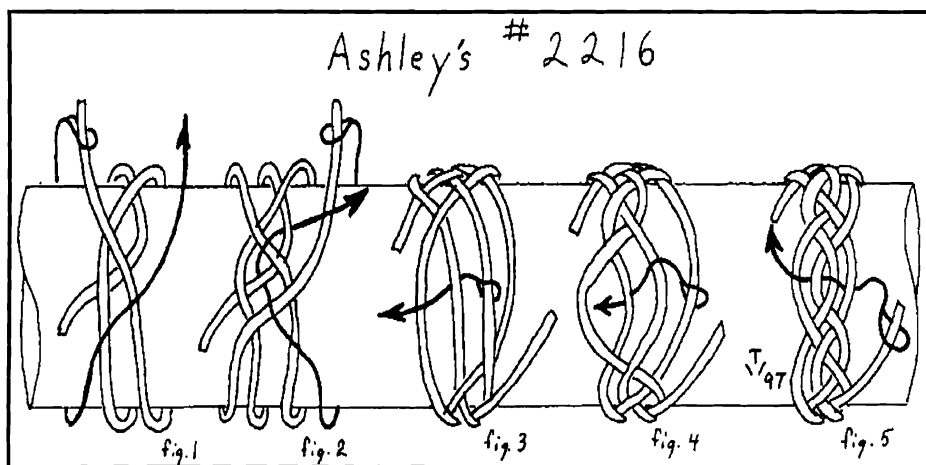
It is understandable that Patrick did not see that these knots were in Ashley's Book, because it is hard to see what the knot is, from Ashley's diagrams. These diagrams are also hard to follow. I must say that Patrick's method of tying these knots is much better than Ashley's. Patrick's method is also easy to remember. The only drawback is you are tying a knot that you have to untie. A better method would be to learn how to tie a knot from a grid-diagram.

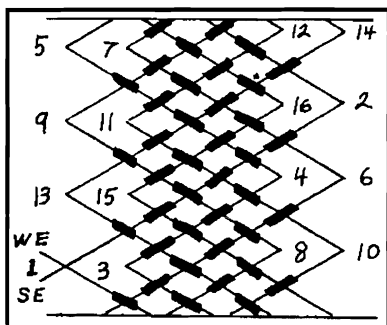
For people that do not know what a grid-diagram is I have drawn one for Ashley's knot #2217. Then to help them follow the grid-diagram I have written out an algorithm table with all the over (O) and unders (U) for each half cycle of the knot. These half cycles are numbered one (1) through sixteen (16) on both the algorithm table and the grid-diagram. The algorithm table also has little helpers like 'SOB' for Skip one bight, and 'MIB' for Make inside bight. The 'SE' at the end of half cycles eight and twelve are to let you know the last over

(O) is over the Standing end (SE). The 'Free run' at the start of the knot is a half cycle that is 'free' of any overs, and/or unders.

Some knots like Ashley's #2216 are hard to hold while tying them from an algorithm table and/or grid diagram, so I have drawn out a method of tying it by crossing the bights. I think you will find it an easier way to tie this knot.

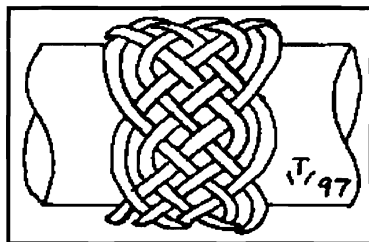
Just so you will know, you would tie a 3 part 8 bight Turk's Head to tie #2216 using Patrick's method, and a 5 part 8 bight Turk's Head to tie #2217 using Patrick's method.





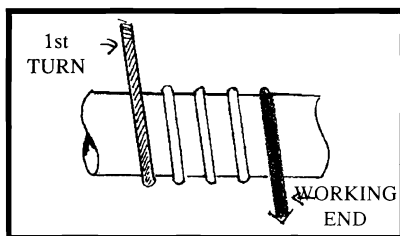
- 1 Free run
- 2 Free run
- 3 Free run
- 4 O
- 5 O
- 6 SOB U MIB
- 7 U
- 8 O U O SE
- 9 U O2
- 10 SOB U O U M1B
- 11 O U2
- 12 O U O U O SE
- 13 U O U O2
- 14 SOB U O U O U M1B
- 15 O U O U M1B
- 16 O U O U O

1

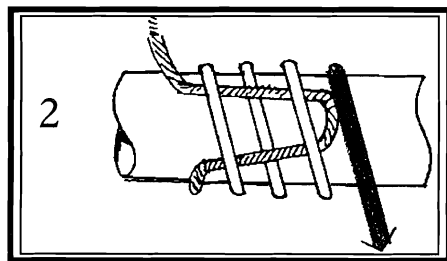


THE IMPOSSIBLE KNOT (a 5 lead x 5 bight Turk's Head ?)

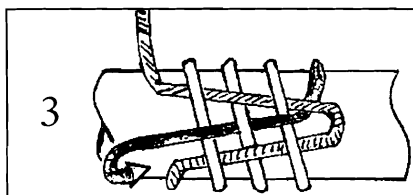
*From Brian Walsh, Ipswich,
England. Found by Geoffrey
Budworth in some archives sent
to him by Frank Harris*



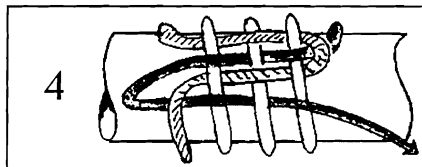
Take four complete turning
around a cylinder, leave work-
ing end free.



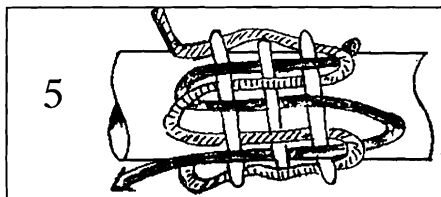
Tuck 1st turn under-over-under
other turns leaving a loop.



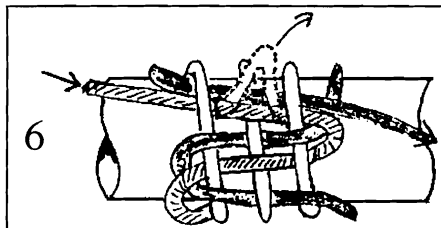
Take working end up through loop. Then over-under-over



And go under, turn, then over-under-over. Leave working end free.



Take 1st turn and tuck a loop under-over-under then repeat instructions number three and four.



This brings working end up along side first tuck. Double all around then work taught. Then

withdraw 1st end under 1st tuck. Gives better finish

THE SCHOONER

by Michael Storch
Colorado, USA

I look back at my time spent aboard the *Topaz*. She was a converted Baltic trader - twin topmasts and wooden hulled. Although it's been better than twelve years since last I saw her, I can recall her eighty-nine foot on deck - one hundred and fifteen overall, spoke wheel and brass binnacle proud on the poop deck - six hundred and nine hundred pound kedge anchor. - the hand operated windlass for raising them on the foredeck - the smooth feel of the pin rail.

Below decks the cabins, the galley, the fo'c'sle and so on. Below decks did not interest me - my hammock was slung on deck. Six months of tying knots, sewing sails, and tying ever more knots agreed with me -- I look back happily on the *Topaz*.

Bought as salvage, the *Topaz* was being restored, as close to original as possible. Work began before I arrived, my first

job was to rattle down the mainmast - being the only knotter, and comfortable at heights, I had a clear run at things, work continued long after I left.

The crew would work for weeks, then to break routine take a days sail around the Northeast coast of Jamaica. I remember the manatee rising to the surface off starboard, I remember the school of porpoise following, leaping in our wake and the corals.

As I imagine all ships must, the *Topaz* had a personality. On night watch I would listen to her creak -- it was a reassuring sound. I don't think any two ships would creak the same. Underway she had other personality traits - they became routine, the senses tuned into the ship's idiosyncrasies, and only should they cease, in their absence would they be noticed. Yes, she had a personality.

Daily we soaked her decks, for the hot tropical sun would otherwise dry and shrink them. The *Topaz* could be demanding, one had to care about details - really care.

She was my first ship - she was my only ship. After I left her I returned to the American West. I have travelled much since then, though I do seem to centre in on the Rocky Mountains of the Southwest. I feel at ease on horseback and leave the sea to its own - only my knotting and braiding remain constant.

There is more. word reached me a while ago, a letter - the *Topaz* was destroyed by fire somewhere in the Caribbean - no details - a good ship gone under.



Any more thoughts from any of our members on a training programme for the Guild? This old chestnut is constantly regurgitated but nothing is ever decided, except that to do nothing is probably the RIGHT thing to do.

In the next KM we will be publishing an interesting short piece from one of our Dutch members about a training programme and certificate of over 40 years ago!

CHRISTMAS BELL KNOT

by Tom Hall

The Christmas Bell Knot has 14 parts and 12 bights in the body of the knot, with a 4 part 3 bight loop. On the top of the bell we have two sets of nested bights on each side of the loop. These nested bights are used to make the top of the bell close in. The 12 bights on the bottom of the bell was used because December is the 12th month of the year, and this is a Christmas Bell.

To tie the Christmas Bell knot, we need six (6) feet of 1/8 inch lace , and we will use a 7/8 inch diameter mandrel with a round end. Fold the lace in half so we can tie the first half of the knot with one half of the lace and the last half of the knot with the other half of the lace. This allows us to tie both halves of the knot in an upwards direction. The first half-cycle is across the rounded end of the mandrel, so the second half-cycle is where the tying gets started. This leaves us with 24 more half-cycles before Christmas.

Here are some tips to help you with tying this Christmas Bell:

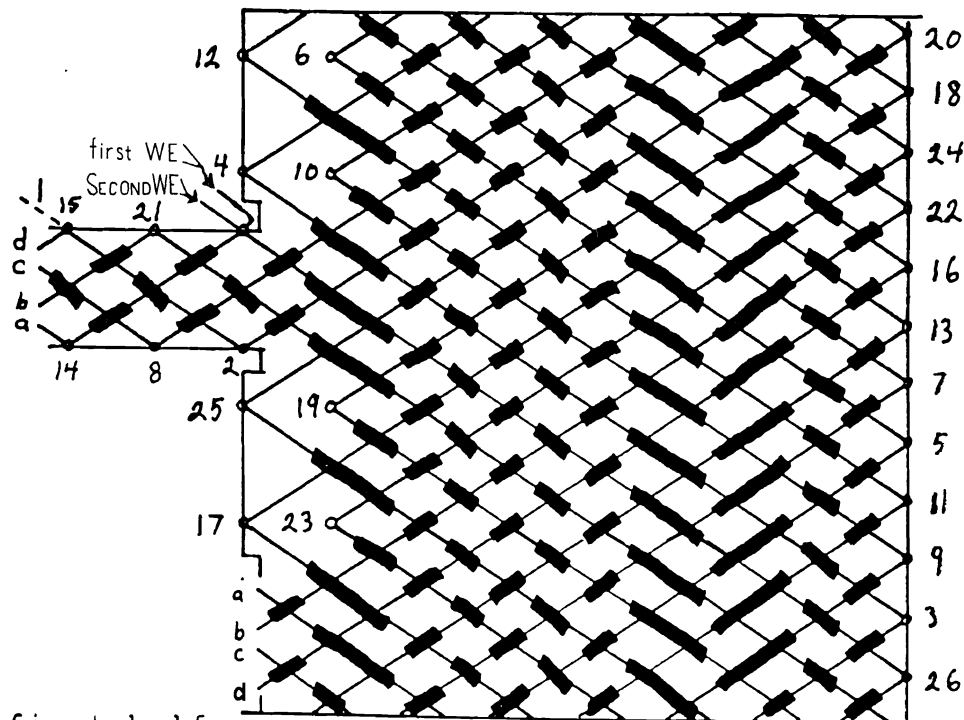
1. In half-cycle number eight (8), the first over is over the standing end, which is going across the rounded end of the mandrel. Then we are on the left hand side of the standing part.
2. The MIB at the end if half-cycle number nine (9) stands for Make Inside Bight. the SOB at the start of half-cycle number twelve (12) stands for Skip One Bight. To better understand this, look at the grip-diagram.
3. On half-cycle fourteen (14), we are going over-one, then under the standing end, That ends the first half of the knot. For the second half of the knot we use the old standing end as our new working end.
4. The over-one and the first under of the under-three are in the loop of the bell. Then, continue on through the knot, staying on the left hand side of the strand on our right.
5. The under-one, over-one, under-one on the end of half-cycle number twenty (20) is in the loop of the bell.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christmas Bell Knot

By Tom Hall

- 1 free run
- 2 free run
- 3 0
- 4 0
- 5 U 0
- 6 02
- 7 0 U 0
- 8 0 U2 02
- 9 0 U2 0 MIB
- 10 0 U2 0
- 11 U 02 U 02
- 12 SOB U2 02 U 0
- 13 U 0 U 0 U 0
- 14 0 U End of first half.

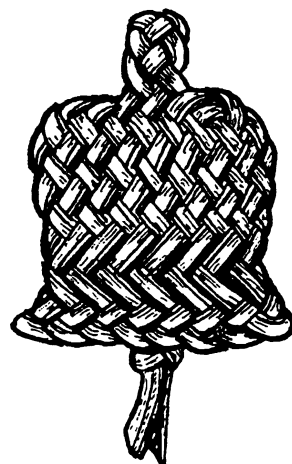


Now use the standing end as the new working end.

```

15   O U3 O2 U O
16   O U O U O U O
17   O U O U2 O2
18   U2 O2 U O U O
19   U O U O U2 O2
20   O U2 O2 U O U O U O U
21   O U O U2 O2 U2 O2 U O
22   O U O2 U O U O U O MIB
23   O U2 O U2 O2 U O
24   U O U O2 U O U O U O2
25 SOB U O U O U O U2 O2 U O
26   U O U2 O2 U O U O U O2 U

```



Pull the working end of the first half back one, so it comes out on the inside of the bell loop. Then place the working end of the last half over-one, **and** on the inside of the bell loop. Pull both ends through the bell end tie a two strand Rosebub for the bell clapper.

Grandfathers Bowline in the
Bight
by Charlie Smith

Further to the letter from Joe Schmidbauer in **KM54**, on Bowline on Bight.

The first mention of this knot was by Isaac Walton in the Compleat Angler who writes: This knot should not be used, as it is impossible to untie and will cause waste of expensive rope. The method he gives for tying is to make a loop over the thumb then continue winding over the wrist then over the back of the hand through the first loop and tighten. Comment: I suspect Isaac Walton only tied this in fishing line. Ashley also mentions the Anglers loop knot. There are just two of many writers over the years.

There is a trick method of throwing this knot which Geoff Budworth demonstrated at the 50th Anniversary of Greenwich Maritime Museum celebrations. He called it Anglers Loop Knot.

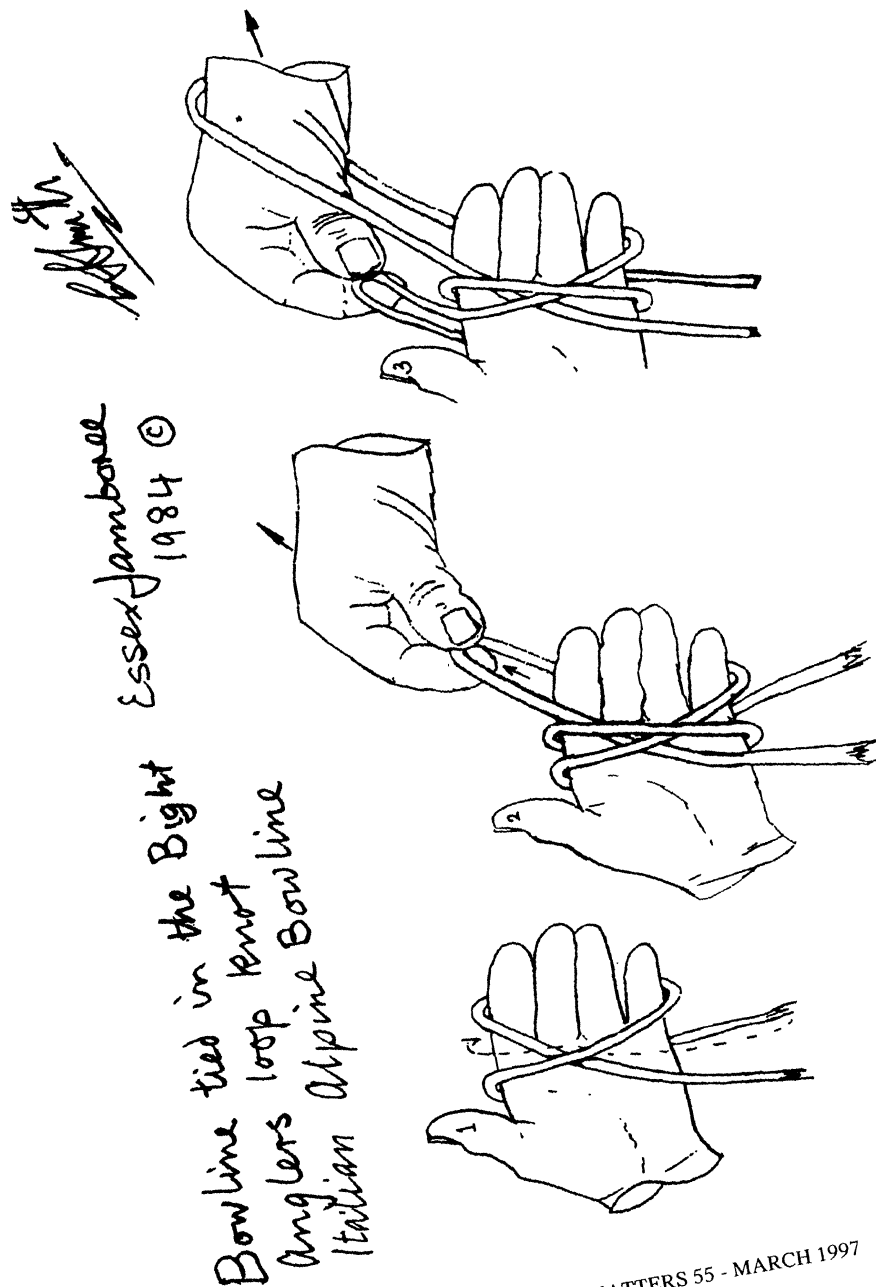
My first introduction to this knot was in the early 1950's during my climbing days where I learned it from a party of Italian climbers who threw it in the

end of rope and called it "Alpine Bowline". Since then I have taught it as Italian Alpine Bowline.

As this is very difficult to teach very young children and up to the not so young "KIDS" I prepared a chart to distribute at the Essex Scout and Guide Jamboree 1984. This chart which I enclose was intended as an aid memoir not a complete instruction.

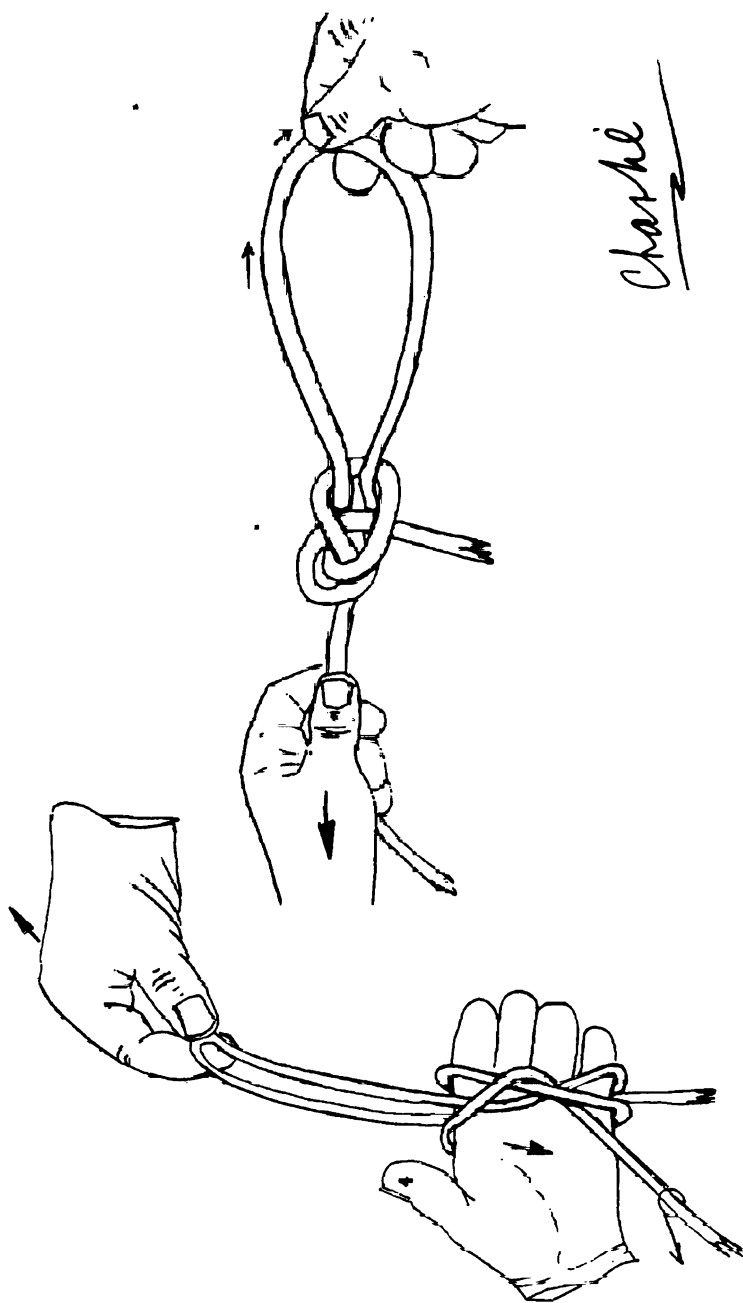
By winding the rope around the hand as shown in the chart it is very easy to follow. It was a short step from this method of tying in the end to tying in the bight. Since then at two to four Jamborees every year I must have instructed several thousands of young people from all over the world.

The 'Bowline tied in the Bight' was taught to me by my grandfather who was a rigger on an old sailing Whaler over a hundred years ago, he insisted that a Bowline was not much use when "the weather blew up!" unless you put in the extra tuck.



Essex Jamboree
1984 ©

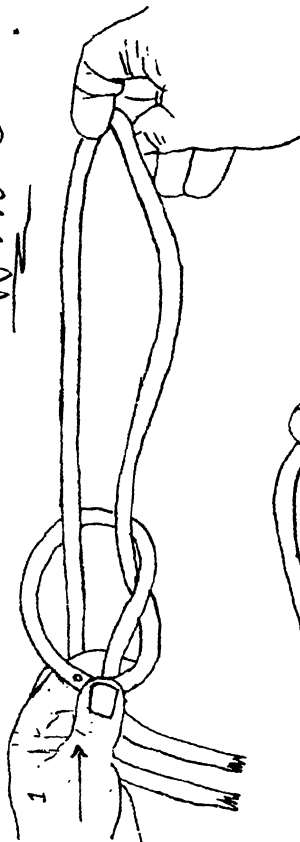
Bowline tied in the Right
Anglers loop knot
Italian Alpine Bowline



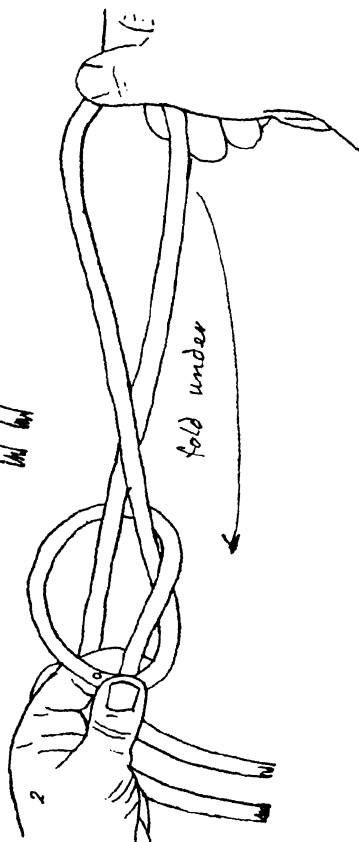
Charles

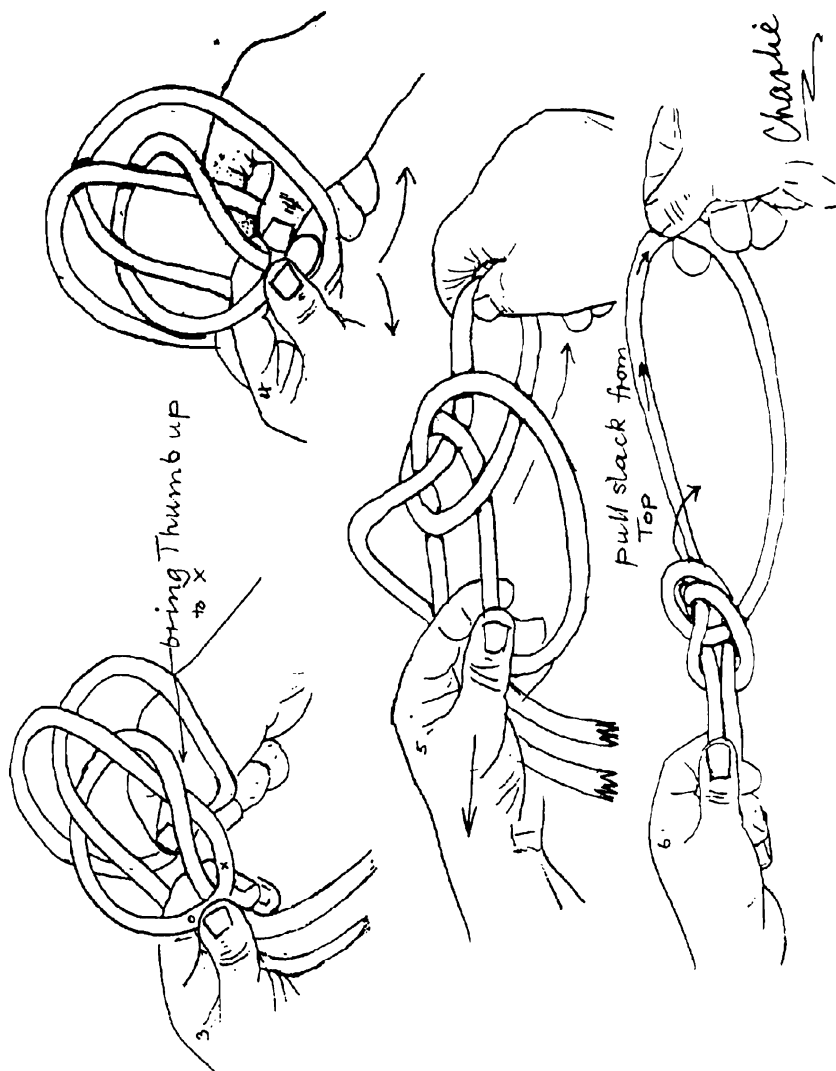
Grandfathers Bowline in the Bight, 27 Jan 1997

off to the ©



hold Thumb
at 0





Grandfather tied bowline in the bight by starting with a slip knot, holding the thumb of the left hand firmly where the 1st loop crosses; with the right hand twist the 2nd loop over and away, then fold the loop under until both thumbs are side by side on the first loop, pull first loop down and through second loop, allow left thumb to relax and hold both standing parts, while the right hand pulls out the main loop. The resulting knot will be a bowline with the extra tuck see chart. If you tie a bowline in your own way and lay it flat, loosen the knot, and extend the working end. (I presume that the end is in the centre of the loop). Take the end, pass it over and out of the loop, then pass it under and up through the knot until it lays side by side with the standing part - tighten.

Examine all three knots. First the last two bowlines, which should be exactly the same, then compare them with the Anglers loop after rotating one of them through 180°. I hope these few comments are of use to Joe, and any other members. It seems a long winded explanation for a

knot which could be tied in a few minutes.



Recently on BBC television we have had a series of programmes about Ice Mummies, bodies found preserved in ice, one for as long as 5000 years. Their state of preservation was quite amazing, they still had skin, hair, nails and teeth. On one of the oldest bodies recovered in Austrian/Italian border, they found evidence of rope and knotting, his copper axe was tied to the shaft. They did not go into too much detail though on what kind of knot was used.

Watching this fascinating series certainly gave credence to the adage that there is nothing new in the world, only things awaiting re-discovery.

I am sorry all of our overseas members were unable to see this, and perhaps find this of little interest, but I thought they were brilliant programmes.

Ed

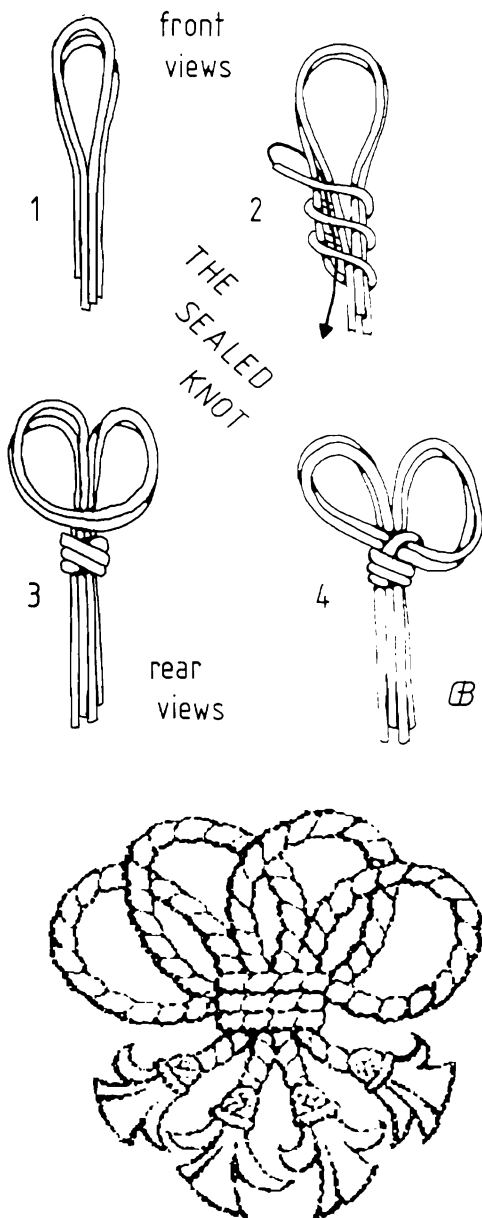
THE SEALED KNOT SOLUTION

from Geoffrey Budworth

Looking back at KM53 (page 35) and 50 (page 30) the puzzle is, of course, how four loops result in only four ends (not eight) and how can there be the odd number of three wrapping turns? But it is possible to tie such a knot.

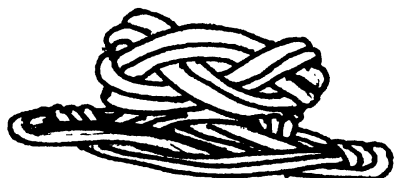
Middle two strands (fig1) and seize them with a triple overhand knot (fig2). Turn the work over and bend the two bights down to create four loops (fig3). Now withdraw the wend from the multiple overhand knot, pass it through the two parts of the loops, and re-insert it to re-tie the knot (fig4).

The loops and ends can be so arranged that they exactly resemble the original illustrations. I admit that the whole thing has to be viewed from a very precise angle, to hide how the overhand knot traps the loops, but even this is consistent with the heraldic drawing (the reason why, perhaps, the loop parts project from behind of the knot in the lop-sided way they do).



TURK'S HEAD CANDLE HOLDER

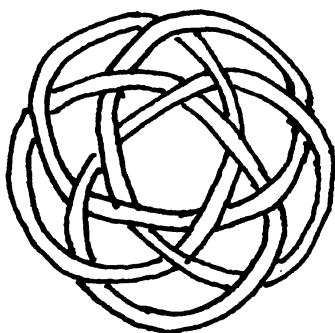
from Jill Jenner - Kent, England



Completed candle holder

Whilst using knots in a traditional manner. I also enjoy making them work in unusual ways. A party, needing a nautical flavour, was being held. Table decorations were required. The Turk's Head candle holder evolved.

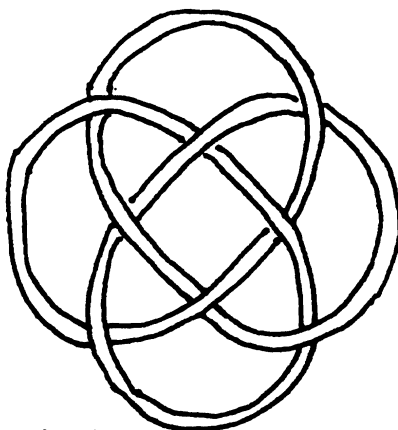
Base



Four strands - pentagonal centre

The base was a flattened four strand Turk's Head, with a pentangular centre, followed through three times. The working end completed the knot near the centre, and was used to construct a second Turk's Head,

'cup'



3 strands - quadrangular centre

of three strand and quadrangular centre, followed through twice.

To ensure stability and fire resistance glass fibre resin was used. Fourteen candleholders were made in blue cord, which made attractive centrepieces with white candles and a surround of flowers.



THE INDIAN JUG HANDLE KNOT

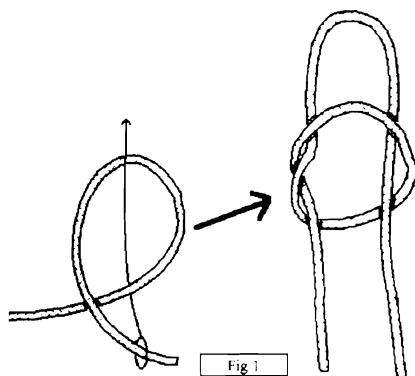
from Robert M Wolf - Chicago, USA

Regarding the Ashley/Indian Bridle knots (see Owen K Nuttall's letter in KM51, p 34-36), I'll present what I think is the easiest way of tying the Indian Jug Handle Knot. Here is my method:

1 Start with an overhand loop in the line, then pull a bight through to make the simple loop shown Fig1.

2 Drop the loop (B) over the neck of the bottle.

Now pass the free end through the knot at point 'A' (or, under 'line 1' and behind 'line 2'), around the back, and then down through the bight formed as shown in Fig2.



This makes a nice jug handle knot which nabs the bottle neck between an opposing pair of constrictor type knots. It isn't quite as snug and neat as the regular Jug Handle Knot, but you can set it up more easily and quickly. This is the same knot as the Indian Bridle Knot described by Mr Nuttall.

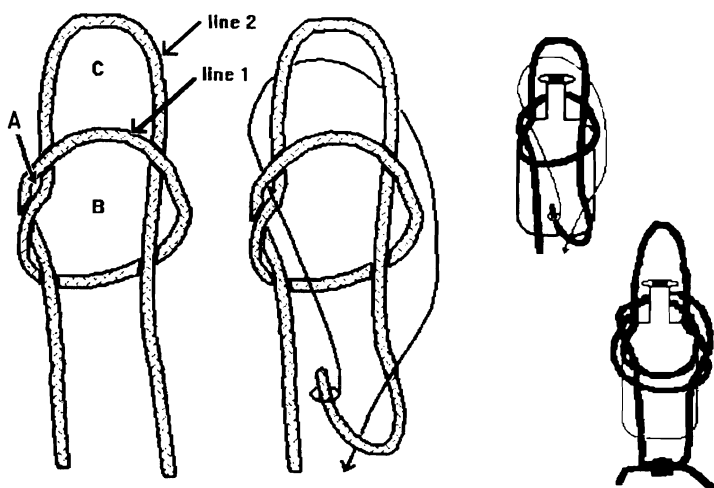


Fig.2 - Indian Jug Handle Knot

- The Trident Loop (loop knot based on Ashley's Bend) can also be tied this way, if you pull 'line 2' and the two bottom lines, a sturdy loop is formed.



PONA TIKANGA OR NEWSLETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

from Roger Carter

There is so much positive news for this edition, that I can't assign a precedence to the items, so here goes at random.

Firstly, I have to report that our exhibition was a resounding success, due largely to the innovative ideas and sterling work of Jack Sheahan, to whom the Chapter owes a real vote of thanks. WELL DONE JACK, CHEERS!

.. The exhibition was held in the Upper Hutt Community Gallery, and the event was organised to celebrate the Floating Crane Higitia of Wellington Harbours' 70th birthday. It was a combined exhibition with inputs from Hititias' own collec-

tion, the Maritime Museum of course and private owners and collectors as well as the Chapter. The Gallery is in fact a converted single storey private dwelling, and we were allocated a 12' x 12' room. As well as the knot collection, we lined the walls with Guild 'How to' charts, and a collage made up of photos of Richard Hodges chess set and his leather work. We also borrowed from the Museum some of the work that our members have donated, there were several pieces from David Bloggs impressive collection, and one of Forrest McDougal's beautiful plaques. Jack made a stand for the large fancy worked picture frame of David's which created a centre piece which enticed the visitors as they passed the door of the room. The highlight of our show, which earned us space three times in the local newspaper was an on going contest to find Upper Hutt's fastest knot tyer. As most of you will know the 'Guinness World Record' for tying the six basic bends and hitches ie Round turn and two half hitches, Clove hitch, Sheet bend, Sheepshank, Reef knot,

Bowline, is eight point one seconds, held by Clinton R Bailey, of Pacific City, Oregon, USA on 13.4.1977.

Well, so as not to embarrass Mr Bailey or confound the good citizens of the Hutt, we reduced the challenge to the last four of those listed bends and hitches. We had the 'hands on' Knot boards borrowed from the Museum for the Punters to practise on, and Jack devised a neat contraption for the actual attempt, which worked marvelously. Everyone who made the attempt received a copy of the Guild Certificate that Guild Member Tony Fisher devised for us, the winner received a larger version in the form of a gift voucher, and as the newspaper cutting relates the winner was Jamie Moore of Upper Hutt, who I take the greatest pleasure in welcoming to the Guild, and to the Chapter.

I have taught bends and hitches in a variety of settings over nearly half a century, at sea, yachties, sea scouts, civil defence etc, but I have never met anyone with such natural aptitude for knotting as Jamie, he is a pleasure to teach, and

watch in action. I am sure he will be a serious contender for the World Title with a little more practise. Welcome Jamie, our newest and youngest member. If anyone has any old knotting books they do not need, Jamie would be glad of them.

Ed: Welcome Jamie, well done, it's not often 'old pro' knot tyers are impressed.

I also take this opportunity to welcome to the Chapter another new 'Yacht dwelling' member, (sounds better than 'Boat People' I think you'll agree). His name is Jack Russell of Russell, Jack lives aboard his yacht 'Sunshine' in Russell. Welcome aboard Jack, we look forward to hearing from you about your knot tying interests soon.

I recently received a phone call from the RNZN Logistics Dept, in Devport recently and I take pleasure in announcing that the Chapter have been invited to supply bellropes for the new Frigates that are being built in Australia for the NZ Navy. The first on HMNZS Te Kaha, is to be commissioned quite soon, so I did the obvious and invited our Warship Bellrope specialist

Rod Orrah of Nelson to take on the task, which he is more than happy to do. As is the custom with Naval ships, Te Kaha will be adopted by a town, in her case it is to be Auckland, so her bellrope is to be made in Auckland colours the well known white and blue. The second ship HMNZS Te Mana, is too far from commissioning for it to be known who will adopt her. Rod, who is dealing directly with the Dockyard tells me that though the navy asked for price quotes, if they like his designs, he will gladly donate them on the Chapter's behalf, a thoughtful gesture Rod, thank you from us all.

A little research on the name Te Kaha turned up some relevant trivia. The meaning which the navy no doubt intends is, strong, able, persistent; but the meaning from which the foregoing derives, is actually Rope or Cord.

Did you see the competitors in the Rhythmic Gymnastics with ropes on the last day of competition at the Atlanta Olympics? Though they didn't actually tie knots, they gave a

whole new meaning to the term Cordage Handling.

Reference Jack Kemp's use of St Mary's and Moku hitching. I wondered about the names and their derivations, I have found the source. They come from Brion Tosses' excellent book 'The Riggers Apprentice'. Moku hitching involves half hitching two lines alternately in opposite directions, giving a double spiral on things like stanchions or boathook staves etc. Why Moku? Brion says because he first saw it on the gangplank of an old sugar haulier on the Sacramento river. To Nzs the word Moku will have a familiar ring, but I am sure that in the case it is coincidental, the word in Maori means 'For me'.

The St Marys' hitching is an original invented by Brion, but modestly named for a Church in Anacortes, Washington. The hitching is made with three strands hitched in succession in the same direction, the result, he says, looks like a three strand rope wrapped around a length of service. It is amazing how many variations there are in the use of half hitches for Cox-

combing or Ringbolt hitching or call it what you will, Hensel & Graumont show 44 stanchion coverings, and neither of Brion's are among them, and as he intimates there are many more to be discovered.

Among the artefacts displayed at the Hikitia exhibition was a knot board made by an ex U boat seaman, Jack Sheahan had acquired it through his Fire service connections. Of interest to Guild members was the German names of familiar knots, some of them are just transliterations or our related languages, for instance, Affenfaust: Affen = Apelike, Faust = fist: Affenfaust = Monkey's fist. Augspleib: Aug = Eye, Splieb = Splice etc. A couple of interesting variations are:- Our Square or Reef knot. When used as a knot to reef a sail it is thus named, Reffknoten, but employed elsewhere it is called a Kreuzknoten = A crossknot. After a little more research I came up with a couple of interesting variations. Our Sheepshank is called a Land Trompete = Long Trumpet! Those who know about these things say that a Sheepshank was so

named because the three lines with the hitches at each end suggest the bones and knee and ankle knuckles of a fleshless sheep leg; but by the same token the knot could be said to resemble the tube windings of a musical instrument. Interestingly, the variation that Ashley calls the Man O' War Sheepshank #1163-4, that the one with the Handcuff knot #412 in the middle of it, in German is called Englishe Trompete. Funny old world eh? But how Palstek Mit Innenleigendem Tampen translates to Bowline is beyond my scholarship. can anyone help?

Ed: Perhaps one of our German members can help please.

I recently visited Richard Hodge who had just returned from his trip to the UK, where he showed off his new Chess set, if the state of the lighter coloured pieces are any indication, the set created plenty of interest. Richard's next job will be to dhobi the lot! As if life were not complicated enough, Richard is researching Celtic designs and intends making a chessboard with a different de-

sign in each square, apparently there are millions of variations on basic themes. Richard's photographs from his trip are now doing the rounds. If I have it correctly, Richard missed Rod Orrah by one day in Penzance.

With regard to Frank Harris's comments in KM52, on the subject of an appropriate event for the Millennium (only 4 years away). Let's not forget that NZ will see it first, in fact it's quite likely that of the 700 Guild members in 24 countries, the Vasmer-diecks, and Jack Russell are going to be the first Guild members in the world to see in the new century. Does anyone have any suggestions? Shall we ask Europe and the New World if there is anything we in NZ can do on the Guild behalf? Let's have your suggestions.

A SHORT PROFILE OF NZ CHAPTER FOUNDER MEMBER - DR JOHN TURNER.

John was born in 1928 in Goole, Yorkshire, married with 5 children and 8 grandchildren to date. After obtaining an Honours degree in Mathematics at Leeds University in 1954, he held positions as Scientific Of-

ficer in Armaments Research, College and University lectureships in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Huddersfield and Leeds. In 1970 he became Reader in Mathematics and Statistics in the University of Waikato. In a four year spell he was Foundation Dean of the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences. He retired in 1994. His interests in knots began in 1978 when he started a study of operations on knot graphs; this work led to a D.Phil degree in 1984, and with George Shaake he has published an extensive series of books and pamphlets on new theories of braiding processes. There is more, much more, a career such as John's is not written up on half an A4, but this will introduce him to you all, and get in touch with him if you want more, but get in touch with me if you would like a catalogue of John and George's books.

Back to Richard Vasmer-Diecks for a moment. Richard sent me copies of an article that appeared in the English 'Yachting Monthly' in 1940 which is a complete rundown on his boat 'Amorel', launched

in 1935. I know that it would fascinate those of you with an interest in Vintage and Veteran Yachts. The article is one of a series that the magazine ran, entitled 'The Other Man's Boat', and is a complete review of the 'Armored' with lines and plans, if anyone would like a copy, please drop me a line or give me a call and I'll be glad to oblige.

Now ladies and gentlemen, our latest 'challenge'! As most of you will know by now, the BT Global Challenge for yachts will have a lay up period in Wellington. For those of you short on detail, the British Telecom sponsored Global challenge is billed as the 'World's toughest yacht race'. Fourteen identical steel yachts with 196 crew (a pro skipper and amateur crew each) race round the world against the prevailing winds and tides east to west, starting and finishing in Southampton. The race has in fact already started, they left on 29 September heading for Rio de Janeiro, and after rounding the Horn, are expected in Wellington for a well deserved rest just after Christmas, and will stay for 7 weeks.

This will be a huge event for Wellington, and there is a programme of happenings, including a civic welcome, prize giving and the organisers have invited the Chapter to become involved. No details have been worked out yet, but I envisage an exhibition similar to the one we did in Upper Hutt, and since we'll have 200 sailors in town, I suggest mounting a serious attempt at the World Knotting title, Richard Hodge tells me that they did it at those events he attended in UK and it's very popular, and perhaps we can find a sponsor to donate a prize for the best time, detail later. Now I regret that I shall be out of town during the Christmas period, which means that I would miss the setting up period, which would involve mounting our exhibition in #6 Shed on Queens Wharf by just a few days, so I am hoping that Wellington based members will 'come to the party'. I count 8 names from our membership list who have nautical connections, and of those perhaps 5 are yachties who might be said to have a vested interest in the event. So what about it ladies

and gentlemen, call soonest to declare your interest. We should need daily attendance to man the exhibition and to operate the knotting attempt (stop watches provided). I have not yet accepted the invitation definitely, this will depend on the response of you Wellingtonians, so please delay not.

Ed: I do hope someone can write up a report of what happened for a later KM.

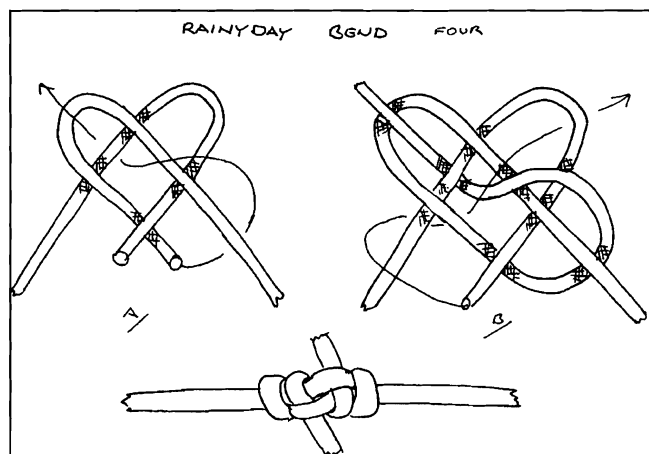


NEW BENDS PART II

from Owen Nuttall
Continuing from KM54.

RAINY DAY BEND

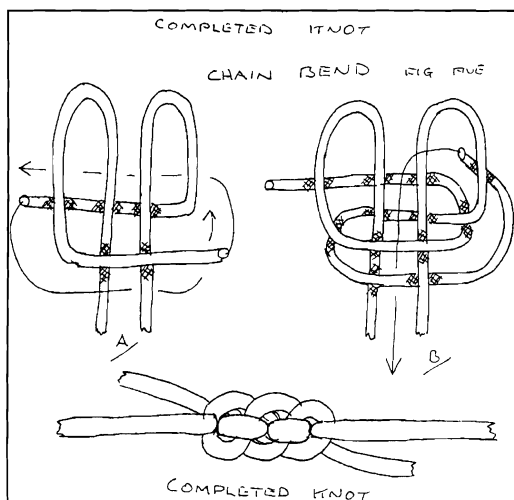
So called, for I first tied this bend when rain prevented my working as a builder.



This knot has two distinct faces, I like the one shown as it resembles a Crown Bend in brackets.

CHAIN BEND

Although this bend appears difficult to tie, it is worth an effort.



After doing Fig 5b you turn the knot round in your hand then repeat Fig 5b. This is a bend that needs working into shape. Hold the lefthand side of the knot in your left hand and work the right hand side of knot from the centre out, turn the knot around and repeat. The end result is worth the effort.

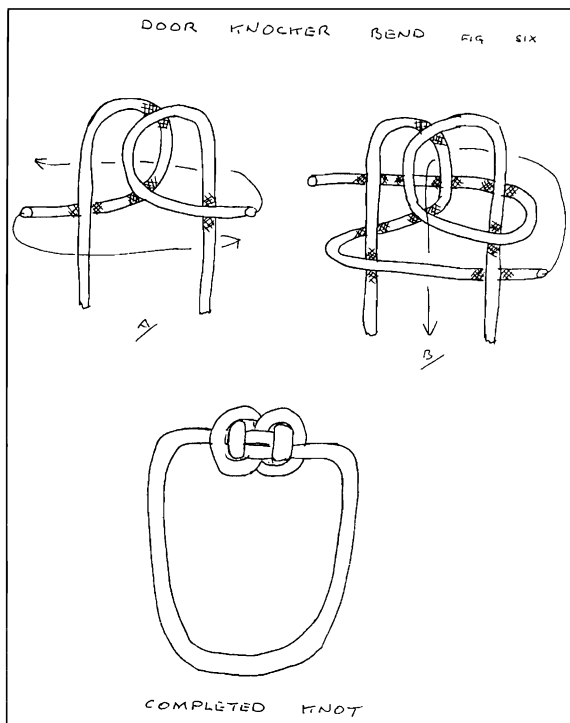
(To use this knot as a bend, the working ends would have to be whipped down to the standing ends).

DOOR KNOCKER BEND

When I first tied this bend I was stuck for a name, then I held the two working ends at the rear of the bend, and as I had tied this knot in short length of cord, the knots name was obvious.

When you get to Fig 6b turn the knot around and repeat move 6b.

I hope you have fun with all of these knots. I do.



THE BOA KNOT

by Jack Fidspike

The Bag, Sack and Miller's Knots
Are rudimentary bindings;
But often ropework jobs need lots
Of more elaborate windings.

The aptly named Constrictor
Will cling and grip like glue, Sir!
While the Strangle Knot's a stric-
ture
Some deem neater - and no looser.

But the Boa's the toughest
(superb hybrid, new begot*)
Stronger, bulkier than the rest,
Belt-and-braces in one knot.

*Devised in 1996 by
eminent weaver and
craft writer
Dr. Peter Collingwood

(First published on pages 19
and 20 of this issue of Knot-
ting Matters, the instrument
of the International Guild of
Knot Tyers)

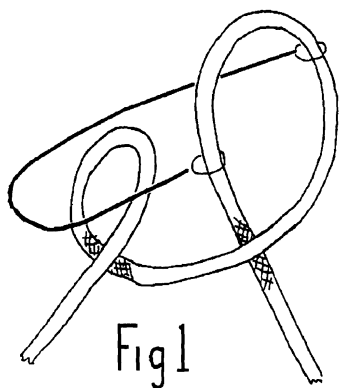


SOME NEW WAYS TO TIE OLD KNOTS

from Owen K Nuttall, Huddersfield, England

MANX KNOT

Manx Loop can be tied as a slip knot or a fixed loop tied on a bight. When tied as a slip



knot the loop is easily adjusted, then by pulling on the working end whilst holding the loop with

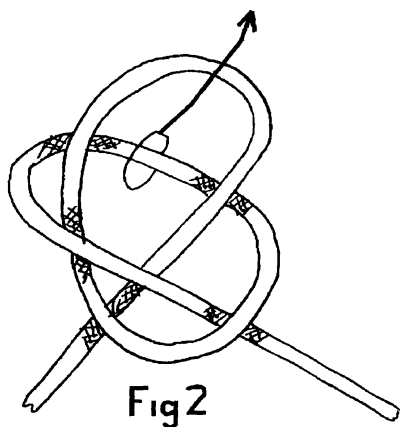
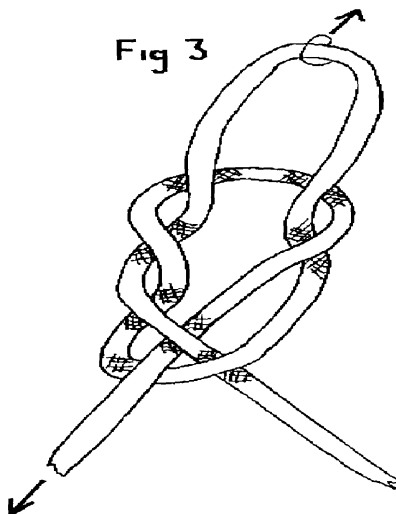
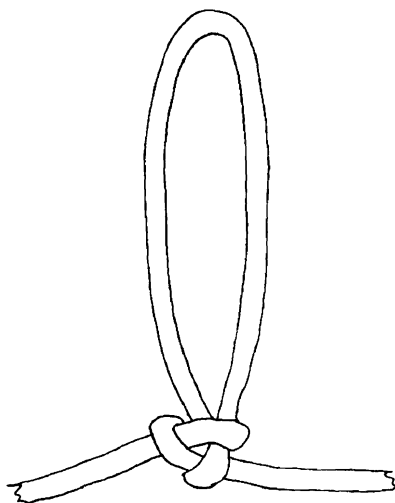


Fig 3

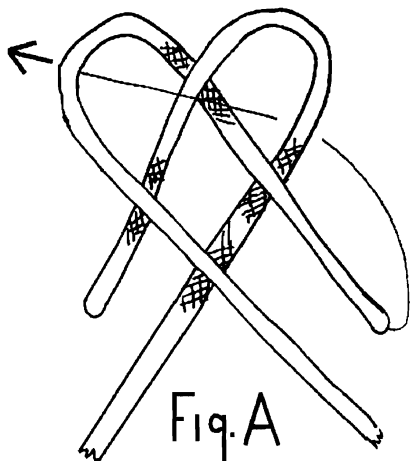


your finger the knot capsizes to form a fixed loop. To tie a single loop on a bight, fix the loop by the same method as above, then tighten by pulling the two standing parts to complete the fixed loop knot.

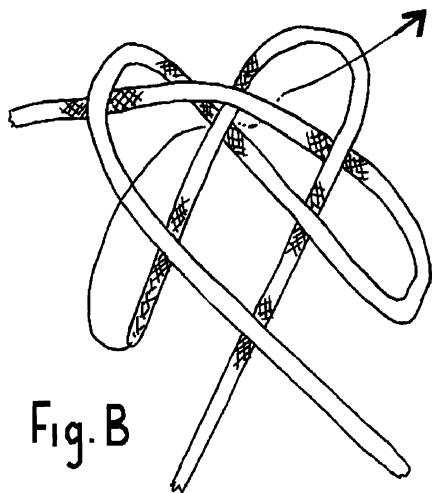


HARMONIC BEND

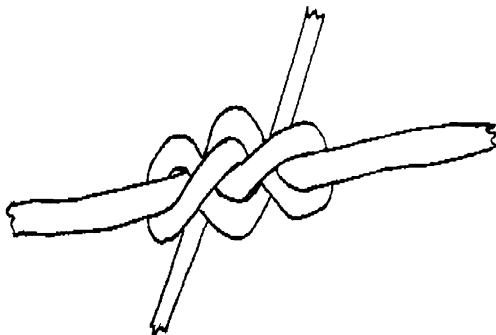
This knot is a spin off of Folded Arms KM54. A simple method to tie and easy to untie.



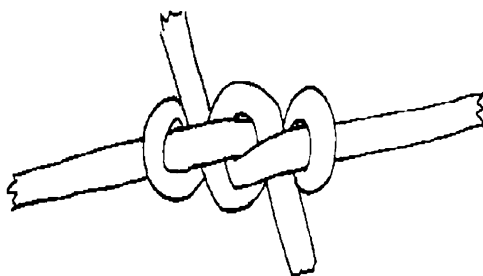
On completion of the Harmonic Bend, before finally tightening, pull each working end back one tuck.



Depending how you now pull the two standing parts it reverts to a grass bend or a What Knot.



The late Desmond Mandeville would have fun with this knot in his 'trambles'.

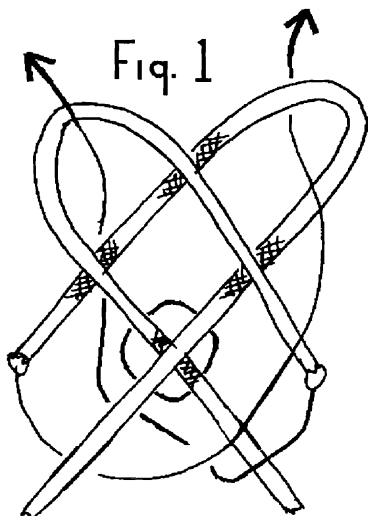


Ref KM54 Bowling on a Bight by Joe Schmidbaur. The knot in question is the Perfection Knot first documented in 1870 by Genio C Scott, title 'Fishing in American Waters'. Ashley quotes that the knot is unsuitable for rope as it has a tendency to jam.

OPEN SESAME BEND

by Harry Asher KM 43

This is just my way of tying this knot by using just two tucks.

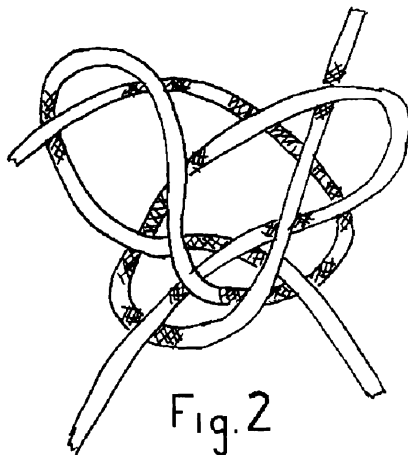


The start is by using the Falmouth Way.

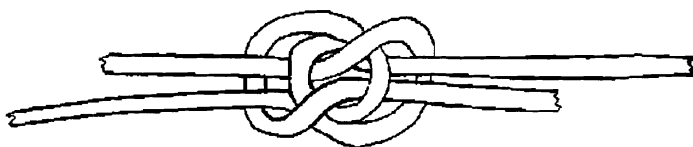
Start by reversing the two

standing parts marked by the circle, fig.1.

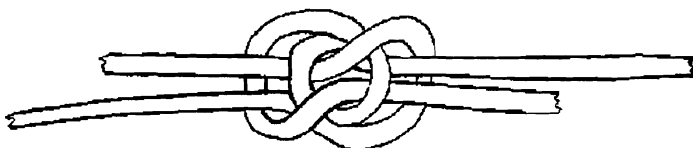
I think this knot looks decora-



tive in its partly closed form. I like this bend for pulling on the two working ends opens the knot, then pulling the two standing parts closes the knot, hence its name.



PARTLY CLOSED KNOT



PARTLY CLOSED KNOT

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

Calender of events - 1997 (as at January 1997)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
10 May	15th IGKT AGM	Bridgewater, Somerset	Dennis Murphy	01752 568159
29 May - 1 June	Wooden Boat Show	Greenwich, London	Des Pawson	01476 690 090
14/15 June	Classic Boat Festival	Beaulieu, Hampshire	Des Pawson	01476 690 090
28 June	Ipswich Sail '97	Ipswich Suffolk	Des Pawson	01476 690 090
12/13 July	British Waterways Open Day	Grand Union Canal,Bulbourne Bucks	Barry Darkin Jeff Wyatt	01296 661115 01582 664504
13 July	Hants County Fair & Sheepdog Trial	Butser Hill, Hampshire	Ken Yalden	01705 571586
7/8/9 August	Clifford Ashley Retrospective/Commemorative	Maritime Museum, New Bedford, Massachussetts, USA	Des Pawson Des Pawson	01476 690 090 01476 690 090
11 Oct	IGKT Half-yearly Meeting	Chester	David Walker Des Pawson	01244 682117 01476 690 090
9 May 1998	16th IGKT AGM	to be advised	Des Pawson	01476 690 090
<u>CONTINUAL EVENTS</u>				
2nd Sunday in March	Essex Branch Bi-monthly meeting	Motorboat Museum, Pitsea, Essex	Don Woods	01708 229178
	Exhibition by David Davenport	Swedish Maritime Museum, Stockholm	Des Pawson	01476 690 090
	<u>Events in Portugal</u> (telephone for confirmation)			
All year (except Mondays & holidays) Saturdays (all year)	Museo da Marinha (Navy Museum) (permanent museum with shop) Feira da Ladra (a Lisbon Fair)	Mostiero dos Jeronimos, Belem, Lisbon near the Arch of S.Vicente Church, Lisbon	Joachim Escudeiro	00351 1 3620019 00351 1 9141222

MORE EVENTS REQUIRED, PLEASE!!!!!!

Don't forget to let me know about knotting events you are involved with, or are aware of, for inclusion in future Knotting Calenders There must be lots more going on. Guild Members and Branch Secretaries, please let me know about meetings and events in your area so that visiting knotters can meet like-minded souls. Advice of overseas events is also most welcome.

Jeff Wyatt
91 Luton Road
Dunstable, Beds
LU5 4LW
Tel: 01582 664504 (Ansaphone)

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