

Knotting Matters

The magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers



Issue 93
December 2006

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Knotting Matters

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PS Don't forget to allow for postage

Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 93 - December 2006

www.igkt.net

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ADVERTISING RATES

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Members of the public examine Patrick Moreau's jewellery at the meeting in Caen (Graham McLachlan).

Back Cover - Knives and sheaths covered in needle hitching and macramé, Ewa Thormählen, Sweden.



Features

12 Much has been written on the Double Monkey's Fist. **Tony Doran** explains his method.

16 Two members, **Madeleine Rowles** and **David Glasson**, collaborate to show fenders being made in Australia.

20 Over the years, the reef knot has received bad press. No more, as **Owen K Nuttall** explains.

23 Regular contributor, **'Jack Fidspike'** finds more bends as an alternative for the True Love knot

24 Every knot tyer must surely have their favourite knot. For **Hooey** it's the Pineapple knot.

26 Climber and mountaineer **Heinz Prohaska** delves into friction knots.

30 More knot musings from '**Knut Canute**'

33 Gino Petrollini shows how we can have different knots with the same name.

34 Jury-rigs have long been used at sea. '**John Shaw**' discusses a few jury knots.

36 The technique of splicing using crow's feet is examined by '**Knut Canute**'.



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Knots from the Mouse Pad

Dear fellow knot tyer, I can't believe its three months since Colin asked me for my contribution for *Knotting Matters*, I thought I had several weeks to go before I would be asked me for my next column. Time flies when you are enjoying yourself

Once again I find myself apologising to the Guild members for the delay in processing your membership details, our problems are due to an old computer that has great difficulty in dealing with the Charities Aid Foundation paperwork, keeping up with the many ways of paying your subs, and having two membership numbers (CAF number and IGKT membership number). The Council is now in a position of knowing what is wrong with the system and what to do to put it right. We need to have a system that will work for the present demands and will adapt

for what we might need in the next few years.

I am very sorry that I missed the French Branch half yearly, I feel that I am cursed, Whenever there is meeting there I always miss it, and what makes it so annoying is that so many members phone me and tell me what I have missed, a warm welcome, excellent knotting displays and a well organised meeting, I have yet to meet Graham McLachlan though I have spoken to him on the phone many times, I look forward to meeting him soon. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Council, to congratulate and thank the French Branch of the IGKT for all their hard work in organising the October 2006 half-yearly meeting. Just in case you wondered, I was busy in my workshop making button fenders; I know where I would have preferred to be.

Dave Walker

Col's Comment

I write this having just returned from a terrific weekend of knot tying at the half-yearly meeting in Caen, France. The French members were wonderful hosts and *entente cordiale* was very much to the fore. I managed to learn a new knot from Luc Prouveur, not at a formal workshop session, but over a glass of wine at the meal table.

The beauty of our Guild is that we can all learn something from each other. The range of interests of Guild members is as vast as the knowledge. For some of us, it

is through the pages of *Knotting Matters* or via contact through the *Membership Handbook* or the website *Knot Forum*. For others we have the chance to meet face to face, be it either at major meetings of local branch meetings. If you are one of the latter that have not yet attended a local meeting, I would urge you to do so and find out what you are missing.

Finally, Jane and I wish you all season's greetings and a happy New Year.

Guild Website

I'm sorry to have to report that the website is sadly lacking in contributions from members. I haven't received a request to add photos to the Gallery for ages, and there have only been a few notifications about Branch meetings.

Out of over 450 members of the Forum, less than half are Guild members and very few of these actually join in. It would be nice to see some more members joining in. There are some fairly forceful members of the Forum who are not Guild members, but who appear to be trying to organise how the Forum is run. Luckily we have a pretty good team of moderators who help to keep things under control, but they could do with some support from other Guild members.

It is very disappointing considering the work that has gone into setting it all up, by the original WebMaster - Tony Doran, Mel - the current WebMistress, and myself as WebAdministrator.

The site can only be as good as it's contents and sadly the contents is getting rather stale - new pictures, branch information (including overseas branches), knotting event dates and reports, more knots for the beginners section, new links to members' sites or other sites of knotting interest - all are needed.

Lesley Wyatt

Web Administrator

More Knots on the Internet

There is a very interesting website on the Internet - Videojug (www.videojug.com). The idea behind this site is to fill it with all of human knowledge to become a kind of online video encyclopaedia. It has quite a number of useful films dealing with health, food, leisure, DIY and much more.

The video directors of this website are looking for expert knot tyers (preferably in the London area) to assist with creating some films about how to tie certain knots.

This is a great opportunity for the Guild to get involved on a professional level. If you think you may be able to help, contact Rob Rawlings on robberawlings@hotmail.co

The screenshot shows the Videojug website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Home, Categories, My Jug, Upload, and Help. A search bar is on the left. The main content area features a video player for a tutorial titled 'How to Fix a Dripping Bib or Pillar Tap'. The video shows a person's hands working on a sink tap. To the right of the video, there's a sidebar with 'Most viewed films in PLUMBING' and a list of related videos. Below the video player, there's a 'Your Rating' section and a 'Comments' section. The bottom of the page has a footer with 'Walter Goodridge (71 days ago)' and a 'report this' link.

President's Letter

I have recently been fortunate enough to have had a holiday cruising in the Indian Ocean, and would like to share some of my knotty findings and observations to you all. First though let me take you back a few years to 1959, which was the very first time I sailed that Ocean.

As some of you may already be aware I am a product of Royal Navy Training, and for over 200 years the Admiralty have been enlisting boys at 15 and sending them to sea by the age of 16, Long before the Health and Safety Act, they had been well drilled into having a seaman's eye, all rope ends whipped, no Irish pendants, eyes in the boat and no arms on the gunwales, as a boy I well remember that every thing near you that was incorrect was your responsibility. Just imagine what we thought when we saw our first 'Bombay Prow' (lateen rigged) with only one main sail held aloft by a piece of twisted grass and tied with an overhand knot. The coxswain dressed only in a dhoti and turban with his bare foot on the tiller working their way up and down the rivers of India.

Now back to today (2006) the first stop of the cruise was Zanzibar: it was interesting to note Arab dhows still at sea, and in the bay ocean going craft without engines still working cargoes, slipping silently into harbour past the modern (Tupperware fleet) at their marina moorings.

I managed to duck the guided tour, so I could have a closer look at the rig on the dhows, I noticed the boltropes were neatly sewn but the sail itself was lashed to the bamboo staves with second-hand polypropylene of all sorts. It may have been because it was Zanzibar but the crews no longer wore a dhoti, but Levi's and world cup football shirts, and I saw more than one mobile phone.

Still in Zanzibar one of the tours included a boatyard still building Arab dhows, this was not a tourist type timed display, but a working boat yard well just a strip of beach really, and the only tools were a rusty 'Stanley' plane and a rather short chisel. Part of the construction was the pulley blocks for the rigging, being carved out of a solid piece of wood (a common block in RN speak). I had asked Lesley to take some photos, but noticed a slight hesitation when she saw the young man holding the block with the toes of his bare feet, as a nurse she was somewhat concerned at the chisel only 3mm from his big toe. On the technical side, the block had a wooden sheave and pin all of the same type of wood, no wonder they squeal under load. Photos for viewing at 2K7.

The next Island stop was Mayotte where I watched a woman making a straw sennet, the self same braiding that sailors copied to make their own sennet hats many years ago. All being well, by the time this letter is in print the Solent Branch will have had a hands on session, and we shall try to fit straw sennet into the workshop programme for 2K7.

Then on to Nosy Be and the small island near by called Nosy Kombo that is just off Madagascar. No formal jetties or quays here, you have to step ashore into the sea in amongst working fishing boats that were pulled up on the shore. The *Seamanship Manual* classes them as 'Ceylon Outriggers' a style two thousand

years old but lashed together with blue polypropylene, enterprising!

It was back on board whilst anchored in the bay that I watched the 'Bum' boats, having sold their fresh fish and fruit, as they set their sails with bits of string and start to wend their way on the evening breeze to their even smaller islands called home. I got to thinking, on the one hand you have boats unchanged for two thousand years with not one descriptive knot holding things together, then you can get a six page article on the merits of a right handed sheet bend over that of a left handed one. In a way they are both correct. I notice also robust comments flying about on the Knot Chat page of our web site.

May I point out that the guy who set up the rules for recording "Flora & Fauna" (*Linnaeus*. 1745) had a method, which was:

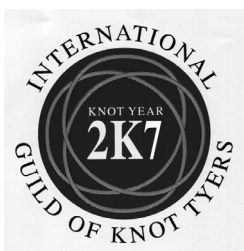
First you give the Family group (What they are like) Name: - Knot tyers.

Second part (how they are different) Category: - Climbing, seafaring, science, etc.

I am not however advocating we adopt Latin names, what I am saying is that we all need tolerance of other knot tyers, those who have a different interest or view of knotting. *Vive-le-difference*.

Yours Aye

Ken Yalden



Silver Jubilee IGKT 2K7

This edition of KM has a centrefold that has been designed as your *call for papers* for the IGKT 2K7 Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Please pull out the centrefold, cut out the postcard and fill it in, then send it to us so that we can build 2K7 around your requirements.

To continue my theme of 'Youth and Education' it is planned that we shall run various "Focus on Youth" events. To ensure these are used to their fullest potential we shall be running an educational programme "How to teach young Folk". Should you have skills or ideas in this area please be sure to contact Gordon Perry or myself in plenty of time.

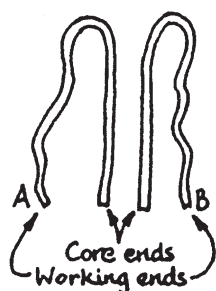
If none of the above entices you, please send a postcard anyway from your home as we would love to hear from you, and will be putting the cards on show at 2K7.

Just a note, when we held 2K2 more than one attendee came up and said, "Can we please continue next week as well?" So, if you missed what went on last time come and find out for yourself this time.

Ken Yalden

Young at Heart

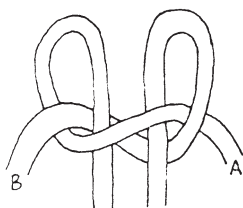
Tim Field



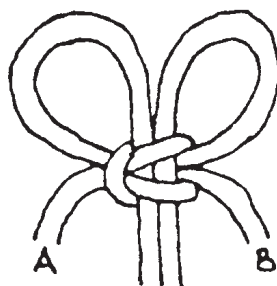
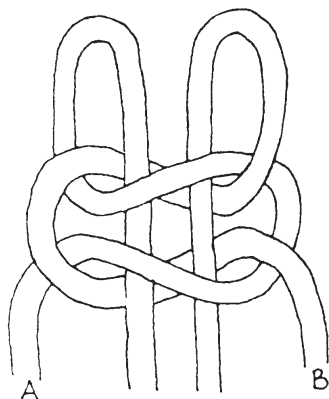
Two pieces
each 1 metre,
jute or cotton
string

1. Make loops
- 200mm
from the core
ends.

2. Make first
half knot.

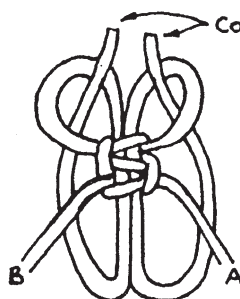
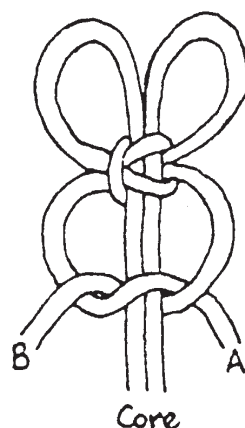


3. Second half knot opposite
to the first, one complete flat
(square) knot.



4. Pull
tight.

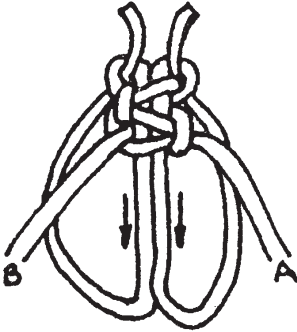
5. Next
half knot
opposite to
the last one,
pull tight.



6. Pass
the core
ends to
the back
and up
through
the loops.

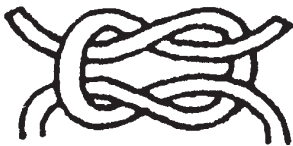
Flat (Square) Knot Bracelet

7. Pull the core through the knots, closing the loops to clamp the core ends.

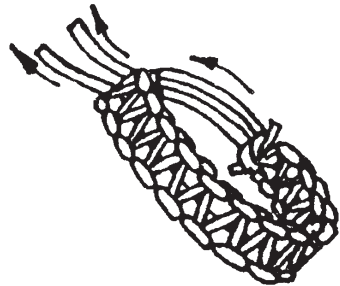


8. Continue with alternating half knots, each opposite to the previous one, allowing the new loops (in the core) to come together to form the ring. Stop when the knotted band is long enough to make your bracelet. Check the length by putting together the ends of the knotted band.

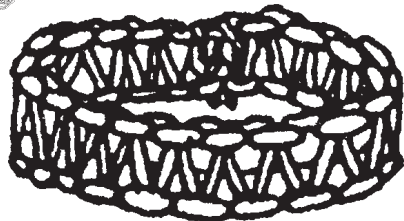
9. Tie the ends A and B on the inside of the ring with a reef knot. Cut the ends short.



10. Pull the core ends further through the end of the knotted band.



11. Tie the core ends on the inside of the ring with a reef knot. Cut the ends short.



Book Reviews

Celtic Knots for Beaded Jewellery

by Suzen Millodot,
published by Search Press
ISBN 1-84448-054-2
£9.99

I was delighted to be asked to review this book as I had found great inspiration in the authors earlier book *Chinese Knots for Beaded Jewellery*. I am pleased to say that this second book is not a disappointment.

It is visually attractive to look at, with clear and concise instructions and diagrams for tying the knots. The colourful photos of the completed

jewellery show the attractive designs to great effect, and will I'm sure be a source of inspiration to jewellery makers.

The publishers are aware of the errors on P42/43 regarding the tying of the flat Turk's head knot and have made corrections for future editions of the book. They will be pleased to supply a copy of those corrections to anyone with an earlier edition.

This book contains a little information about the history of Celtic designs. And whilst there are plenty of books on the market for a more in-depth study, anyone wishing to apply Celtic designs to jewellery, will find this is a very useful book. Suzen has some excellent ideas for the combination of knots, cords and beads, which display the charm, sometimes simple, sometimes more intricate, of the Celtic patterns and weaves. I am sure that any jewellery maker or tyer of decorative knots can find inspiration here.

The book contains some very useful tips that could be applied to other areas of knot tying. I also like the acknowledgement to her husband for the excellent meals he produced whilst Suzen was knot tying. Other

knot tyers partners please note!

Celtic Knots for Beaded Jewellery is a delightful book to have, either just to dip in and enjoy looking at, or to find inspiration for the knot tyers own efforts.

Anyone wishing to contact Suzen can do so at: -
suzen.m@btinternet.com
SRP

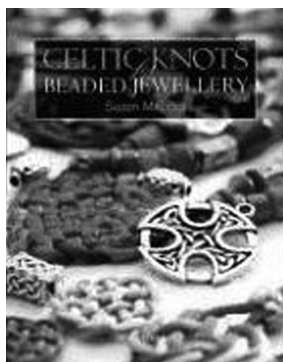
Another (different) pack of knot cards

Knots & Their Uses

ISBN 0-7537-0996-1
Original price: £9.99
(approximately US \$17.00), but now may be selling for less.

These cards are NOT actual playing cards, with knots added, like the pack or deck featured in KM76 (September 2002).

Instead this is a teaching aid, 54 stiff cards (dimensions 4½ x 3 x 1 inches) in a robust box with a lid, distilled from the contents of the Hamlyn publication *The Complete Book of Knots* (London 1997) by IGKT member



Geoffrey Budworth.

Three cards are devoted to introductory text, while the rest provide easy-to-follow instructions and background information for choosing and tying 50 useful knots. These are colour-coded in sections, namely: home & house (10 cards); angling and fishing (10); caving & climbing (10); outdoor pursuits (10); boating & sailing (10); with a final card headed Knot Lore.

This good looking product was published in 2004 by Bounty Books, a division of the London Docklands company Octopus Publishing Group Ltd, and anyone engaged in teaching and testing knot tying (or who just likes to acquire knotting stuff) can obtain it from:

Littlehampton Book Services Ltd., Faraday Close, Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 3RB, England (<http://pubeasy/books.lbsltd.co.uk>) (tel: (01903 828801) (email: orders@lbsltd.co.uk)

A Booklet on Lanyards

by Willeke van der Ham - self published (2006).

Price: 5 euro

This handy little booklet gives a five simple lanyard projects, using basic knots and braids. The instructions for tying the braids are straightforward and accompanied by computer-generated illustrations.

Each project comes complete with a list of the materials required, and there is a small section on how to mix-and-match.

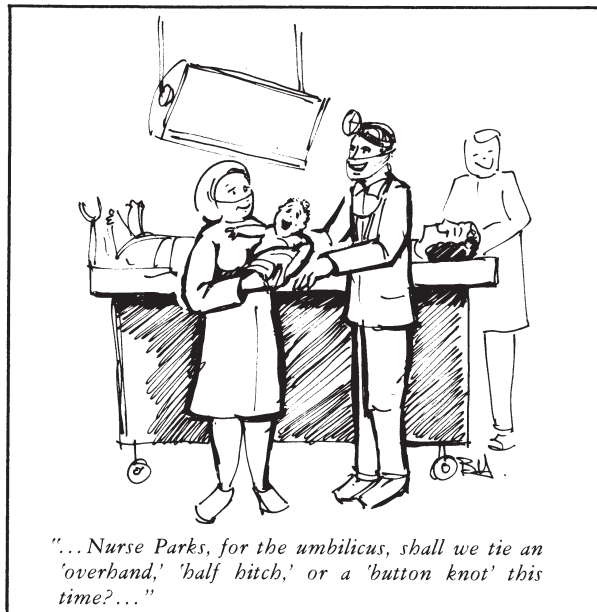
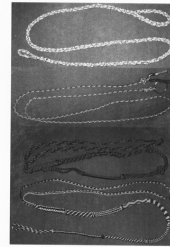
Early on in the booklet, Willeke deals with lanyard safety, an important area in this

culture of Health and Safety. Also, she deals with how to measure your lanyard and where to obtain materials.

Younger members of the Guild or youth leaders will find these projects useful.

Contact Willeke on willeke_igkt@zonnet.nl CG

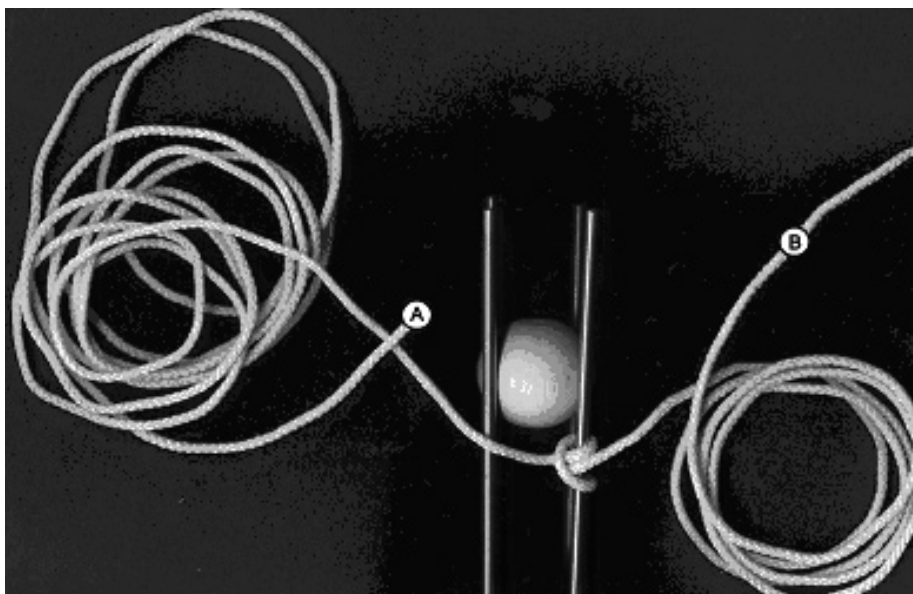
A booklet on lanyards
Willeke van der Ham



Double Monkey's Fist

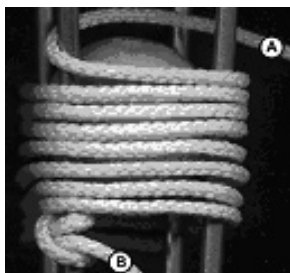
1 - Set-up

Make the cord fast so that the first end used - 'A' - is $\frac{2}{3}$ length of the cord.



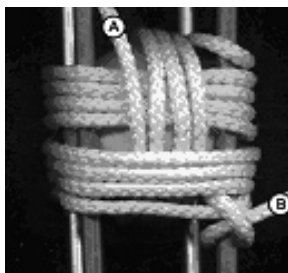
2. First pass

Make eight complete turns.



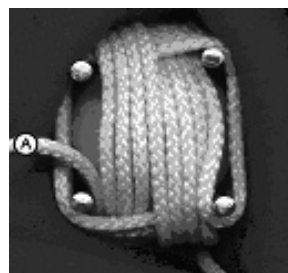
3. Second pass - first half

As you cross the first pass turns, make four turns under-four-over-four.



4. Second pass - second half

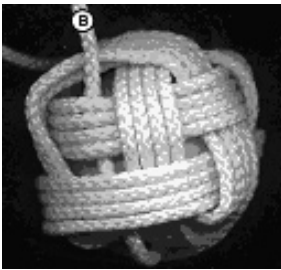
The next four turns go over four under four.
NOTE: end 'A' should continue straight up so that there are 9 parts viewed from the top.



Tony Doran

5. Third pass - first half

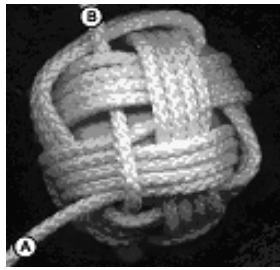
The first four turns of the third pass start the same way - under four over four when crossing both first and second passes.



Before starting the second half, the cord passes under all eight strands (viewed from the bottom).

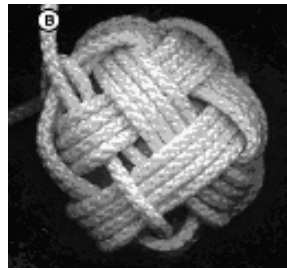
6. Third pass - second half

The second half of the third pass starts off by going over five at the top (remember the 9 parts).



7. Third pass - second half

Viewed from the bottom. Over four under four to complete the third pass.

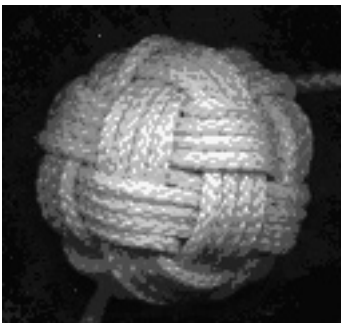


The finished knot

There are three places where one strand goes under eight.

When the knot is tightened these features do not show.

The ends come out so.



Knotmaster Series No. 31

*‘Knotting ventured,
knotting gained.’*

Chinese cloverleaf

If you never dreamed of tackling ornamental knots, at least tie this one. It is quite a party piece.

In the working end of a suitable length of cord make a bight, and tuck a second one through it (fig.

1). Take the working end around to tuck a third bight through the second one (fig. 2). Then pass the working end through the third bight, around bight one, and back out through bight one, in a locking tuck - going

over 1/under 1/over 2, then under 3/over 1 (fig. 3). Finally tuck the working end up through the centre of the completed knot - over 1/under 2/over 1/under 1. Tighten the knot carefully, a bit at a time, so as not to distort it (fig.4).

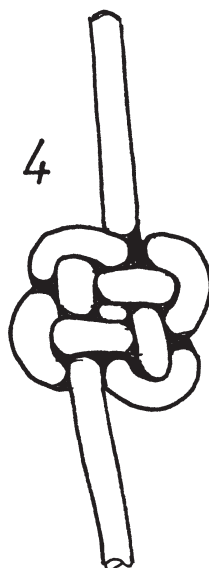
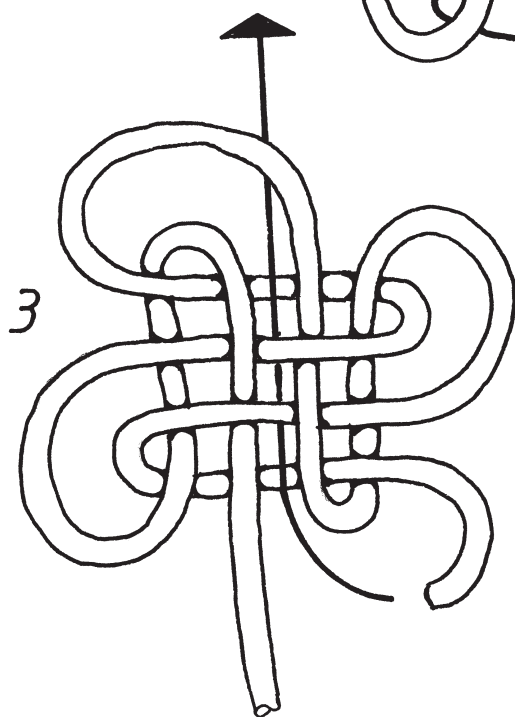
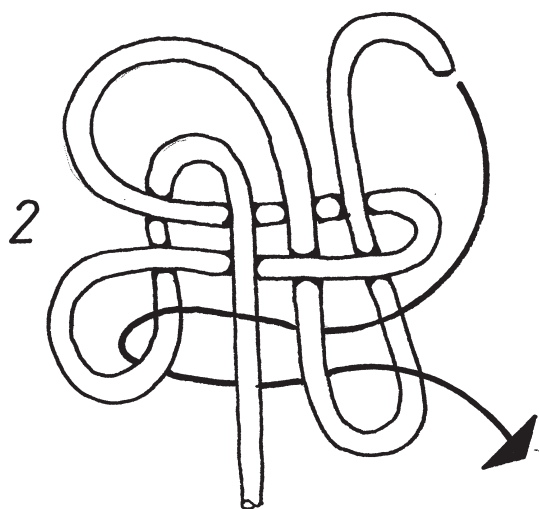
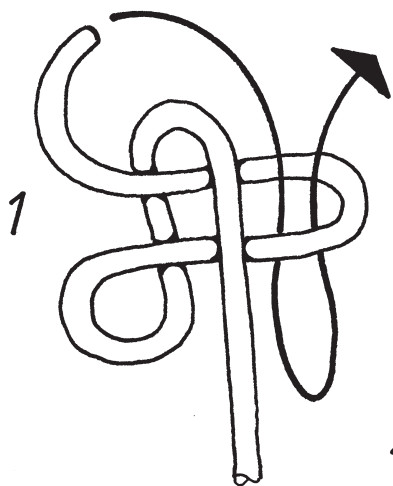


Rope Ends

Early in the 17th century, guns aboard warships were supported by heavy planks fastened to the vessel's side. Seamen harnessed with lines hung from them to make hull repairs. It was dangerous duty in rough weather. That particular sort of plank was called a "devil". The sailor clinging to the woodwork out there gave us the idiom that survives "Between the devil and the deep blue sea".

Bob Schwartz

Chinese cloverleaf





Fender making in Sydney

Madeleine Rowles

with thanks to Geoff Smithson for assistance

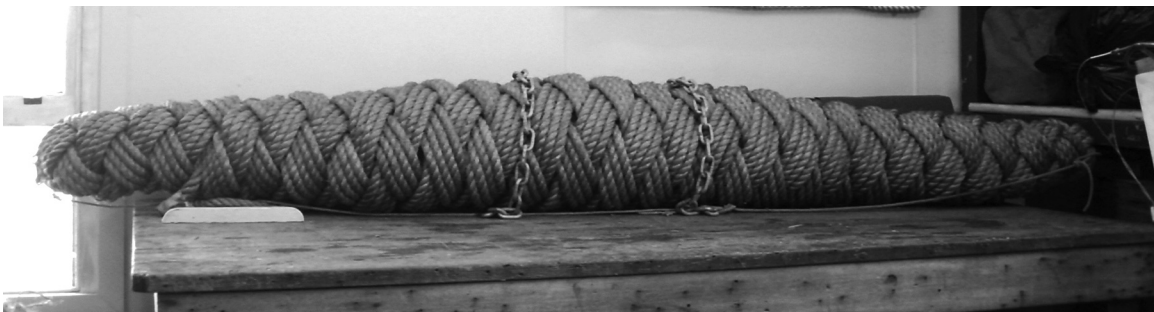
During a hastily-convened IGKT meeting last October at Salthorse Café, Garden Island, Sydney, Australia, visiting delegate Willeke van der Ham proposed a motion, heartily (but in retrospect, somewhat foolishly) seconded and thirded by those present,

that a *Knotting Matters* article on the fender-making exploits of one David Glasson would be a ‘flogging good idea’.

Having done thus, Willeke (clearly the smartest cookie at this august gathering) promptly legged it for a plane out of the

country, leaving your correspondent and ‘Snapper Dave’ to do the hard yards.

So, after purloining a camera and tripods, to-ing and fro-ing in workboats, heaving around of fenders in various states of undress, riffling through the ABOK and old photo



albums, minor cosmetic rearrangement of the Spectacle Island rigging shed and Dave's hair, buffing of eyeglasses,



saying of 'Cheese!' and popping of flashbulbs, finished off with a dash of technological wizardry,



we now proudly present an illustrated step-by-step exposé of the birth of large fenders.

The knot used for this fender is *Ashley Book*

of Knots #1289, and it is made here in 12 mm manila.

Picture 1 shows the knot at the two-strand stage, with the core exposed. The core is made up of a chain spine over which the middle is laid up, shaped and lashed, then covered with a canvas bag for waterproofing. The chain spine protrudes at each end to provide anchorage points.

Picture 2 shows the finished quarter fender and Picture 3 a completed bow fender for the same boat, worked in 24 mm manila.

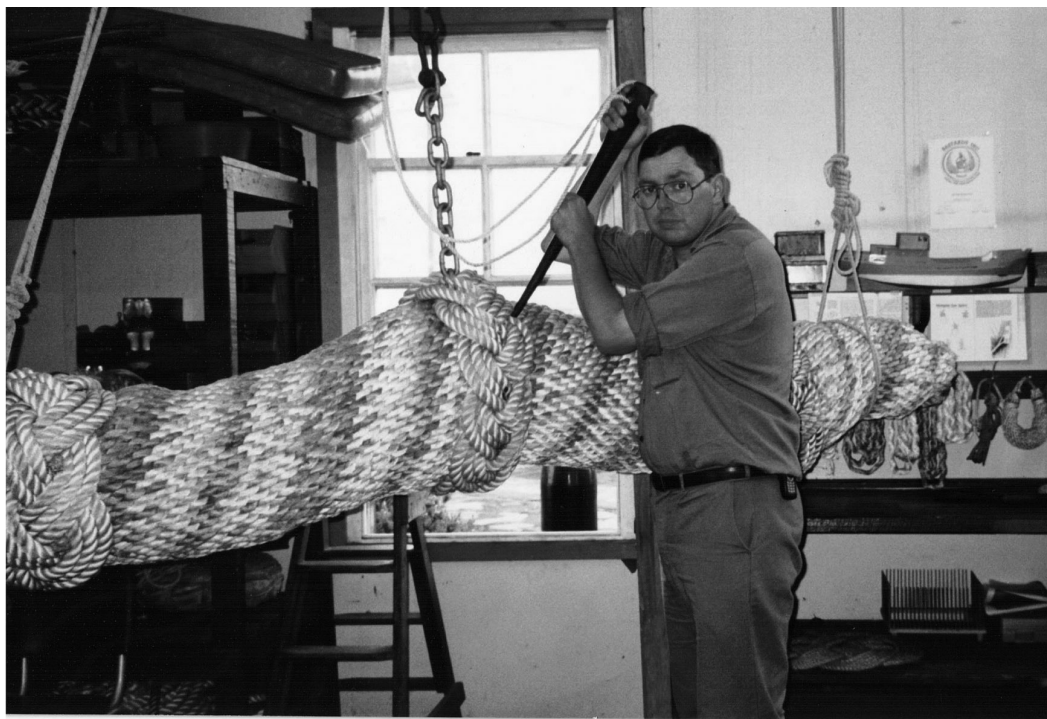
Among David's many fender-making credits is a bow fender for the motor tug *Sydport*. *Sydport*



was designed by Arthur N. Swinfield, built by S.G. White, launched at the Ballina Slipway Engineering Company in 1960 and measures 45' in length, 14' 5" in the beam and draws 7'. She is now a private vessel listed as a Historic Tug Boat.

Picture 4 shows the pile of 'leftovers' and old rope to be used in the core and hitching, and Picture 5 shows the unlaidd hitching strands prior to assembly. In Picture 6, the core strands have been laid out and bound, with extra thickening in the middle for shape and chain to provide an anchorage point at the bow.

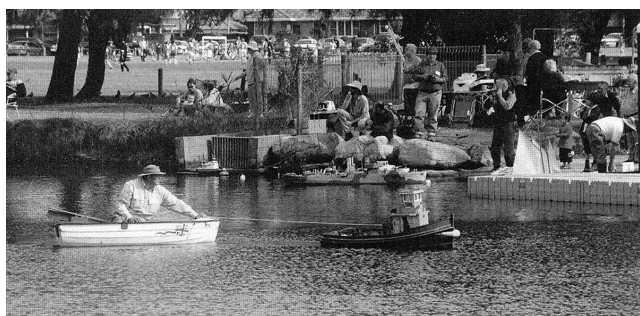




In Picture 7, the hitching covering the core is about one-third finished, and in Picture 8, Turk's heads are being tightened on the nearly complete fender.

The fender, weighing about 120 kg was installed after 7 hours' puffing, sweating and cursing by a crew of six persons, and is shown in situ in Picture 9. The 7 hours included moving the fender from workshop to dockside, lifting it onto the boat, bending it to shape and shackling it into place.

David has also made an immaculate, fully detailed 6-foot scale model of *Sydport*, complete with 'baby' bow fender. Pictures 10 and 11 show the model with its miniature fender and mooring can, and the model in action towing its maker at the St George Model Boat Club [7/5/06] Birthday Regatta. In Picture 12 the model's tiny bell rope can be seen hanging outside the wheelhouse, over the boat's 'head' (which is functional-fair dinkum!).

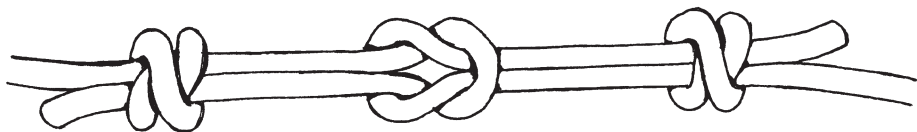


And in the believe-it-or-not department, strange though it may seem under Australian conditions, no beer was harmed in the production of this article. 🍺



Life Line

Owen K Nuttall



The simple reef knot seems to have been given a new lease of life. For years the reef knot has been given bad publicity on its safety when tied in rope (with its tendency to turn into half hitches with drastic consequences). But not anymore. Modern mountaineers have put it to a new advantage. After years of tying their ropes together with the knot with more names than any other, whether single or double. The fisherman's knot, the waterman's knot, the Englishman's knot the true lovers knot, the grapevine knot and its modern name the grinner knot. I have also seen it referred as the Halibut knot.

The fisherman no longer use this knot, it seems to be used extensively by mountaineers. To over come this knots tendency to jam, the reef knot becomes a stop knot or buffer in the middle of the fisherman's knot. A marriage that actually works! What do fellow K.M readers think? 🌀

Do You Advertise?

Vehicles seen outside the
I.G.K.T.'s 24th A.G.M.
held in Shrewsbury, England
on 13th May 2006

[Photographs by Geoffrey Budworth]



25th Anniversary Mugs



As part of the 25th Birthday, we are selling the above mugs. The picture shows the design which will be on the mug and the wording. We have been told that we can also have your name put on the mug.

These mugs will be available for collection at the meeting if pre-ordered (final date for ordering 12th May) at a cost of £5.00. In order for you to avoid postage costs we can take your order prior to the meeting and you can then collect them. We will however require a deposit of £2.50, this can be either by cheque, made payable to IGKT or by credit card. With the latter you will need to contact me to give me the details of your card and security code, (Tel 0121 453 4124/ Fax 0121 258 2363). Alternatively if you cannot get to the meeting you can still place an order for the mug, however you will incur postage charges which is as follows :

UK P&P £1.75 any additional mugs will cost £1.25 each postage, 2-5 days

Europe P&P £3.50 any additional mugs will cost £2.50 each - Airmail

Worldwide P&P £5.50 any additional mugs will cost £4.50 each - Airmail

The supplier will be at Fareham to take orders, however these will have to be posted out to you and will incur postage costs.

ORDER FORM

Name -

Address -

Telephone Number -

Number of Mugs -

If to be collected at Fareham -

Method of payment -

Credit Card Details -

Card Number -

Expiry Date

Security Code

Name on Card

Supplies Secretary: Bruce Turley
19 Windmill Avenue, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9SP
email: bruce.turley@blueyonder.co.uk
Telephone: 0121 453 4124

International Guild of Knot Tyers

Silver Jubilee Year



Celebratory Meeting

Pre-Meeting Gathering and Knot Craft Workshops at:

The Red Lion Function Suite

West Street, Fareham 21st, 22nd & 23rd May

Public Meeting

at

Ferneham Hall

Fareham, Hants PO16 7DB

on

Thursday 24th May 2007

Friday 25th May 2007

Saturday 26th May 2007

**Information
Call for Papers**

For further information please contact: [www. secretary@igkt.net](http://www.secretary@igkt.net)

Outline of Programme

		Venue			
		Red Lion Function Suite		Red Lion Foyer	
Monday	21 st May	Gathering of Knot Tyers Sponsor t.b.c.			The hotel foyer can be used for hospitality
Tuesday	22 nd May	Workshops & Members' Displays Sponsored by The Solent Branch			
Wednesday	23 rd May	Knot Academy Day Quality time for knot tyers for teaching and learning knot crafts. Sponsored by Footrope Knots			
		Fernehham Hall			Meon Suite
Thursday	24 th May	0900 – 1130 Setting up	1200 Opening by Mayor	1200 – 2300 Show open to public	Members' Papers as programmed
Friday	25 th May	0900 – 2359 Show open to public		1600 – 2100 Focus on Youth	Members' Papers
Saturday	26 th May	0900 – 1100 Show open to public with Focus on Youth		1300 – 1700 Show open to public	1100 – 1230 25th AGM
		Red Lion			
		1900 - 2330 Knot Supper			

Call for: Members' papers (subject and 50 word abstract)

Members' Papers: Papers for oral and visual presentation will be an integral part of this conference. Presentation will take place as promulgated. A Power Point projector will be available Thursday and Friday.

Call for: Tutors - students - subjects

Knotting Academy Day

Learning within formal workshops. lectures or tutorials - one to one or (limited) groups.

Subject	Nominated by students of tutor
Tutors	Volunteers or by invitation
Student	Name the subject or select the tutor

Associated Crafts

Associated crafts will be most welcome to join in to display and demonstrate their craft skills.

**Call for: Pre-booking advice on your display requirements
- table (individuals) , area (groups/branches)**

Display Areas

Members will be provided with display table/area - for individuals - by subject or for branches, providing notice has been given. Please do not expect a table/area if you have not booked.

Commercial Space

Please apply separately for details of vendor space allocation.

“Focus on Youth”

‘Brief and Bright’ tuition to demonstrate how knot craft does not have to be boring. It is planned to hand out complementary packs to young folk and youth workers.

With the close proximity of Fareham Shopping Centre, young folk can be expected and welcomed.

Registration There will be a registration fee for this meeting. There will be no fee for those attending the AGM only, in the Meon Suite, on Saturday 26th.



Reply Form

Knot Year 2K7

☐ I plan to be present all week

☐ I plan to attend AGM only

☐ I plan to attend part time

☐ I plan to be at the Knot Dinner

☐ I intend to submit & present a paper

(subject) _____

☐ I wish to book a Branch Display Area

(branch) _____

☐ I wish to book a Subject Display Area

(subject) _____

On the Knotting Academy day I would like to:

☐ Teach _____

☐ Learn/practice _____

Learn From (name) _____

Name	e-mail:
Address	

Accommodation

Accommodation is available to suit all tastes, from coaching inns to a place to pitch your own tent. A selection, with an indication of how close they are to Ferneham Hall:

Red Lion, Fareham	+44 (0) 1329 822640	walking distance
Lysses House, Fareham	+44 (0) 1329 822622	walking distance
Post House Forte, Fareham	0800 404040	transport required
Bembridge House (B&B)	+44 (0) 1329 317050	nearest
Nutcracker House (B&B)	+44 (0) 1329 829884	next nearest

Camping & Caravan Sites - Details from Ed Bentley +44 (0)1329 233257

Tourist Information at +44 (0) 1329 824986



Silver Jubilee Year

To:


**Ken Yalden
3 Latchmore Gardens
Cowplain
HANTS PO8 8XR
UNITED KINGDOM**

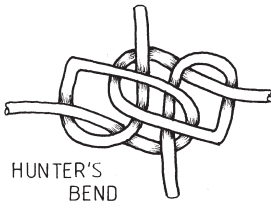
ALTERNATIVE TRUE LOVE KNOTS

'Jack Fidspike'

The identity of the first real True Love (or Lover's) Knot is vague and unverifiable. Perhaps it was only ever a literary metaphor, which later artists and knot tyers felt the need to illustrate and actually tie by resorting to various so-called 'shamrock' and 'handcuff' knots.

There is - it occurs to me - another, overlooked family of knots which are better shaped for the role of lovers' eternity pledges, namely those bends that consist of a pair of interlocked overhand knots. For, when either drawing them on paper or forming them in expensive jewellery wire, simply pinching the

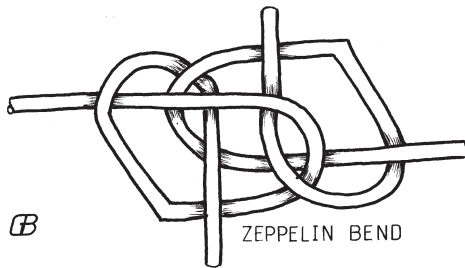
bellies of both knots creates a couple of interlaced hearts. Those illustrated, and several more, can be discovered in the knotting manual *Symmetric Bends* [ISBN 981-02-2194-0] by Roger E. Miles^{IGKT} (New South Wales, Australia) published in 1995 by World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.; while, to learn about the pedigree of the True Love Knot in English literature, locate and read Chapter III of *Notes on Knots* [ISBN 87-983985-6-3] by past-Guild member Pieter van de Griend, published in a limited edition of 50 copies by him in March 1993. 



HUNTER'S
BEND

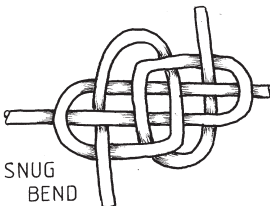


SHAKE
HANDS
BEND

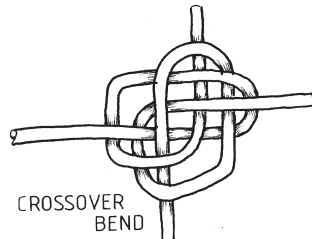




ZEPPELIN BEND



SNUG
BEND



CROSSOVER
BEND



For many years now I have pretty much devote my efforts to braiding, ignoring knot tying almost completely. The exceptions are an occasional piece of macramé and the knots/ropework necessary for horsepacking and camping. Most knot tyers it seems are on an endless search to learn more knots. I on the other hand work more towards finding the specific knots and braids that will work best for me, then set out to master and possibly improve on them. By way of example, allow me to speak of my all time favourite, the pineapple knot.

My first was built on a 6 bight by 7-part Turk's head. I had the added difficulty of learning to work with leather as well. Then came the 8 bight and 10 bight versions. As I became more drawn into things, I worked out two, three and more turn variations, which would be able

to cover both longer as well as wider surfaces. I then worked out all the above in multi-pass, meaning an over three under three, or over four under four tucking sequence. Along the way my leatherworking skills improved too.

After experimenting I found I could get excellent coverage of all kinds of shapes by using two pineapple knots instead of one. I would first put on a pineapple of just sufficient size to cover a piece, then add another pineapple of one more pass over that. For example, I might add a 6 bight x 1 turn x 5-pass knot over a 6 bight x 1 turn x 4 pass knot. The one extra pass gives an incremental increase, with a fuller and more balanced appearance. Time and material costs are up, but I find it works better for the things I am doing than the accepted method of building a foundation with lots of string or tape. I

My Favourite - the Pineapple Knot

'Hooey'

prefer to work with finer cut strings (from 1/8 in down to 1/32 in width at times) and my method of covering seems to give me more control.

I usually work my strands dry, even the fid work, unless special considerations exist. I find Williams Saddle Dressing or Pecards Leather Conditioner fine to work with on those occasions. Otherwise, I usually clean the hide before cutting, with white saddle soap, which removes tannery residue and makes the cutting go a little easier. This is not a necessity, but much like two pineapples instead of one, I prefer it.

One last thing I'd like to pass on is how my previous knot tying experience applies to my braidwork. One example is when I find it necessary to join two round braids. A splice would work, but I find it better to use a shroud knot, which I then cover with a pineapple knot. Of course a splice covered with a pineapple knots fine too, but in the confined spaces allowed by finely cut strings I usually do better with the shroud knot and pineapple combination. 🍍





On the History of the Semi-Mechanical Friction Knots

Heinz Prohaska

dead hanging in abseil position on his rope below an overhang. "The Prusik knot which would it have made possible to climb back on the rope with slings wasn't

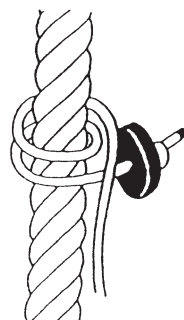


Fig. 1 Semi-mechanical friction knot

Prusiking with the original Prusik knot can be a hard work. Franz Bachmann had the idea to a better solution - the karabiner knot. The author spoke with him.

Franz Bachmann was born in 1930 as fourth child of an upholsterer and saddler in Toblach, South Tyrol. Political reasons brought the family to Feldkirch in Vorarlberg, Austria. After the war, when Bachmann was about 15 years old, he wanted to learn climbing. Knowing nobody who could teach him, he began reading climbing books from libraries.

One of these books reported of the formidable dying of a soloist on the descent through a wall. He was found

invented yet." was written in the book. Bachmann found no climber who could show him the knot. So he took



Fig. 2 Full-mechanical friction knot

his climbing equipment and went up to the loft to invent the Prusik knot a second time. But he couldn't manage that. The only result of his work was a device consisting of a little metallic tool and a sling of cord. He named

it 'Estrichklemme' (loft clamp). This was the first alpine semi-mechanical friction knot! Outside of mountaineering such knots didn't be new [1]. A semi-mechanical knot used by sailors shows fig. 1, a full-mechanical fig. 2. Woodsmen work similar when they are pulling logs.

Details not published till now

Finally, at the end of 1946, a climber showed Bachmann the Prusik knot. Bachmann realized how difficult it could be to move up the knot on the rope, especially when it was wet. Moreover,

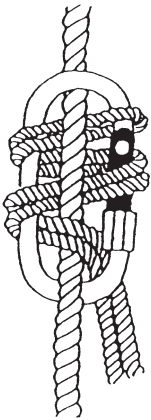


Fig. 3 Karabiner knot

the knot had to be tightened by hand after every move, and moving it up with gloves was nearly impossible. His 'loft clamp' worked well. In order to need no special tool, Bachmann tried to find a similar solution with a screw karabiner. This led to the first karabiner knot in spring 1948. Bachmann began to use it in the mountains in the same year (fig.3).

At the end of 1949, Bachmann began to think on a publication. It was the time when nylon ropes came in use in the Alps but cord was still made of hemp. It could happen that the Prusik knot with four coils failed. The knot with six coils wasn't invented yet. In this situation the editors of climbing magazines showed much interest on the new knot, and the articles of Bachmann were published by the Nature Friends NF [2], by the Austrian Alpine Club OEAV, by the German Alpine Club DAV, and by the

Swiss Alpine Club SAC [3].

Not knowing that Prusik was president of the Austrian Alpine Club OAK, Bachmann finally sent an article to the editor of the *Osterreichische Alpenzeitung* OAZ. He received no answer, but two years later, 1952, he found in the OAZ a mostly negative, in his eyes one-sided and exaggerated criticism.

Author was Prusik [4]. Bachmann, young and inexperienced, not knowing how life is, was so disappointed from Prusik that he didn't publish again in a mountaineering magazine for more than 50 years. But the view of Prusik the development of friction knots wouldn't be finished with Bachmann's karabiner knot proved to be right.

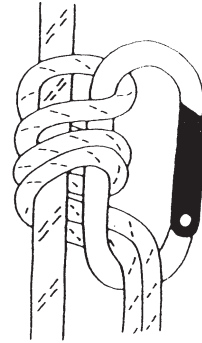


Fig. 4 Bachmann knot

As a member of the Austrian mountain rescue organization, Bachmann had good contacts to the Tyrolian mountain rescue expert Mariner. Mariner saw the advantages of the new knot, but in his opinion it wasn't everybody's cup of tea. Bachmann continued his work, and finally, at the end of 1951, he found a better solution - the Bachmann knot (fig.4). Taken up in many climbing and caving manuals, this knot became one of the best known friction knots around the world.

The karabiner in the knot makes it easier to move up the knot on the rope, but it lessens the friction on it. Already Bachmann himself had seen that his knot could fail on a smooth rope.

The impregnation of the ropes against

The impregnation of the ropes against

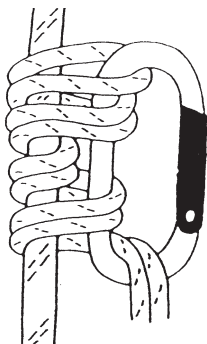


Fig. 5 Modified Bachmann knot

knot loses its simplicity and its easy moving through that (fig.5). In addition, it would be a new knot, and no longer a Bachmann knot.

Dutch climbers told Bachmann that the effect of a friction knot could be increased through a half hitch around the rope below the knot (fig.6). This may work on tightened ropes in the rigging of ships. Used on a free hanging climbing rope, the half hitch has a tendency to capsize (fig. 7). Moreover, the Bachmann knot could easily fail if beginners in climbing courses tried to grip into the karabiner - in the clubs a reason to reject it in the instruction. Its importance decreased.

In the workshop of Bachmann's father were rings of different size, homemade of wire. Bachmann had the impression that his karabiner knots would be too bulky and heavy to supersede the Prusik knot on glacier tours. But he also knew from

abrasion and water, modern karabiner design and the introduction of tape slings into mountaineering increased the problem. Bachmann thought to solve it with an additional turn around the rope, but the

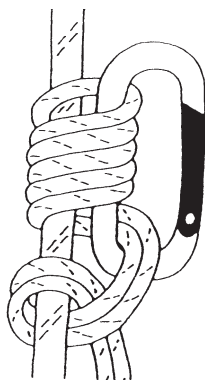


Fig. 6 Half hitch below Bachmann knot

rescue training that it sometimes could be impossible even for mountain guides to climb up on the rope with Prusik knots in a crevasse. Finally, some years after his first knot ideas, Bachmann had the idea of the ring friction knot. The ring decreases the friction of the sling in the point where it comes out of the knot. The knot holds better on the rope, and it is easier to move. The best solution Bachmann could find was named by him Bachmann ring knot (fig.8).

Shoulder problems after an accident with his motor bike made it impossible



Fig. 8 Bachmann ring knot

for Bachmann to become a mountain guide. Director of the mountain rescue organization of Vorarlberg became another one. Finally, his job brought him from Austria in the northwestern part of Switzerland, far away from the Alps. He didn't want to hear another word about knots. But unnoticed by Bachmann, the development went on. The karabiner knot Prohaska is said to be the most universal friction knot today. It works with nearly anything on nearly anything (fig.9). And the Bachmann ring knot with its homemade ring of wire is history. The author uses chain links, and

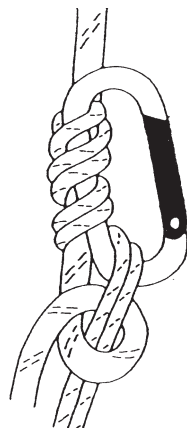


Fig. 7 Half hitch capsized

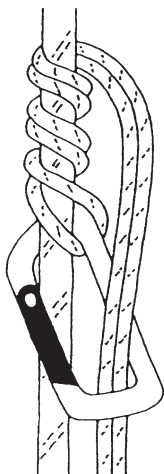


Fig. 9 Karabiner knot
Prohaska

after experience with material faults in every knot too (fig.10).

Franz Bachmann was the first climber who developed friction knots for prusiking which could easily moved up on the rope. But he couldn't supersede the Prusik knot with that. Half a century later, as an old man, he tried it once more [5].

But new ground had become rare in the course of the years in the field of knots. His new idea wasn't new.

References

- [1] Ashley, Clifford W: *The Ashley Book of Knots*, New York 1944, p300
- [2] Bachmann, Franz: *Der Karabinerknoten Fels and Firn*, vol. 4, April-June 1950, pp46-47
- [3] Bachmann, Franz: *Der Karabinerknoten! Die Alpen*, No. 6-VI 1951, pp109-111
- [4] Prusik, Karl: *Der Karabinerknoten. Österreichische Alpenzeitung*, No. 1261, Jan/Feb 1952, pp15-16
- [5] Bachmann, Franz: *Der FB-Klemmknoten Bergundsteigen* 3/2005, pp56-60

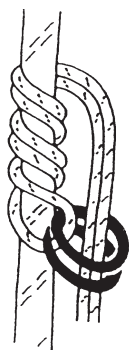
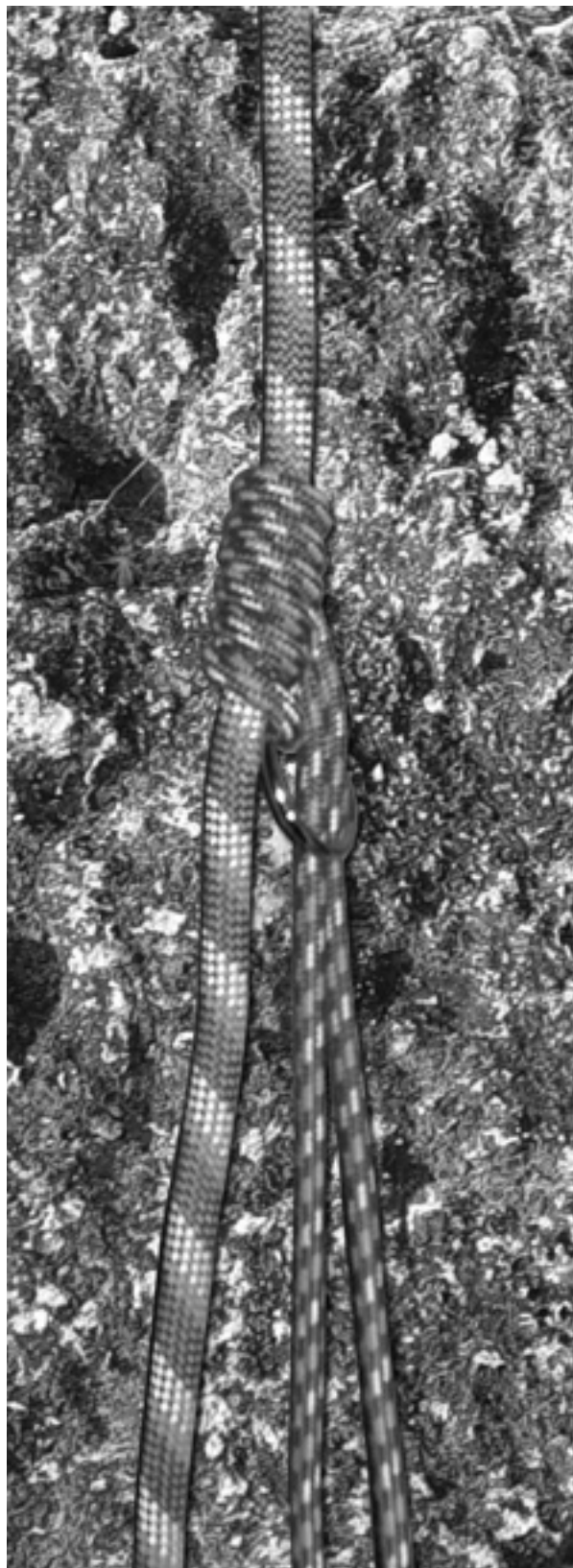


Fig. 10 Prohaska
ring knot



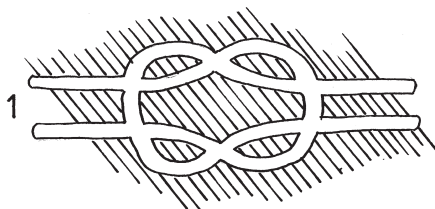
Hypothetical Knots

Knut Canute
*musings once more
 upon a philosophy of
 knots*

*'My soul is an entangled knot
 Upon a liquid vortex wrought.
 The secret of its Untying
 In four-dimensional space is lying.'*

(James Clerk Maxwell, British physicist, 1831-79)

Knots cannot exist in two-dimensions as they would be mere outlines, like cut-out paper silhouettes, so that it would be impossible to identify for instance [fig. 1] a reef from a thief or a granny from Ashley's #1406 (the Whatnot). Are they then three-dimensional things, plain - but not a plane - and simple? Well no, since the renowned scientist who wrote the opening verse evidently believed that knots could visit a fourth dimension. So did (and do) others:



'For the sake of simplicity ... we shall confine our attention to Lion whose habitat is the Sahara Desert ... Method 7 (topological) ... We transport the desert into four-space. It is then possible to carry out such a deformation that the lion can be returned to three-space in a knotted condition. He is then helpless.'

(Pétard, *The Mathematical Theory of Big Game Hunting*, 1938)

And:

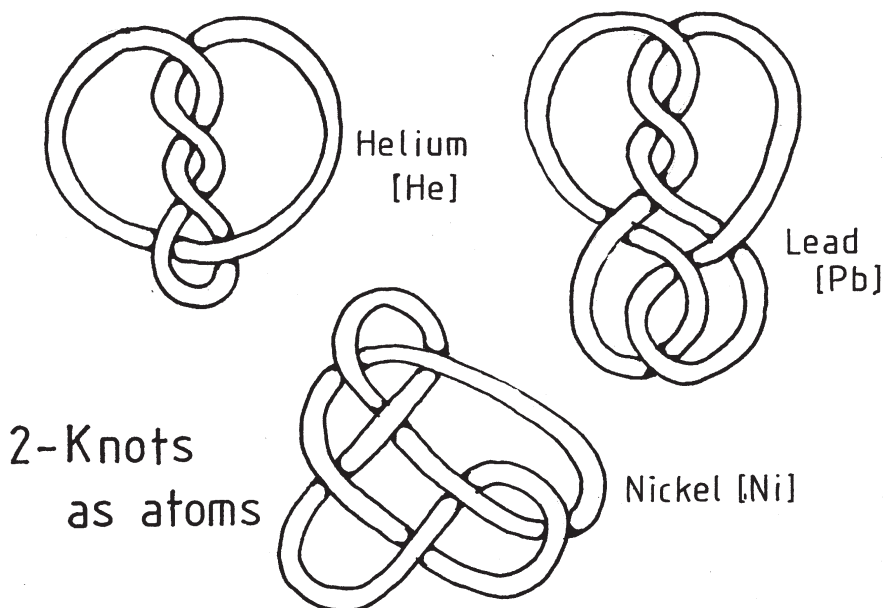
'... knots cannot exist in four dimensions ... However ... knotted string can be untied in four dimensions.'

(Professor Ronnie Brown IGGT, University College of Wales, 1993)

This is brain-stretching stuff.

Before Einstein taught us to think differently about space, it was impossible to explain the everyday phenomenon of 'action-at-a-distance' such as heat, light and UV radiation from the Sun, or the influence of the Moon upon tides. Something was required to fill the intervening void and so the unreal substance 'ether' was introduced. Lord

Kelvin (William Thomson, 1824-1907) even hypothesized that atoms were knots in this ethereal fabric, a different one to represent each of the individual elements [fig. 2]. This notion was superseded at the end of the 19th century by a more realistic theory of atomic structure, after which scientists lost interest in knots. Mathematicians, on the other hand, became intrigued by them, laying the foundations of today's abstruse knot theory.



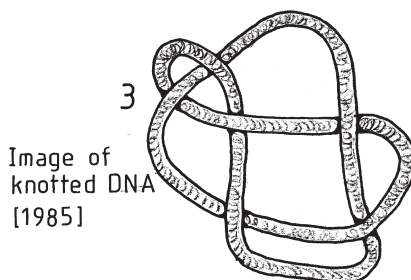
Yet what goes around comes around, as they say, and efforts to reconcile the discoveries of Newton and Einstein with data emerging from 21st century quantum physics have led some theorists to postulate that what were previously thought to be the tiniest fundamental particles of all matter (quarks, leptons, bosons) may in fact be vibrating strands or strings of energy. This seething mass of 'superstrings' would occupy as many as eleven dimensions (the three we are familiar with, plus time, and seven others incomprehensible to all except young mathematicians and theoretical physicists). Superstrings are also unimaginably small. An atomic nucleus is bigger than a superstring by the same ratio that the planet Earth is larger than that nucleus. If they really exist, however, they are curiously reminiscent of Lord Kelvin's fanciful knots.

We already have electron-micrograph images of some tangible knots that are biological in nature. These are found in the strands of chromosomal DNA,


located within the nucleus of every cell of the human body (and other organisms), containing the unique gene sequence that is the recipe for its owner's make-up.

How do you tell the sex of a chromosome? Take down its genes!

These long filaments of DNA tangle and can become knotted, making it harder for the cell to read and react correctly to the genetic code they contain. Researchers who study such tangles have actually tied a variety of experimental knots [3] in DNA, using lasers as optical



'tweezers' (miniature sci-fi tractor beams) to manipulate and join the two ends. By doing so they hope to find out more about the biochemical cut-&-shut function of enzymes upon cellular DNA, and this in turn may suggest ways to combat the sort of disrupted cell mutations that produce cancerous tumours.

Without deriving any profound philosophical conclusions from all of the above, it is nevertheless justifiable to observe, when it comes to the ongoing 'discovery versus invention' debate, that some knots occur naturally. As the editor Timothy Ferris commented in his preface to *The World Treasury of Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics*, 1991; 

*'The delights of science and mathematics ...
their revelations ... their visions of things to come ...
are too profound, and too important,
to be left to scientists and mathematicians alone.'*


EXTRACT from:

THE GREAT DAYS OF SAİL - Some Reminiscences of a Tea-clipper Captain

by Andrew Shewan (late master of the 'Norman Court')

edited by Rex Clements and published by Heath Cranton Ltd. (London, 1927)

By the year 1856, British shipowners were waking up to the fact that there was much room for improvement, as well in the modelling of their ships as in their rigging and sail plans. Wire rope for shrouds and stays was displacing the less enduring and more clumsy hemp. Hand-reefing topsails were giving place to the so-called "self-reefing" variety - Cunningham's patent. The great advantage of these was that they could be reefed from the deck, by means of double halyards fitted in such a manner that on lowering one of them the topsail yard was made to revolve and roll the sail round it. Patent capstan windlasses had not yet come into use, but were not to be long delayed. The "Chea-sze" was one of the first ships to be fitted with one of them in 1860.

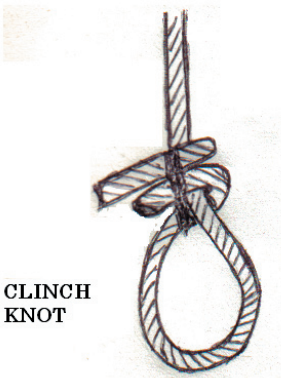
Many of the old shellbacks despised these new-fangled methods and could not be induced to see good in any of them. They preferred ships where reefing topsails meant a "labour of love", to speak sarcastically, and would rather lay out on a topsail yard for hours securing the close reef than do the same thing from the deck by a few minutes' work at the reefing halyards, with a shanty to help them ... Then again men of the older school could see no security in the "gingerbread" wire stays and backstays. The "Merse" (1853) had been fitted in the old style, and when in 1856 my father was transferred to the "Lammermuir", fitted with all the latest improvements, he was anxious to take his boatswain, a hardy old veteran and an excellent seaman, with him. It meant an increased wage, and the ancient mariner accepted. But when he saw the new ship he shook his head and begged to be allowed to back out. Being asked for a reason he declared he had no confidence in "them damned fiddlestrings" and had nothing but contempt for reefing-topsails, "same as a girl rolls up a b - - - y window-blind." 

The Bowline

Gino Petrollini

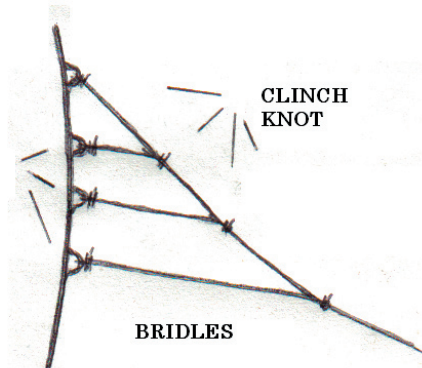
The word bowline (*gassa d'amante semplice; per gli alpinisti: nodo bolina, bulino, bulin; pahlstek, noeud de chaise simple, as de guida*) comes from bow and line. It shows a knot tied with a line (bowstring) to a stick of wood to make a bow for throwing spears. The knot is universally used and known by seamen. Climbers often make it wrong with the standing part out. The same name bowline is a rope tied on the boltrope (leech-rope, tabling in the band). Bowline is tied on the side of sail to cringles (*brancarelle*) with bridles (*zampa o patta d'oca*). When the wind blows the sail make a bow (arch, curve, bend). The bowline leading to the fore-castle, take open the sail toward the prow (ahead).

The end of bridle is reeved through the cringles, taken round the standing part, forming a circle; two rounds seizings are clapped on. The name of this knot was clinch knot (*nodo per ormeggio o ancora o gomena*) but French called it *noeud de bouline* (bowline) and now we have two different knots with same name. To clinch means double working end, after secure it with seizure. With Bermudian (Marconi) sails for to haul to windward (to luff, to sail close to wind; (French - *lofer-aulofée* = to haul + to luff) bowlines are unnecessary. In Italian right verb is *orzare* but usually is used the wrong verb *bolinare*. But I am wasting my breath, see the picture. 🌀



SAIL

CRINGLES



Jury Rigs

'John Shaw'

'Then things stop going wrong, and it's time to jury rig'

(Brion Toss, *The Rigger's Apprentice*, 1984)

In the early part of 2004 a pair of British Men abandoned an attempt to row across the Atlantic Ocean when their rudder failed due to metal fatigue. Did they, I wonder, try a jury rudder?


A jury-rig always used to be how sea-goers improvised makeshift steering gear or a mast when either item was damaged or carried away in battle or bad weather. Such resourceful lash-ups made it possible for disabled ships to limp to safety or continue their voyages until a source of more lasting repairs was reached. The adjective 'jury' for this kind of nautical self-help may, incidentally, have come from *ajurie* (Old French: aid).

A jury-mast and sail was also used by dockyard riggers to manoeuvre newly launched hulls prior to the installation of their actual poles and spars, when points of attachment for temporary stays and shrouds would be formed from the loops of one or other of several jury mast knots - such as the single jury or Spanish knot

(1); a double jury knot (2); the classic mast head knot (3) or a subtle variant of it (4); and a French jury knot (5) - all of which could be handily tied 'in the bight'.

These mast head knots tend nowadays to be mere party-pieces tied as trick knots; although IGBT member Nola Trower, in her 1992 book *Knots and Ropework*, points out that a jury knot might also be used to retain the foot of a mast sheared off at deck-level which cannot be re-stepped there and then.

Other double and multiple loop knots that might be employed as jury mast knots include: jug, jar or bottle slings; blockade knots; shamrock knots; so-called handcuff or hobble knots; and simple Turks' heads.

Jury rigging a rudder is something else, but IGBT members ought to consider the possibilities ... for we claim to be the high-priests of low-tech cordage contrivances. 

To find out how to tie and apply jury mast knots, see: A#1167, A#1168, A#1169, A#1170 and A#2563. Alternatively go to: G&H page 60, plate 23, fig. 31; page 62, plate 24, fig's 43, 44; page 62, plate 25, fig's 49, 54; page 74, plate 31, fig. 132; and page 92, plate 42, fig. 267.



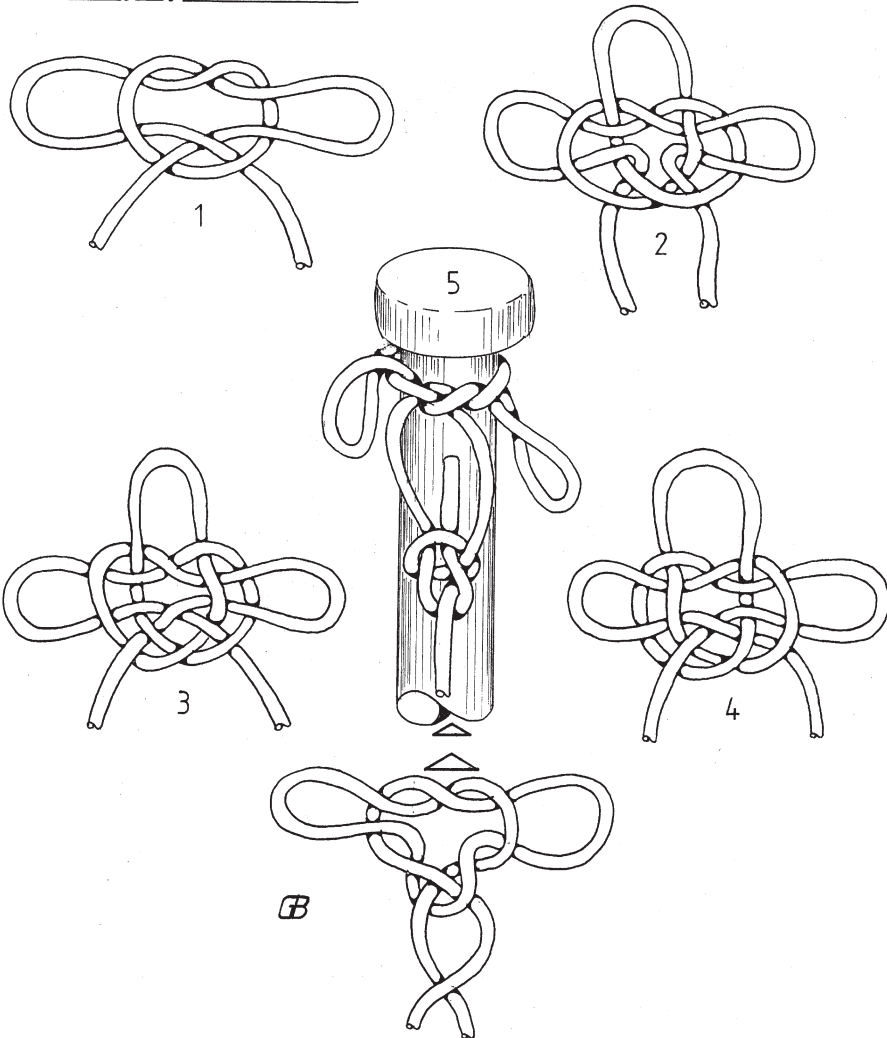
Rope Ends

Quotation

'Some of my friends did not hesitate to take me to task for what they regarded as a flagrant waste of time Without doubt my critics would have been entirely satisfied if I had announced that I proposed to write a book ... But I had given no thought at that time [c.1920's] to writing a book of knots, a fact which I have had on occasion to regret many times since, for my early notes were very fragmentary.'

(Clifford W. Ashley, *The Ashley Book of Knots*, New York, 1944)

Some jury mast knots



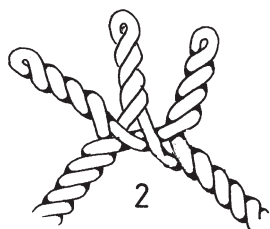
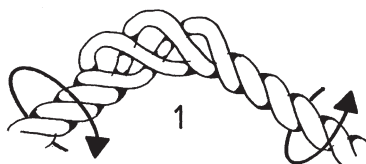
Camel or cable in the Gospel?

According to St John's Gospel 19-24 (the young rich man):...it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle's eye than... Camel, by a very bad translation, comes from greek - *kamilos*. The true meaning of *kamilos* (latin - *camilus*) is cable (hawser, mooring line; italian - *gomena*) and it is logical with the needle's eye while, this last, is not with the animal.

CROW'S FOOT LOOPS

'Knut Canute'

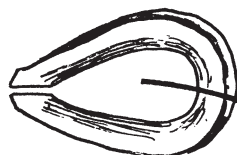
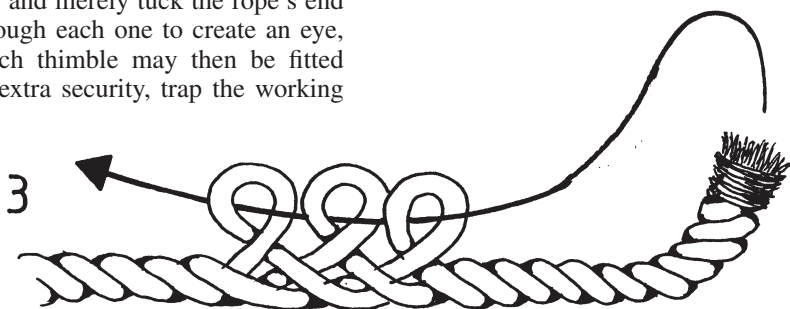
Crows' feet occur not only as laughter lines on the faces of genial old Guild members but also in hawser-laid ropes. The practice of making a crow's foot [fig. 1, 2] is disliked by rope-makers because it deforms the individual strands, which cannot then be restored to their original state. The unorthodox technique is, however, employed to splice an adjustable loop. Create a neat trio of small loops [3] and merely tuck the rope's end back through each one to create an eye, into which thimble may then be fitted [4]. For extra security, trap the working



Crow's
foot

end within a second trio of loops further along the standing part [4a].

A crow's foot can also be made to grip a pole or spar inserted at right-angles through it [5, 6]. Waste (k)not,



GB



Crow's foot loop



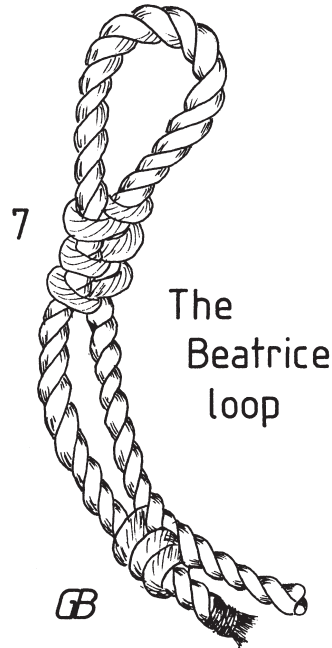
4a

want (k)not. This application seems to have been first mentioned by a young Dutch woman, Beatrice van Westerop, in a 2001 magazine article - no further details - where she was also photographed holding an innovative crow's foot loop [7] with apparently two sets of three loops interwoven to act much the same as figure-of-eight racking turns. No step-by-step illustrations

touwverbinding: de Beatrice's. For other crow's foot usage, see G. & H. page 184-5, plate 92, fig's 98-99; also Ashley #2585; and the singular Trident Splice devised by John Kemp^{IGKT} (Leicester, UK) as explained in KM83 (June 2004).

accompany the finished knot, and the text is in Dutch, so I can only guess how this might have been accomplished. Can you? If so, do let us KM readers know.

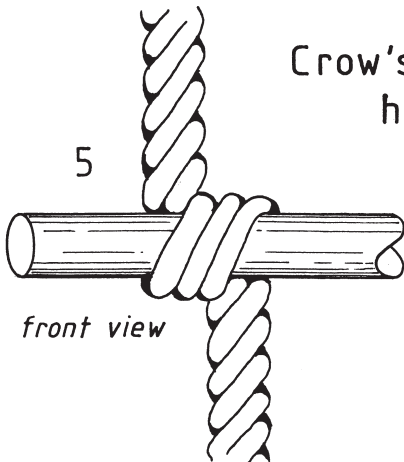
I am indebted to Willeke van der Ham^{IGKT} (The Netherlands) for supplying me with the article *Nieuwe*



7

The
Beatrice
loop

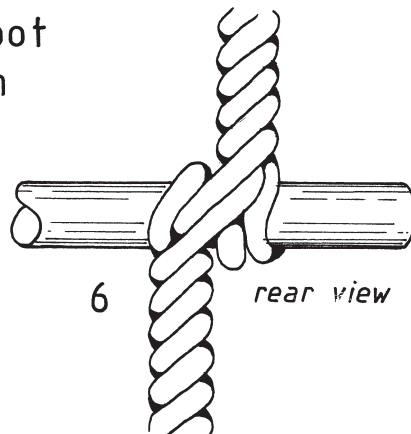
GB



5

front view

Crow's foot
hitch



6

rear view

Branch Lines

East Anglian Branch

Seventeen members and friends met at Stowmarket on Saturday, 23rd September 2006.

Ken Higgs talked to us about various developments on the theme of 'French Knitting'. He started off with a 'lucet', a small reel or spool with two pins or pegs. He showed us how to start hollow round or square sennits with varying numbers of pegs and yarns and various colours working up to a "purse mould" with fifteen or twenty pegs. Irene Warner showed us a plastic 'daisy-winder', which looked to be a similar device, and Des Pawson showed us two quite bulky boat-fenders that he said had been made using a much larger version of the purse mould.

Geoff Youngman showed us 'Marlow splicing'. He uses home-made stout needles, a foot or more long with very large eyes, to make fixed eyes in synthetic cordage with a hard woven outer layer and a fairly solid

inner core. He pulls out a foot or more of the core at the end of the line, and then forms the eye by pulling that core down inside the outer casing of the standing part a few inches back down from where it comes out. He then pulls the hollowed-out end of the outer casing down inside the standing part beside the inner core that came out of it. He said it is sometimes necessary to cut down the exposed core by up to about a quarter to get it in, but the splice is not fatally weakened. It is a good idea to bind the point of the eye to the standing part to prevent slippage.

Geoff finished by showing us a few 'rope shackles' he had made by a similar method to his 'Marlow splicing', but using only the hollowed-out casing. He pulls it back down inside itself leaving a very small eye, and then out again leaving two roughly equal ends long enough to tie a two-strand Matthew Walker knot as a stopper. That stopper-knot lodged inside the small eye

makes an effective and quite strong shackle.

We decided to celebrate the Guild's 25th anniversary next year by making two short lengths of rope, decorating them with various small individual contributions, and then sending them to two other branches. Each of us will try to devise and prepare an item of up to about 50 grammes/2 ounces ready for our next meeting, planned for Saturday, 14th April 2007.

'Tuffy' Turner

West Country Knotters

Skimming over the pleasant and diverse knotting activities of Saturday, 29th July 2006, our get-together was notable for a trio of reasons: first, the arrival of Europa Chang who has relocated here (no longer an Essex girl but now an Avon lady); next the farewell appearance of rigger Tony Fisher who, after a busy sojourn in England, will soon return home to New Zealand and there take up again his presidency of their Chapter of the IGKT; and third, the question posed by American member

Jim Wolf on behalf of his father James Wolf (Indiana, USA) who is also a Guild member. It was this. Can anyone tell us how to tie a Turk's head with two holes? In other words, it should be like two TH's stuck together side-by-side in a figure of eight, to form a Scout woggle with twin spaces (one for each leg of a neckerchief). It seemed to us that this could be quite a challenge, with more than one solution. So, if you already know how to do it, or can contrive to find a way, please tell us via the pages of *Knotting Matters*.

South of England stringer

Germany

We will have a good meeting in Cuxhaven Germany from 27th April to 29th April 2007.

It shall take place in the Fishing museum in Cuxhaven (Germany) in Ohlogge Street-Hall No VII.

The meeting is compending with Exhibition and Displays of Ropework in the Boathall of the Centre of Watersports called 'Ultamarin'. We hope you will enjoy it and we want to see a lot of members and other interesting and interested people.

Peter Willems

Gabriel Richire explains

IGKT France

Over the summer, members of the French branch participated in many festivals and events which are far too numerous to mention here but you can get a flavour of their work by looking at the igktfrance.com galleries. Suffice it to say this activity has resulted in the public seeing and hearing about knots with some joining the local membership whose ranks have swelled to at least eighty knotters. Obviously the high point of the autumn was the half-yearly meeting held on the continental side of the Channel in Caen, Lower-Normandy. The turnout was not enormous as IGKT meetings go but 36 knot tyers are a handsome crowd and make for an enjoyable day.

I arrived at the Caen cultural centre at 9 a.m. only to find that it opened at 9.30 and so went to the nearest cafe only to find a conspicuous bunch of IGKT members drinking their morning beverages. It wasn't long before the centre opened and we could start setting up. Everyone lent a hand arranging the tables, lining up the seats and getting the tea and coffee on. The knot displays seemed to go



Photo: Graham McLachlan

up in an instant, which really does go to show how professional you've all become! The first real job was to get the meeting underway. It was presided by the great Ken Nelson who bashed his gavel (I think it was a heaving mallet) to great effect. We had an enjoyable chat with plenty of banter, even Ken Yalden telling the French members that the ferries go both ways, that is to England, didn't seem to dull the good humour of the assembly! After a cold buffet lunch and a few glasses of wine, the doors were opened to the public. A steady flow of visitors satisfied their curiosity throughout the afternoon and I think we put on a good show. The IGKT members seemed to be having a whale of a time anyway. I've organized a few meetings like this and there are two things I adore about them. Firstly, I love seeing members showing

off their skills to the public and making new friends. The other thing is the chatter: hearing three dozen people having passionate conversations about something that gets them fired up is a real delight.

So what was on offer? As usual there was plenty of members' work to wet the appetite and some of the quality was absolutely outstanding. Most of it was marine-related work but there were other genres too, notably tatting and rope animals. There were also a lot of old pieces of sailorizing and rigger tools on display, it is surprising the similarity between the French and English ditty bags. I enjoyed immensely watching the making of a tapered rope in wool yarn with Gordon Perry's mini-ropery. Apparently the sheets of medieval sailing ships were made thick at one end and thin at the other

to give sailors a better grip without putting too much weight on the sail in light winds. In addition to the displays, there were also some workshops on themes such as education and terrifying knotting techniques (I am so simple!). It is much too difficult to describe all the fantastic work that I saw so I hope that the photos speak for themselves.

The day was rounded off with a delicious Knotters' Dinner in a restaurant in the town. I hope that all those who came enjoyed themselves as much as I did and I would like to thank on their behalf the tea ladies who kept the meeting afloat throughout the day. The next French meeting will be at the aquarium-museum La Cité de la Mer in Dieppe on the March 31st and April 1st, you'd be a fool to miss it...

Graham McLachlan

Photo - Graham McLachlan



Pacific Americas

IGKT-PAB had two good shows. Fall Fishermen's Festival, Sept 9 and Family Fun Day's Sept 23/24. At FFF we have about 14,000 visitors but most pass us with a glance. However we still had the training table busy all day and we still went home exhausted. So it must have been a good time had by all. Again Patrick Ducey donated a cross for the coming auction, we made good contacts and met old friends. At FFD (the second year) we had a fine time and more than double the attendance.

However, as last year the folks spent more time with us, as there were fewer exhibits to divide the time. FFD is about kids and wooden toy boats made from scrap wood with wine bottle corks for fenders. Maybe 1,000 visitors at FFD. Of course no event in the PNW can be held without the obligatory Salmon BBQ. Alder smoke and all the side dishes. As to contacts for future IGKT membership (part of the quest) we may have netted one or two. Hand out a few hundred single folds and some may come back. As a practice we

don't hand out printed material as a barker at a carnival, we can't afford the publication cost. Someone says, "How do we reach you?" We hand a card or a printout. Maybe a few will join? Always they get the Internet contacts with the paper contacts. We may become an Internet Guild on a Snail mail base. I'll hope that Lindsey will post from the South end of PAB. Much has happened there. We posted some pictures of our events at www.khww.net in the PAB gallery.

Roy Chapman

Charlie Bell and Jimmy Williams in attendance at the Dana Point Tallships Festival with prospective new members from brig 'Pilgrim'.



Photo - Lindsey Philpott

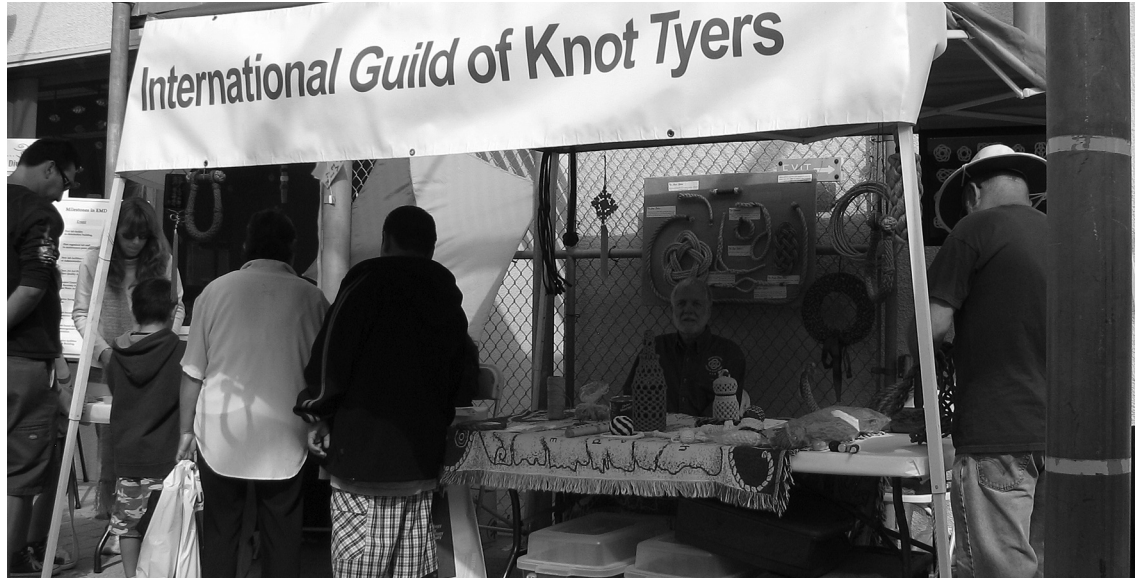


Photo - Lindsey Philpott

Tom Mortell and Jimmy Williams in attendance at the Autumn Sea Festival, Cabrillo Aquarium, San Pedro

A shorter report from the Pacific Americas Branch in Southern California - we have been enjoying the sunshine and the challenge of which pair of board shorts to wear for our next trip on the waves of SoCal beaches. Roy Chapman has prepared a report (Thanks Roy!) for all the activities up north in our area so here goes with ours. We attended the Pier at San Francisco in July for our AGM and resolved to try to get things together for all of those people living in the North American Continental land mass, from Mexico and Honduras up through the USA and to the far reaches of Canada. Watch your mailboxes for an invitation to the Pacific Branch's tenth annual

Conference and AGM next year! August came and went in a flurry of fires and traffic jams to be followed rapidly by the annual Toshiba Tallships Festival at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point. We were there with about seven thousand other folks and it seems like all of them visited our table! We (Joe, Charlie, Tom, Jimmy and myself) attended to the questions and oohs and aaahs of most of them. We have sent on a photograph or two of the setup - don't know if they will get into this issue but we'll try to post them on our own web-site for all to see. Two days of glorious sunshine, shanty-singing and sudsy adult beverages made for a great weekend!

We followed our

sojourn to Dana Point with a visit for the sixth year to the Cabrillo Aquarium's Fall Festival. The crowds were a little thinner but no less enthusiastic and certainly the kids have the best questions (Why do you have so much string?). While we were there we got an invitation to attend the re-installation of the original fresnel lens in the Point Fermin Lighthouse, San Pedro, CA, which had gone missing for about 38 years. The word of our participation is getting out and we are becoming sought after!

Great to be able to let others know about knot-tying and we shall certainly continue to pass the message on. Tight leads to all!

Lindsey Philpott

Postbag

The views expressed in reader's letter do not necessarily reflect those of the Council. The Editor reserves the right to shorten any letter as necessary.

Bight or Loop?

Maybe it is a U.S. thing. I was taught in the Boy Scouts of America that a '**bight**' is made by bringing the bitter end of the line (or the working part) alongside and more or less parallel to the standing part. This method was made most clear when tying a bowline on a bight. The bight is similar different to the '**loop**.' A loop is made by crossing the bitter end across the standing part.

The difference is subtle, but important in many knots.

I have taught these definitions at California Maritime Academy, The State University of New York Maritime Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis as well as to hundreds of mariners and sailors over the years.

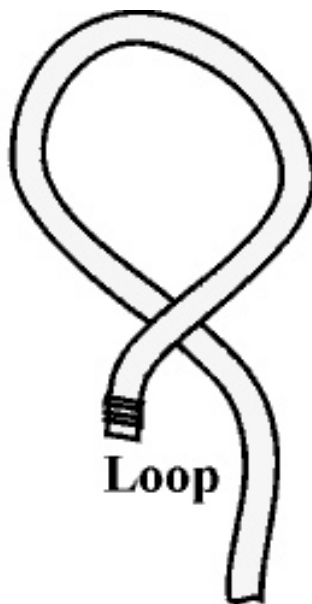
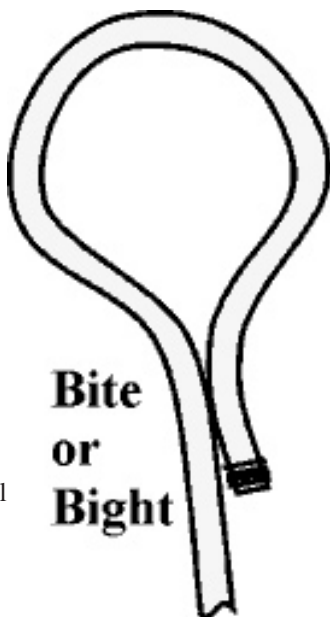
I don't know if this is just a U.S. thing and a difference in dialect within the English language. I thought your readers would like another perspective on the word.

Regardless, but I loved reading the etymology of the word in Mr. Budworth's piece as I always enjoy reading every page in *Knotting Matters*.

Grey Chisholm
Master, U.S. Merchant
Marine
Captain, U.S. Navy
Madrid, New Mexico, USA

Secrets of Knots

I was delighted to read in KM 87 [June 2005] of Selby Anderson's discovery that the Carrick bend enlarges in a Fibonacci sequence approaching Golden Mean proportions. We may know less than half of all there is to learn about knots and they probably conceal many more secrets, which like this one hint at underlying order and meaning. Whether detecting them will enable us to discern some supernatural power in the universe, or is merely the way we humans are hard-wired to comprehend things, I find this latest revelation



exciting. As he (or she) is not a Guild member, and I have been unable to contact him (or her), I would simply like to say here and now; 'Selby, well done indeed'.

*Geoffrey Budworth
Salisbury, UK*

Do They Have To?

Do they want to, or do they have to? 'They' being people who come to us for help in any part of our craft. Especially in the latter category, I have found the need to consider one other characteristic - do they have the ability to see how a knot has to be formed, or not? You may find it easy to understand working ends, leads and bights, or follow a line

drawing but, to some the jargon is unintelligible and a drawing of a figure-of-eight knot is a mind-blowing, incomprehensible tangle!

Some years ago a member criticised the tree, hole and a rabbit method of teaching the bowline as 'childish and simplistic' and 'should not be used by the Guild'. Many of us disagreed then, and still do, because it may be, as a last resort, the only way to help the student to see the knot.

Whether you are face-to-face with an individual or a group, or you wish to teach-the-world by offering an article to be printed in the KM, please, please allow for the worst scenario and treat,

sympathetically those who are slow to see what you are attempting. This applies especially when going into print in KM because someone who may be in the 'Have To' class may lose a job!

*Ken Higgs
Felixstowe., UK*

Symmetry or Knot

With regard to Dick Clements' interesting extensions of Harry Asher's Simple Simon bends [KM92, pp10-13], the bends with diagrams Figs 4 & 6 exhibit 'plus' symmetry (like the reef knot, Rigger's (or Hunter's) bend and Shakehands); those with diagrams Figs 5 & 7 'minus' symmetry (like the thief knot and Zeppelin bend).

As far as bend symmetry is concerned, plus seems to be far more prevalent than minus. For instance, among the 60 examples in my book *Symmetric Bends: How to Join Two Lengths of Cord*, [World Scientific, 1995] plus outnumbers minus 53:7. Thus, interestingly, the one of these four favoured by Dick is the minus one of Fig 5!

*Roger E. Miles
Sutton NSW, Australia*

Answers to Caption Corner

These are two answers I have receive to last issues Caption Corner (KM92 p42).

"I'm 100% convinced that you're demonstrating the lost art of making Donkey's Breakfasts. I can even see an empty, white duck-canvas mattress, hanging up at the far left of the photo". (*Thomas Simpson*)

"My guess re pic in KM92 was you were putting down straw to soak up mud--- seeing the event is in the middle of summer there". (*Frank Brown*)

The correct answer is the second - we did have a lot of rain! (*Ed.*)

Knotting Diary

GUILD MEETINGS

25th AGM & 2K7

24th-26th May 2007

Fernham Hall, Fareham, Hampshire

Contact: Ken Yalden

Tel: (0044) 023 9225 9280

Email: ken.yalden@igkt.freeseve.co.uk

Half-Yearly Meeting

13th October 2007

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire

Contact: Dave Walker

Tel: (0044) 01244 682117

Email: dwfenders@yahoo.co.uk

BRANCH MEETINGS

UK

East Anglian Branch

14th April 2007

Museum of East Anglian Life,

Stowmarket, Suffolk

Contact: John Halifax

Tel: (0044) 01502 519123

Email:

john@endeavour-knots.freeseve.co.uk

Midlands Branch

12th February 2007

The Old Swan (Ma Pardoe's),

Halesowen Road, Halesowen

Contact: Bruce Turley

Tel: (0044) 0121 453 4124

Email: bruce.turley@blueyonder.co.uk

Non-UK Branches

Alaskan

Every Wednesday evening 6.30-8.00

Anchorage Senior Center

1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage

Contact: Mike Livingstone

Tel: (001) 907 929 7888

Netherlands

Last Saturday of each month

De Hoop, Nr Rotterdam Maritime

Museum, Rotterdam

Contact: Jan Hoefnagel

Tel: (0031) 078 614 6002

Pacific Americas

2nd Tuesday of each month

Los Angeles Maritime Museum,

San Pedro, California

Contact: Joe Schmidbauer

Tel: (001) (909) 737 4948

Email: koolkatz@prodigy.net

EVENTS

Australia

9th - 12th February 2007

Australian Wooden Boat Festival

Hobart, Tasmania

Opportunity for Australian IGKT members

to meet - visitors welcome

Contact: Frank Brown

Email: frank_brown@bigpond.com

France

31st March - 1st April 2007

La Cité de la Mer, Dieppe

Contact: Graham McLachlan

Tel: (0033) 0233 076 704

email: igktfrance@club-internet.fr

Germany

27th-29th April 2007

Fishing Museum, Cuxhaven

Contact: Peter Willems

Tel: (0049) 04 61 73176

Email: peter@fancyworks.de

