

KNOT



NEWS

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Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

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Philpott Knot Notation

by Tom Mortell

Single Strand Turk's Head

Start 1 Odd Leads, Bights = Leads - 1

3L2B X Xb U O

(3L5B, 3L8B, 3L11B, ...) + Pu U O U O

5L4B (from 3L2B) 3L2B+ Dr Dlo O Wl Wr

7L6B (from 5L4B) 5L4B+ Dr Dlo Wl Wr

Start 2 Odd Leads, Bights = Leads + 1

3L4B X Xa U Po O U

(3L7B, 3L10B, 3L13B, ...) + Pu U O U

Start 3 Even Leads, Bights = Leads - 1

2L1B X

4L3B OKL Tl Drc Wl

(4L3B, 4L7B, 4L11B, ...)

4L7B DOKL Tl Tr Tl Drc Wl Wr Wl

4L11B TOKL et cetera

6L5B (from 4L3B) 4L3B+ Dr Dlu Wr Wl

8L7B (from 6L5B) 6L5B+ Dr Dlu Wl Wr

Start 4 Even Leads, Bights = Leads + 1

2L3B OKL O

4L5B OKL O U(tail) Tr O U O(tail) Wr Wl

(4L5B, 4L9B, 4L13B, ...)

4L9B DOKL O U(tail) Tr Tl Tr O U O(tail)

Wr Wl Wr Wl

4L13B TOKL et cetera

6L7B (from 4L5B) 4L5B+ U(tail) Dro Dlu

O(tail) Wr Wl

Mnemonic Instruction Key

X - cross working end over the tail.

Xa - cross working end over a strand, above the tail.

Xb - cross working end over a strand, below the tail.

Pu - pull a bight under strand.

Po - pull a bight over strand.

Dr - double the tail to the right.

Drc - double the tail to the right, contrary crossings.

Dru - double the tail to the right, under (same).

Dro - double the tail to the right, over (same).

Dl - double the tail to the left.

Dlu - double the tail to the left, under (same).

Dlo - double the tail to the left, over (same).

OKL - overhand knot, left-handed.

DOKL - double overhand knot, left-handed.

TOKL - triple overhand knot, left-handed.

Tl - tuck to the left through the overhand knot.

Tr - tuck to the right through the overhand knot.

Wr - weave to the right to complete a regular plait.

Wl - weave to the left to complete a regular plait.



Spanish Ring Knot [1]

A Spanish Ring Knot can also be tied on a 3 Lead 4 Bight Turk's Head

The tail, or the standing end, is on the left side of the knot. Start by passing the working end toward the right, behind the tail. Do not cross the working end over the tail, rather follow behind the tail. Notice that the 3L5B started ahead of the tail.

DOUBLE

Double to the right.

Doubling means to follow parallel to a strand, crossing the other strands the same way (over or under) as the strand you are following. Be sure to cross over the tail at the right side of the knot, so the working end will continue to cross behind the tail. This doubling will increase the number of leads because of the paralleling of the tail and increase the number of bights because of the crossing of the tail at the edge of the knot.

Double to the left, then cross over the tail.

Double to the right, then cross over the tail.

WEAVE

The working end is on the right side of the knot and the standing end of the tail remains on the left.

Weave to the left, over 2 strands and down between the doubled strand. Note that your working end has gone down between the tail and the strand that was the working end as you started the doubling. Cross under 2 strands to complete the weave. Weave to the right, over 2 strands, going down between the parallel strands, then under 2 strands.

Weave to the left over 2, under 2 strands.

Notice that the 3L5B pattern was the reverse: under 2, then over 2.

FINISH

Finish going over 2 strands, and down just before where the tail comes up, so the tail will be covered.

Work the knot tighter, starting near the tail, by pulling on the lead a few crossings along the tail lead.

Work the bight, in the same direction, little by little, all around the knot.

This Spanish Ring Knot has 7 bights.

Spanish Ring 3L4B+ Dro Dlo Dro W2L W2r W2l O2

Mnemonic Instruction

O - cross over the next strand with the working end.

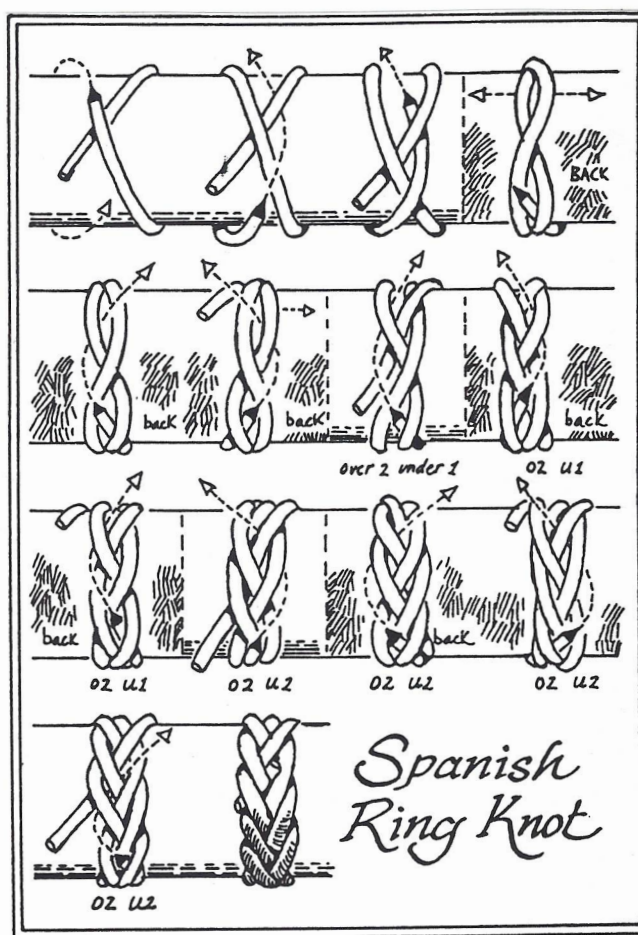
U - cross under the next strand with the working end.

Dro - double to the right, then over the tail.

Dlo - double to the left, then over the tail.

W2r - weave to the right, over 2 under 2 strands.

W2l - weave to the left, over 2 under 2 strands.



Spanish Ring Knot [2]

A Spanish Ring Knot can be tied on a 3 Lead 5 Bight Turk's Head

The tail, or the standing part, is on the left side of the knot. Cross the working end over the tail, so that you will be crossing leads ahead of the tail strand.

DOUBLE

Double to the right.

Doubling means to follow parallel to a strand, crossing the other strands the same way (over and under) as the strand you are following. Be sure to cross over the tail at the right side of the knot, so the working end will continue to cross ahead of the tail. This doubling will increase the number of leads because of the paralleling of the tail and increase the number of bights because of the crossing of the tail at the edge of the knot.

Double to the left, then cross over the tail.

Double to the right, then cross over the tail.

WEAVE

The working end is on the right side of the knot and the standing end of the tail remains on the left.

Weave to the left, under 2 strands and up between the doubled strand. Note that your end has come up between the tail and the strand that has the working end as you started the doubling. Cross over 2 strands to complete the weave.

Weave to the right, under two strands, coming up between the parallel strands, then over 2 strands.

Weave to the left under 2, over 2 strands.

FINISH

Finish by crossing over the tail, and under 2 strands, so the ends will be covered. Work the knot tighter, starting near the tail, by pulling on the lead a few crossings along the tail lead. Work the bight, in the same direction, little by little, all around the knot.

This Spanish ring Knot has 8 bights.

Spanish Ring 3L5B+ O(tail) Dro Dlo Dro W2l W2r Wl O(tail) U2

Mnemonic Instruction

O - cross over the next strand with the working end.

U - cross under the next strand with the working end.

Dro - double to the right, then over the end.

Dlo - double to the left, then over the tail.

W2r - weave to the right, under 2 over 2 strands.

W2l - weave to the left, under 2 over 2 strands.

But there is one very extensive warehouse among the rest that needs special mention—the *ship's Yeoman's store-room*. In the *Neversink* it was down in the ship's basement, beneath the berth-deck, and you went to it by way of the *Fore-passage*, a very dim, devious corridor, indeed. Entering—say at noonday—you find yourself in a gloomy apartment, lit by a solitary lamp. On one side are shelves, filled with balls of *marline*, *ratlin-stuff*, *seizing-stuff*, *spun-yarn*, and numerous twines of assorted sizes. In another direction you see large cases of assorted articles, reminding one of a shoe-maker's furnishing-store—wooden *serving-mallets*, *fids*, *toggles*, and *heavers*; iron *prickers* and *marlin-spikes*; in a third quarter you see a sort of hardware shop—shelves piled with all manner of hooks, bolts, nails, screws, and *thimbles*; and in still another direction, you see a block-maker's store, heaped up with *ignum-vitae* sheeves and wheels.

Through low arches in the bulk-head beyond, you peep in upon distant vaults and catacombs, obscurely lighted in the far end, and showing immense coils of new rope, and other bulky articles, stowed in tiers, all savoring of tar."

Herman Melville

White Jacket

From the Mail Bag

Bob Solon in Ohio commented: "Wow. I can't believe you guys are making fenders for a tug. The ultimate in fenders. The biggest poly I've worked with was 1.5". The trade name was Promila, a poly that is colored to look like manila. It is a bear to work (too slippery - doesn't grab on itself like manila) but I never had any tow rope failures. I volunteer at the Isaac Ludwig Mill at Providence Metro Park in beautiful Providence, Ohio, about 20 miles upriver from Toledo. The mill is on the old Miami & Erie Canal. The park system has a canal boat that is pulled by mules. I do the rope work for the boat, not that it amounts to much of anything, mostly eye splices in .75 and 1 inch Promila."

Donata Dasho of Washington had this to day: "Many, many moons ago I was big time into macramé. I still have a kinda cool

key chain that is about 17 years old that I carry around. Right now I seem to be more involved in my sons Cub and Boy Scout knotting programs than anything for myself. The next two weekends I am staffing one Boy Scout weekend training and the next is a Cub Scout training. I am doing the 6 basic knots and lashing of camping gadgets. I did not realize all those macramé talents from the 70's would come in so handy, helping me to be a Scouter. I do try to fiddle around with unusual knots when I find them or find the time."

Branch Bits

Marty Combs of Oregon had this advice to give when I asked him about varnishing a bell rope: "I usually just dunk it in the varnish. The first time it soaks in pretty good. For the following coats I just brush them on with disposable acid brushes. It's very important to make sure that each coat is dry before you apply the next. It may take as long as a couple of weeks for that first coat to dry. If you have a furnace room, that is a good place to hang it to dry. I just apply coats of varnish until it looks like I think it should. Make sure you use gloss varnish, semi-gloss looks dull and hazy. If it's going to be outside, an exterior grade varnish with uv protectant is good. If it is going to be protected, a water based varnish can be used and it will stay white from what I've been told."

Dan Callahan of Alaska passed this news on to me: "I started a 'club' on the Internet: Alaska Fancy Knot Tyers Club at:

<http://clubs.snap.com/knots2/index.html>

The chatroom wasn't working for while, but it seems to be working just fine now. It has everything a club could need: guestbook, bookmarks, chat, who's online, member list, classified, discussions, event listings, invitations and photo albums!! Sometimes these 'clubs' don't work, but this one seems to be a winner. Feel free to join. If the chatroom keeps working as well as it has been, I'll put a link on my pages and send out some invitations to other knot tyers."

Member Profile

Captain Charles "Hap" Hayden

This is another in a continuing series of biographies of our Branch knotters. I have known Captain Hayden since we were shipmates on the US Coast Guard Cutter *Jarvis* back in the mid 70's. "Hap", as his friends call him, was the one who first taught me the mysteries of the Monkey's Fist. It was during one of those occasional marlingspike seamanship classes that Bosun Smitty would hold for the Deck Force. For the life of me, I couldn't figure out how to tighten up the darn up! Hap stepped in and calmly showed me the way to untangle the mess and make it right.

We have managed to stay in touch over the years. He sends the occasional post card from exotic locales or a phone call when he's on the beach.

I approached him about a short article and he was kind enough to oblige. Here is his story.



My fascination with knots began at an early age, due to the encouragement of my mother. During my adolescence I conceived many knots that were never published in the Ashley Book of Knots! I still remember how proud I was as I watched my mother attempt to untie the creations that graced laces of my tennis shoes, telling me time and again how knotty I was. Spurred on by this encouragement, I refined my abilities. I realized I could secure an object with a square knot or bowline faster and easier than some of my earlier twenty-three step creations. During my teen age years, when the smell of gasoline and perfume led many teens astray, my olfactory senses were pacified by the smell of manila, diesel and salt air. These attractions were so strong within me; life on the water followed in a natural progression.

Each type of water craft with which I became involved added to my knowledge of knots, splices and nautical lore. Simple macramé gave way to bell ropes and monkey's fists. Three strand sennit gave way to five strand. In the early Seventies, to compensate for my nominal Coast Guard wages verses life's expenditures, I started making manila fenders and bow puds.

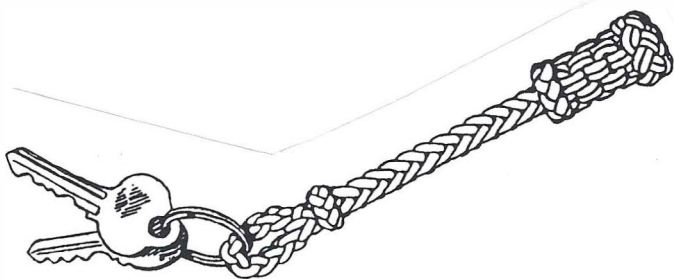
After two years, I was transferred to Hawaii where I met Joe Schmidbauer, our illustrious

Branch secretary. Joe and I were shipmates for the next two years on a 378 foot cutter. After my discharge, I started sailing professionally. First as a Chief Quartermaster and diver on a government hydrographic vessel and then later to offshore tugs. This is when I learned to splice 6 x 26 x 2 1/4 " tow wire. It gave me a whole new perspective on the term splicing. After a year as AB, I started sailing as mate and then as captain. Now, twenty-six years later, I look back at a varied career that has included sailing, fishing, research, tugs, private and corporate yachts, factory ships and rescue craft. Each has taught how important the right knot, bend or splice is to its particular function. Hundreds of years of tradition have perfected this art to what it is today. I am always open to new ideas, but I understand the importance of the tried and true knots and splices that have been passed down to us.

Before I close, I'll bestow three pieces of knowledge that I have learned in my career.

- 1.) Never approach a dock faster than you want to hit it.
- 2.) Always pay close attention to your instincts.
- 3.) If a Captain ever tells you that he knows everything, get off the vessel immediately.

Hap Heyden lives on the Coast of Central California. He holds a Master 3,000 ton International, a Master 1,600 ton Inspected and a Master 5,000 ton Uninspected, Upon Oceans.



Many members, both old and new, have approached me with the eternal knotters lament. Where in the world is a good place to buy the right line or cord for fancy work? Help is at hand because we have members in our Branch who happen to sell some excellent stuff at a good price.

Marty Combs of Oregon sells some very attractive cotton cord and hemp twine. Here's a price list, all prices include

#45 Hemp Cord	\$7.75 @ 680 ft. ball
#85 Hemp Cord	\$11.75 @ 450 ft. ball
#120 Cotton Cord	\$37.50 @ 5 lb. spool
#96 Cotton Cord	\$17.00 @ 2 lb. spool
#60 Cotton Cord	\$17.00 @ 2 lb. spool
#30 Cotton Cord	\$20.00 @ 2 lb. spool
#21 Cotton Cord	\$20.00 @ 2 lb. spool

He also sells Richard Phalen's video *The Art of Decorative Ropework* for \$28.00

I urge all knotters who haven't already done so to check out his excellent web page at:

<http://www.angelfire.com/ak/skateworld/index.html>

You will find a good number of hard to find knot books there too.

Phone: (541) 888-8008 or roundturn@hotmail.com

Dennis Armstrong's *The Knotted Line* of Redmond, Washington also has some nice line available to purchase.

Here's his price list:

Bonded Nylon Seine Twine:

#12, #15, #18, #21, #32, #36 #42, & #48
\$8.00 for a 1 lb. roll (plus shipping).

#60, #72, #84, #96 & #120
\$24.00 for a 2 lb. spool (plus shipping).

Cotton

#42, #60, #72 & #84

\$12.00 per 2.5 pond skein (plus shipping)

Phone: (206) 885-2457 or TKLKNOTS@aol.com

Dan Callahan's *The Knot Shoppe* of Anchorage, Alaska always has some excellent para-cord for sale. They come in two sizes and a number of different colors. His stock is always changing with what he has on hand so it is best to contact him to see what is available.

Phone: (907) 274-2321 or knot_tyer@hotmail.com

Des & Liz Pawson's *Footrope Knots* is one of the best sources for line and cord of all kinds, knotting tools and books. Their address is: 501 Wherstead Rd; Ipswich, Suffolk IP2 8LL England

Phone: Ipswich (01473) 690090

I can send out a copy of his catalog upon request but you'll probably need to get in touch with him for the latest price list.

Branch Library

More and more books stream in to the Library.

DONATED BY TOM MORTELL

Practical Knots For Today's Fisherman

Maxima Premium Fishing Line

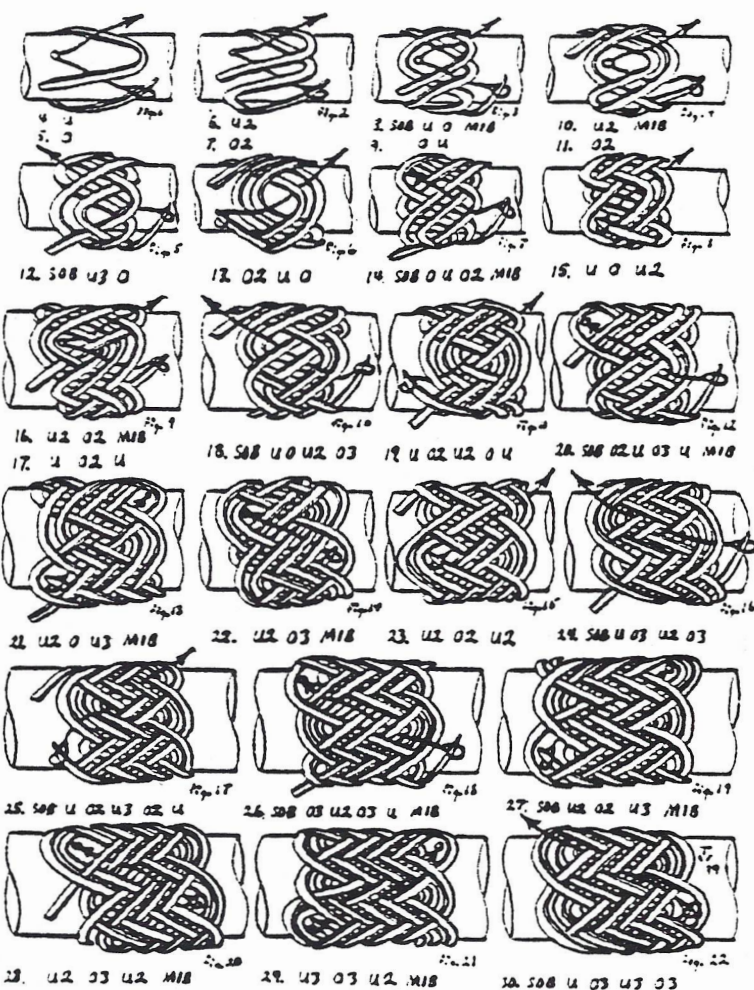
DONATED BY JOE SCHMIDBAUER

Knots, Ties and Splices by J. Tom Burgess

Knight's Modern Seamanship by Austin M.

Knight 15th Edition

12 Part 15 Bight 3 pass
Type 1 Perfect Pineapple Knot



The Perfect Pineapple Knot

by Mike Storch

Knot Extravaganza 2000

As you can see from the flyer on the next page, we are finally going through with our knot gathering here in California. What we have planned so far is this: we are still going to hold our AGM on the regularly scheduled date of Friday, June 23rd. This will be held in the Brass Room of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro, California. There will be election of officers this year (any volunteers?), a quick discussion of Branch business and then the rest of the evening will be used as a get together for all Guild knotters present.

Saturday, June 24th and Sunday, June 25th will then be set aside for our knot display, show and demonstrations.

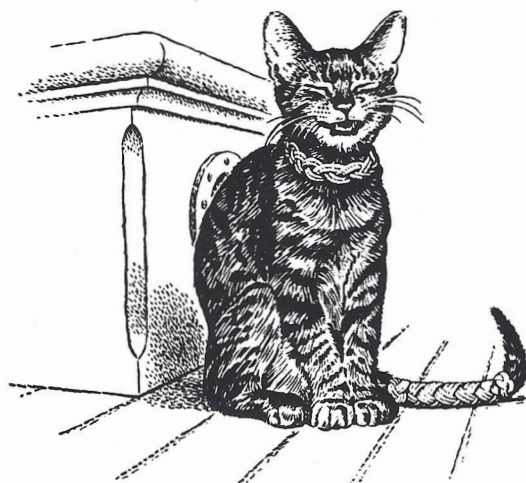
Never having set up a show like this before, we are running into some difficulties. The expense of some of the venues has put them out of our reach and we also forgot that June is the wedding month and a number of spots are already booked. Never the less, these are things that we will solve and a place will be found.

What we need right now, from all interested Guild members are a number of things:

- (1) Let us know which members will be interested in attending.
- (2) How many will be in your 'party' (so we can start to arrange for accommodations).
- (3) What kind of knotting will you be willing to displaying or demonstrate?

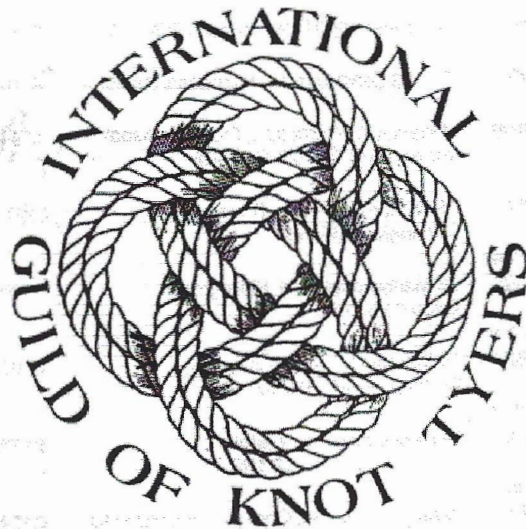
We need to know this information quickly so we can know how much space we need and how many tables to arrange for.

We hope you can make it. Let's try to make this an event to remember!



Lots of Knots

A World of Knotting



Fancy Knotwork, Rigging & Splicing

Southern California

Saturday - June 24th Sunday - June 25th 2000

Lindsey Philpott (562) 595 - 8854

Joe Schmidbauer Koolkatz@prodigy.net

Web Site: <http://home.fea.net/~igktpab>

Meeting Schedule

Our regular monthly meetings are now being held at the Los Angeles Maritime Institute. This is the building right next door to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro. Look for us every second Tuesday of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Here are the dates:

Tuesday, February 8th

Introduction to Chinese Knotting

with Yvonne Chang

Tuesday, March 14th

Star Knots a Different Way

with Joe Soanes

Tuesday, April 11th

Tuesday, May 9th

Friday, June 23rd **IGKT-PAB AGM**

Saturday, June 24th & Sunday, June 25th

LOTS OF KNOTS: A WORLD OF KNOTTING

Knotting Show and Demonstration



KNOT NEWS
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