

# Knot



# News

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS - PACIFIC AMERICAS BRANCH

February 2002

Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

Issue #31

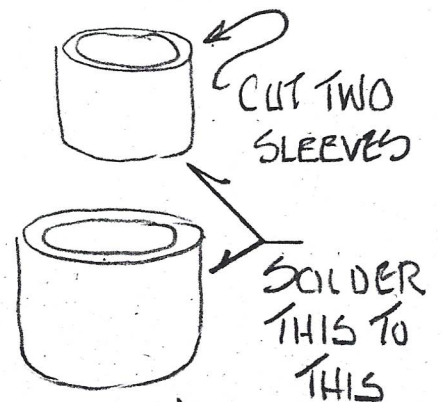
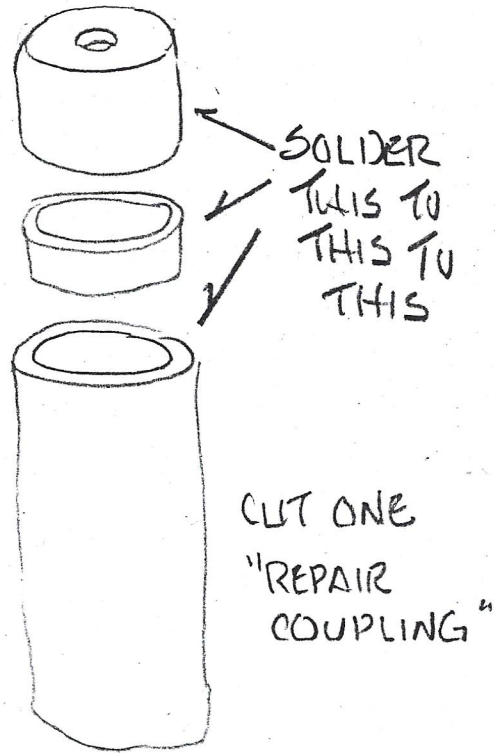
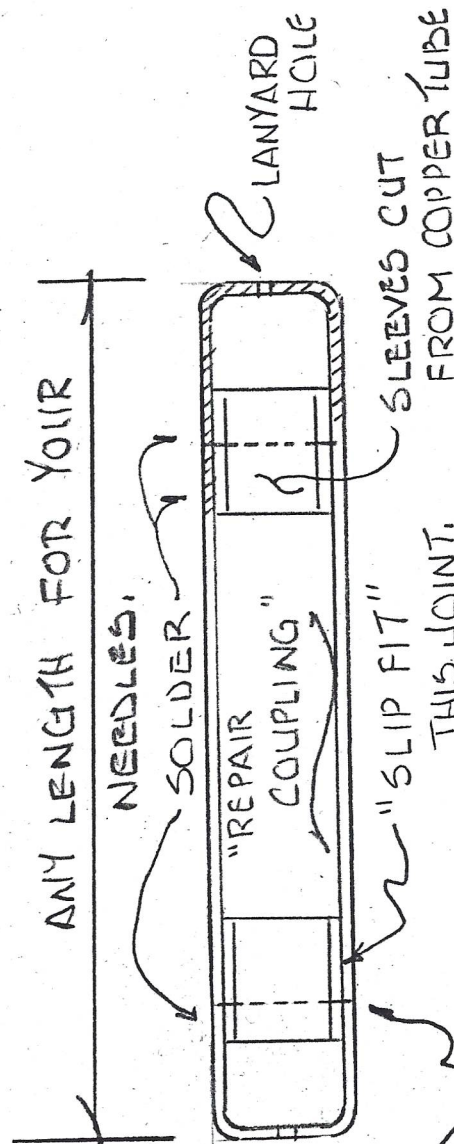
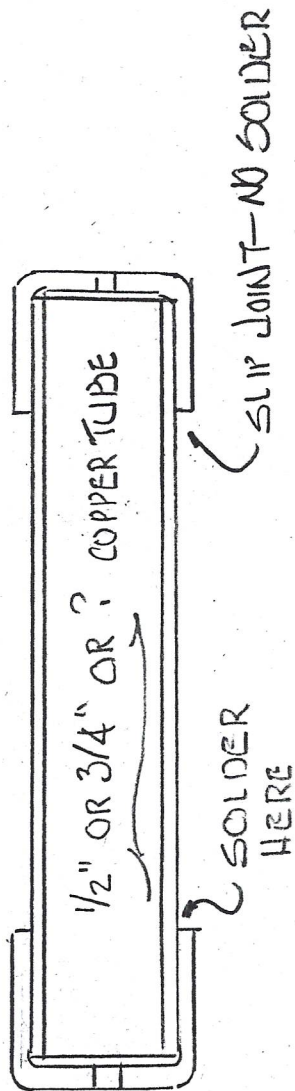
## *From the Ditty Bag:*

### **Needle Case**

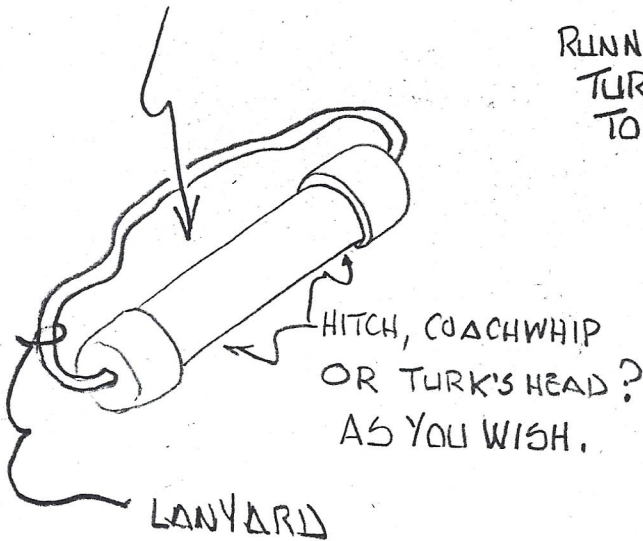
*by Roy Chapman*

As you accumulate tools you will find you need a safe place to keep your sail needles (or a wholesale price of bandages). Nice wooden cases are available at craft stores, to which you could add hitching or knots. You could make your own wooden one, or carve a bone one. However, here is a nice quick, way of having a gleaming copper one! Minimal tools are required: 1) a knife, 2) a file or sandpaper, 3) a drill or a nail and hammer (to punch a couple of holes), 4) a tubing cutter or hacksaw or co-operative hardware store person. 5) To join the tubing you will need epoxy or super-glue or solder (and flux, or "acid core solder"). You can solder over the flame of the gas stove, camping stove or BBQ if you don't have a torch. 6) An ordinary left-handed low-flaring zincfeldt plate reamer (sorry). This plan uses all "off the shelf" parts and my case cost \$2.78, tax included, in 2001 dollars (just as when we are reading *Walden*, future generations may be amazed at the low cost of hardware in our time). You can use 1" or  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or  $\frac{1}{2}$ " copper tube, as suits you. You need two caps, one 6" "repair coupling" (which is the same diameter as the caps) and 2" of tube of the nominal size

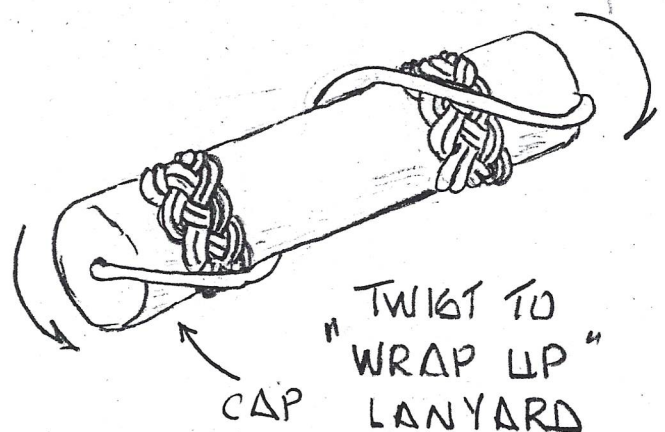
that you have chosen (which slips into the caps and repair coupling). Six inches makes a pretty long case so I say cut my repair coupling to 4". I cut the 2" piece into two sections, one  $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and one 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " long. You may find the hardware folks unwilling to cut tubing for you and may want to sell you a 10' length. Don't despair. Stop by a plumbing shop, smile a bit and someone will probably give you 2" of scrap tube and cut it for you too. If not, then buy 10', buy 60 caps and make up 30 cases to give as gifts. By the way, you can make this case without the "coupling" and just two caps and one straight piece of tube, but it is pretty elegant if you build one as shown. If you can't get the short pieces of tube you can also buy other "off the shelf fittings" to cut and sacrifice for your "slip" tubes... "street elbows" have an end that will slip into the cap and repair coupling and will cost a little less than a 10' length, but you will need to cut them somehow [you really could own a hacksaw]. Your finished case will be nicer if you chamfer (bevel) the inside edges of the coupling and cap insert, which I do with a knife... not having an "ordinary left-handed low-flaring zincfeldt reamer" at hand. Drill or punch the holes for the lanyard from the inside of the caps before you glue or solder the caps on to the tube. This will help center the holes, for you can see into the cap. Copper is very soft and you can punch holes with a nail if you support the cap on the end of an old 2" x 4".



COPPER TUBE CAP  
2 REQ'D



NEEDLE CASE:  
RICHARDMAN  
MAY 8.01





Centering "by the eye" is plenty good enough. The point of your knife can be used to chamfer the hole so the sharp edge won't cut the lanyard cord. I "epoxy cement" the lanyard in place after tying a stopper knot. You don't need to glue it, if you prefer not to mess with glue. If you glue the lanyard in the finished case will be almost watertight. You could eliminate the holes and "end cap" lanyard. You could do this, if you prefer: tie your first Turk's-head right off the spool, onto one cap. Then measure out enough cord for a lanyard between Turk's-heads, to swing free and enough for the second Turk's-head plus some extra for "slop". Then tie your second Turk's-head. This lanyard actually "wraps up" tighter than the lanyard I have shown in the ends of the caps, but it isn't symmetrical. I put thinned shellac on my case to keep it from tarnishing (dripping and spinning it gets a good coat on) while I tie the knots (nice Turk's-head, please), but if you hurry you can do the whole thing before it tarnishes. You can "hitch" or "graft" your finished case but you lose the beauty of the copper. When finished with the knots I varnished the entire outside of the finished case, including the knots and the lanyard. If you want it bright, but hate to polish and if you won't varnish (or otherwise coat it) you could try "Wright's Copper Cream"... it is amazing stuff... "no work" copper cleaning. Look sharp. Get the point? Now, go make the case.

#### From the Secretary

**I**n 2002 we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition will be held at Fareham Hall in Fareham, England. The theme will be *The Useful and The Beautiful: The Art and Science of Knots*. Several members of the PAB plan to attend the festivities in May. From Southern California, Lindsey Philpott and his wife Kim will be making the trip accompanied by Charlie Bell. Maggie Machado of Oregon will be going too. Please be sure to send in your 2K2 Birthday bellrope or macramé patch and contribute to the

display. Be sure to attach a nametag and a small flag.

Here is the Pacific Americas Branch membership list as of January 2002:

<u>Member</u>		<u>Dues Date</u>
	<i>Alaska</i>	
Dan Callahan		Paid 2002
Don Vanderwal		Paid 2002
	<i>California</i>	
Darrell Ausherman		May 2002
Charlie Bell		March 2002
Robert Blanchard		April 2002
Robert Bosch		November 2002
Cliff Case		Paid 2002
Yvonne Chang		Paid 2002
Dean Cole		February 2002
Patricia Dunn		August 2002
Tillie Easton		February 2002
Tom Gergen		January 2002
Ed Haegele		Paid 2002
Stan Harris		June 2002
Jose Hernandez-Juviel		February 2002
Reverend Thomas Johnson		April 2002
Alex Kleider		October 2002
Chris Letsche		March 2002
Tom Mortell		December 2002
Dr. Ross Munnerlyn		July 2002
Mat O'Campo		September 2002
Marie Ortiz		December 2002
David Peters		Paid 2002
Rudy Petschek		June 2002
Lindsey Philpott		Paid 2002
Willard Salmons		June 2002
Harold Schapiro		September 2002
Joe Schmidbauer		Paid 2002
Joe Soanes		May 2002
Sylvia Wilke		November 2002
Jimmy Ray Williams		November 2002
	<i>Florida</i>	
J. Paul Simmons		October 2002
	<i>Montana</i>	
Mathias Rapp		April 2002
	<i>Ohio</i>	
Bob Solon		November 2002
	<i>Oregon</i>	
Marty Combs		December 2002
Clint Funk		April 2002
Maggie Machado		June 2002
	<i>Washington</i>	
Dennis Armstrong		June 2002
Roy Chapman		March 2002
Don Rempe		March 2002
Bob Schwartz		June 2002
	<i>Wyoming</i>	
Mike Hickey [Tom Hall Braiding]		Paid 2002
	<i>Belgium</i>	
Geert "Willy" Willaert		Paid 2002
	<i>Canada</i>	
Craig Macdonald		March 2002
	<i>Canary Islands</i>	
Alberto Alamo Mendoza		Paid 2002

If you are interested in contacting any of your fellow knot tyers, an updated membership list with current addresses, phone numbers and emails, is available upon request to the Secretary. You are also reminded to send in your 2002 dues by the month listed to help keep the Branch fiscally functioning.

The PAB President, Lindsey Philpott, and I have this ongoing discussion about the direction of the Pacific Americas Branch. As the officers, Lindsey and I are responsible for the record keeping and representation of the Branch in its affairs. It would be very helpful to us if we had more input from you as a member with any ideas you have for the future of the Branch. What would you like to see happen or what would you like to help with? Please let us hear any comments or concerns you have, what you have to say does matter. Feel free to get involved in your local knotting scene; you can represent the Guild as well as anyone at a Scout troop or museum. But above all keep tying knots!

#### From the Mailbag

**Bob Solon** of Ohio took the time to write us this letter: "Early one morning an unsigned postcard appeared under the kitchen door. It said that secreted on an old farm way out Central Avenue, just this side of the Hoosier border, was an early model left-handed low-faring zincfeldt plate reamer that had been modified for use by the ambidextrous. Praise the Lord for my benefactor! At last!

Within minutes Sweet Caffiend and me were on our way west in search of the Holiest of Grails. Forty minutes later, with Dietz lantern in hand, we were tromping through the fog headed towards a ghostly barn. The barn was an allergist's nightmare, old, damp and full of the dust of ages with ancient road apples generously strewn about. I thought I could smell success or maybe it was the ancient road apples? Cobwebs festooned the rafters and hung everywhere. A diligent search of the tottering building yielded nothing but

spiders. No left-handed low-faring zincfeldt plate reamer. Foiled again!

A piece of paper was stuck to a nail in a far corner. I pulled it off and held up the lantern. Across the front it said, "Are you looking for this? Well, are you, punk?" It was a copy of KN #27 and in it was an article by Roy Chapman on Knife Lanyard Knot, ABOK #788, Double Variation, MK-1. Two weeks vacation allowed me to finish one knot. But it is a perfect knot for a ditty bag lanyard- just the place to hook your keys. Thanks for the research, Roy!"

⌘

**Tom Mortell** of California emailed in these comments: "In the news, I see that Barry Sharless has won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on mirror image molecules. When a molecule can have both a right-handed and a left-handed version and these are mirror images of each other, they can be said to be an enantiomeric pair. This got me to thinking about knots.

In the club's knot collection, I submitted such a pair or two. On looking at the two elongated Turk's Head that I just made with the help of Joe Soanes [one was a 4 Bight x 9 Lead TH and the other a 5 Bight x 21 Lead TH], I see that by turning them end for end, each end is different in right- or left-handedness. Both of them have an odd number of leads. Another Turk's Head, a 5 Bight x 4 Lead, has the same handedness at each end and can be made either right-handed or left-handed. It has C2 symmetry that permits an enantiomorphic pair.

My theory is that a Turk's Head with an even number of leads can be made as an enantiomorphic pair. A Turk's Head with an odd number of leads has a plane of symmetry perpendicular to its axis of rotation, and cannot be made as a right- and left-handed pair. The number of bights is irrelevant."



### Knot Tyer Profile

The tradition continues with PAB members introducing themselves with a short autobiography. "Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ: I am Reverend Thomas Johnson.

Knots have been my hobby and job for over thirty years. I started learning about knots from my deck ape friends while at sea in the Navy. As the knot tyer for signal division, I replaced core and cover signal halyards, eventually showing the Chief Master-at-Arms how to do it. I taught the entire division how to coxcomb and tie Turk's Heads while covering the rails of the 05 level of the *USS Dubuque LPD-8*.

On a visit to Kaioshiung, Taiwan, I obtained for a song some contraband copies of *The Ashley Book of Knots* and *The Encyclopedia of Knots and Fancy Rope Work*. Until then my experience was limited to basic sailor knotting and macramé. Oriental knotting was my focus for years. The Chinese unique use of knots in allegory inspired my marriage knot, an oriental and nautical combination with religious allegory. In 1992 I produced *Bindage and Discipline*, a primer on my interpretation of how basic oriental knotting could be presented in a logical syntax. I taught classes based on my text, adapted for beadwork, at both "Beadworks" stores in Sacramento on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 1992. My next project entitled *Fasten-ation with Frogs*, a lesson on how to tie buttons and oriental frogs, was first taught at Sacramento State College during the "Sewing, Fashion and Home Decorating Fair" on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1992.

Lately, I have been building an inventory of marketable ideas, developing a class on crystal tying as well as preparing religious knot applications for my ministerial brethren.

I have been asked to tie plant hangers, hobbles for someone's girlfriend and some fringe for a stage production. St. Michael's Guild, a Renaissance re-enactment association, has expressed interest in Celtic knotting.

My philosophy is to expand the application of knotting past the edge of the sea. Although I owe the Navy for everything I know, I did leave the Navy and, hence, knotting has become the most rewarding of all arts. The civilian world has colored my art and made it more personal. The Lord has given me understanding, wisdom and inspiration to the point where, if I didn't share these wonderful discoveries, I shall burst. After all, how many presentations of fobs, bodkin handles, fids and bell hangers can one endure?

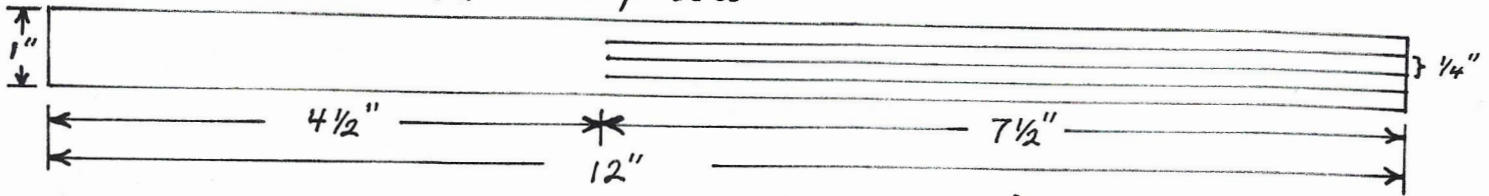
I currently reside in Sacramento, California. I play guitar, bass and I occasionally sing in local clubs. I am a line hauler for a local trucking outfit and rule the streets in a black '65 Chevy step-side with a high performance 350. I am writing a religious lampoon with a space adventure. Some day I hope to relocate to Eureka, where there reside more people like me: old hippies. I have two cats that love playing with string. I look forward to meeting y'all.

*Thinking of Knotting*  
*Roy Chapman*

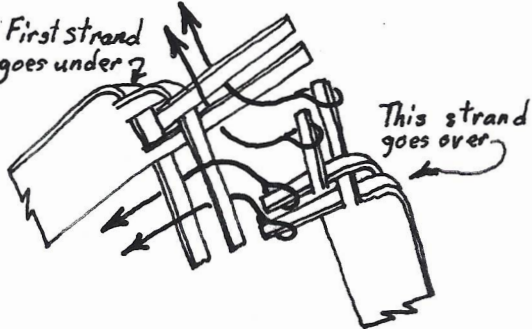
The other day a fellow knotter and I were looking at some really cool cord I had just bought. It is very "high tech" with a spectra core and 3M reflective threads in the sheath. The exciting thing about it is that when tied into a key fob or added as a Turkshead on a cane or walking stick you are now as bright as a flare in the light from a flashlight. How about on a dog leash? It makes Phideaux and you much safer on an evening stroll along the road. My friend commented that at the price I paid he wouldn't be using any of it. I pointed out that I thought that was a sad viewpoint. Our labor is the "expensive" part of our knotting projects. I just put 8 hours into a dog leash. How can a \$5 difference in the cost of materials really matter? If you are going to invest your love and time in a knotted project, you might as well use the best materials you can find.

# Braided Bird

Cut two pieces

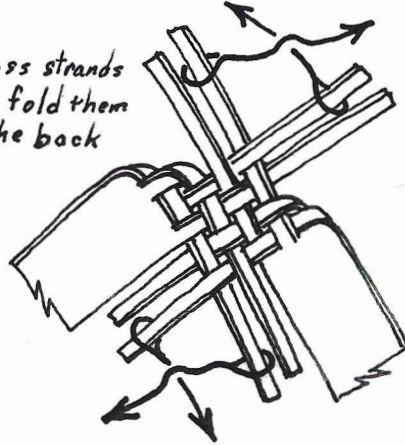


First strand goes under

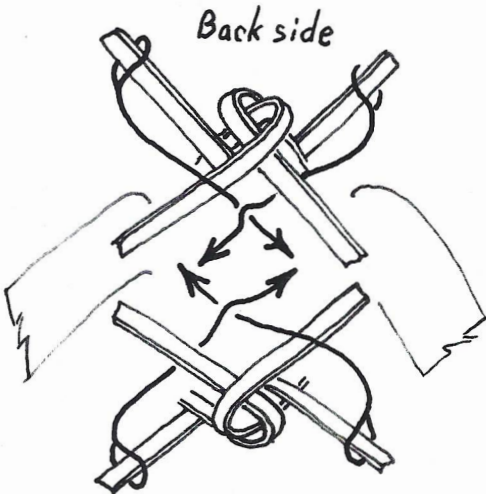


This strand goes over

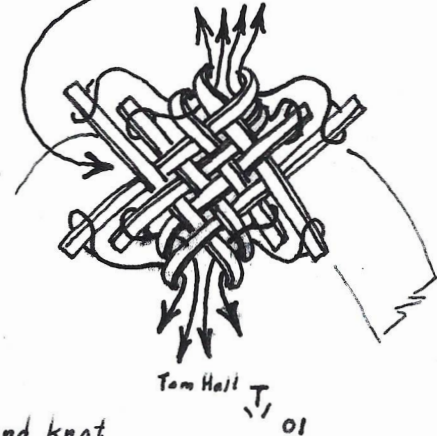
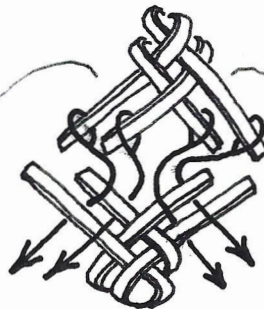
Cross strands and fold them to the back



Back side

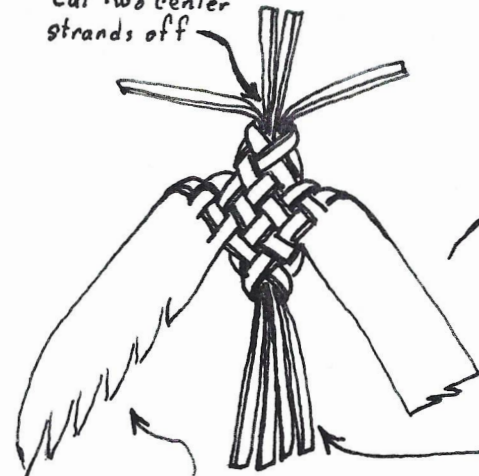


Put rock filler in side



Tom Hall T, 01

Cut two center strands off



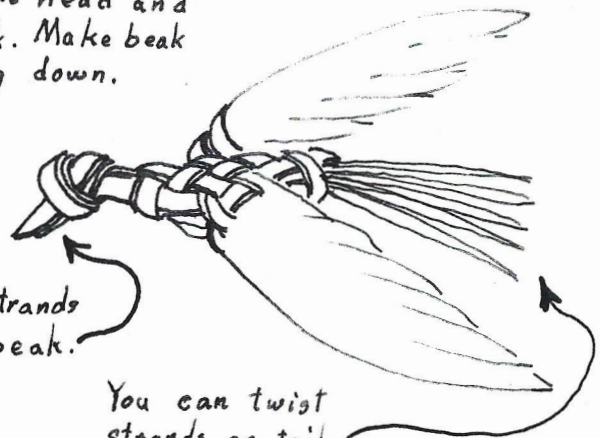
Shape wings

Split tail strands



Tie an overhand knot for the head and beak. Make beak going down.

Cut strands for beak.



You can twist strands on tail.



Unless you are marooned on a desert island or somehow condemned to use "old rope" due to some past sins, you might as well get the best. Of course, there is great joy in making something useful and beautiful out of discarded materials too. Please don't give up that worthy practice. But if you see an absolutely marvelous bit of cordage and can think of the perfect project, then get out your dollars and buy the material. You will never regret it. Might be the best money you spend all year! Excluding your dues to the IGKT-PAB of course. [This was an unsolicited endorsement – Editor]

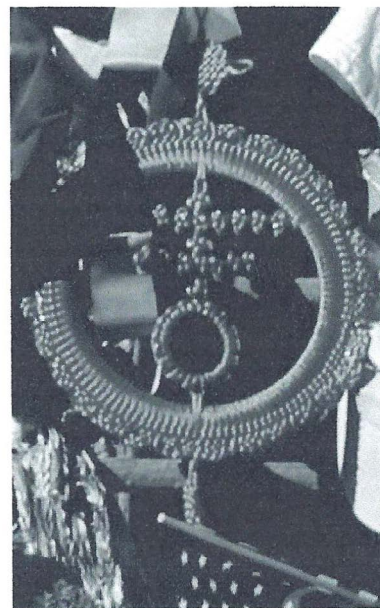
### Branch Bits

**Tom Hall of** Wyoming has this clever project for you to try: "This fall, my wife Trude and I went to Lexington, Kentucky to the International Federation of Leather Craft Guild's show to put on a leather braiding class. The class went well. We did a 4 Strand Round Braid and brought it into an 8 Strand Square Braid. We braided this for about 8-10 inches and went back into two 4 Strand Round Braids. Just long enough for a buttonhole. We went back into the 8 Strand Square Braid, making it long enough for a loop around a belt. Then we tied an Open Ended Knot to be used as a button. The whole piece could be used as a key chain that connected to your belt.

The day after the class one of the students from the class called and asked me to look at a little braided bird that a friend had made years before. The friend had forgotten how the bird was braided and was looking for someone to help her make another one. She had the two pieces of leather cut out to make another bird. So with these and looking at the example she had already made, I was able to braid another bird. From this bird I worked up these drawings of how the bird was braided. It is such a fun project I thought that I would share it with you. The bird would make a nice Christmas tree ornament. I hope that you have as much fun making it as I did working up these drawings."

**Yvonne Chang of** California got this email from Jim Wallace "I visited the World Trade Center on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001; the first day the overlook platform was open to the public. I waited in line for two hours. We passed St. Paul's Chapel, which had been reserved as a 9-11 memorial site. Someone left this knot work on the fence as tribute. Can you explain the significance or symbology of this piece?"

Yvonne's reply, "With the help of a dictionary and my junior high school level comprehension of Chinese, I confirm that the character inside the big circle says 'propitious', 'good luck' or 'auspicious.' The color red symbolizes anything that is good, happy or promising. The two horizontal lines and the one vertical line that crosses them, and the small circle below them comprise the character. It is pronounce 'chi' in Mandarin Chinese. The circle is a modification of a square. I speculate that the knoter did it either for artistic or practical reasons. Also, there should be a space between the top and bottom parts of the character. The knot that is connecting the two parts of the character is there out of necessity. I don't see any other way to hold these two parts together unless you glue them to a background surface. The knoter apparently chose not to have a background."



### PAB Knot Calendar

We hold Branch meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Los Angeles Maritime Institute in San Pedro, California. The meetings run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. They are fairly informal and we always learn a lot from each other.

### Winter/Spring 2002 Schedule

February 12<sup>th</sup> - Four Turks' Head Starts

March 12<sup>th</sup> - Turk's Head expansion

April 9<sup>th</sup> - The Little Lump Knot

May 14<sup>th</sup> - Lanyard Knot: 3 knots, same start

### Knotting Events

March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Whale Festival, Dana Point Harbor.

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> - IGKT-PAB

Sixth Annual General Meeting. Venue and details to be announced.



*Stunt News*  
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