

Knot



News

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS - PACIFIC AMERICAS BRANCH

April 2003

Joseph Schmidbauer-Editor

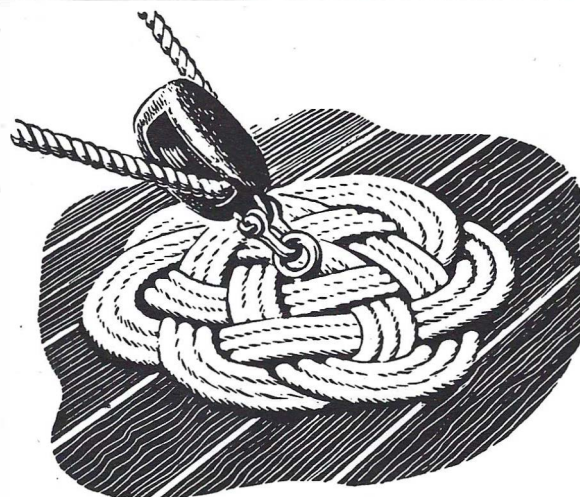
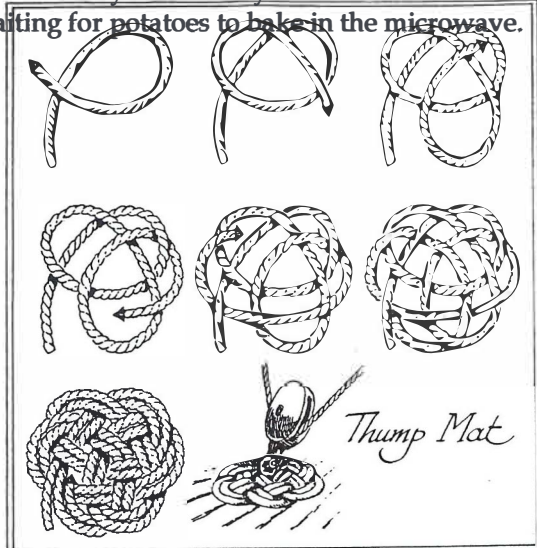
Issue #38

The 45 Second Thump Mat **A different method** **of making ABOK #2360**

by Roy Chapman

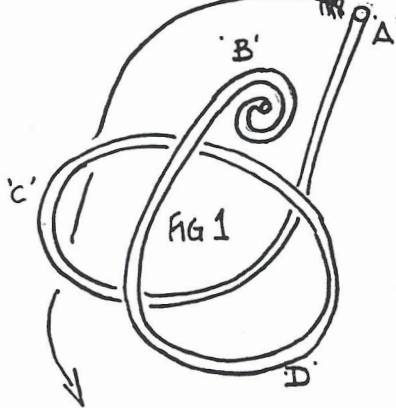
Well, it had to happen eventually; I met

another Guild member face to face, Bruce Prior, Washington. For those of us separated by geography I highly recommend it. Head to head with another knothead... wonderful! In a subsequent phone conversation with his wife, Margaret, she asked about beer coasters. I whipped up an ABOK #2360 and snail mailed it off to her. Well, there is no description of how to make it in ABOK and the method in Ron Edwards isn't my favorite [see below]. I thought if Margaret enjoyed it you might too. Here is my 45-second Thump Mat (coaster, hot pot pad or???). Be warned, additional plys might take two or three minutes so you can only make a mat or two while waiting for potatoes to bake in the microwave.



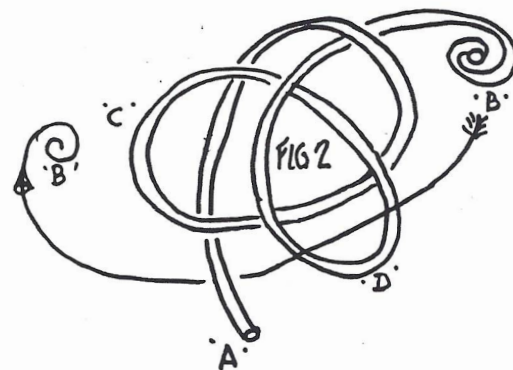
The "trick" to this method is using both ends alternately. Make your short end 'A' and a coil for 'B'. Work on the deck in hawser, cable or the neighbor's garden hose. Work on a table or your lap for small stuff. I think you can do it from my three figures and notes, but perhaps I flatter myself. Just in case, you see that there is no reeving or tucking until Fig. 3? Even then there are only three "gozunder" (thank you, Bob S.) tucks [at E, G and D]. If you plan a three-ply knot you make "A" a coil too. Then you can double with one coil and triple with the other. Even though you still have a bit of line to reeve and haul through it goes very fast because you aren't hauling three plys worth. That gets you out of your neighbor's garden a lot quicker... and in the morning when he sees the lovely knot that his hose forms... OH BABY!

The IGKT-PAB and the author presents this notion of "hose knotting" as humor and no suggestion that this should actually be done is herein made or offered. The user assumes all risk and liability connected with such miss-use of our skill.



THE "45 SECOND
THUMP MAT,"
ADOK #2360 BY
A DIFFERENT METHOD.

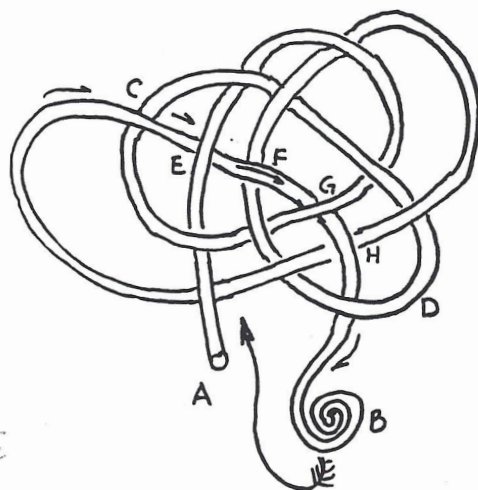
R. CHAPMAN
JANUARY 2003.



- 1) DROP 'A' TO THE DECK AND
DROP BIGHTS 'C' AND 'D'.
- 2) DROP COIL 'B'. PICK UP END 'A'.
- 3) SWEEP END 'A' OVER COIL 'B' AND UNDER
BIGHT 'C'. DROP 'A'. PICK UP 'B'.

- 4) SWEEP COIL 'B' OVER
BIGHT 'D', UNDER END
'A' AND DROP IT NEAR
BIGHT 'C'.

FIG.3



5. PASS END 'B' OVER
BIGHT 'C', UNDER
BIGHT 'E', OVER
BIGHT 'F', UNDER
'G', OVER, 'H, UNDER
BIGHT 'D' ENDING
NEXT TO 'A'.

6. FAIR THE KNOT AND
FOLLOW THE LEAD 'A'
FOR ADDITIONAL PLYS.

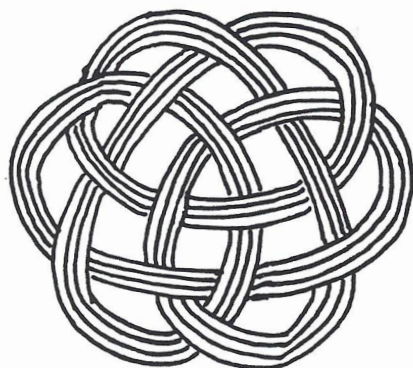


FIG.4.

3 PLY MAT OF
6 OUTER BIGHTS
WITH 3 BIGHTS
IN THE CENTER
COMPARTMENT.
ADOK #2360.

R. CHAPMAN
JANUARY 2003

Todd Burgman came to a PAB meeting in January and asked our group if we could make a number of rope handles for the chests on board the Twin Brigantines. They needed 16 pairs of handles, 32 handles in all. It was agreed to make them in the form of ABOK #3632 or equivalent. LAMI would supply the 16mm Roblon for the grommets. A call went out to all PAB members for help. Each knoter was encouraged to be as creative as they wished. It was a close deadline but the results were very heartening. On Friday, February 28th Lindsey Philpott, Charlie Bell and Jimmy Ray Williams presented the completed beckets to Jim Gladson. The members that contributed were:

Charlie Bell - 8 pairs and 2 bellropes.

Joe Soanes - 1 traditional pair and 1 grommet style.

Dan Callahan - 2 pairs and 4 key fobs.

Joe Schmidbauer - 2 pairs.

John Williams - 1 pair.

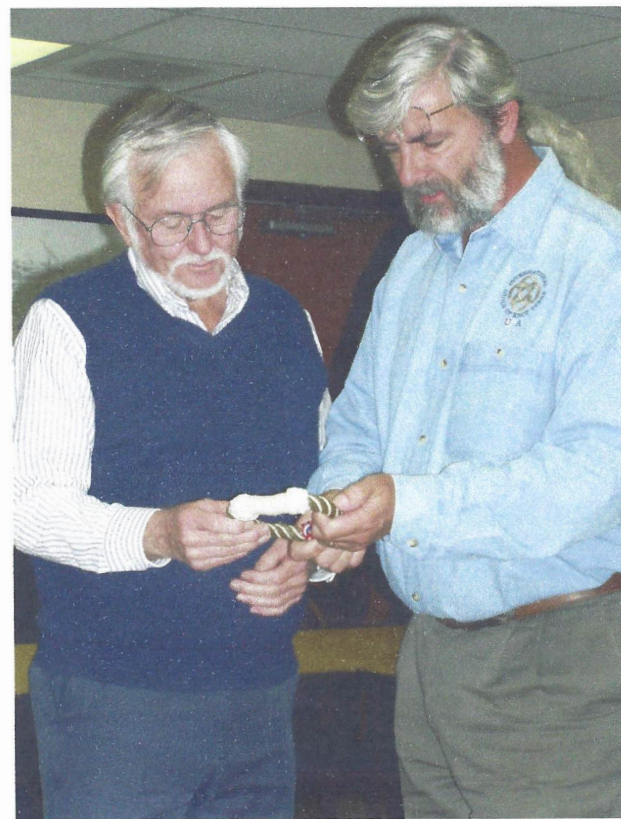
Jimmy Ray Williams - 1 pair.

Roy Chapman - 1 pair.

Clint Funk - 1 pair.

Lindsey Philpott - 2 pairs.

Our thanks go out to all who contributed, it was a lot to ask in a short amount of time and to all concerned a very hearty "Well done!"



From the Mailbag

Lily Morales of California is a prospective member to the PAB. She recently attended one of our monthly meetings and was impressed with our collective expertise and thankful for the warm welcome she received for herself and her two children. Here is a short letter she wrote explaining something of herself: "I must confess that I had a little 'head start' in knotting. My Dad taught me to tie the basic Boy Scout knots (bowlines, bends, Turk's Heads, etc) when he was teaching my brother. Billy was 10 and I was 6 at the time. When the other boys in the troop were having trouble learning, Dad threatened to, "Bring Billy's little sister down here and let HER teach you!" Well, you better believe they learned - they weren't about to let a little GIRL teach them. That was one of Dad's favorite stories (I have a few more, but will save them for later.) :-)

I also did macramé in the late 1960's and early 1970's. I never understood why my Dad called all the crafts I did (macramé, crocheting, knitting, etc) "Fancy Work" - now I do!

And my Grandmother tatted. To this day, I cannot remember her face (she passed away when I was 8 years old), but I remember watching her hand with that shuttle just FLYING back and forth and this beautiful frilly lace coming out from inside the other hand. I always wanted to learn, but she dies before being able to teach me. About 5 years ago, I taught myself and last year I published my first book on tatting, *A Labor of Love*. I have a website started [www.LoopyLacer.com], but it's just a "work in progress" so please don't judge too harshly. Looks like I'm going to have to add an entire new section to this for all these great projects I MUST make - if for no other reason than just to be able to say I've done it.

So I think one reason knot tying comes somewhat easily to me is my prior experience in the crafts I learned as a child and a "thirty-something". It seems I'm always learning some new craft and becoming obsessed with it. I'm already begun planning my knot board!"



The PAB is becoming known as the contact point for anything to do with knotting. This request came to me in February as of an example of the people that have been contacting us:

"Dear Sir or Madame,

My name is John Sowell; I am Training Coordinator for Sheet Metal Workers International Union No. 25 of Northern New Jersey. We are a Building Trades Construction Union, 90% of our

work jurisdiction is commercial, industrial and institutional. We have approximately 1,500 members in Northern New Jersey.

For the Spring of 2003, we decided to offer our members a two (2) day seminar in Knot Tying, because hoisting, lifting and rigging is a large part of the industry. We have the seminar scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th, 2003 and Thursday, April 10th, 2003. The seminar will run from about 5:00 PM until about 9:00 PM. Hopefully we can provide some basics and fundamentals with the eight (8) hours instruction.

Do you know of anyone in our area that could conduct such a seminar for 20 to 30 construction workers? We are able to provide a stipend and cover the cost of the required materials and props."

Happily, PAB member Dan Cashin of Pennsylvania was able to volunteer his help in this instance. Dan is an expert in industrial rigging and will fit the bill perfectly for the requested instruction.

Please let us know of any other instances of community instruction you may do in your area so we can include in a future KN.

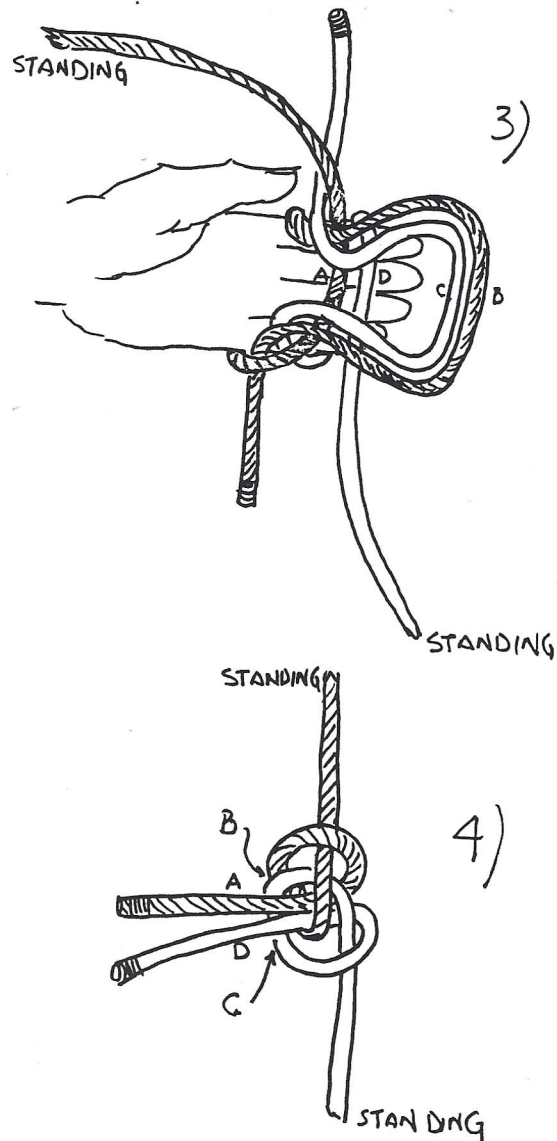
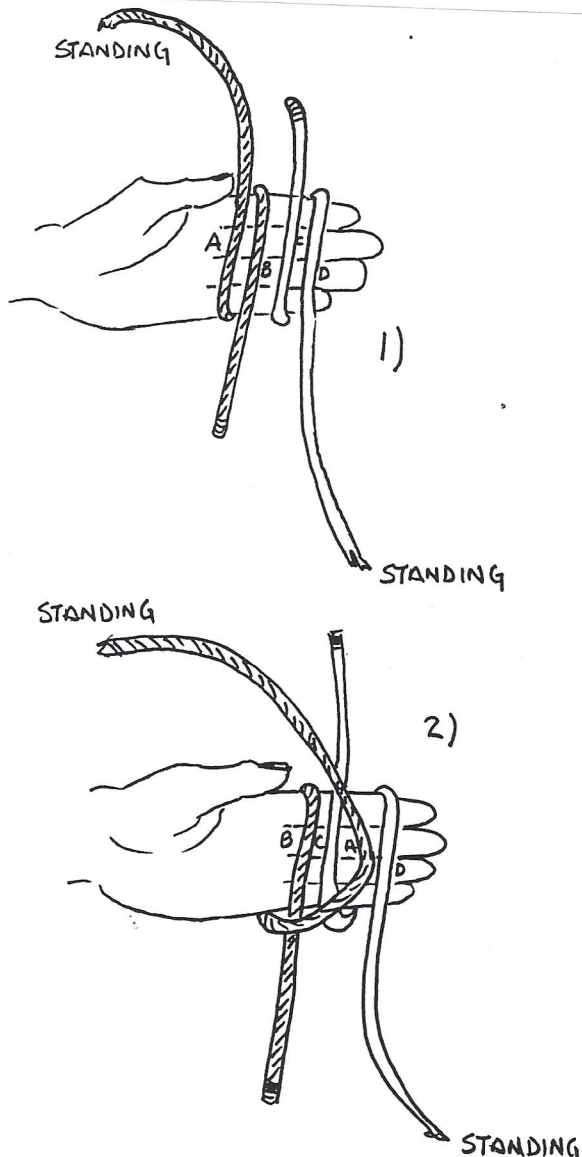
Thinking of Knotting...

by Roy Chapman

Some months back I was testing one bend against another, tying a series of bends in paracord and pulling until something broke. Then I would see which of the survivors could still be untied. Mostly just having fun. As I continually tied and untied Brion Toss's 'Straight Bend' I found I could be pretty quick if I tied it by a revision of the method often illustrated for the Alpine Butterfly Loop. I thought you might like to try this way. Follow the illustrations and:

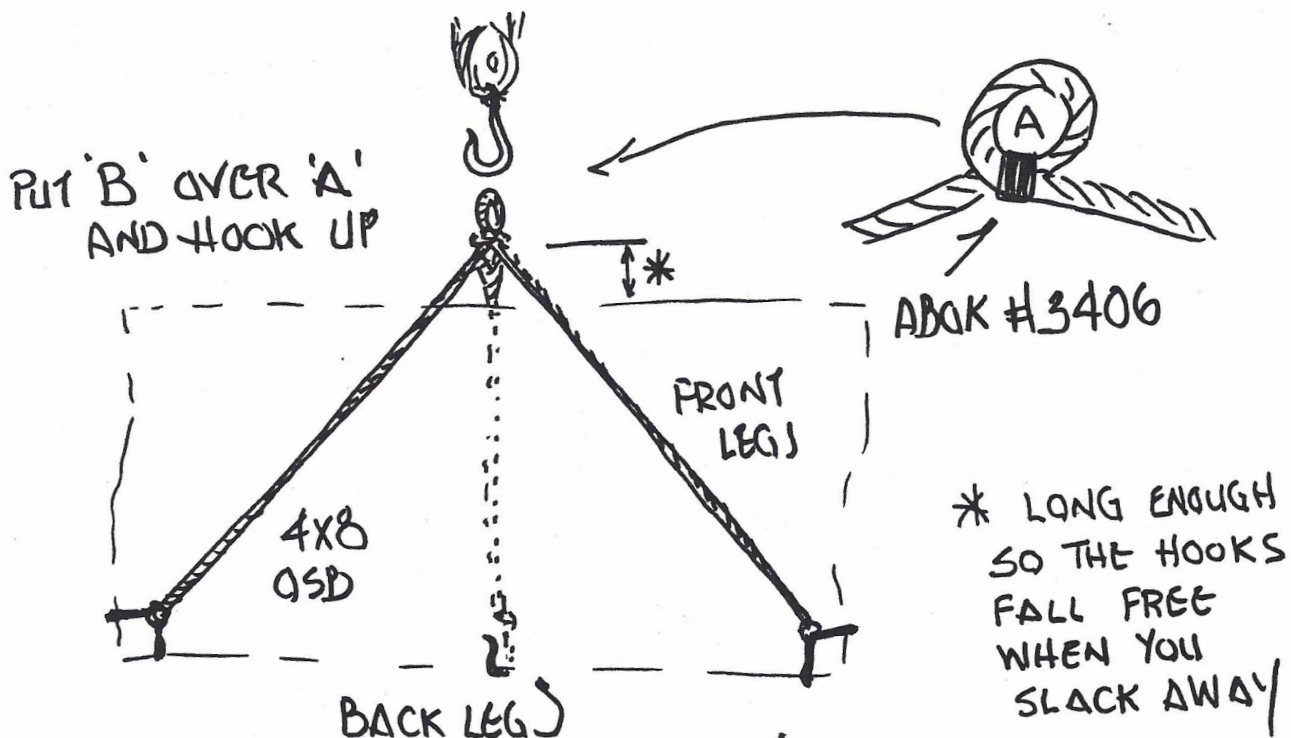
- 1) Grasping both working ends in the right hand make counter clockwise sweeps around your left hand dropping off bights and ends as shown.
- 2) Pick up bight 'A' and drop it between bights 'C' and 'D'.
- 3) Pick up bights 'C' and 'D' and pass them to the right, beyond bights 'A' and 'D'. Slip your left thumb under 'A' and 'D'. With your left thumb and middle finger, grasp both bights 'C' and 'D' and, with both the standing parts in your right hand, gently pull your hands apart. Continue pulling until both working ends follow through the body of the knot.
- 4) Fair the knot until it looks like the diagram.

On a slow day it takes about 15 seconds to complete the knot and put it to use. I find it very hard to actually slow down enough to teach this method because the hands just "flow", once they have learned the sweep and it looks as if you are doing some sort of "sight of hand" trick. For me that makes this a little slower than a Sheet Bend and a little faster than a Carrick Bend. Give it a try; I think you will like it.

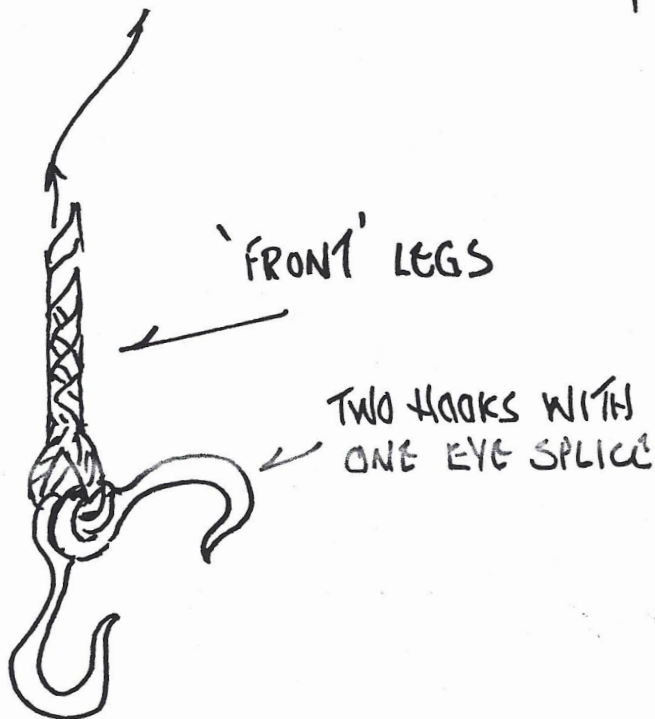
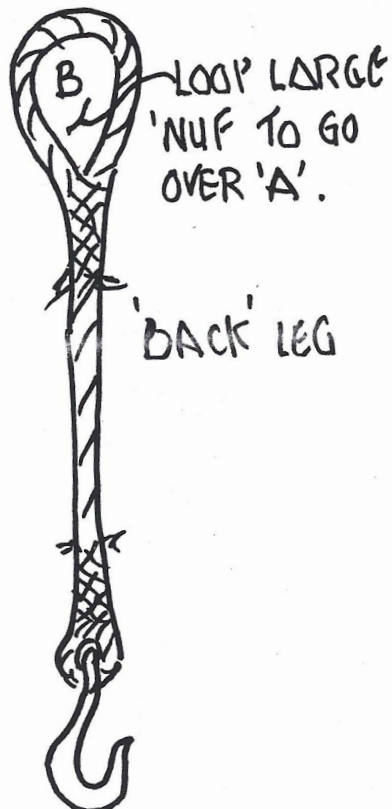


We are still pounding away at our little shack. Our roof is very steep, with a pitch of 18" of rise for every foot of run. I leaned an extension ladder against the rafters and, using a gin pole and blocks, slid roof sheathing up the ladder and into place. As I was rigging this I thought of a quick sling to lift plywood or OSB and save some trips up and down to recover tackle. This is very secure and has made a "single hand" job out of handling the sheathing. I used 5 hooks and a length of $\frac{3}{4}$ " plastic that was on hand. It need not be that stout. Loops would work instead of double hooks at the corners but it is much less secure. If the plywood gets loose up there it will come back down the roof at an alarming rate so play it safe. I found myself (wee short arms, I have) using the "back leg" to carry 4x8's around on the ground too. It is easy to hook up the sling alone and when you slack away your tackle the sling falls free (or can be shaken free) of the plywood. I also run a light hand line to the block so I can swing the sheet laterally for alignment. The sketch shows the sling.

Check it out ➡



ADOK #2725 4 TIMES



R. CHAPMAN
FEB 16, 03

SCHMIDBAUER started the whole mess by writing:

Hey guys, I got this bit of trivia from my brother and found it amusing. You probably already knew this stuff but it was news to me.

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon, but they had to find a way to prevent them from rolling about the deck. The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine which rested on sixteen. Thus a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem... how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. But, if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls quickly would rust to it. Thus the solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys."

Few of the landlubbers realized that brass contracts more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (And all this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?) F Y I

* * * * *

Solon wrote to Schmidbauer with a copy to Louie Bartos:

If you really want an answer write to Louie Bartos and Roy Chapman.

This is the story I have heard several times and read in several sources. I doubt, however, its veracity. Why would they go to the extra expense of making the tray out of brass? Why store iron projectiles out in the elements if they would rust away? Does a rusty cannon ball need to fit snugly in the bore of the cannon? Have you ever read of any naval battles in the winter?

On top of that, how strong is brass? (I don't know since field pieces were sometimes made of brass.) If the trays had indentations, the cannon balls would sit there anyway. All they would have to do is make the brass monkey a little bigger to accommodate the differences in the coefficient of expansion between iron and brass. And one thing about the age of sail: If it didn't work it was soon discarded for something that did.

Would weight be a problem? Oliver Hazard Perry used 32 pound carronades in the Battle of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813. That was the weight of the cannon ball. Would you want that much weight (30 cannonballs x 32# = 960 pounds plus the weight of the brass monkey) sitting next to each cannon? With a hit by the enemy there would be 30, heavy, 6", cannon balls rolling around the deck. (Would that be worse than a "loose cannon"?) Beats me.

PS Watch out for Chapman! His word processor runs on black powder and I am sending this to him. Be prepared for delayed counter fire!!

* * * * *

Louie Bartos wrote:

Hello Again,

Ask Me?! I'm retired from engineering and when I

did the only books I saved were those on fluid dynamics and related. However I did save a small "handbook" with common engineering equations, coefficients and tables.

The question intrigued me so using the table of "Coefficients of Thermal Expansion" I found the difference between Admiralty Bronze (the Brass Monkey) and cast iron (Cannon balls), going from 60 degrees F down to 10 degrees F.

Estimating a bronze and cast iron objects 30 inches long each the differential of "shrink" between the two is only 0.008 inches. [Bronze "shrink" is 0.017 inches and cast iron is 0.009 inches.] I would say, and I don't know if my calculations are correct, that they (monkey and balls) would shrink proportionally the same so they would remain seated in position. There is also the difference in shape/ density.

Now, I don't know much about "Brass Monkeys" and I've been retired long enough to be rustier than the cannon balls so I also don't know the value of my contribution to this exercise. I also believe that the expression "freezing the balls off a brass monkey" is just another one of those expressions like " Colder than a witch's tit".

I will give this some more thought and try to look something up in my collection of Maritime dictionaries and encyclopedias etc. These problems are nice, but I really don't have the time to play with them. Nice to hear from you. Cheers!

* * * * *

Solon wrote:

Far be it from me to disturb you with something so trite as this. The fact of the matter is that it's all Schmidbauer's fault and I expect you to hold him personally responsible. He is always stirring up something, usually in the hope that what he stirs will somehow help him fulfill his editorial duties. The guy is shameless!

When A Loose Cannon Flogs A Dead Horse There's The Devil To Pay, by Olivia A. Isil, and *Salty Dog Talk*, by Bill Beavis and Richard McCloskey both agree with Messrs. Schmidbauer as to the origin of the phrase "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." I'm going with you, that the expansion/ contraction of the two metals is too close to make any difference.

* * * * *

And the definitive answer (from Bartos) is:

Bob, I don't know if my calculation is correct (100%) but I feel it's close enough. I believe we've "flogged the dead horse" long enough. One other thing, anything in the navy, other than "fancy stuff" ie, bells, brass bands on wood and rails etc. was/is painted no matter what kind of metal. I believe there was something on corrosion mentioned. I didn't get into that. From a Galvanic Series Table, Brass is (7) and Cast Iron is (15), the farther apart the numbers the worse it gets. This is quite bad. I will keep this in the back of the brain and see what else surfaces in the future.

Cheers!

Louie

* * * * *

Here's your opportunity to sound off and make a difference. Galvinize your thoughts and send comments concerning, opinions about, and pictures of your Brass Monkey to our esteemed editor.

IGKT-PAB Meetings

Monthly Meetings are held at the Los Angeles Maritime Institute, which is right next door to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, Berth 84, at the Foot of Sixth Street in San Pedro, California. The meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Our meetings are very informal affairs. Members come to show their latest knot project or to tell about a new twist on an old knotting trick.

Please come join us!

Members are also encouraged to contact knotters in their local area to enjoy the fellowship and share some string.

Knot News

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