

Knot



News

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Knotting a Lamp

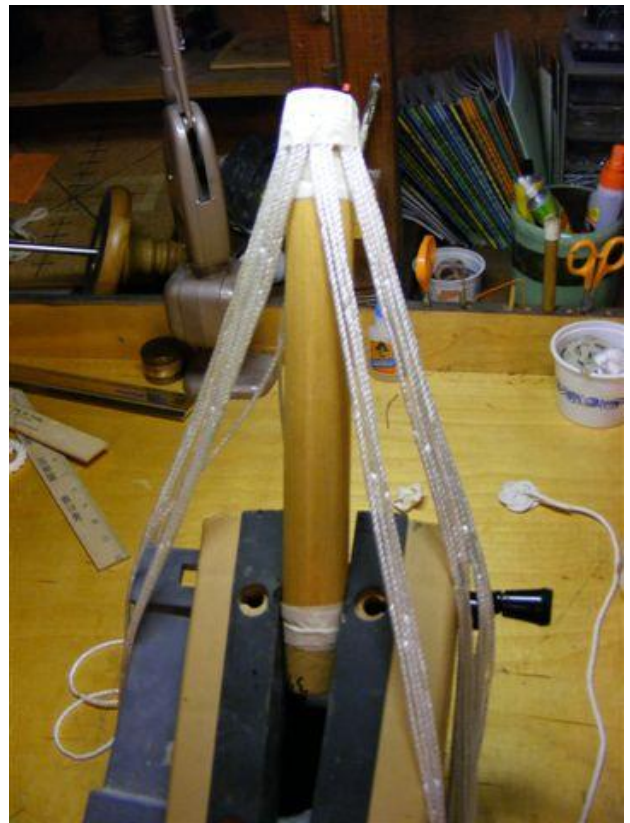
Dave Cook

I've been working on a new lamp project that I thought you might like seeing. My wife got this candlestick lamp at a rummage sale for \$1.



Rummage sale lamp

I coachwhipped it using #42 nylon seine twine. I started with 8 leads of 4 strands each. I wasn't happy with the way it was looking, so I added 2 more leads. It took quite awhile because the twine is slippery and hard to tighten up.



Preparing the strands

After I got the lamp shaft covered, I went back through and worked each individual strand tight in an effort to smooth out the coachwhipping and get the diamonds lined up straight.

I think now that I would rather have hit myself repeatedly in the head with a ball peen hammer, but, hey, I'm very happy with the end result.



Starting with the coachwhipping



Working to straighten and tighten the weaves

The top part is a simple serving with two 3x5 Turk's Head knots and a Napoleon Bend Turk's Head knot in the middle.



Close up of top portion



The bottom part with coachwhipping and Turk's Heads

I still have to put a finish on the nylon (H₂O Poly) and find or make a nice lampshade.



The finished product



Another lamp stand done by Dave Cook

A Fob with No Knots

Compounded Friction Is Your Friend
Jim Long

Knots – who needs ‘em? Well, I do, but not all the time. Sometimes I want cordage arranged differently. I’ve tried “this knot” and I’ve tried “that knot” but what about NO knot?

Actually, I was looking to make a rattlesnake rattle more realistic than what was currently available. I had made a “Spring Sennit” which coiled and gripped things [see *Knot News* #87: “Two Color Helical Sennit”] and it was suggested I could finish it to look like a snake! If I can figure out how to make a head, this fob would make a nice tail.

It is made by simply taking two cords and tucking them “up” alternating right/left, right/left, right/left, then tucking the ends straight back “down” through all the tucks you just made.

It isn’t strictly required that you use tools, but it helps, and I need them to show you how to tie it. Fortunately, tools for this are simple. You can use a drinking straw cut in half, or a pair of needles. You could just stuff the ends like I did the first time, but you won’t like it. So cut a straw in half, or just fold it and hold it.

There are many applications for this “Not a Knot”, but I will show it here as a zipper pull.



Start with an arm-length of decent-sized cordage and middle it.

Reeve the middle through the zipper as shown to get a big enough loop to be able to remove it is needed.



This will also let you repair some broken zippers and tends to silence their rattle as well.

Begin making this "Not a Knot" by holding the tubes in a loose 'V' shape with the two cords arranged around them:



Pick right or left and start with it. I'll start with the right side. Pass the end through the 'V'.



Now hold it...



... while you pass the other end through in the opposite direction.



Repeat once to snub the first tuck.

Here's a view of that point, loose enough to see things.



Take time to tighten at every chance you can.



When you get “enough” tucks...



...finish by sticking the Right Hand end (or whichever one it happens to be) down through the tube on the Left Hand side, and vice-versa.



Stuff the end far enough to emerge at the bottom, then pull the straw. Use whatever means you need to secure the end from pulling back.



Repeat:



Commence working as much slack out of the “Not a Knot” as you can, start by adjusting the length of the cords entering the top. Pull the lowest “coil” on each side until the two top cords are fair. This will create large loops of slack. Pass each loop, in turn, one level at a time and haul away smartly at each turn. You will want to remove as much slack as you can now and fair the structure pretty well as you do. Get each level fairly tight in one pass, as it will be almost impossible to add tightness later.



Take your time – get it right.



The loops will grow and at some point you will find yourself at the top.



Catch one of the end and pull it carefully through until the loop of slack has passed.



Then repeat with the other side. When you are finished, toss the ends and you are done!

ABOK #1385

A Square Sennit Grommet Using Turk's Head Format

Made using an 8 pass x 34 bight "irregular" Turk's Head, because of the Common Divisor Rule two cords will be required. Ashley's instructions have been converted into the familiar 'Over and Under' format. Use a 4" diameter cardboard postal tube and 3mm braided cord, map 34 pins around tube circumference top and bottom.

B= Bottom Pin T= Top Pin

1 st Cord		2 nd Cord	
From	To	From	To
B1	T4	B2	O2, U2
T4	B9	T5	O2, U2
B9	T12	B10	O2, U2
T12	B17	T13	O2, U2
B17	T20	B18	O2, U2
T20	B25	T21	O2, U2
B25	T28	B26	O2, U2
T28	B33	T29	O2, U2
B33	T2	B34	O2, U2
T2	O1	B7	O3, U2
B7	U1	T10	O3, U2
T10	O1	B15	O3, U2
B15	U1	T17	O3, U2
T17	O1	B23	O3, U2
B23	U1	T25	O3, U2
T25	O1	B31	O3, U2
B31	U1	T34	O3, U2
T34	O1	B5	O4, U2
B5	U2	T8	O4, U2
T8	O2	B13	O4, U2
B13	U2	T16	O4, U2
T16	O2	B21	O4, U2
B21	U2	T24	O4, U2
T24	O2	B29	O4, U2
B29	U2	T32	O4, U2
T32	O3	B3	O4, U1, O1, U1
B3	U3	T6	O4, U1, O1, U1
T6	O3	B11	O4, U1, O1, U1
B11	U3	T14	O4, U1, O1, U1
T14	O3	B19	O4, U1, O1, U1
B19	U3	T22	O4, U1, O1, U1
T22	O3	B27	O4, U1, O1, U1
B27	U3	T30	O4, U1, O1, U1
T30	O3	B1	O4, U1, O1, U1



Having laced both cords on the mandrel; now put two elastic bands over the lacings. Starting from the running end of Cord 1, progressively take the bight off the pin and take out the slack, working it towards the standing end.

When you are done with Cord 1, do the same with Cord 2.

Now move the elastic bands closer and repeat until eventually only one band is required. At this point remove the "construction" from the mandrel and continue "in hand" taking out the slack. Using 3mm diameter cord I eventually ended up with a 2 3/4" outside diameter grommet. You need to get it down to this size to really show up the herringbone pattern.

