

Long Turk's Heads

Simple Ways to Make Them ◇

and Remember How!

by Capt. C. Allan McDowall Master Mariner

No.3 - Inter-twined, "origami" method

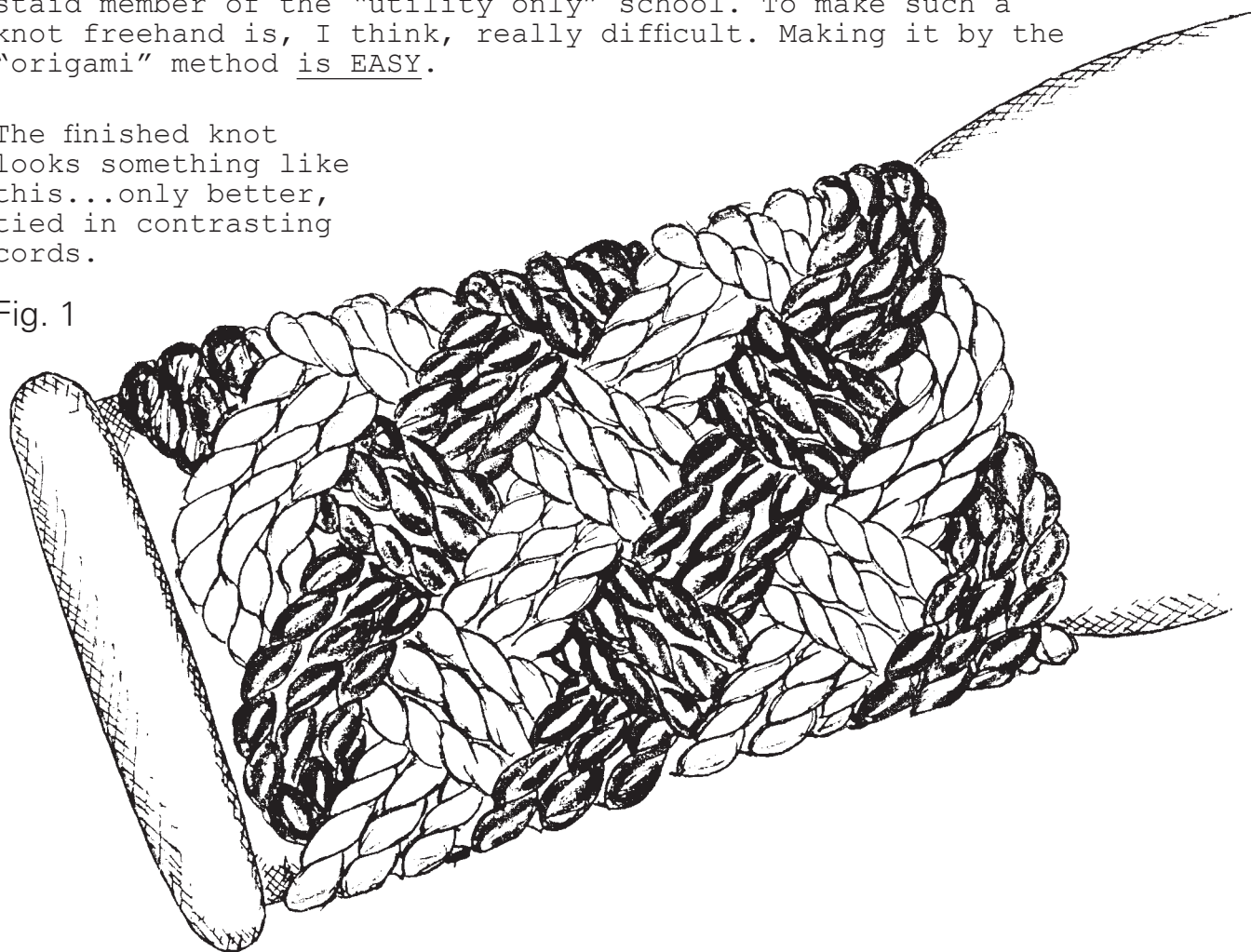
In my last article I showed you how tough paper can be used to plan a knot, then to hold the 'pilot' twine in place while the knot is formed, and finally removed in pieces when the knot is complete. Let's now explore the possibilities of this method further.

You can make two - or more - Turk's Heads intertwined with each other. Two Turk's Heads made like this as one knot produce features that the knot made with a single strand does not have. Two contrasting cords can be used. Knots of EVEN numbers of parts can be made where the loops lie opposite each other (instead of being staggered) and where each end is of the same handedness.

The double 3-bight, 4-part long Turk's Head (Fig. 1) (effectively a 6-bight, 8-part knot) makes a very handsome tiller grip for a yacht, fit to jerk admiration from the most staid member of the "utility only" school. To make such a knot freehand is, I think, really difficult. Making it by the "origami" method is EASY.

The finished knot looks something like this...only better, tied in contrasting cords.

Fig. 1



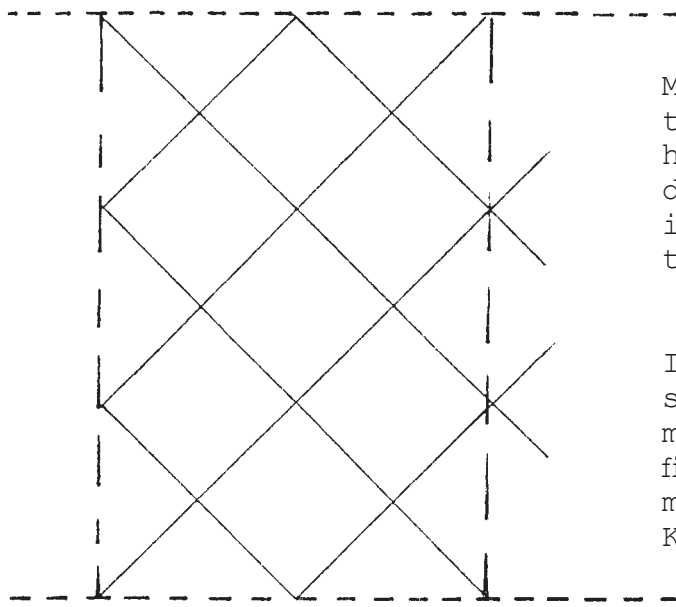


Fig. 2

Making the knot with contrasting cords gives a helical effect which is distinctive and shows each individual knot as an integral part of the whole.

If the following step-by-step account of how to make the pattern is not at first obvious, look back at my last article (No. 2 in K.M. issue No. 15).

1. Mark the circumference with 1/4"-1/2" paper slack;
2. Draw the lefthand margin;
3. Divide the LH margin into the number of bights (in this case - 3);
4. From these marks, draw lines at 45 degrees;
5. Count the number of parts from the LH margin (in this case - 4), and draw the righthand margin;
6. Erase lines to the right of the RH margin;

You have drawn (Fig. 2) one 3-loop, 4-part Turk's Head.

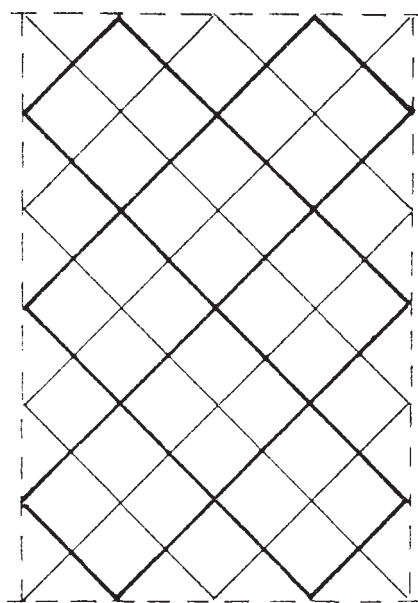
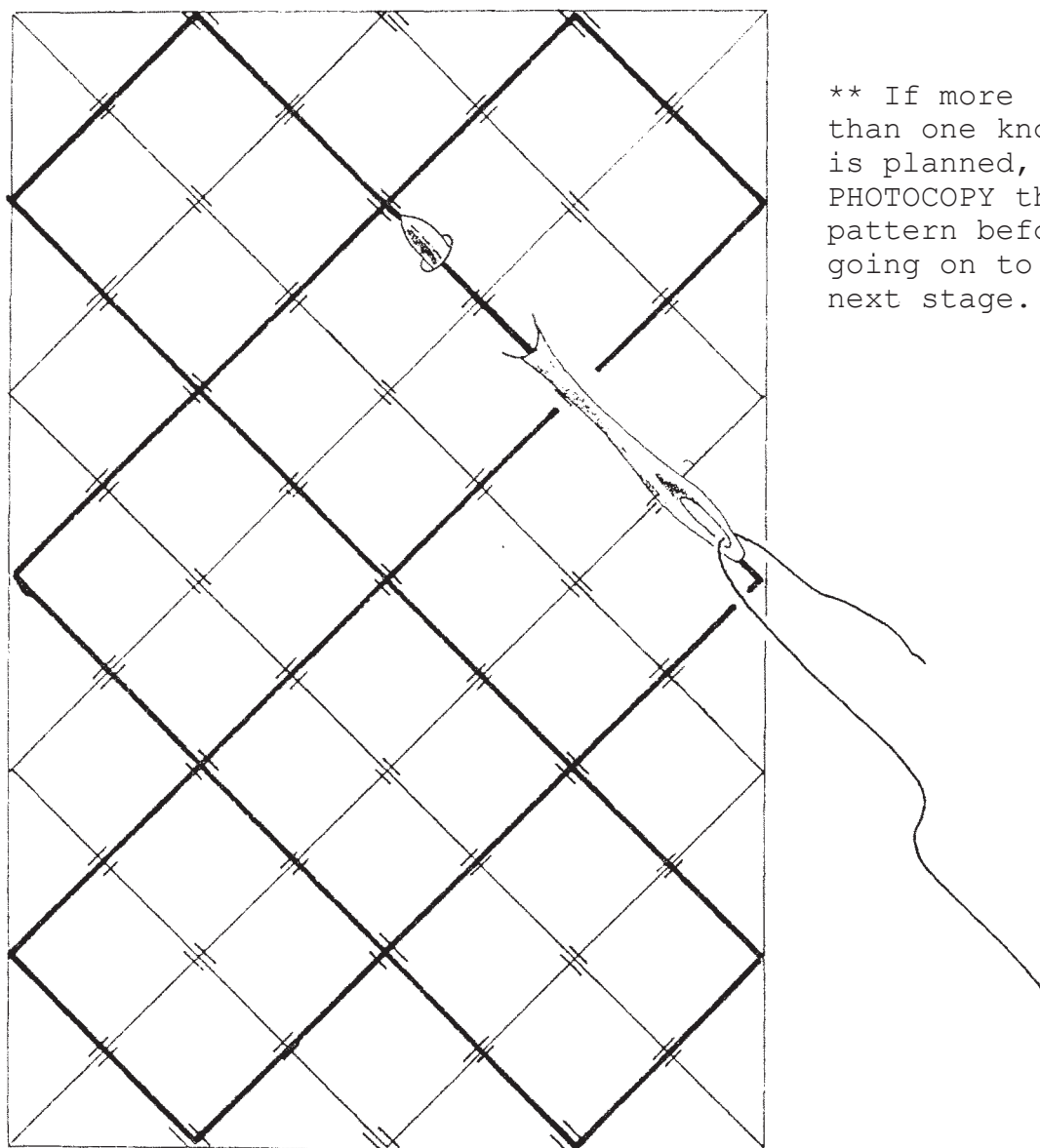


Fig. 3

7. Now draw another one, the same, but displaced (thick line, Fig. 3) by half the interval between loops;
8. Mark in the 'bridges' (Fig. 4)** and don't - I advise - try to skip this step;
9. Wrap your paper pattern around the object to be covered and glue it in place;
10. With a blunted sail needle and soaped twine, stitch round



** If more than one knot is planned, PHOTOCOPY this pattern before going on to the next stage.

Fig. 4

pattern UNDER the 'bridges' (Fig. 4). Use contrasting twine for each knot,

11. Tie contrasting cordage to each length of twine and pull cordage right through each knot layout, displacing the twine as it proceeds;
12. Follow round each knot again (doubling or trebling as required. Remove the paper remnants. Tighten up the knot(s), concealing all cord ends.

THE NEXT ARTICLE, number 4 in this series, tells how to tie 'T'-shaped and 'X'-shaped Turk's Heads.