

Long Turk's Heads

Simple Ways to Make Them ◇

and remember How!

by Capt. C. Allan McDowall Master Mariner

No. 4 - 'CRUCIFIX' & 'T'- TURK'S HEADS

(by the Origami method)

Out here in the Persian Gulf, I cannot pop up to my study to take a quick peek at Ashley. So, in all these articles, we use the method to design a pattern to make an intertwined knot out of imagination, without recourse to any book.

I'd never seen a Crucifix Turk's Head before the enjoyable and stimulating I.G.K.T. Greenwich Symposium. The well-crafted example there by the late Jim Nicoll set me thinking how to do it, and that's when the 'Origami' method came to me. At college they called such activities "re-invention", a profitless exercise professionally but still fun in one's hobby.

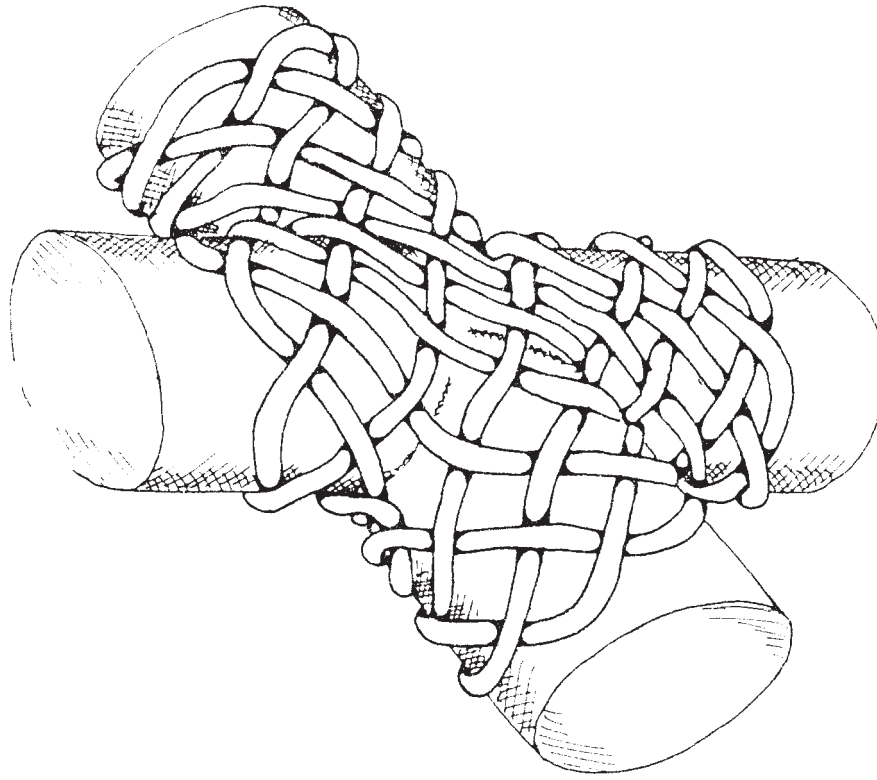
Some knots can only be made by intertwining two knots, because the form is of inter-laced loops rather than the continuous snake of the pure Turk's Head. To make such a loop-knot with one continuous strand requires concealment of the change of cord direction (as in the Monkey's Fist). The Crucifix Turk's Head is such a knot.

I suppose there must be many variations of this fascinating ropework covering for a meeting of wheel spoke and rim or the appropriate junction on a gangway stanchion. Two kinds showed themselves to me after a bit of doodling. One is made with 2 strands, the other with 4. By concealment they can be made with one; and to make this sort without concealment results in asymmetry.

The 4-strand knot results in a perfect piece, but with a crossover in the crook of the elbow and so needs to be tied in fairly thin cord. If a very sharp corner is desired, then the type with 2-strands is better because the corner is covered with a hole which does not show.

THE METHOD is exactly as in previous articles, so I will simply draw the finished knots alongside what each pattern looks like. By now you should be able to cope. Note - you need TWO patterns for each knot you tie, glued over the object to be covered so that where the patterns meet the strands coincide. Draw in the 'bridges' for yourself.

CRUCIFIX KNOT - 1 STRAND



Note the asymmetry - the top arm has one fewer parts than the other three and so is the opposite hand. The four hexagonal holes at the crooks tighten to slits closed up, to give a sharp corner.

FIGURE 1

- - - - - = FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINE
 _____ = CUT ALONG THIN LINE

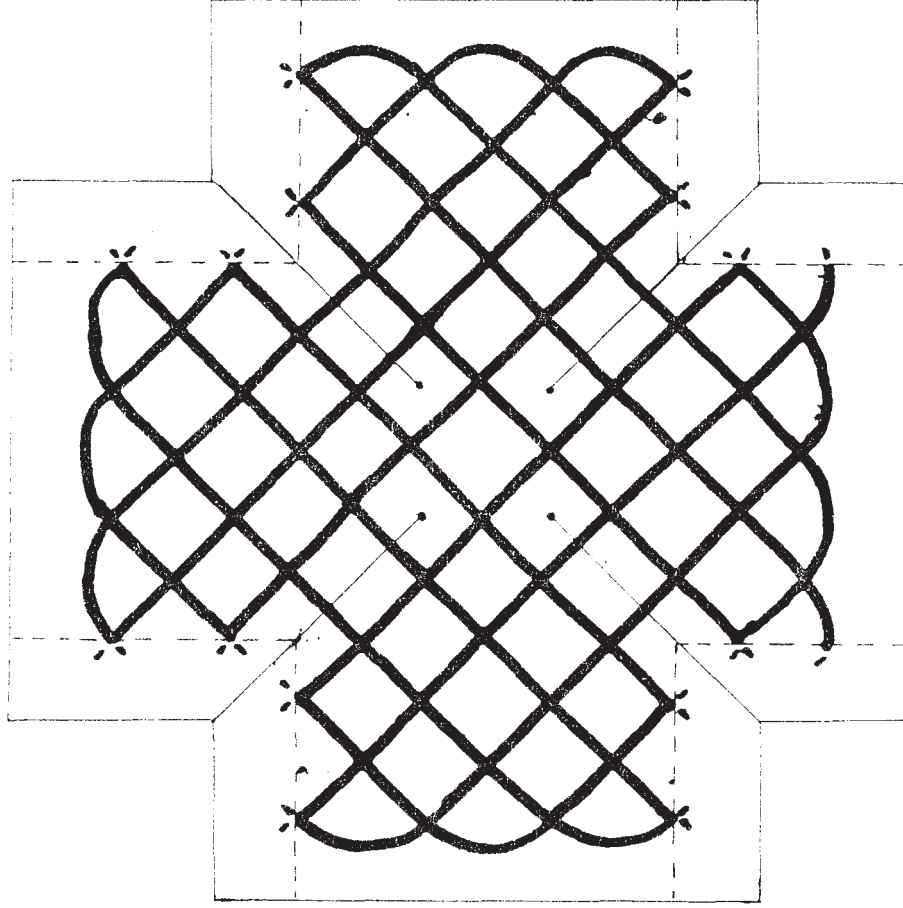


Photo-copy two of these patterns and glue over the object to be covered. Mark in the 'bridges' to suit the hand of your choice, i.e. Left-hand or right-hand knot.

FIGURE 2

CRUCIFIX KNOT - 1 STRAND

- - - - - = FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINE
_____ = CUT ALONG THIN LINE

CRICIFIX KNOT - 2 STRANDS

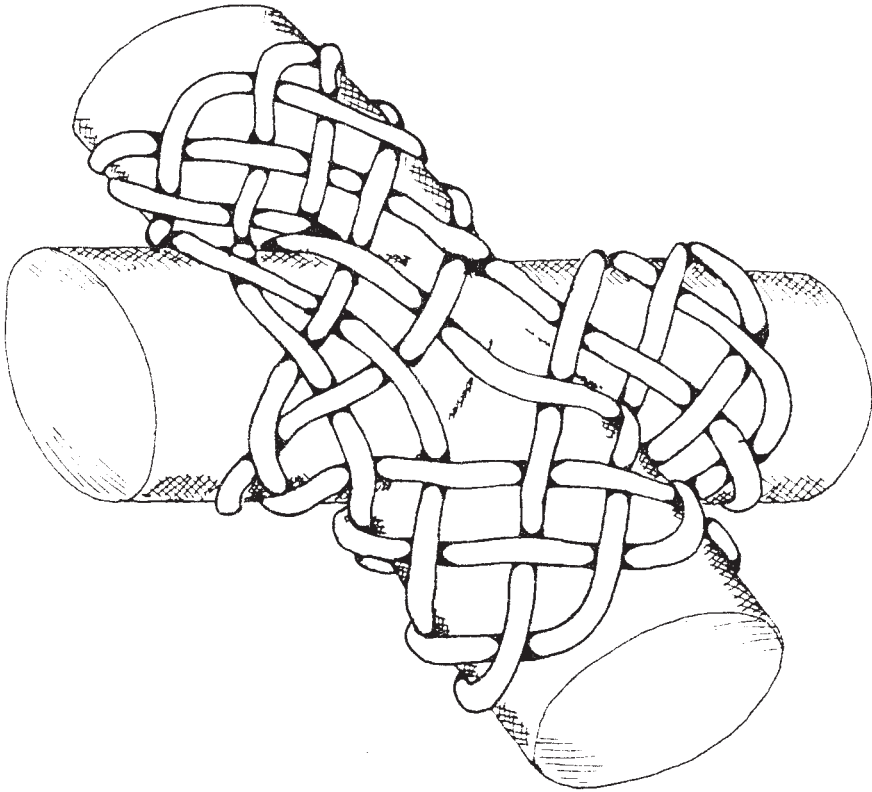
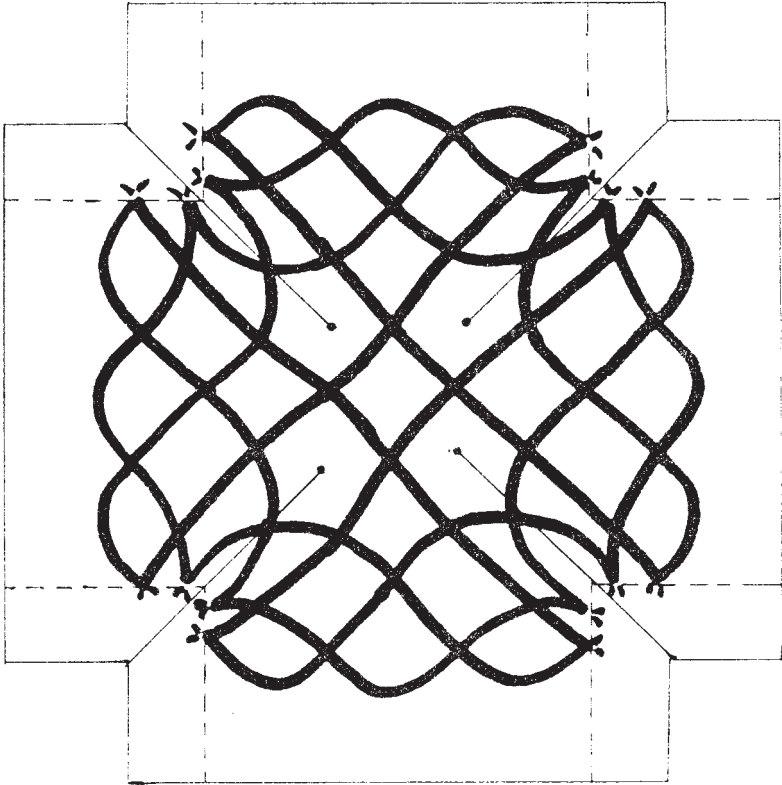


Photo-copy two of these patterns and glue over object to be covered. Mark in the 'bridges' to suit the hand of your choice.

FIGURE 4

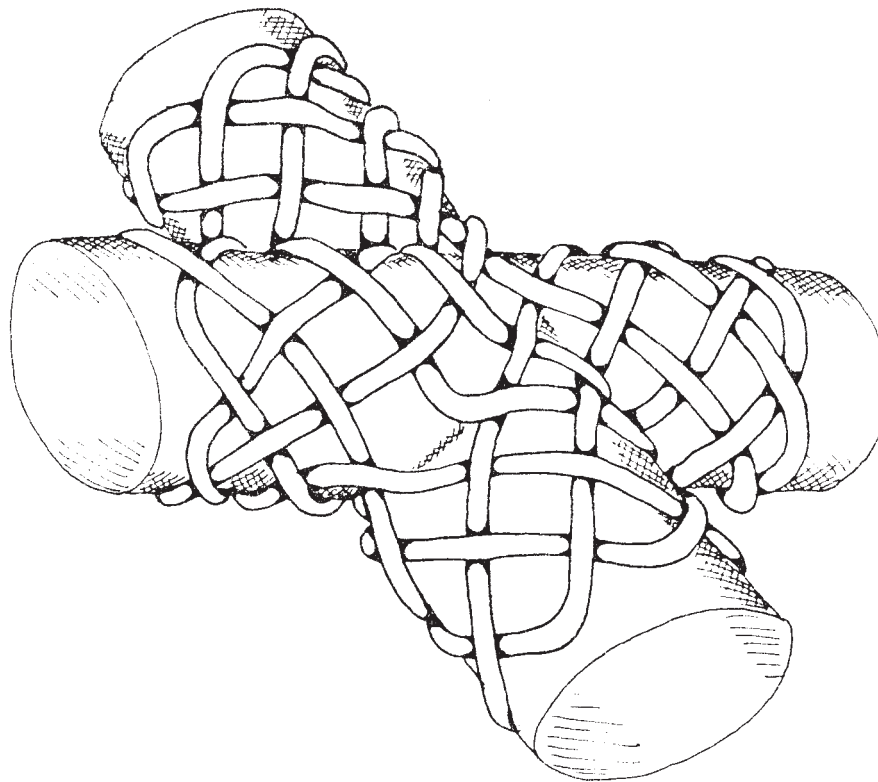


This knot results in a pentagonal pattern around the centre. The knot is symmetrical.

FIGURE 3

CRUCIFIX KNOT - 2 STRANDS

CRUCIFIX KNOT - 4 STRANDS



This knot is symmetrical, but is more suitable for a stanchion with a bulb joint because the crook is not sharp.

FIGURE 5

- - - - - = FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINE
 _____ = CUT ALONG THIN LINE

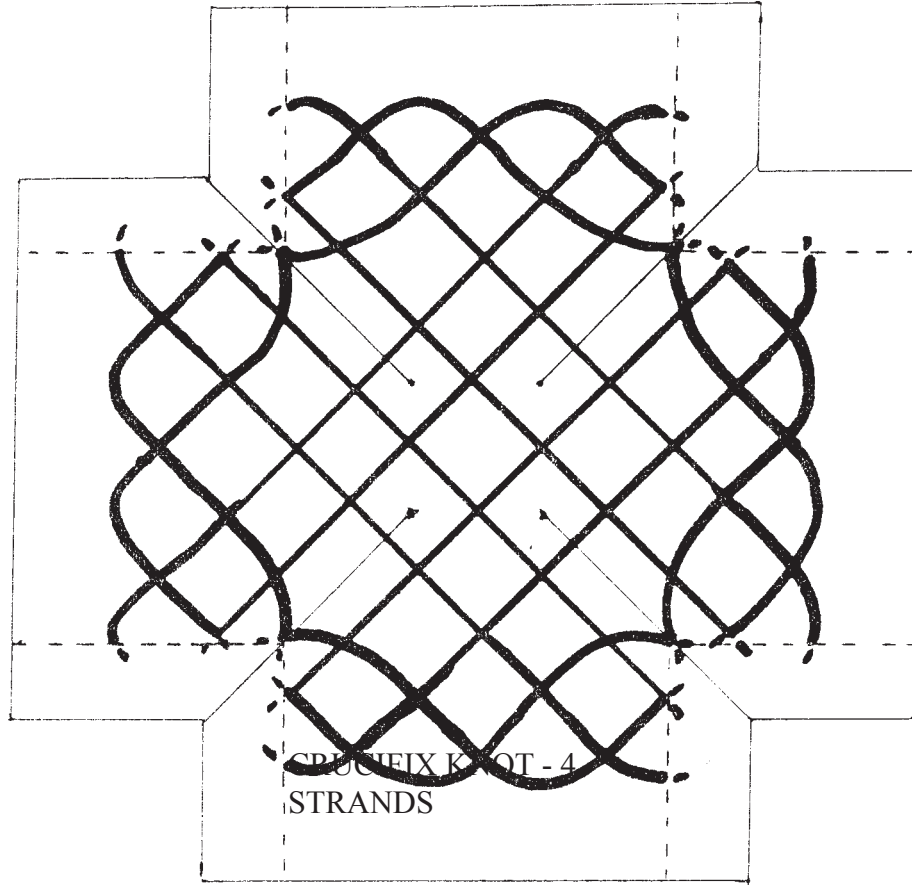


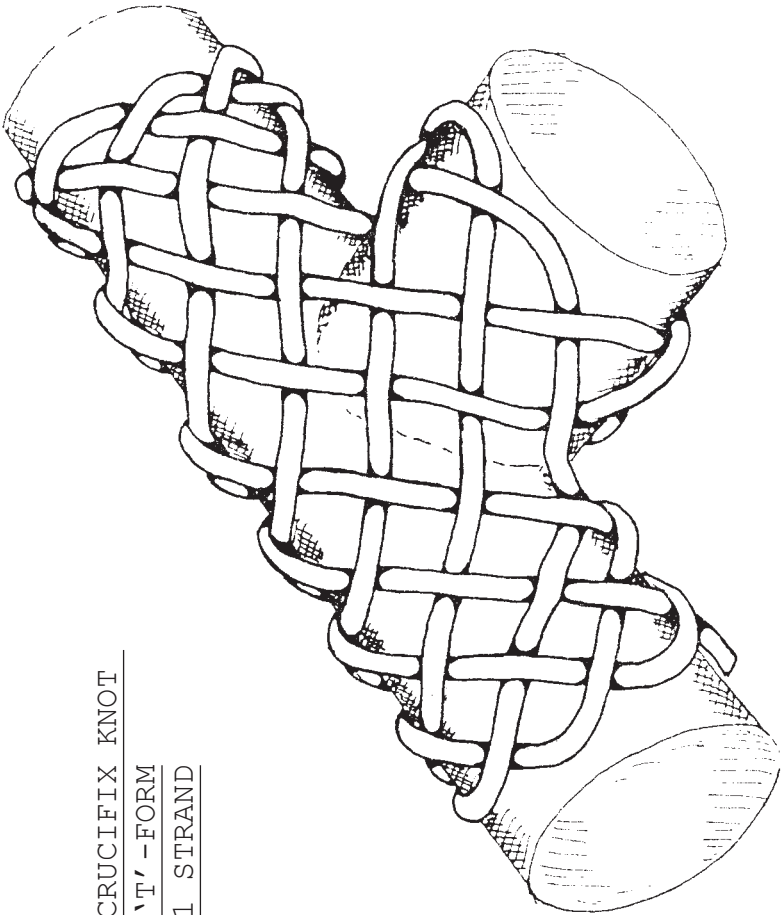
Photo-copy two of these patterns and glue over object to be covered. Mark in the 'bridges' to suit the hand of your choice.

FIGURE 6

CRUCIFIX KNOT - 4 STRANDS

All Crucifix knots can be extended by adding parts - Warning! Adding parts changes the number of strands, up and then down.
All knots shown are 6 bight.

CRUCIFIX KNOT
'T'-FORM
1 STRAND



This knot is assymetric, but this does not matter because the odd leg goes on the spoke.

FIGURE 7

- - - - - = FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINE
_____ = CUT ALONG THIN LINE

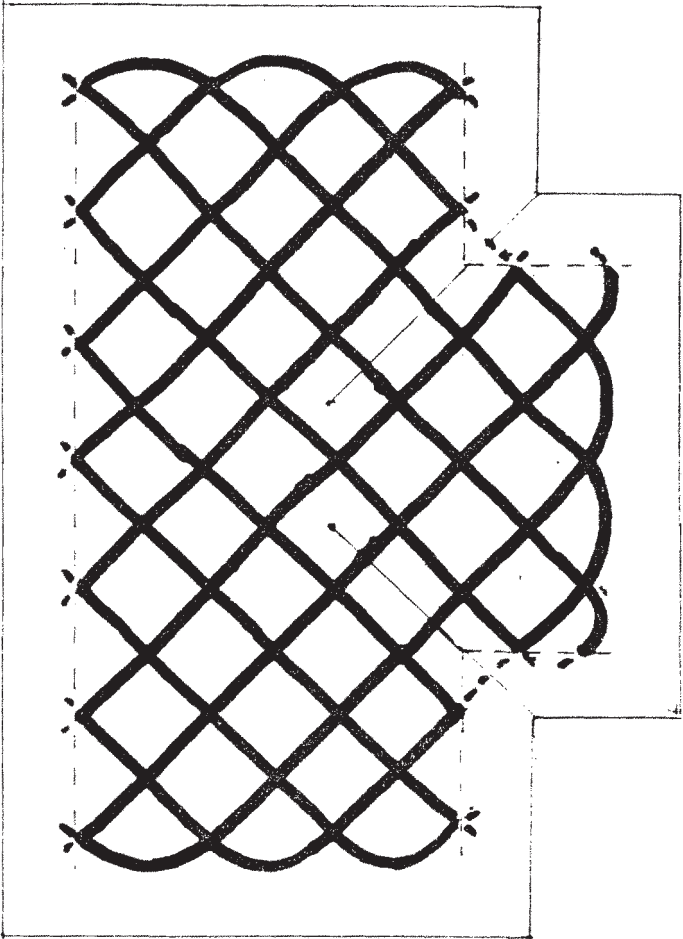


Photo-copy two of these patterns and glue over object to be covered. Mark in the 'bridges' to suit the hand of your choice.

FIGURE 8

CRUCIFIX KNOT - 'T' FORM - 1 STRAND

HOW TO OBTAIN A PATTERN

(The patterns can be quite a lot bigger than the real thing, but do not make them smaller)

1. Make a dummy with a cardboard tube (such as one left from a roll of paper towels).
2. Cover this dummy with clean white paper.
3. By trial and error, sketch the knot onto the dummy.
4. When satisfied, draw in the knot with a black felt-tipped pen.
5. Trace the strands around to count them.
6. Sketch in the bridges, checking there are no double 'overs' or 'unders'.
6. Glue loosely into place over the dummy some thin copy paper.
7. Trace the knot through onto the copy paper.
9. Remove the copy and re-copy the knot onto two clean pieces of paper.

This method can be used for absolutely any shape you care to think of, and in my next (and final) article you will see how it was used to reproduce as a super mat the glazed tile from Samarkand. What fun the first flyers must have had; finding out for oneself has a special spice to it that learning from others does not have, even, if someone else has thought of them before. I'm sure I shall find all this lot in Ashley when I get home!)