Knotting Matters

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
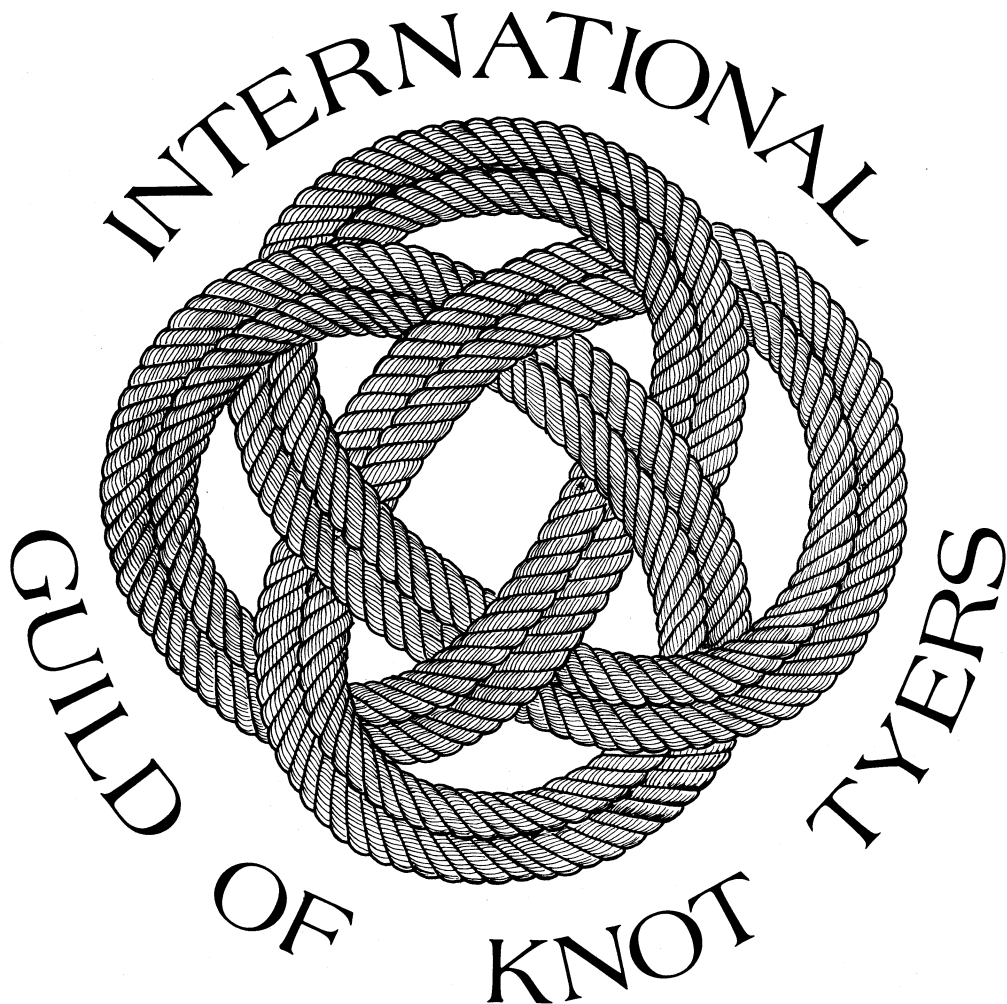
INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS

"KNOTTING MATTERS"

- - - oOo - - -

Editorial

My early manhood was living and working in London's seamy Soho, where I acquired the car thief's trick of unlocking car doors with a piece of wire, or the filed-down arm of a windscreen wiper, or even some other car's keys. It's called "jiggling".

On the quayside of St. Catherine's on the East coast of Jersey in the Channel Islands, a while back, I watched a tanned old crab-fisherman jiggle open the boot of his own car. The lock barrel was missing, so his key was no use, but a large hole gave access to the lock mechanism. I was greatly amused to see him produce from the pocket of his navy-blue reefer jacket a Swedish fid. . .with which he deftly (it obviously wasn't the first time) opened up his boot lid.

Finding a tool to do the job can be a puzzle for knot tyers, because they are not mass-produced and on display in the shops for us. You need to be imaginative, like the fid wielding Jerseyman.

The late Jim Nicoll used a typewriter mechanic's end-cutting pliers. Their leverage would easily sever wire, or neatly trim a hair like nylon monofilament. He also adopted round-billed jeweller's pliers for tightening fancy knots. A football lacer was used to tug recalcitrant strands to where he wanted them to go; while a broken chisel, tip ground down to the required shape, proved an excellent wire splicing implement.

An engineer's pin vice, a kind of chuck-on-a-handle will hold different sizes of sailmaker's needles to become a mini-fid for minute work. A variety of wire loops with comfortable handles is indispensable.

One or two established knot and ropeworking craftsmen produce some quality tools for sale to the rest of us. We are obliged to them, and pleased to put the cash their way, because - truly - good tools are beyond price.

So scour the tool boxes of even unlikely trades, professions and pursuits; anglers or candlemakers, surgeons or electricians, they might yield a handy gimcrack guaranteed to advance your skill in handicraft.
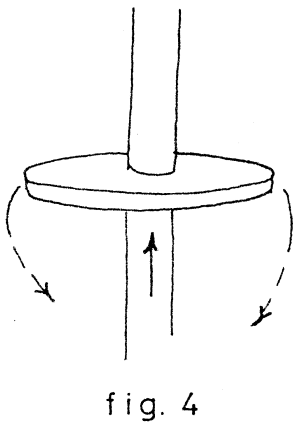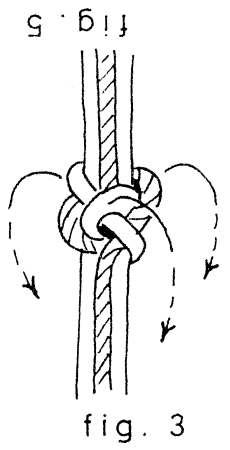
The
Umbrella
Flip
of
John Smith

First a Crown,
     Next a Wall,
Then tuck up
     And that's all.

Capt. Charles W. Smith

fig. 1

fig. 2
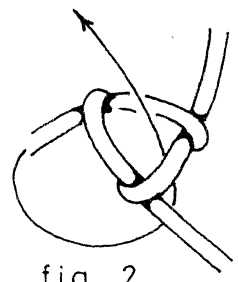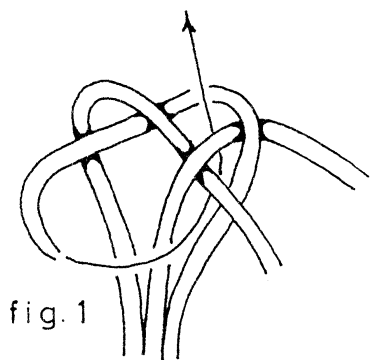
That is the recipe given at
the beginning of Ashley's
chapter 7 for a Footrope
Knot. The illustration
appears in the preceding
chapter (No. 696).

Make a Crown
     And cross one part,
Then tuck the end
     Up through the heart.

John Smith (1985)

fig. 5

fig. 3

fig. 4

This recipe is a more direct method. Fig's 1 and 2 show the operation, side and top views respectively. The result, directly, is a Footrope Knot (fig. 3). This way it is easy to handle many strands.

Now . . . the Footrope Knot is not readily doubled (that is, followed around a second time, as distinct from Ashley's meaning on p.134, No's 748 and 750). One really has to un-tuck to form a Crown and Wall - or tie it as such - before doubling. However, Ashley points out that the Footrope Knot and the Diamond Knot (No. 693) are structurally the same, but reversed; and the Diamond Knot is very easily doubled indeed (No. 694), but - alas - very tricky to tie when you have multiple strands.

Oh, for the ease of tying of the Footrope Knot as given here AND the ease of doubling of the Diamond Knot! Well, good news . . . you CAN have your cake AND eat it. Make a Footrope Knot (fig's 1 and 2). Leave it rather looser than shown (in fig. 3). Now think of the upper bights as the spokes of an umbrella blown inside out. Ease them out and down, indicated by the pecked lines, as if restoring your brolly to its proper shape. This action is represented by fig. 4. When the upper bights have become the lower bights you have . . . yes,

a Diamond Knot (fig. 5)(turn fig. 3 upside down) which is, as it should be, fig. 3 inverted.

Another knot which 15 subject to the "umbrella flip" Is Capt. Albert Whitney's Sinnet Knot (No. 759). What the inversion is I do not know. Capt. Whitney's Sinnet Knot holds a secret: tie it with only two strands, grasp the two standing parts and pull them apart until they are horizontal, and you have a Double Harness Bend (No. 142O) in mirror image.

Not to be outdone, the Footrope Knot too holds such a secret. Treat it likewise and the bend formed is No. 1452.

Any Ideas?

A working party has been formed to investigate the idea of an I.G.K.T. training scheme of some kind. Opinions are mixed, some favouring a badge-and-certificate ladder of graded tests. Others prefer broad assessable categories, such as knots(wo)man", "expert" and "master crafts(wo)man". A few are opposed to the whole notion. Your views are needed now. Ring or write to Ken Yalden at 29, North Stroud Lane, Stroud, Petersfield, Hampshire GUJ2 3PP, England (tel: 0730
68582).

A recurring suggestion is for a list of members' knot- tying predilections, so that like-minded individuals can get in touch. There are 'fors' and 'againsts'. I suppose that we could all have a string of code letters alongside our names, like hotel guides use to tell us whether or not they have, a lift or T.V. in each room. Those who would like their knotty interests, skills and (more applicable) job or hobby listed, please contact Sue Wickstead at 22, Brettingham Close, Bewbush, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 8FD, England (tel: 0293 516206).

Obituary

We regret to record the death of an elderly Guild member, Miss. Olive Richardson. Olive was a lifelong Guide and Ranger who always maintained that knot-tying was a useful accomplishment for women and girls. She, it was, who produced the article 'Making a Lanyard' which appeared on page 3 of the No. 1 issue of 'Knotting Matters'.

Olive attended last April's A.G.M. aboard H.M.S. President when it was noted she was somewhat frail and not a little deaf; but there was a twinkle in her eye still, and she was pleased by what she saw going on around her that day. Now she is gone and she will be sadly missed.
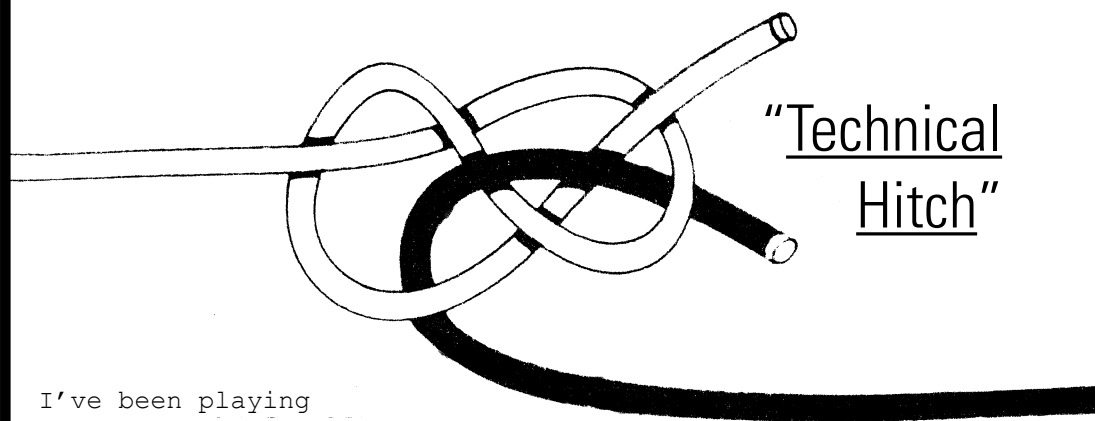
"Technical Hitch"

I've been playing
around with alternatives
to E. Ted Davies's Technical Hitch (above)('K.M.' issue
9, page 9), and come up with my Short End Bend (below)
for your amusement and consideration . . .
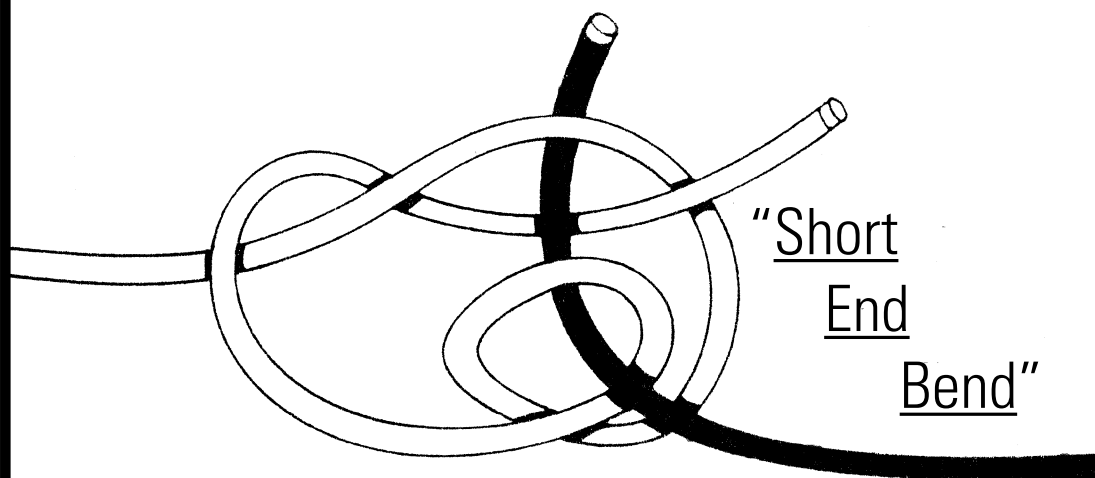
## "Short End Bend"

Quotations

"My boat was moored up for me with knots ("You know the double sheet bend? I swear by it. . . . . ")."

'OLD GLORY' by Jonathan Raban, pub. Collins (1981)

4

"The next point to be considered is, that all the "small stuffs" which are used on board a ship - such as spunyarn, marline, seizing-stuff, etc. - are made on board. The owners of a vessel buy up incredible quantities of "old junk", which the sailors unlay, and, after drawing out the yarns, knot them together, and roll them up in balls. These "rope-yarns" are constantly used for various purposes, but the greater part is manufactured into spunyarn. For this purpose, every vessel is furnished with a "spunyarn winch", which is very simple, consisting of a wheel and spindle.

'TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST' by Richard Henry Dana (1840)

Ossel-Hitch-like structure
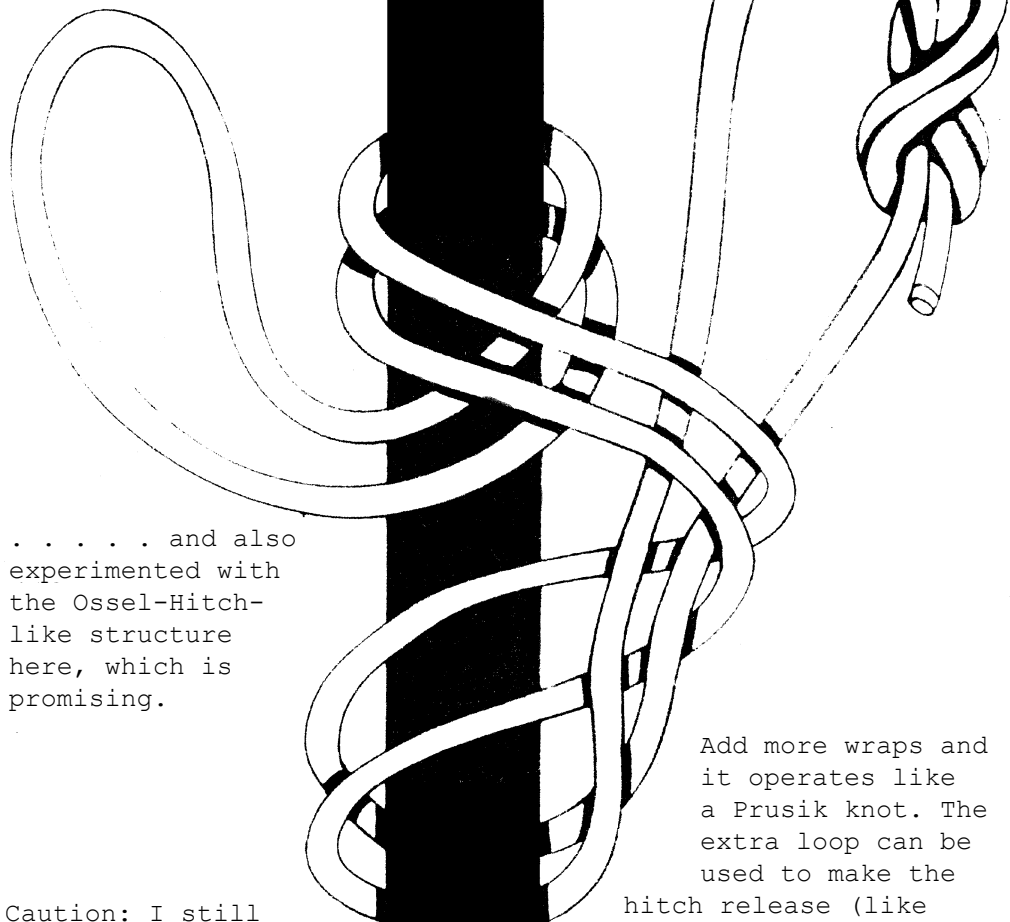
. . . . . and also experimented with the Ossel-Hitch-like structure here, which is promising.

Caution: I still have to do more tests.

Add more wraps and it operates like a Prusik knot. The extra loop can be used to make the hitch release (like my other release hitches) ('K.M.' issue 8, page 10)

New Zealander Peter Ross's

A1 Sennit Shorthand

<u>Introduction</u>

I've developed a convenient shorthand for some of the straightforward sennits. This shorthand can be used to construct a sennit braiding key to assist in selecting and learning various sennits, using only:-
    letters a b c d e f g h
    numerals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

       i ii iii iv v vi vii viii
    and an asterisk (*)

(Typists will appreciate that -, except for the asterisk - all the symbols are lower-case.)

<u>Explanation</u>

The simplest sennit (a schoolgirl's pigtail braid) is a 3-strand running sennit. In shorthand it is "a1a1". This means that one strand "a" (if there were two it would be "b", three - "c", etc.) is taken <u>from the left OVER</u> one "1" strand; then one strand, the second "a", is taken <u>from the right OVER</u> one, the second "1", strand.

The 9-strand flat English sennit is "a1i1i a1i1i" which means one strand "a" over one "1", <u>under</u> one (little "i"), over one, under one, from the left; then one strand, second "a", similarly from the right.

Plain flat sennits are unusual in that the working strand is always taken from one side only. For example, a 9-strand plain flat sennit is "ai1i1i1i1 none", this "none" indicating that the outer righthand strand isn't used as a working cord. The reason why "none" is needed will become apparent (see 'Sennit Shorthand (Simplified)' below).

Sennits do not have to be symmetrical in the use of lefthand and righthand working cords. All running sennits with an even number of strands, for example, are assymmetrical; shorthand for the 4-strand running sennit is "a2a1", meaning one strand taken from the left over 2, then one strand taken from the right over 1. The irregular sennits are a large group in which such lack of symmetry is deliberate. Compare the symmetrical 7-strand "a3a3" with one of the assymmetrical 7-strand irregular sennits such as "a3a1i1", where the left- hand working cord is taken over 3 and the righthand working cord is then taken over 1, under 1, over 1.

More than one working cord may be used at one time. Consider the 6-strand interwoven sennit "b1ib1i". In this two strands (the "b") are taken from the left over one and under one, and from the right similarly. Such sennits should not be confused with doubled and tripled sennits which are

merely trivial variants of single sennits. Thus the 3-strand running
sennit, <u>doubled</u>, is b2b2; the same sennit tripled is c3c3 and it has
9 strands. Such doubled and tripled sennits are trivial because ALL
the cords, working and standing, are doubled or tripled and so can be
thought of as just thick single cords.

The asterisk (*) symbol has a special meaning. It means <u>one</u>
outer cord is taken <u>behind ALL</u> the standing cords, around the
opposite side, and then used. An 8-strand square sennit is *ii2*ii2,
meaning that the lefthand cord is taken behind all the standing
cords, then around and under two, over two, <u>from the right</u> then the
righthand cord is taken behind the standing cords, then around and
under two, over two, <u>from the left</u>.

<u>Sennit Shorthand</u> (Simplified)

Many sennits are symmetrical, i.e. the left and right working
cords are used in a similar way. Take the 11-strand Algerian sennit
a3iia3ii. Having two "a3ii" parts is an unnecessary complication. If,
instead, this sennit is represented by just a3ii (and it is clearly
understood that this really means "from the left and then from the
right similarly", i.e. a3iia3ii) then less symbols are required. In
this simplified shorthand a 3-strand running sennit is simply the
"a1" of this article's title; the 9-strand flat English sennit a1i1i;
a 4-strand running sennit must, still be a2a1; the 7-strand running
sennit is a3; a 7-strand irregular sennit a3a1i1 remains the same;
while an 8-strand square sennit becomes simply *ii2.

<u>Note</u> - how the 9-strand plain flat sennit is still ai1i1i1i1 none,
the "none" being essential to avoid confusion with the sennit
ai1i1i1i1 ai1i1i1i1 (which in simplified shorthand itself becomes
ai1i1i1i1).

<u>Summary of Symbols</u>

a b c d e f g h	mean	one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, or eight strands respectively used as working cords from the outside;
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	mean	the working cord passes OVER one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, or eight strands;
i ii iii iv v vi vii viii	mean	the working cord passes UNDER one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, or eight strands;
an asterisk (*)	means	the working cord passes BEHIND all the strands and is then used from the opposite side, i.e. from the right, if originally from the left.

SENNIT SHORTHAND - KEY

     For ready reference the whole idea is perhaps best laid out in a grid of headed vertical columns and horizontal rows. Here - as space is tight - the key must be closely typed. In each sample ended by a semi-colon(;) the plain words are sennit types, the figure preceding the equals(=) sign is the number of strands, and the shorthand designation follows:-

Running . . . 3 = a1; 4 = a2a1; 5 = a2; 6 =   a3a2; 7 = a3; 8 = a4a3; 9 = a4; 10 = a5a4; 11 = a5; 12 = a6a5; 13=a6; 14 = a7a6; 15=a7; 16 = a8a7;

Plain flat . . . 4 = ai1i none; 5 = ai1i1 none; 6 = ai1i1i none; 7 = ai1i1i1 none; 8 = ai1i1i1i none; 9 = ai1i1i1i1i; 10 = ai1i1i1i1i none; 11 = ai1i1i1i1i1 none; 12 =ai1i1i1i1i1i; 13 =ai1i1i1i1i1i1; 14 = ai1i1i1i1i1i1i; 15 = ai1i1i1i1i1i1i1i; 16 = ai1i1i1i1i1i1i1i1i;

Flat (English)...4 = a1iai; 5 = au;, 6 = a1i1ai1; 7 = a1i1; 8 = a1i1iai1i; 9 = a1i1i; 10 a1i1i1 ai1i1; 11 = a1i1i1; 12 =a1i1i1iai1i1i; 13 =a1i1i1i; 14 =a1i1iii1 ai1i1i1; 15 = a1i1i1i1; i6 = a1i1i1i1i ai1i1i1i;

French . . . 7 = a2i; 9 = a2ii; 13 = a2ii2;

Variated French . . . 10 = a2iia2iii; 11 = aii1ii a2i12;

Irregular French . . . 9 = a3i;

Irregular (1) . . . 6 = a1ia2i; 7 = a1iia2i; 8 = a3ia2i; 9 = a1iiia3i; 10 = a4ia3i; 11 = a1iva4i; 12 = a5ia4i; 13 = a2iva4ii; 14 = a5i1a4i1; 15 = a3iva4iii; 16 = a6i1a5i1;

Irregular (2) . . . 6 = aiia1ii; 7 = a3a1i1; 8 = a1iiia2i; 9 = a2i1; 10 = a3iiia2i; 11 = a2i1i; 12 = a4iia3ii; 13 = a2i1i1 14 = a4iia4iii; 15 = a2i1i1i; 16 = a5iiia4iii;

Irregular (3) . . . 6 = aiia2i; 7 = a1ia2ii; 8 = a2iaiii1i; 9 = a3i; 10 = a3iaiii1i; 11 = a4i; 12 = a3iiaiii2i; 13 = a4ii; 14 = a4iiaiv2i; 15 = a4iii; 16 = a4iiaiv3ii;

Irregular (4) . . . 6 = a1ia1ii; 7 = a1i1ai11; 8 = a2iia2i; 9 = a2i1aiii2; 10 = a3iia2ii; 11 = a2i1aiii3; 12 = a3iiia3ii; 13 = a2ii1aiv3; 14 = a4iiia3iii; 15 a2ii2aiv4; 16 = a4iva4iii;

Interlacing (1) . . . 8 = b1ii;

Interlacing (2) . . . 8 = c1ci3; 10 = c2cii3; 12 = b2iii;

Single Mound . . . 7 = a1ii; 9 = a1iii; 11 = a2iii; 13 = a3i2;

Interwoven . . . 6 = b1i; 8 = b2i; 10 = b3i; 12 = b4i; 14=b5i;

Interlacing Chain (1) . . . 9 = c1ii; 11 c1iii; 13 = c1iv; 15 = c2iv;

Interlacing Chain (2) . . . 9 = c2i; 11 = c2ii; 13 = c1ii2; 15 = c4ii;

Twin Row . . . 9 = ai2i; 11 = ai2ii;

Angular Weave . . . 9 = a3iaiii1; 10 = d1d5; 11 = d4idiv1; 12 = e1e6; 13 = a4iiaiv2; 14 = f1f7; 15 = a4iiiaiv3; 16 = g1g8;

Round . . . 4 = *1i; 6 = *1i1; 8 = *1i1i; 10 = *1i1i1; 12 = *1i1i1i;
14 = *1i1i1i1; 16 = *1i1i1i1i;

Square . . . 4 = *i1; 8 = *ii2; 12 = *iii3; 16 = *iv4;

Crabber's Eye . . . 5 = i1ii1;

Half Round . . . 6 = *ii1;

Half Hexagonal . . . 8 = *iii1;

Variated (1) . . . 6 = i1iii1; 7 = iii1*ii1; 8 = *iiii1*ii1; 9 =
*iiii1*iii1; 10 = iv1; 11 = v1iv1; 12 = *v1; 13 = *vi1*v1; 14 = *v2;
15 = vii1vi1; 16 = vi2;

Variated (2) . . . 6 = ii1i2; 7 = i3i2; 8 = iii1i3; 9 = i3ii3; 10 =
iv1i4; 11 = ii3ii4; 12 = iv2ii4; 13 = iii4ii5; 14 = v2ii5; 15 =
iii4ii5; 16 = vi2ii6;

Variated (3) . . . 5 = i2i1; 6 = ii2i1; 7 = ii2ii1; 8 = iii2ii1; 9 =
iii2ii2; 10 = iii3ii2; 11 = iii3ii2; 12 = iv3iii2; 13 = iv3iii3; 14 =
iv4iv3; 15 = iv4iv3; 16 = v3iii5;

Variated (4) . . . 6 = i3i1; 7 = i1iii2; 8 = i4iii1; 9 = ii1iiii2; 10
= iii2i3; 11 = ii2iv3; 12 = iv2ii4; 13 = iii2v3; 14 = iv3iii4; 15 =
iii3vi3; 16 = v3iii5;

Comb . . . 10 = iii2; 12 = iv2; 14 = iv3; 16 = v3;

Interlocking (1) . . . 12 = b2i2; 14 = b3i2; 16 = b4i2;

Interlocking (2) . . . 15 = a4i2;

Algerian . . . 11 = a3ii; 13 = a3ii1; 15 = a3ii2;

Alternating . . . 16 = d3iii;

Cross . . . 12 = b2ii2ii bii2ii2; 16 = b2ii2ii2ii bii2ii2ii2;

Cross Weave . . . 12 = b2ii1;

Overlapping . . . 16 = b2iii2;

- - - oOo - - -

Gilwell

Our President Eric Franklin arranged once more (we were there in 1983) for the Guild to display at Gilwell Park, British Scouting's own exclusive parkland in Essex, on Saturday, September 7, when several thousand Wood Badge holders met for their 59th. annual reunion.

All sorts of activity centres were set up so that these mature folk, men and women, who had travelled from all over (I saw a party of Americans) could sample skills as diverse as abseiling (rappelling), calligraphy, or cross-cut saw logging. The Guild's eye-catching exhibition and non-stop teach-ins proved popular and we were never without a crowd.

Immediate Past President Percy Blandford and Ivy (our devoted "shopkeeper") Blandford both worked hard all day, as did all those Guild members who arrived unannounced but prepared to serve, although actually there in their own right as Wood Badge holders.   G.B.
* and International Training Centre

Yachtsman's Purchase

(I regret I cannot find my note of who contributed this handy device, or just where it originated; but I think it is an extract from a fire-fighter's manual of instruction)

The yachtsman's purchase is used to strengthen two or more scaling ladders shipped together.

The ladders are first mounted, one end of a long line being taken up. The end is secured to the top rung of the top ladder by means of a clove hitch, and the line is brought down the front of the ladders lying on the rungs. A bight(a) is then passed – from front to rear – between the top rung of the bottom ladder and the bottom rung of the ladder above it. This bight is passed down behind the bottom ladder and is brought out between the uprights, below the bottom rung.

One arm is now put through the bight(a) thus formed and the bottom ladder is mounted to such a height that a knot can be made about halfway up the second ladder. A bight(b) of the standing part of the line is now pulled through the loop(a) and secured with a half hitch(c) made on the standing part, as if to form one half of a sheep- shank.

Part (d) is then hauled on until the whole is tight, the slack being taken up on the running end(e). Two half hitches are then tied with a bight(f) of the end(e) round one of the uprights of the bottom ladder between the third and fourth rungs, and the ladder is then turned over (the knot having first been pulled to the side of the ladder to leave the rungs unobstructed.
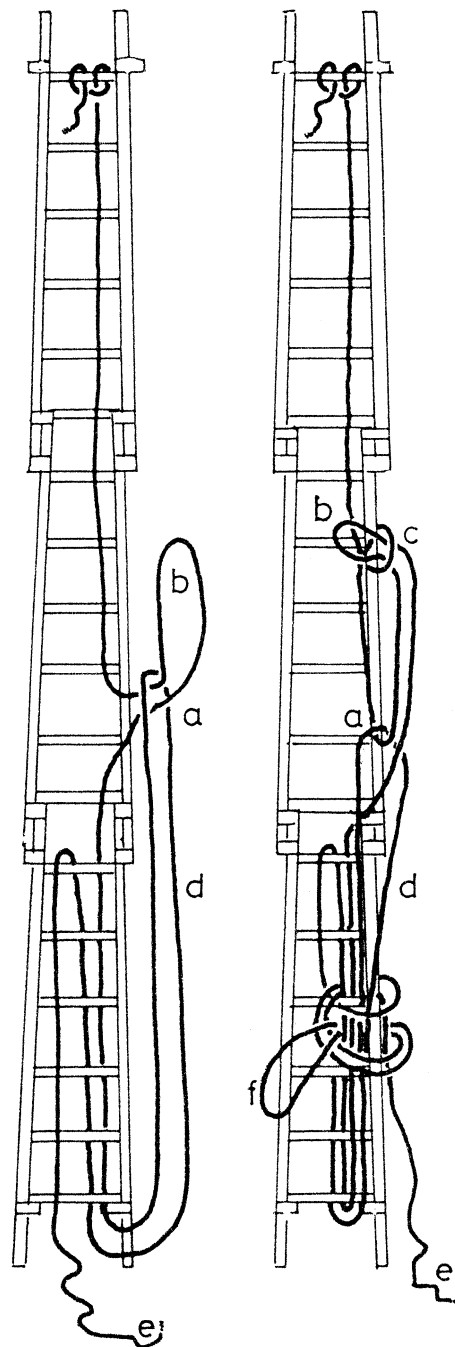
Corrections

1   Issue No. 13, page 8 ('Knots Count' by Desmond Mandeville), the illustration of Knot No. 7 is correct but the diagram is one crossing wrong . . . here is the right outline.

2   Issue No. 13, page 12 ('Horse Dealer's Hitch' by A.P. Bloomer) is a mirror image reversal of Mr. Bloomer's original. If you found it hard to tie, re-draw the other way (our illustrator is lefthanded).

Concealed Shoe - Tie

contributed by
BRIAN LAMB
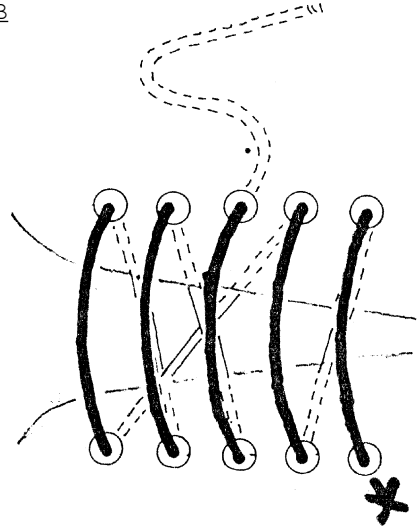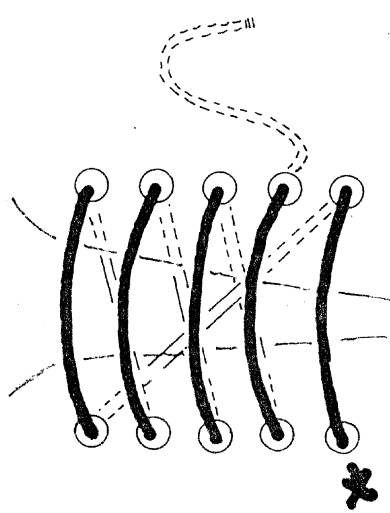
The traditional
Scout way to
lace up shoes
had no visible
fastening.
Instead, each
lace end was
knotted and then
threaded by
either method
(a) or (b).
Lacing was loos-
ened and tight-
ened by pulling
on the loops,
and held in
place by the
pressure of the
foot inside the
shoe.

The Scout's Way of Lacing Shoes.

Method shown in facsimile edition of the 1908 Scouting for Boys (Part Work). Part 3 Camp Fire Yarn 12 "Tidiness" page 160.
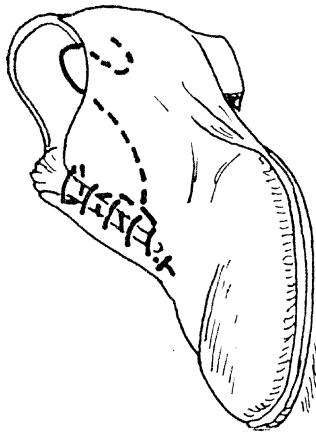
Method shown in the Memorial Edition of Scouting for Boys 21st edition May 1942 page 130.
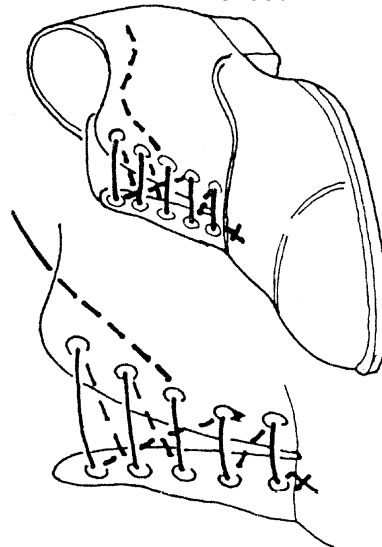
Long Turk's Heads -
Simple Ways to Make Them and Remember How!
by Capt. C. Allan NcDowall, Master
Mariner

(Shipmaster Allan McDowall, afloat off Saudi Arabia
and separated from his knot books, sought an easy
way to accomplish advanced Turk's Heads unaided.
Back briefly from seagoing, he here unloads for us
his cargo of discoveries. Starting now - in this
issue -his writings and drawings will appear in 5
instalments over 12 months. Before he's through,
you can be tying with confidence even a cross-
shaped Turk's Head of your own design. Away again
soon, no doubt, on the out-going tide, Allan (who
helped found our Guild and choose its name) will
leave behind for us shorebound folk a treasure-
chest of original ideas for all to share.)

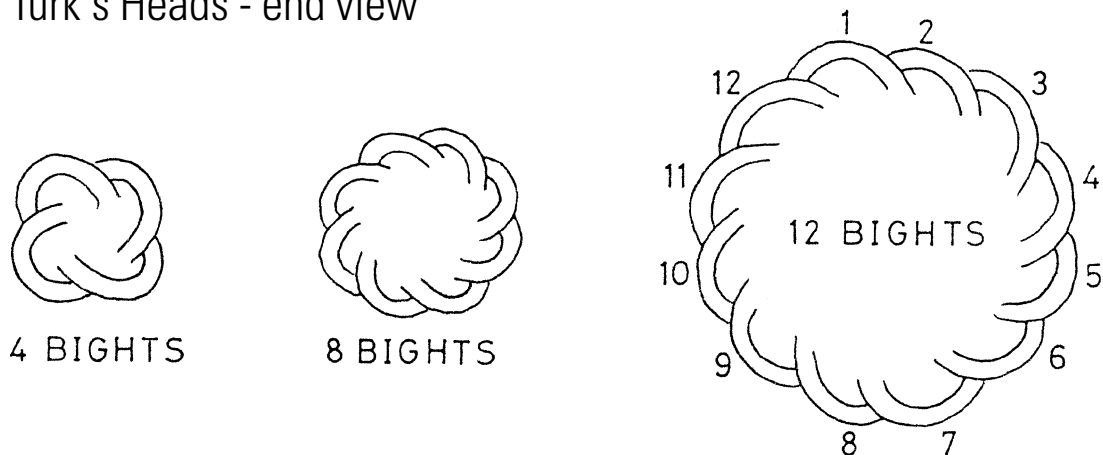# No. 1 - "Magic" Numbers

Introduction

Turk's Heads are to me more interesting, more beautiful, and more
useful than Rubik's Cube. However, the number of people who can
actually make a long Turk's Head in a short time is - I surmise -
fairly small; so I hope this article will be of real use to a lot of
people.

There are several methods of making a long Turk's Head, but two are
particularly appealing and POWERFUL. The first I call "the Magic
Number method". It is really very simple for smaller, less complex
knots. I found it myself as a small boy, so it can't be too
difficult. The second I call "the Origami method"; why will become
obvious. "Origami" is more powerful than "the Magic Numbers", and you
will be making some exotic and fascinating things with it . . . next
time.

This article deals with the Magic Number method. To make Turk's Heads
by Magic Numbers you need to recognise that the Turk's Heads fall
into basic categories, these categories determined by the minimum
number of loops or bights visible when the knot is viewed end-on
(fig. 1).

The first family of Turk's Heads created by the Magic Number series
will be the one of a-bight knots. Doubling the Magic Numbers - and,
with some slight changes in the sequence, the operations they
represent - yields an 8-bight knot. Tripling the Magic Numbers would
result in a knot of 12 bights. (Don't try to make a Turk's Head of 8
or 12 bights by this

Fig. 1
Turk's Heads - end view

4 BIGHTS

8 BIGHTS

12 BIGHTS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

method . . . except as a personal challenge! The Origami method is much better for those.) For a straightforward 4-bight knot of any length you fancy, the Magic Number series is exactly the same: and the making (once you are good at it) is fascinating to watch and deeply satisfying to do.

Method

THE MAGIC NUMBERS FOR A 4-BIGHT TURK'S HEAD ARE:-
                    3 2 2 1 (remember them)

    With your left hand hold the object to be covered so that it extends to the right. Trap the standing part of the cord with your left thumb. Now wrap the cord away from you around the object to the right at a helix angle of 45 degrees. This is the first pass of Magic Number 3, and how many initial turns you wrap will determine the length of the completed knot. A first wrap of a whole turn (360 deg's) plus 45 deg's will result in a 9-part knot (45 x 9 = 405 deg's). Note - "parts" are the numerous cords which would be severed if the knot was slit lengthwise. The smallest number of parts for a 4-bight knot is 5 (225 deg's divided by 45 = 5) but we will master first a 9-part knot because it is much easier to handle, and it looks grander.

    Having completed the first wrap, do the same thing again to the left, completing precisely the same number of turns and fractions of turns. This ends the second pass of Magic Number 3. So, do it again to the right. The first series, 3, is now complete. The Magic Numbers, then, dictate the number of passes to be performed for each mode, with a mode for each Magic Number. All crossing-points have thus far been 'over' (no 'unders') so there is still nothing holding the cord in place except your thumb. Take care. This first stage is also the most difficult because the amount of wrap is fairly critical - it is easy to end up with a longer knot than intended, just by wrapping a bit too much the first time. So far and no further (fig. 2).

    Winding away from you to the right creates a so-called "righthand" knot, which is what we are doing. Most people,

being righthanded, tend to do that. Wrapping the cord in the opposite
direction – towards you – hut still anchored by the left hand results
in a "lefthand" knot. Only an end view reveals the difference.

Remember the Magic' Numbers (3, 2, 2, 1)? You also need to
remember the MODE for each Magic Number:-

3 - Wrap the cord over (no unders);

2 - Tuck the cord under 1, over 1, until you get to the other end;

2 - Tuck the cord under 1, over 2, until you get to the other end;

1 - Tuck the cord under 1, over 1 (the "locking tuck") until you
arrive back where you started.

Now start the second series of operations represented by the
first Magic Number 2. You are at the right of the knot, so start by
tucking under to the left, then over, then under - never mind whether
it looks right or not. When you reach the left end, repeat the
operation to the right. This completes the second Magic Number (3, 2,
2, 1)(fig. 3).

The third series has a small trap for the unwary. In the case of
the 9-part knot (also with 5-part and 13-part knots) the second
series ends with an 'over'. You must also start each pass of the
third series with an 'over'. It doesn't seem right, but that's the
secret. Similarly, 7, 11, 15-part knots and so on end the second
series 'under' , and you must therefore start each pass of the third
series 'under'. So, here we go, starting the third series of our 9-
part knot 'over', then under 1, over 2, under 1, over...and you are
at the left end, first pass completed. Repeat to the right. You have
completed the third series, second Magic Number 2 (3, 2, 2, 1)(fig.
4).

The fourth and final series is just one pass, over 1, under 1,
until you arrive back at the start, locking every part in place in
perfect symmetry (fig. 5).

(A 14-bight Turk's Head has an odd number of' parts and so the bights
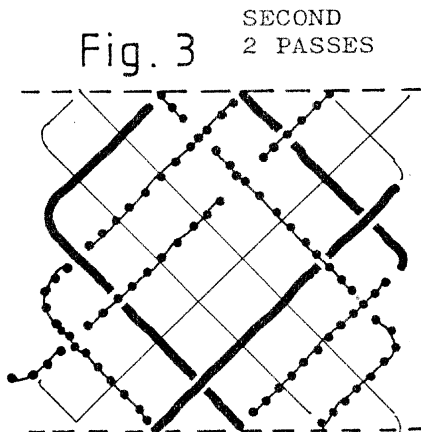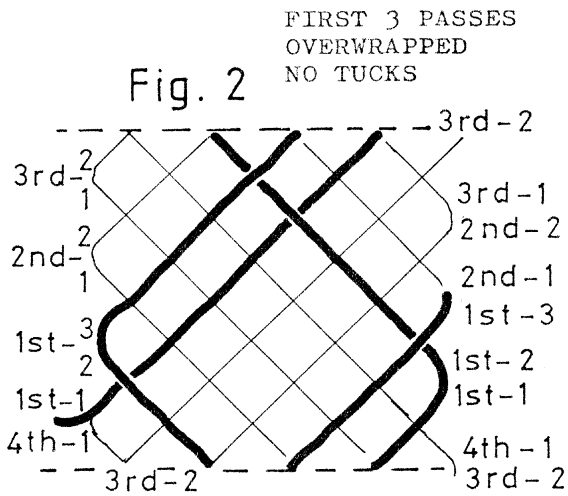do not lie directly opposite at each end but are staggered)

Following around the complete knot twice will give the
traditional three-plait effect (fig. 6).

- - - o0o - - -

Feel like trying the 8-bight version? The Magic Numbers are 3,
2, 10, 1, with the third series contributing the extra turns and
passing over 1, under 1 (NOT 2). But - as I said - the "Origami"
method is better for this. It's easier and success is guaranteed!

LONG TURK'S HEADS
    BY THE "ORIGAMI" METHOD
        NEXT TIME.

Figures 2 - 5 inclusive represent the cylindrical Turk's Head flat. Picture the diagrams in your mind actually wrapped around the item to be covered, with the pecked lines joined and glued. The thinly drawn lines show where strands will lie. The thick lines are the strands being dealt with at that stage. Dotted lines (like strung beads) are what you've already done (or should have done!).

FIRST 3 PASSES OVERWRAPPED

Fig. 4 THIRD 2 PASSES *

Fig. 2 FIRST 3 PASSES OVERWRAPPED NO TUCKS

3rd-2/1
2nd-2/1
1st-3/2
1st-1
4th-1
3rd-2

3rd-2
3rd-1
2nd-2
2nd-1
1st-3
1st-2
1st-1
4th-1
3rd-2

Fig. 6 4B x 9P 3-ply KNOT

Fig. 3 SECOND 2 PASSES
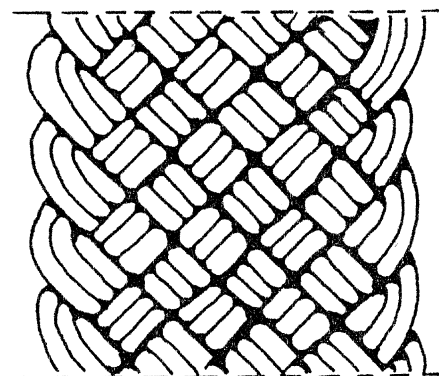
Fig. 5 FOURTH (LAST) SINGLE PASS

* Start each pass of this series 'over' (if a 5, 9 or 13-part knot); and 'under' (if a 7, 11, 15-part knot). See the circled tucks.

15
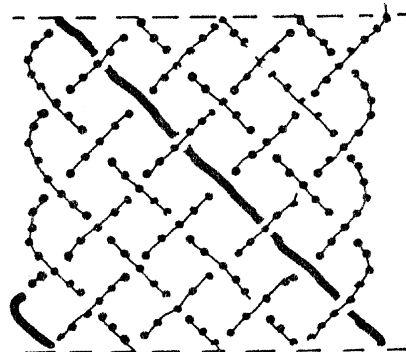
"Shop"

INTERNATIONAL GUILD OF KNOT TYERS — SUPPLIES

The Guild has many items available to members. They can be bought at meetings or obtained by post from the Hon.Asst.Secretary (Supplies):

      Mrs. Ivy Blandford, Quinton House, Newbold-on-Stour,
      Stratford-upon-Avon. CV37 8UA (Tel. Alderminster 257)

For method of paying and postal rates, see next page.

BADGE   Round enamel pin badge with the Guild name and the same knot emblem as on the magazine cover. £1.50 (we pay postage).

TIE   Attractive tie with a pattern of white knots on a blue background. £3.50.

Books.-   As a further step in its policy of making available to members information not otherwise published, the Guild has arranged to print and publish a number of booklets with the same page size as 'Knotting Matters'. These are limited editions containing information mostly unavailable elsewhere.

BREASTPLATE DESIGNS to make and wear. By Brian Field. 27 pages.
     The making of 'Sailors' breastplates': the name given to the decorative designs which formed the basis of pendants worn by sailors and their girl friends. A very thorough treatment. Spiral binding. £3.00.

An introduction to KNOT TYING AND FANCY WORK. By Stuart Granger. 38 pages.
     Some basic knotting, leading to needle hitching, which is the author's speciality. The making of articles and covering objects using this half-hitching technique. Spiral binding. £3.00.

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TURK'S HEADS. By Amund Karner (Dutch member).
     An exhaustive technical treatise (in English) consisting mostly of charts showing the possible combinations of strands and leads in almost any size Turk's Head Knot. For the advanced enthusiast. 73 pages. Plastic grip binding. £6.00.

TURK'S HEADS THE TRADITIONAL WAY. By Eric Franklin. 14 pages.
     Making the many forms of the more commonly-used versions of the Turk's Head, with step-by-step drawings. Stapled. £1.25.

SOLLY'S SINGLE STRAND STAR and variations on the theme. By Stuart Grainger.
     The production of a. form of grommet in several variations for such uses as edging trays and making napkin rings. 8 pages. Stapled. £1.00.

KNOT CHARTS

     These are the Guild's best sellers (thousands). Each chart is on paper the size of 'Knotting Matters' and deals completely with the subject of its title.
     Binders for charts are available, consisting of printed front and plain back flexible card, with a slide-on plastic grip. Capacity up to about 40 charts.
     See overleaf for titles of charts available.
       Prices: Charts 10p each. Binders 25p each.

IGKT Supplies - 2 KNOT CHART TILTLES

1. Turk's Head mat and. hitch mat
3. 3-Lead 5-bight Turk's head
6. 4-Lead 5-bight Turk's head
18. Turk's head (12-bight 5-lead)
53. 3-lead 4-bight Turk's head
79. 5-bight 3-lead Turk's head
80. 7-bight 4-lead Turk's head
89. 7-bight 5-lead Turk's head
90. 5-bight 4-lead Turk's head
(79,80,89,90 formed round fingers)

11. End of a rope
59. Crown knots
60. Crown knots continued
61. Star knot
2. Lanyard knot
12. Rustler's (square) knot
17. Chinese lanyard knot
75. Basic picture frames
76. Four-strand sinnets
82. A simple lanyard
83. Make a cowboy belt
85. Necklace in chinese knotting
89. Connecting knots
74. Spectacles neck cord
5. Ocean plait mat
19. Mat tied with a single cord
20. Celtic knot design
22. A square mat
77. A circular mat
78. Rectangular mat pattern
84. Carrick bend and variations

66. Netting knots
72. Macrame knots - 1
73. Macrame knots - 2
86. Macrame knots - 3
87. Macrame knots - 4

15 Clove Hitch variations
16. Constrictor knot
49. Scaffold Hitch
50. Highwayman's Hitch
57. Pole Hitches
62. Bottle (or jar) sling
63. Back mooring hitch

13. Sheet bend variations
14. Sheepshank variations
55. Rosenthal Zeppelin bend
56. Hunter bend
64. Full (or double) carrick bend
65. Tumbling thief knot
7. Sailmaker's whipping
8. Common whipping variations
52. Coach whipping

4. Monkey's fist
21. Knob covering
51. Multiple bowlines
54. Bend puzzle
58. Perfection loop
70. Endless three-part plait

81. True lover's knot

23 to 48 are alphabet of knots
for decorative use on clothing
or notice boards, Letter is
indicated after the chart
number: 23A,24B,250,26D,27E,
28E, 29G,30H,3lI,32J,35M,
36N,37O,38P,39Q,40R,33K,34L,
4lS,42T,43U,44V,45W,46X,
47Y,48Z.
91. Square lashing
92. Diagonal lashing
93. Shear lashing

9. Basic eye splice in three-strand rope
10. Back splice (three-strand rope)
67. Sailmaker's eye splice
68. Eye splice with collar
69. Wire splice (tucked over and under)
70. Chain splice

<u>Important - Postage and Packing</u>
The profit margin on supplies is small. Please help by allowing
sufficient for packing and postage. The following rates will cover
second-class mail in Britain and surface mail to many other
countries;

Order under £120p.   Under £2 25p.   Under £3 30p.
Under £4 45p.   Under £6 50p.   £6 to £12 75p.

for airmail please allow adequately. Pay in sterling (British
currency) if possible, If you use other currency the bank charges a
commission, so allow extra to cover this.

PAYING THE GUILD

With our growing world-wide coverage some members outsiae Britain have asked for guidance on payments of subscriptions (dues) and for supplies. While any money is acceptable, some is worth more to us than others, because of the charges made by a British bank to convert it.

If possible pay in sterling (British currency).

In some Commonwealth countries you can buy British postal orders at your Post Office, but one of the following methods may be cheaper.

An International Money Order payable in sterling, but bought in your currency, may be obtainable from a Post Office or Bank.

A Bank Cheque payable in sterling may be obtained from the bank where you have an account, and this may be cheapest. If they need the name of our bank, quote British Girobank.

We have an arrangement for changing U.S. dollars without paying bank charges, so we can accept personal checks from American (not Canadian) members, not allowing any excess.

If you have to make the payment in other currency, determine the rate of exchange on the day and allow about £1 extra to cover the cost of processing by a British bank.

Whatever the method of payment make it to
International Guild of Knot Tyers

If all you want is a reply, and wish to include return postage, get an International Reply Coupon from your Post Office. We can exchange that at our Post Office for postage at the cheapest rate to your country. If you want to include sufficient for a reply by air, four coupons will probably be enough.
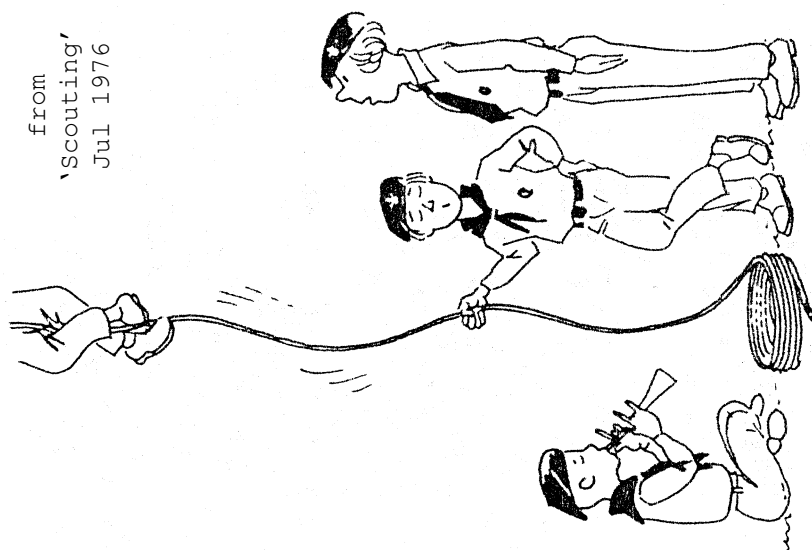
If all else fails, come and see us and bring the money with yoti!

Enjoy your membership.

Percy W. Blandford

Cartoon

**Pioneering for All**

from 'Scouting' Jul 1976

'The Brothers Patel always do the off-the-ground stuff.'

Letters

Dear Mr. Budworth,

I am a knot tier also . . . . .
. I am enclosing for your
interest a tie knot which I
invented. It is rather useful
when one's shirts shrink, and
the gap becomes rather large! I
am sure it is not original
although I haven't located it in
Ashley as yet. It could be one
of the knots which he describes
as being "lost in the move".

Fig. 1

(a)   (b)

Fig. 2

(b)

(a)
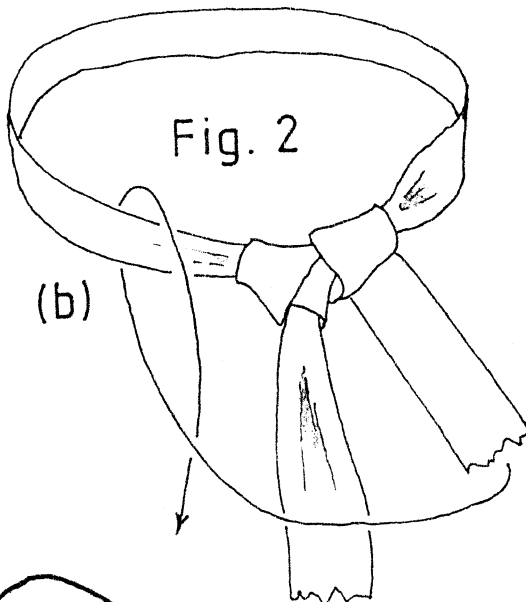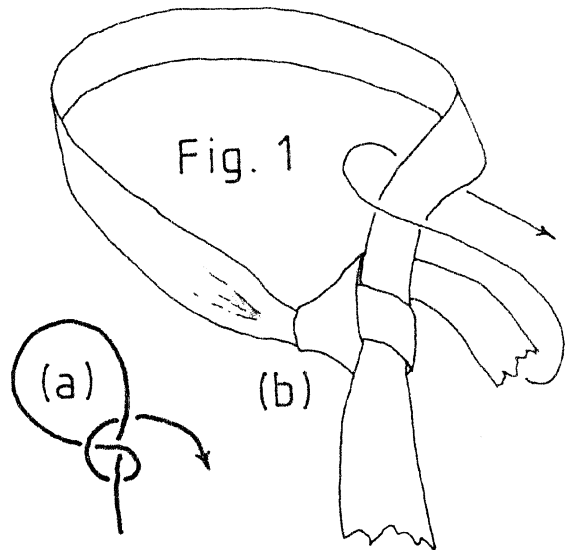
It would be a great pleasure for
me to be able to join your Guild
if this is possible. I have been a
sailor all my life. I did two
Olympic Games and was involved in
some of the America's Cup 12-
metres, where we had the horrible
job of splicing Genoa sheets in
double

Fig. 3

(b)   "The
Hunter"

(a)
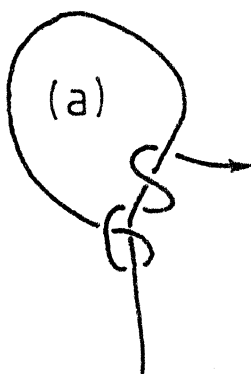
platted nylon and terylene
without any instructions, as
at that time British Ropes
had not discovered how to do
it ... it was awful!
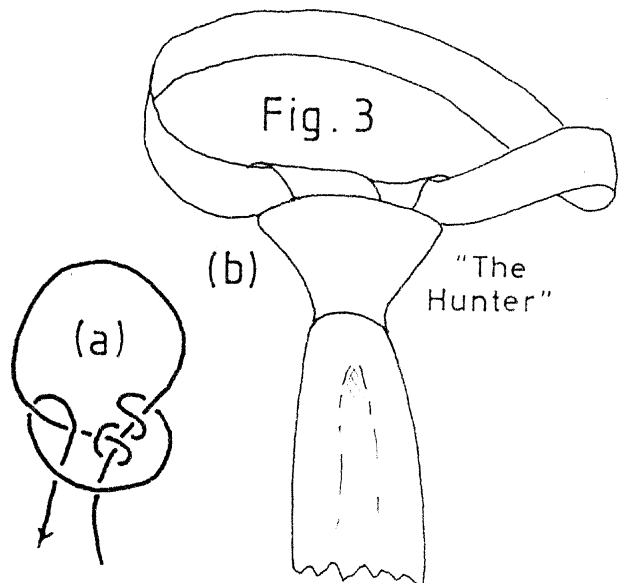
Yours sincerely

Neil Hunter of Hunterston
La Massana, Andorra   14 Oct 85

Dear Geoffrey,

     The Devon Guild of Craftsmen runs an annual exhibition through
August and September each year and this year it has been in Buckfast,
close to the Abbey, for the first time. Whether because of the
appalling summer weather, or for some other reason I don't know, but
business has never been so brisk. I have been selling over £100 worth
a week from the exhibition alone, which added to the usual clamour
from local galleries and craft shops in the area at this time of
year, has made it difficult to keep pace. Nice in a way, but a little
too much of a good thing. Anyway, it is a little calmer now.

     I have received excellent service and advice in the past from
the proprietors of The Rope Shop at Emsworth who are, of course,
members of the Guild. Unfortunately they are retiring - I believe -
and someone else is taking over the shop. The firm which I would like
to mention as producing excellent polythene lines, known as "Polyoak"
is Oakhurst Quality Products, The Industrial Estate, Hurst Green,
Oxted, Surrey RH8 9AY. They also supply a variety of jute, cotton and
nylon lines, as well as hardware which can be useful to knotting
enthusiasts (such as plated split rings). Oakhurst's service can be
phenomenally prompt. I posted an order to them and the goods, about
2,000 metres of line and some oddments, arrived 3 days later. Such
service could hardly be improved. Unfortunately they do not sell much
in the way of hemp lines. I would dearly like to find a reliable
source of 601 and 901 hemp. I get through large quantities and know I
am paying more than I should.

     I have been selling scores of the Star Grommet bangles recently;
and, incidentally, had a very pleasant letter from Tom Solly about
the drawings of the Star Grommet construction methods.

                    Yours sincerely,
                    Stuart (Grainger)   Totnes, Devon.
                                                      7 Sep 85

Dear Geoffrey,

     I joined the I.G.K.T. early last year and have back issues of
'Knotting Matters' - about which I am very impressed, but you will
have heard it all before.

Two knotting yarns to be going on with...

     I am ex-Mercantile Marine (Shell Tankers and Manchester Liners,
1948 to 1953) with a 2 year stint in the Royal Air Force Police. . .
the only R.A.F.P. on the whole camp to make wire splices! On one
tanker I served aboard there was an Able Seaman, about 63 (been at
sea all his life) who spent ALL his spare time unravelling rope
scrap, then plaiting it into a 3-strand sennit. He dyed it with
thinned down gloss paint and made rope-soled sandals with canvas
uppers, also door mats and fancy pictures.

     On that same tanker the rocker springs kept breaking, and in the
end there were no replacement springs but a whole locker full of
broken springs. Engines stopped, appropriate flag hoisted up, and the
Engine Room asked the Deck for

pulley blocks and ropes. Twelve hours later the engine space was a criss-cross of ropes, pulley blocks <u>and lashed-together springs</u>. It got us to Curacao anyway.

<div align="center">Best wishes,</div>

Brian

<div align="right">Stretford,
Manchester
26 Apr 85</div>

Dear Geoffrey,

From my diary of the Birmingham Boat and Caravan Show last February (1985), I'm reminded that a fireman from the Warwickshire County Fire & Rescue Service at Nuneaton described to us the standard equipment carried on all fire tenders - 2 general purposes lines and a 120' rescue line. This latter has a second leg side-spliced into the main rope, both ends being running eyes.

He uses a rolling hitch to secure a length of hose when it is led to the upper floors of a burning building, supplemented by a clove hitch around the nozzle while it is lifted up. He demonstrated tying the sheepshank over his shoulder, and also said he needed to know the bowline, a bowline-on-the-bight, and (naturally) the fireman's chair knot . . . although he tied a Tom Fool's knot.

Hey, two lengthsmen from the Erewash Canal dropped by and told me an atrocious joke. A piece of string walks into a public house and asks for a pint. "Are you a piece of string?" asks the landlord. "Yes." So a pint is served. The same happens again a few minutes later. Then a ragged old hawser walks in. "Are you a piece of string?" "Sorry, 'fraid not." (A frayed knot ... get it??).

Kind regards,

Robert Jackson

<div align="right">Birmingham
December, 85</div>

Book Reviews

<u>'PRACTICAL KNOTS & ROPEWORK'</u> by Percy W. Blandford, pub. by Tab Books Inc. (U.S.A.) (1980) - price $9.95 upwards.

A 406_page paperback, abundantly illustrated by the author, this is probably our Guild immediate past President's best knot book. It is a shrewd distillation of much earlier work, retaining all that's useful, with new material added. The 25 chapters tell all that's needed about knots, bends, hitches, loops, splices (both rope and wire), lashings, purchases, netmaking and decorative knot-tying. No other book I know is so straightforward yet comprehensive. It turns up in the U.K. in small quantities and is highly recommended for beginner, improver and expert alike.
G.B.

<u>'STRING FIGURES OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'</u> by Philip P. Noble, pub, by the Institute of PNG Studies (Singapore)(1979).

The Revd. Philip Noble, an I.G.K.T. member, collected over 140 string figures (the "cat's cradle" kind) while an Anglican Mission priest in various parts of PNG from 1972 to 1975. He's a remarkable fellow who also practises

clowning, and this wholly original treatise in paperback came about through his use of an interest in games to open up relationships and cross language barriers. His book may be hard to find - and the price can only be guessed (but modest, I imagine) - so do keep an eye out for it. Like me, it could help you master such simple (but NOT all easy) delights as "Jumping Frog", "Fighting Men", 'Nose Bone", or "Dog and Wallaby Chase", and wonder about the survival of this symbolism of ancient story tellers. G B

<u>'AN ABC OF KNOTS'</u> by Eric Franklin, pub, by Brown, Son & Ferguson Ltd. (orig. 1975)(2nd. ed. 1979) - £1 upwards.

This slim pocket-sized book is arranged alphabetically from 'Alpine Butterfly' to (guess what!) 'Whipping', with a sensible selection in-between . . . and no index necessary. The Guild President's drawings accompany his own highly individual style of text. This desirable little edition is approved by the Scout Association and sold in the Scout Shops; and would particularly suit a young person. G;B.

PHOTO -FINISH

No dears, that's a granny

•• •• •• •• •• •• •• •• •• •• •• ••

Annual Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions, payable each year on 1st. January, are now overdue. Once 3 months has elapsed unpaid, membership ceases; so those not paid-up by April's A.G.M. may be deemed lapsed members and crossed off our list. Your money buys the many benefits of membership but you can't support indefinitely those who don't contribute.

The Hon. (Membership) Secretary will - be assured - send reminders and make careful enquiry of all concerned; and this Guild will, in confidence, permit to remain any member on hard times for as long as necessary.

Only individuals who fail to keep in touch, and who leave our mail unanswered, will eventually be culled.