

The InterKnot

Newsletter of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

Year 2011

June

Issue 2

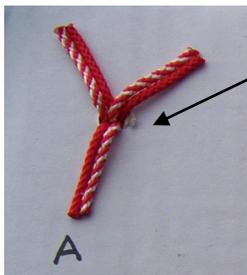
Adding a Crown to the IGKY and IGKT-NAB Meeting!

By IGKT member, Richard Wilcox

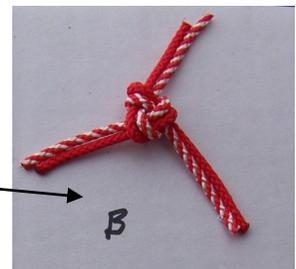
At the Joint meeting of the IGKT and the IGKT-NAB in New Bedford, Massachusetts there were all kinds of things to see and do. The best part of any meeting is learning new knots or new ways of tying old knots. There were not any seminars at this meeting but there was a lot of idea sharing. I was at my small display when Glenn Dickey arrived. Glenn was not able to stay for the whole meeting, but the few minutes I was able to spend with him were most fruitful. Glenn was tying a crown knot I had never seen before. I have no idea if it has a special name. It has a neat pattern when completed. This is a simple crown using 6 or more even strands.

How to tie:

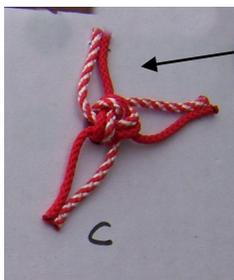
Step 1: Assuming you will be tying a six stranded crown sennit, pair up the strands as seen in Figure A.



Step 2: Make a simple crown knot to the right using each pair as in Figure B.



Step 3: Split the pairs and recombine with their opposites as shown in Figure C.



Step 4: Make a simple crown to the right using the new pairs.

Step 5: Split the pairs again as in Figure D. Make a simple crown to the right again using the new pairs. Maintain a consistent tension while tying. Go back to Step 1 and repeat the pattern again until you have the desired sennit length.



Editor's note: This crown knot was published in *Knotting Matters*, Issue 84, September, 2004, page 10. Article was titled, "A Pretty Braid" by Frank Brown. He called this particular pattern of crown knotting the "Tassie Twist".

Adding a Crown to the IGKY and IGKT-NAB Meeting! (continued)

The resulting crown sennit is shown to the right.



A Bell Rope for the USS Water Witch



**26" Bell rope
Almost Completed**

By IGKT member Humberto R. Alvarez—USN FTC(SS) Retired, USS Fort Henry Naval Living History Unit

About a year ago, while participating at River Blast 2010 in Columbus, Ga., an educational living history event specifically at the Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum, I was interacting with the public aboard the full scale replica of the USS Water Witch. During the day's evolutions, I was asked to pipe aboard the dignitaries during the ceremonies. I was placed on the bridge deck platform of the ship and while there, noticed the ragged piece of line called a bell rope that hung on the ship's bell. It was not the proper bell rope for such a fine piece of living history that is the USS Water Witch.

Mr. Smith and I had been speaking on and off about my marlinspike seamanship and was even allowed to display my knotting on the deck of the USS Monitor display within the museum. I asked Mr. Smith if he would allow this old navy Chief to knot a proper bell rope and donate it to the museum so that it would be placed on the ship's bell of the USS Water Witch. His answer was music to my ears. He would be happy to place a proper bell rope on the ship's bell.

I started the bell rope a couple of days after returning home to Brandon, Florida. After finishing the bell rope, I mailed it to the museum and Mr. Smith said they would not place the bell rope on the ship's bell until River Blast 2011. This would be the Museum's 10th anniversary and this would be a very appropriate time for me to place the bell rope on the ship's bell and keep time for the first time. I thought this to be a great idea and on March 13, 2011 during River Blast 2011, I was allowed to present the Bell Rope to the museum. The Bell Rope was placed on the USS Water Witch ship's bell and at 1100 after church services we began to keep time with a proper bell rope.

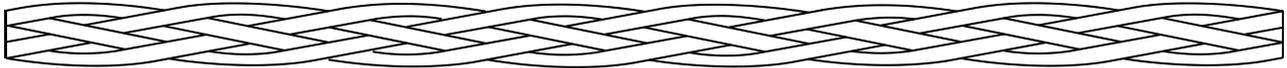




The USS Fort Henry Naval Living History Unit's youngest sailor Thomas Cook was charged with keeping time for the rest of the day a task he took with great honor and accomplished with great precision.

I am sure it is not the first time a member of the IGKT has had their work in a museum, but it is indeed the first time for me and hopefully a start of many. I have been promised that River Blast 2012, God willing, I will be allowed to knot the rails of the ship. The ship's rails and wheel are to be completed for 2012.

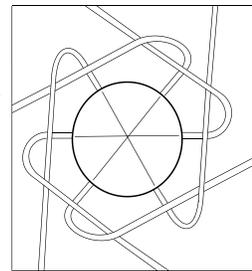
To the left, Bruce Smith, executive director with the new bell rope.



Two under Crown knotting

Crown knotting is a nice way to build up the core of knotting projects such as key fobs. There are many patterns that can be formed using variations in the crown knot and when combined with other knots the results can give you an almost endless repertoire of projects.

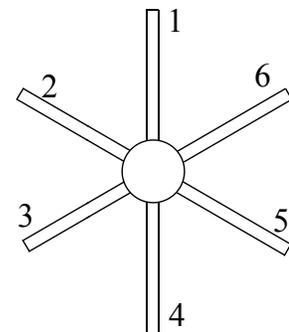
Problem: The over one crown knot is the easiest to tie and is used as a starter knot for other knots. However as you pull to tighten one side of the knot, you loosen the other side. The over one crown knot is shown to the right.



Fortunately there is another variation of the crown knot which is much easier to tighten. In this article I'll discuss how to tie the two under crown knot for use as a core. I'll be using six strands for this example.

First, start the crown by seizing the strands together. Lay out the strands in a star pattern. (I'm using numbers so I can identify each strand as I explain the steps in tying.)

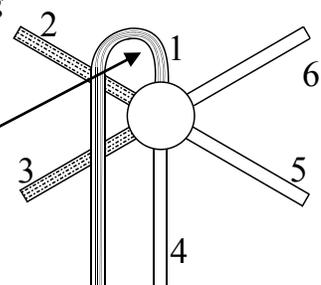
(When I was learning to tie the two under crown knot, I used clothes line cord, wrapped the tips in masking tape, and actually labeled each tip. It helped.)



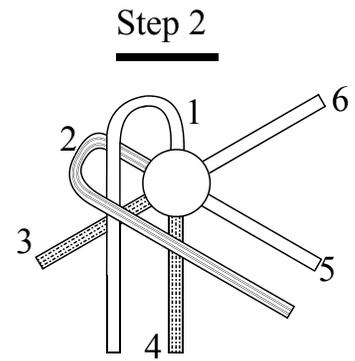
Step 1: In the two under pattern you are taking the working strand and going under the next two strands. In Step 1, take strand number 1 and bring it under strands 2 and 3. Leave a loop at the core with strand 1. It will be needed later.

(Leave loop here.)

Step 1

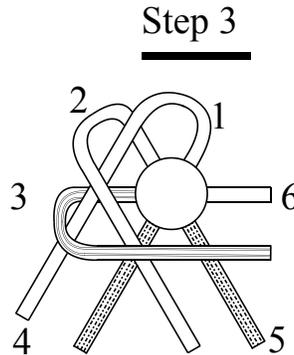


Step 2: Take strand number 2 and bring it under strands 3 and 4. Leave a loop at the core with strand 2. It will be needed later on.

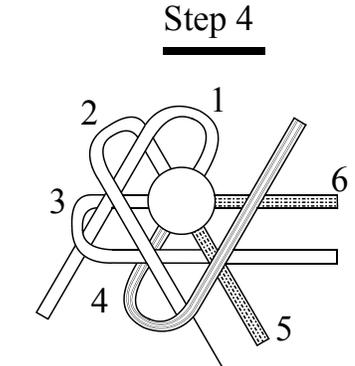


Steps 3 & 4:

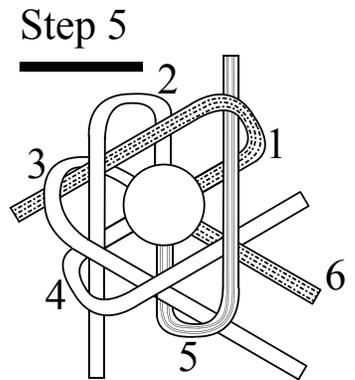
(3) Take strand number 3 and bring it under strands 4 and 5. You don't need to leave a loop at the core with this strand.



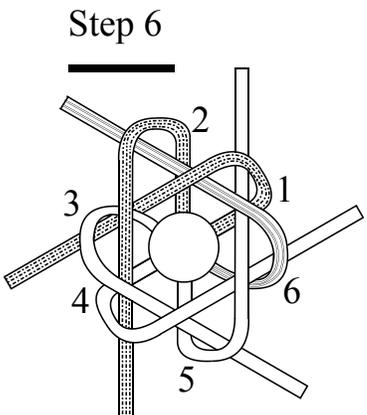
(4) Take strand number 4 and bring it under strands 5 and 6. You don't need to leave a loop at the core with strand number 4 either.



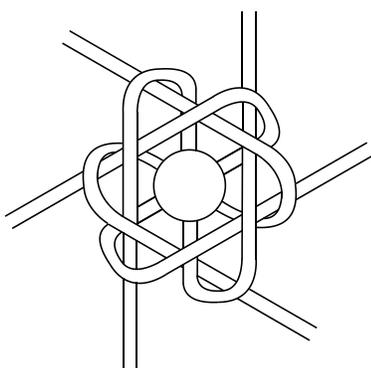
Step 5: Take strand 5 and go under strand 6. Then go **through the loop** formed by strand 1. This takes strand 5 under strand 1. At this time, strand 5 will be under strand 6 and strand 1.



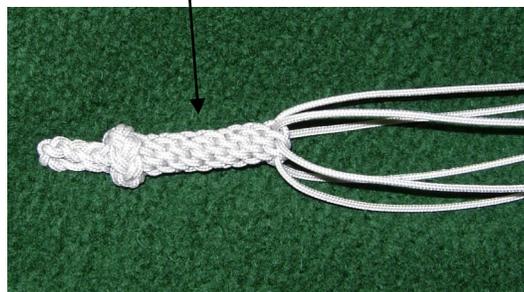
Step 6: Take strand 6 and **go through the loop** formed by strand 1. Then **go through the loop** formed by strand 2. This takes strand 6 under strands 1 and 2. This completes the two under sequence.



Finally: Tighten all strands. As you tighten notice the other side doesn't loosen. This will form a nice crown knot that can be used for a core or that will stand on its own.



A picture of the two under crown knot is shown below.



Overseas knotting

Olaf Fischer is an IGKT member who lives in Kiel, Germany. He goes by “Ole” and works on the Kiel Canal as a Helmsman (Steuerman). He guides ships from the North Sea through the canal into the Baltic Sea and back. Not everyone has the view from his “office” that Ole has.

Being a helmsman, Ole gets to see ropework on the modern ships; however, he says fancy ropework is a lost art. Whenever he sees sailors trying to do ropework, they just wrap the

line around and around the object until it “holds”. There is no attempt to do proper knotting.



Ole’s “office”



Ole— 1/2 done

Recently Ole was commissioned to make a fender for a local powerboat. The boat had been involved in a fire while docked and the previous fender had been burned.

The new fender’s core was made of polypropylene cable wrapped with black tape. Ole finished the outside of the fender using one inch polypropylene. It took three days to finish the fender.

When Ole isn’t working on the canal, he passes his time doing fancy ropework. Feel free to drop Ole a line on his website — www.knoten-ole.de/page1.php



Completed fender with Turk’s Head



Fender on the boat



The International Guild of Knot Tyers

along with the IGKT-North American Branch
and the IGKT-NAB Knot in the Middle Chapter

Announce a Joint 2011

Half Yearly Guild Meeting

Bi-Annual Guild Meeting

Quarterly Guild Meeting

to be held in **October 2011**.

Training - Teaching - Tying / Official Official Business / Places to Visit

When: October 7 - 9, 2011
Where: Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
Venue: Embassy Suites Indianapolis - North
3912 Vincennes Road
Indianapolis, Indiana, United States 46268
Tele: (317) 872-7700 Fax: (317) 872-2974

http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/INDNHES-Embassy-Suites-Indianapolis-North-Indiana/index.do

PLEASE NOTE: An actual Direct link to IGKT Hotel Reservations Page is pending. When available, the link will allow our members to book their rooms on-line and receive the appropriate group rate we have negotiated. Please wait for that link before you make your reservations with the hotel. Alternatively, you may call in your reservations. If so, be sure you reference the IGKT event.

Officially planned for Friday through Sunday (October 7-9, 2011), the Knotters in the KitM Chapter are working hard to arrange local site seeing opportunities for our members from out of town/state/country. We are hoping to provide our visitors with opportunities to see points of interest beginning on Thursday and running through Monday. The actual timing and locations is pending and will be framed around the needs and desires of our registered Members.

For **more information**,

to offer your knowledge as one of our **trainers**,
or to contribute suggested “**Must Do’s**” to be included in the event,
please contact Rusty Helms.

Initial Contact Information = Rusty@HelmsCPA.com (Memo: IGKT Meeting) or
Rusty Helms, 7960 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268 USA

KITM - Knot in the Middle Chapter - Update

The Knot in the Middle Chapter met on March 6th, 2011 at the Crossroads of America BSA office. We were 19 in attendance. The balance of our 2011 year is scheduled to be at the Nora Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library on the north side of Indianapolis. Meeting times will be on Sunday's from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

Dates for the Knot in the Middle Chapter are May 22nd, August 28th and November 27th. In May we will explore methods and techniques in the tying of a bell rope. In August we will take a similar approach to working with canvas and making ditty bags. Currently November is planned to be a "pitch-in" or a "show and tell" review of projects we have completed during 2011.

All IGKT members are encouraged to visit our chapter meetings.

Respectfully submitted by IGKT member Rusty Helms.

For more information about the Knot in the Middle Chapter, please contact Rusty at: Rusty@HelmsCPA.com

Scouting Corner

Editor's Note: I haven't received any scouting articles for the Scouting Corner. We've got a lot of scout leaders so I know you're doing a lot of rope work with scouts. I can use any articles you send me. Let's share the ideas!



Volume, Issue

The *InterKnot* is making a change starting with this issue. In the past, issues of the *InterKnot* had been published with a serialized issue number starting about the time of March, 1998 as Issue 1. The issue number continued in sequence until June, 2005 with Issue 27. Due to changes in editors, the sequential issue number was lost and not resumed.

Starting with this issue of the *InterKnot*, we will keep track of each issue by using the year of publication with the issue number within that year. March, 2011 will be Year 2011, Issue 1 and June, 2011 will be Year 2011, Issue 2. The issue number will continue up to year end with December, 2011 being Year 2011, Issue 4.

We apologize for any confusion this may cause. However, moving forward, this should make identification and retrieval of past issues of the *InterKnot* much easier. If you wish past issues of the *InterKnot* prior to this renumbering sequence, please contact me at alex3@juno.com and I will be able to send a PDF document to you.

Membership Questions should go to IGKT-NAB Membership Secretary, 4417 Academy Street, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125-2205. This is a reminder to update address, telephone numbers and e-mail when making a change or relocating. Send e-mails to knottyrope@prodigy.net

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & PICTURES FOR THE “InterKnot”

Please submit written articles in MS Word Document or convertible document. (I can also accept MS-Publisher documents.) If sending instructions for tying a knot please include black & white sketches or electronic drawings . Motion arrows would be easier to understand. Pictures are welcome but try to make sure they are high-contrast photographs in jpeg format. You may be asked to send the pictures separately so they can be more easily incorporated into the publication. Printed copies will be grayscale pictures to save cost. Please send submission items to alex_d_3@juno.com Include “IGKT article” on address line.

Membership Dues

IGKT-NAB membership dues are \$45 for an individual per year.

Your membership expiration date is shown on the return address line in each *InterKnot* sent by regular mail. E-mail expiration date will be in the cover letter.



IGKT-NAB InterKnot
C/O 4417 Academy Street
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125