

The Turk's Head Knot

by Bill Chisamore

Being February, Scout-Guide Week will soon be upon us. It's a good time to learn to tie the Turk's Head knot. First, let's explain about the structure; in the family of Turk's Heads, there are many types. All are based on the number of leads and the number of bights produced in the knot.

A lead is the number of turns (times) the cordage is woven through the knot to get back to its starting point. Bights refer to the number of loops of rope produced along the top and bottom of the knot. The common Woodbadge I woggle is a three lead, four bight Turk's Head knot. It is commonly written as 3Lx4B Turk's Head. This is best demonstrated by taking a Turk's Head knot and flattening it out (see Figure 1). Although this knot looks intimidating, it really isn't that hard to learn.

To tie a 3Lx4B Turk's Head knot:

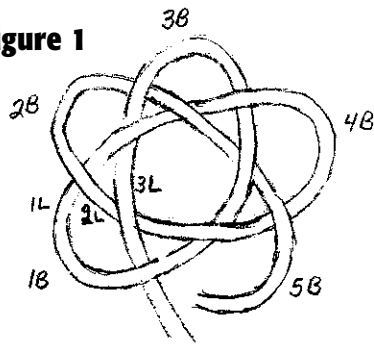
- Step 1: Start by tying a Snug Hitch (see January 2008 *Leader Magazine*), onto your left thumb with your thumb pointing up (see Figure 2).
- Step 2: Turn your left hand over, so now your thumb points down (see Figure 3).
- Step 3: Move the left cord over the right one to form a gap in between the two cords (see Figure 4).
- Step 4: Finally, take the working end of your cordage and pass it over the top of the right side cordage, through the gap, and under the left side of the cordage. That will form the basic knot.
- Step 5: To fill out the knot, just weave the working end of your cordage through the knot, following the cordage, as many times as you want.

By working your way around the knot, tightening as you go, you can produce any size diameter Turk's Head knot. \wedge
 — Bill Chisamore was a Scouter with the 78th Ottawa Troop, now works at the national office Scout Shop, and is a knot expert.

Illustration: Bill Chisamore

The Turk's Head Knot

Figure 1



3 LEAD x 5 BIGHT
TURKS HEAD

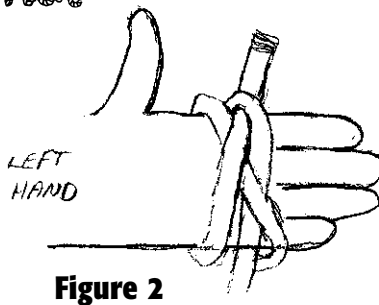


Figure 2

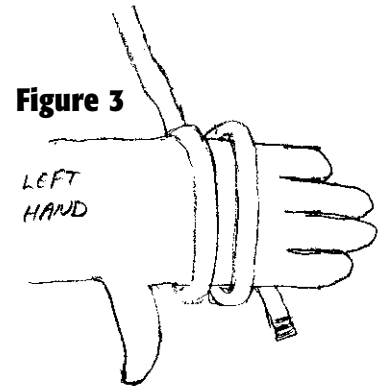


Figure 3

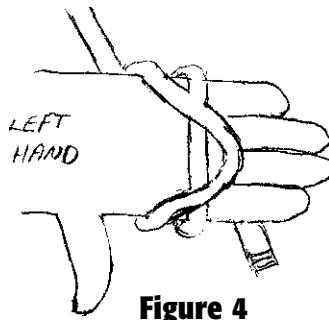


Figure 4

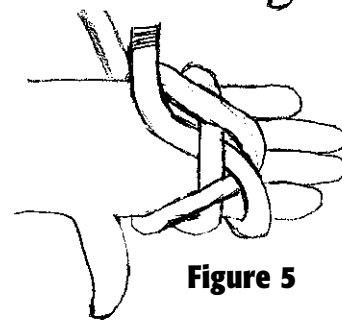


Figure 5



Web Site Link

— Animated Knots by Grog:
Watch knots ties themselves
before your eyes.

<http://www.animatedknots.com/>

Did You Know?

The Woodbadge Woggle was created as an easy way to carry the leather thong used in a fire maker's bow?