

APPENDIX 1996

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A quarterly publication
for
the braiding artisan

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Reviews

We hereby like to thank Tom Hall for informing us that his copy of *The Bushman's Handcrafts* differs from the one we reviewed in the August Issue (No. 7), pg. 154. The copy we reviewed was the reprint of 1981; the copy which Tom possesses is the revised edition of 1988. There seems, however, to be some Australian funny business going on since both copies carry exactly the same ISBN number of 0 9599299 0 8. It is well known that, when the publication has been provided with an ISBN number, any change in such a publication as for example a reissue, reprint, revision, different form of presentation such as covers, etc. requires by law a new and different ISBN number. Such a procedure is of course an obvious requirement for the ISBN number to have any significance.

Not only carry the reprint from 1981 and the revised edition of 1988 the same ISBN number, but it appears likely that earlier reprints (or revisions?) carry the identical ISBN number since the first line in the 'Foreword' of our reprint has the controversial statement: *The Bushman's Handcrafts is the revision of a previous edition issued over 20 years ago.* This tends to suggest that our copy is not as stated a reprint but a revised edition, however, the publication list specifies: *First published 1943, reprinted 1948, reprinted 1950, reprinted 1953, reprinted 1954, reprinted 1966, reprinted 1972, reprinted 1973, reprinted 1975, reprinted 1977, reprinted 1979, and reprinted 1981.* Tom's copy has the following additions to this list: *reprinted 1984, revised edition 1988.* It is thus obvious that the ISBN number in *The Bushman's Handcrafts* is totally meaningless.

The illustrations and pages are somewhat rearranged in the 1988 revised edition, although the comment we made with regards the error in the instructions for the "Whip Handle Turks Head" applies also here.

While we are on the subject, there is an interesting illustration on pg. 217 of the 1981 reprint (or on pg. 171 of the 1988 revised edition). This illustration is reproduced in Fig. 1 below.

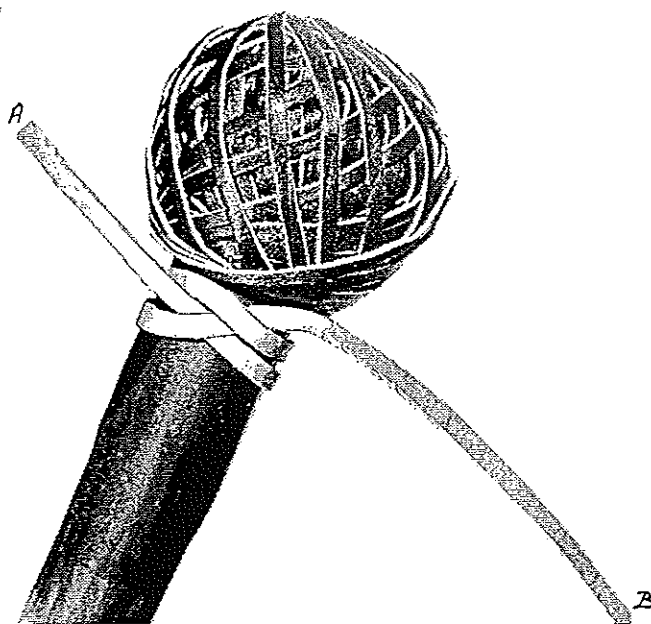


Fig. 1 — The Knot in question.

The subject of interest is the knot below the knob. Fortunately the text indicates that this knot is a **clove hitch**, and hence we know what it is supposed to be. Nevertheless, as is so often the case with three dimensional pictures, we encounter here a good example of an ambiguous illustration.

- Take string-end A as the Standing End: we will obtain the knot whose grid-diagram is depicted on the extreme left in Fig. 2. This knot will readily transform into a clove hitch (second grid-diagram from the left). This is obviously the knot intended.
- Take string-end B as the Standing End: we will obtain the knot whose grid-diagram is depicted on the extreme right in Fig. 2. This knot cannot be transformed into a clove hitch, and hence is obviously not the knot intended.

The problem here is that there is a crossing at the back of the illustration, but since it is invisible we are not aware of its existence and consequently we don't know the type of crossing. Such problems will never arise when grid-diagrams are used!!!

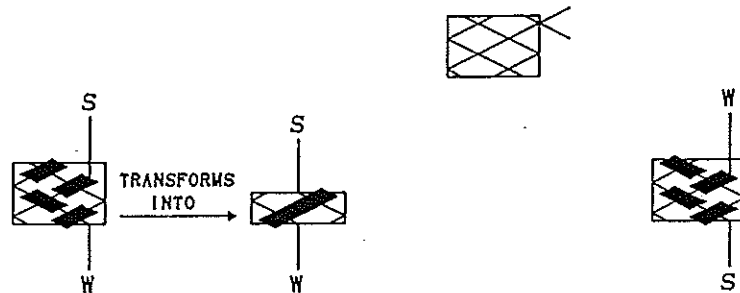


Fig. 2 — The two possible knots represented by Fig. 1.

A Reminder

Please don't forget that we like to receive your solutions to the questions posed in *The Braider*. Your participation in this aspect will of course be acknowledged. Furthermore, if you have any queries, comments, etc., please don't hesitate to drop us a line; you will promptly receive a personal reply. If we feel that a query or comment may lead to explanations which could be of benefit to other readers, we will also deal with them in a often more general way in either a future Issue of *The Braider* or in the yearly Appendices.

Queries Received

We only received one query. Does this really indicate that the articles are so clear that to most readers there are no question marks??? We don't believe it, in fact read under the next heading!!!

Since it is most unlikely that the person who poses a question is the only one who would like to see some further clarification, we will briefly discuss these questions for the benefit of those who also wonder why, but don't ask for further clarification.

Again we like to thank Tom Hall for his question, which refers to our statement under *Reviews* in Issue No. 7, pg. 154, why the 'rolling over' method, for the construc-

tion of *The Two Thong Turk's Head* (on pg. 209 in *The Bushman's Handcrafts* of our reprinted edition of 1981, should be preferred. The reason for preferring the 'rolling over' construction procedure is that the "crowning" and "walling" operations are very basic and hence often used in the construction of many different knots. Consequently the "crowning" and "walling" operations are much easier to remember than specific construction methods associated with a specific knot. Only when such specific knots are tied often enough will the average person be able to remember the specific procedures involved. But, of course, there is nothing against an individual wanting to use one of the few specific construction methods for the knot in question. A further reason for using the 'rolling over' procedure is to be at all times well aware of the properties of the 'rolled over' knot and hence not to use it in an incorrect position.

Where are the Queries we should have received, but didn't???????

Sure, all our subscribers (there are only a small dozen though) reside in the Northern Hemisphere, and there it was and still is hibernation-time when they received the November 1996 Issue of *The Braider*. But, ... braiders are not supposed to hibernate, well ... that's as far as we know, and since we know blow all, please forgive us our ignorance.

As you all know, each issue is ready well before its publication date, hence to be honest, we didn't expect questions since most people don't seem to ask any (some too shy and some can't be bothered). Hence we thought: let's see if we can trick our readers with something which is correct but incomplete. It appears we succeeded!!! Of course discounting the smart aleck who saw the discrepancy (most likely after reading this Appendix), but didn't want to embarrass us; forget that next time and let us know, because there will be a next time some time, just to see if we are all still awake. Let those who don't see it not worry, we will make the story complete in the appropriate Appendix. But then on the other hand, we could have really fallen asleep!!!

So, let's see where the trick was this time.

On pg. 158, the fifth line from the top states: "*The lowermost cycle is readily rearranged: its intersection with the remaining $(p-2)$ cycles are transferred by sliding them along.*". From this statement it follows that we have at least two cycles to start with (the lowermost cycle + the minimum number of $(p-2)$ cycles, which is 1). Hence the knot has at least two bights. But the line above the footnote on the same page states: "*The 3-parts Casa-coded Regular Knots may be braided from either the 3/1 or 3/2 Casa-coded Regular Knot by repeating this bight-raising process the necessary number of times.*". The 3/1 Casa-coded Regular Knot, however, has only one bight.

The proof we presented is correct for Regular Knots with two or more bights, but does not cover Regular Knots with one bight. The limitation was due to the grid-diagram we employed in our proof. For a proper and complete proof we should have used the grid-diagram in Fig. 3. The sequence of steps depicted should make the procedure clear.

For the 1-part, 2-parts and 3-parts Casa-coded Regular Knots the first set of sequential steps for raising the number of bights are depicted in Fig. 4.

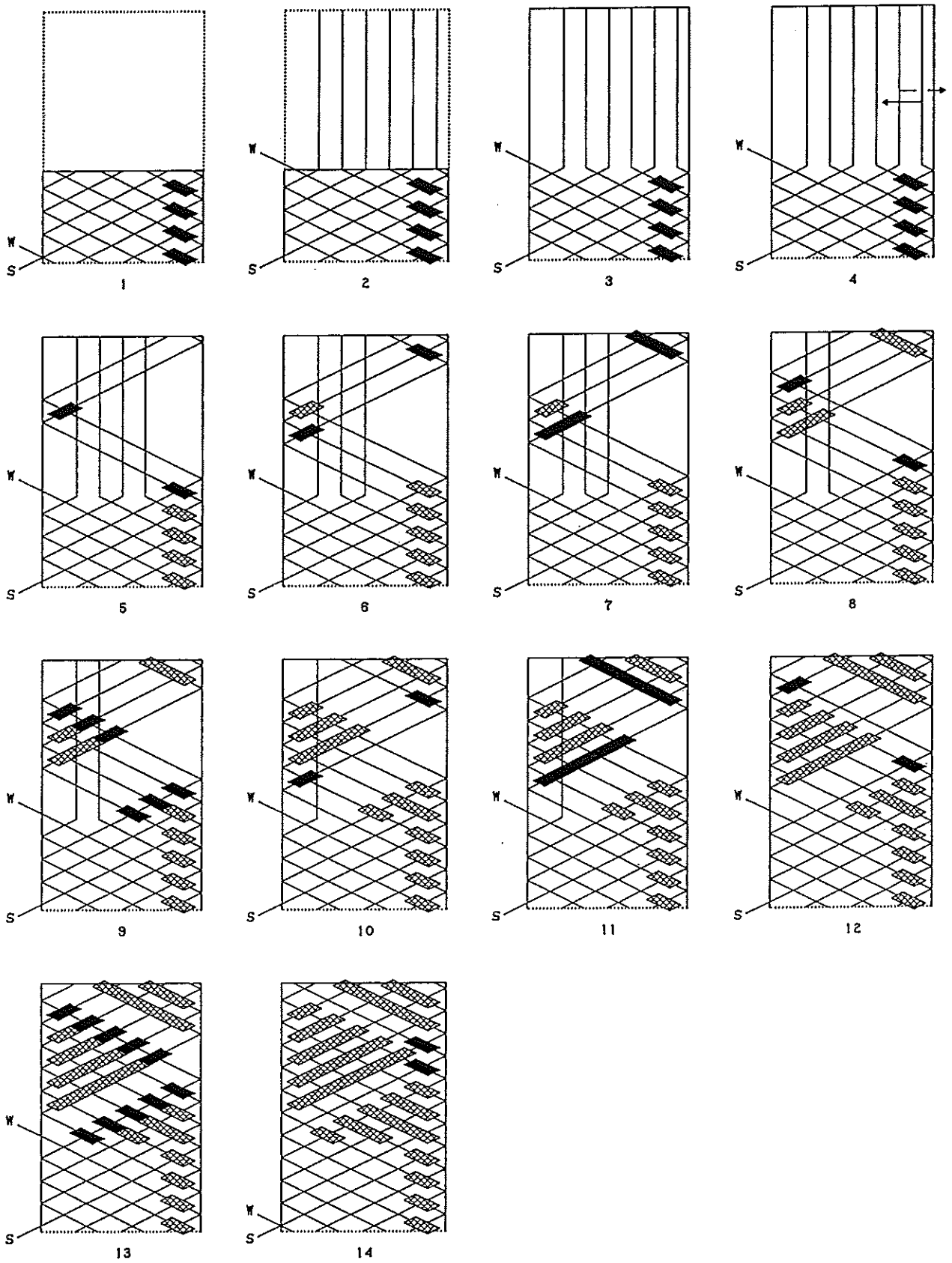


Fig. 3 — Raising the number of bights without raising the number of parts.

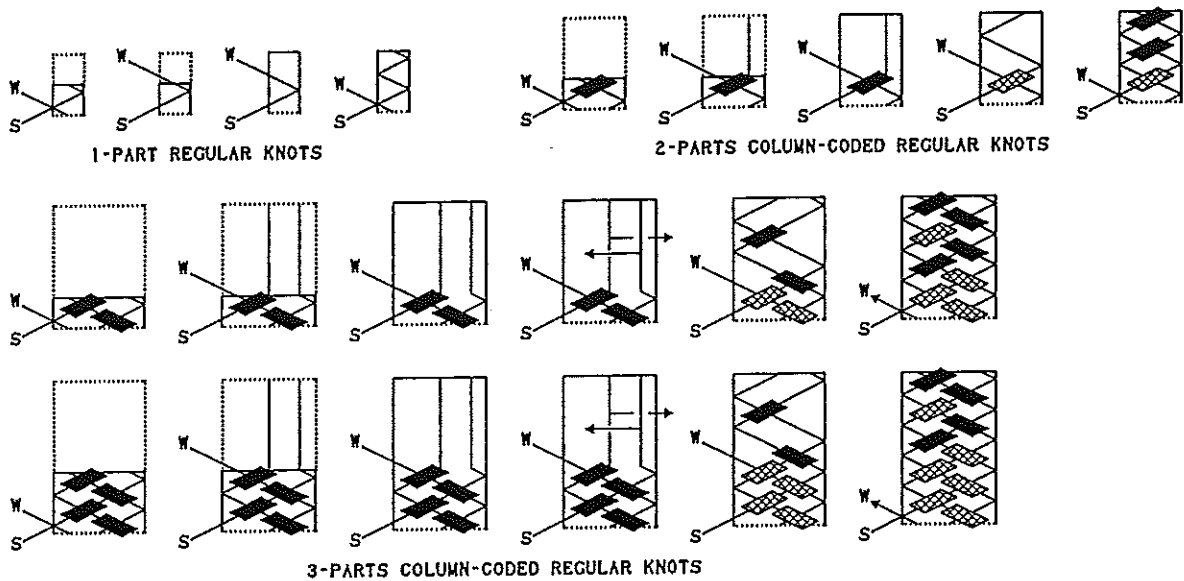


Fig. 4 — Raising the number of bights without raising the number of parts.

We furthermore like to draw the reader's attention to what has been stated on pp. 160 & 161 with regards the parts-raising process concerning the 2-bights and 3-bights Regular Knots (not necessarily Casa-coded!!!).

With respect to a Casa-coding, the requirement for avoiding full turns in the string does not imply that it is possible to construct any or all of the 2-bights and 3-bights Casa-coded Regular Knots without such twists in their string. In fact only the further 1-bight and 3-bights Casa-coded Regular Knots without twists in the string can be produced with the "the parts-raising procedure without raising the bights" by repeating the parts-raising process a sufficient number of times in such a way that the string receives the same number of full right-hand turns as full left-hand turns.

It was Tom Hall who pointed out that at least some readers might read more in our statements than it actually contained, and consequently might erroneously think that further 2-bights Casa-coded Regular Knots without twists in the string can be produced by repeating this parts-raising process a sufficient number of times in such a way that the string receives the same number of full right-hand turns as full left-hand turns. This is impossible since all full turns in the string are of the same kind, and hence will have the same helix, due to the required Casa-coding for 2-bights Casa-coded Regular Knots.

Note: In some copies of *The Braider*, No. 8, there is a typing error on pg. 161, 12th line from the top: 'bights-raising' should be 'parts-raising'.

Errata — The Braider

Some typing errors were noted in at least some copies of the following Issues of *The Braider*. Our grateful thanks to Doug Van Tassel who detected most of them. The corrections required are indicated below in bold:

No. 1

pg. 3, line 9 — **it** is

pg. 3, line 10 — **unnecessarily**

pg. 3, line 17 — in order to present

pg. 12, line 5 under “An Introduction to Flat Braids” — Four pages are devoted to

pg. 16, line 9 under “Reviews” — **instructor**

No. 2

pg. 21, line 2 — delete **that**

pg. 28, line 6 — However, a one colour

pg. 38, line 18 under “Reviews” — **they** are first class

No. 3

pg. 42, line 2 — Naturally, **queries** not directly

No. 4

pg. 76, line 5 — **phenomenon**

pg. 81, line 16 — **phenomenon**

No. 5

pg. 87, line 3 from bottom of page — **exclude**

pg. 106, line 11 — **locality**

No. 6

pg. 129, line 15 — 2-colour

No. 7

No. 8

pg. 158, line 3 — Hence **the** number of bights

pg. 161, line 12 — In Fig. 144 are depicted the **parts-raising** processes

Subscribers to *The Braider*

Only a small number of braiders receive this quarterly publication; at the moment a total of eleven. This small number clearly indicates that the progress in braiding is slow. By reflecting to the past, this is of course not surprising at all, in fact it was expected to be the case. We do expect progress in general to remain at a snail's pace for many years to come. Nevertheless, those braiders whose desire it is to know more about braiding than “the old stick-in-the-mud” might be interested in knowing who their “kinsmen” are. For them the up to date full address list in alphabetical order of all those who receive *The Braider* is as follows:

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