

The InterKnot

Newsletter

of the International Guild of Knot Tyers
North American Branch

September 2004

Issue 27

Well, at least this is not as late as the last one. I have certainly had time to put my knot tying to practical use, in the form of battening down my belongings for three hurricanes. I was lucky though, even though four hurricanes hit Florida this summer, only three of them paid a visit here in Lakeland.

All of which gives me an idea for a future article: using knotting for repairs. Please e-mail or s-mail me your experiences with using knots for repairs. Maybe the Constrictor knot even deserves it's own article.

And since Christmas is coming soon, please send me any Christmas knotting crafts or craft ideas for the December issue. You wouldn't want to see my stuff, so lets not let it get to that, shall we?

In This Issue

Thanks to Glenn Dickey for sending in his information on ordering rope, which you will find on page five.

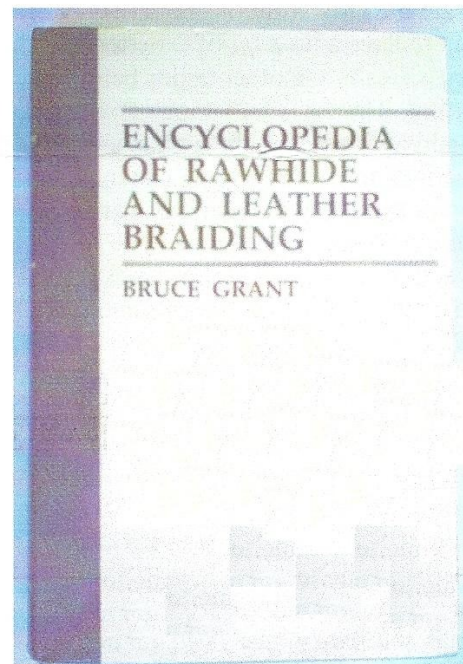
I thought that Bruce Grant's book was worthy of mention, so I wrote a short bit on it.

I also wrote a little about Halloween knotting, and included a couple of pictures of my attempts. You can think of them as something to work from, not to.

Featured Book

Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding

Bruce Grant



Every knot tier either knows or will know the fascination of Turk's Heads, and this book should be part of everybody's journey along this path.

And though most people are lead to this book by an interest in Turk's Heads, the

continued on page 2

reader will soon discover that what they were tying as Turk's Heads are in fact just a small subset of a larger universe of knots and braiding.

With the medium being rawhide and leather, it should come as no surprise that the projects in the book are horse tack and accessories. What is a surprise is how many projects are included. The author has traveled the world collecting examples of this type of work from many cultures, illustrating them in detail in this 500+ page book.

The Turk's Heads are illustrated as tied onto a leather mandrel, which can take a little getting use to if you haven't tried them before.

To get the most from this book, you will want to have a little bit of experience tying Turk's Heads and other braids before starting. Here is what I suggest. Make a mandrel with pins at the bights, as described in Ashley's book (funny how we always assume a knot tier has that book). Make two, one with four and one with seven bights. Use the four to make a 3x4 and a 5x4, and use the seven-pin one for a 4x7, and others if you like.

The reason I am making such a specific suggestion in this article is because of my own personal experience when I was first starting. Even though I thought I was smart and was thinking in terms of the similarities of different Turk's Heads, tying them this way caused me to see things about them that I had not before, and I had tied quite a few of these knots before. It has always been a bad habit of mine to mistakenly believe that thinking about something can teach me what actually doing something can teach me. So my initial start with this very straightforward and well-illustrated book was more difficult than it needed to be.
(cont.)

But don't let all that talk worry you that the book is difficult. There are many easy-to-tie knots included.

This is the kind of book you can spend a lot of time with, probably second only after Ashley's book. If you are very experienced with this type of knotting, and have worked through Tom Hall's books (another good source for Turk's Heads and horse tack projects) then this book will give you details and ideas for eons of projects.

Here is a list of major section headings:

Making and Working with Rawhide;
Leather-Braiding Tools.
Twist Braids
Flat Braids
Round Braids
Crocodile Ridge Braids
Square, Rectangular, Spiral, Twist Spiral,
Oval and Triangular Braids.
Buttons.
Edge-Braiding
Buckle and Ring Coverings
Other Braided Coverings
Handle Coverings
Hobbles
Turk's-heads
Braided Knots
Lazy-Man Button and Pampas Button
Knots.
The Braiding Detective
Braided Appliques
Braid on Braid
Additional Projects and Examples

As you can see, you might want to clear a little time in your schedule for some of the sections in this book. Even without string or leather, this book is fun to read, and reminds us just what an amazing universe knot tying can be.

ISBN 0-87033-161-2
First Edition 1972



"Charlie, could you give me a hand after you've rappelled?!"

Got Rope?

Thanks to Glenn Dickey for sending the information on page 5. It is certainly common with some of us knot tiers that we like to order in quantity. Future issues will continue to list sources, so if you have anything to add on the subject, please let me know.

Contacting your IGKT - NAB

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Very Important: Please state purpose of email communication in subject heading. Only the subject line is visible in email lists so this helps people get back to you.

IGKT-NAB Web Site

<http://www.igktnab.org/>

Check here for updated information on events, and many other knotting related items.

Membership Renewals: The date on your mailing label is the month and year that your membership expires. Please report any errors. Please submit your renewals by that date.

DUAL MEMBERSHIP: Covers membership in both the IGKT and IGKT-NAB.
 Membership Fee as of January 1, 1998

Family	\$44	Individual	\$35	Youth	\$12
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Please make check payable to in U.S. funds to the IGKT-NAB and mail to **IGKT-NAB, c/o 4417 Academy Street, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125-2205**

Address Changes: Please use above mailing address to update your address, phone number and email address. Updates are forwarded to England on a monthly basis.

Glenn Dickey

One of the continuing problems IGKT members have is a consistent and good supply of rope. Needless to say, over the past few years, trying to find a consistent supply of rope and cordage has been a challenge. I've scoured the local hardware stores, thrift stores, dollar stores, and close out stores looking for cordage. Sometimes you'd find some good cordage only to find out the store had purchased for the entire year and wouldn't make another special purchase. Other times, you'd find the supplier was a captive vendor and couldn't sell except through the store. Still other times, I've found a good quality of cordage, but when I returned to the store to make another purchase, I found a different (and cheaper) style of cordage. I've contacted rope suppliers directly, only to find they're only interested in taking an order if it's for an entire store chain. (Out of my pocket book range!) Finally I was able to find a supplier who's willing to work with me.

I like to use 3/16" braided nylon for teaching. It has a soft feel, isn't too limp, ties well, and isn't too expensive. I use 3/16" three stranded cotton for knot displays. And I also use a #72 cotton three stranded for doing Ring Bolt Hitching on walking staffs.

The only supplier who's been willing to work with me is Phoenix Rope and Cordage Co., Inc.

Web site and e-mail

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

phoenixrope@phoenixrope.com.

Complete address is as follows:
Phoenix Rope and Cordage Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 520
220 Alessio Dr.
Joliet, IL 60433

Phone: 1 - 800 - 798 - 7673 (Orders and quotes only)

Toll phone: 1-815-727-7776

Fax 1 - 815 - 727 - 0166

Sales Manager: Barry Oswald.

Minimum retail order is \$50 - which is a little steep for an individual order, but at least, they're willing to work with you. If you're calling to get a quote on prices, please make sure to mention you are a member of the IGKT. It also helps if you are a scout leader. (Be prepared to give district name and your current scouting position.)

Cordage I've ordered from them and have used is as follows. The 3/16" three stranded cotton comes on a 600' spool. The 3/16" nylon braided comes on a 1000' spool. The #72 cotton comes in a two pound ball. (about 300'). I've also ordered a string suitable for whipping. It comes on a five-pound cone.

I've ordered from them over a two-year period. Have found them to be quite reliable and to have good quality rope and cordage. Shipping is via UPS and they'll ship per your instructions. They have Manila, Sisal, and synthetic three-stranded rope, as well as a large variety of other cordage styles. I feel that most IGKT members will be able to find something.

Since I do a lot of training for Boy Scouts, getting a minimum order isn't too much of a problem. However, if you're having problems getting to the \$50 order level, you may want to pool your order with another IGKT member and split the costs.

If you have additional questions, you may contact me via my website:

<http://www.dickeyfamilyresearch.com>

While you're on the site, please check out some of my rope work and the English Chariot pictures.

Hope this helps!

Glenn Dickey
IGKT - NAB

InterKnot

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Lakeland, FL 33811

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Inside This Issue

Possibilities for Halloween Knotting!

Book Review – “Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding” by Bruce Grant

Information on a Rope Supplier from Glenn Dickey.

NAB –2005 Annual Meeting? Preliminary planning is looking like Charleston, South Carolina. More information in future issues.

**E
V
E
N
T
S**

EVENTS