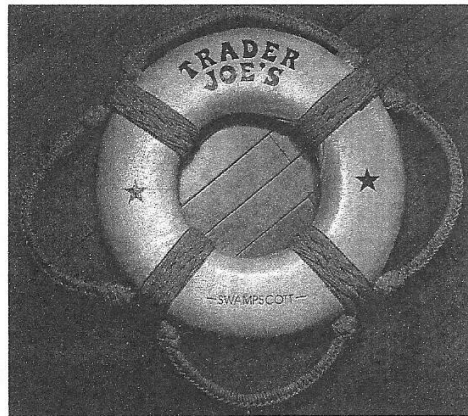


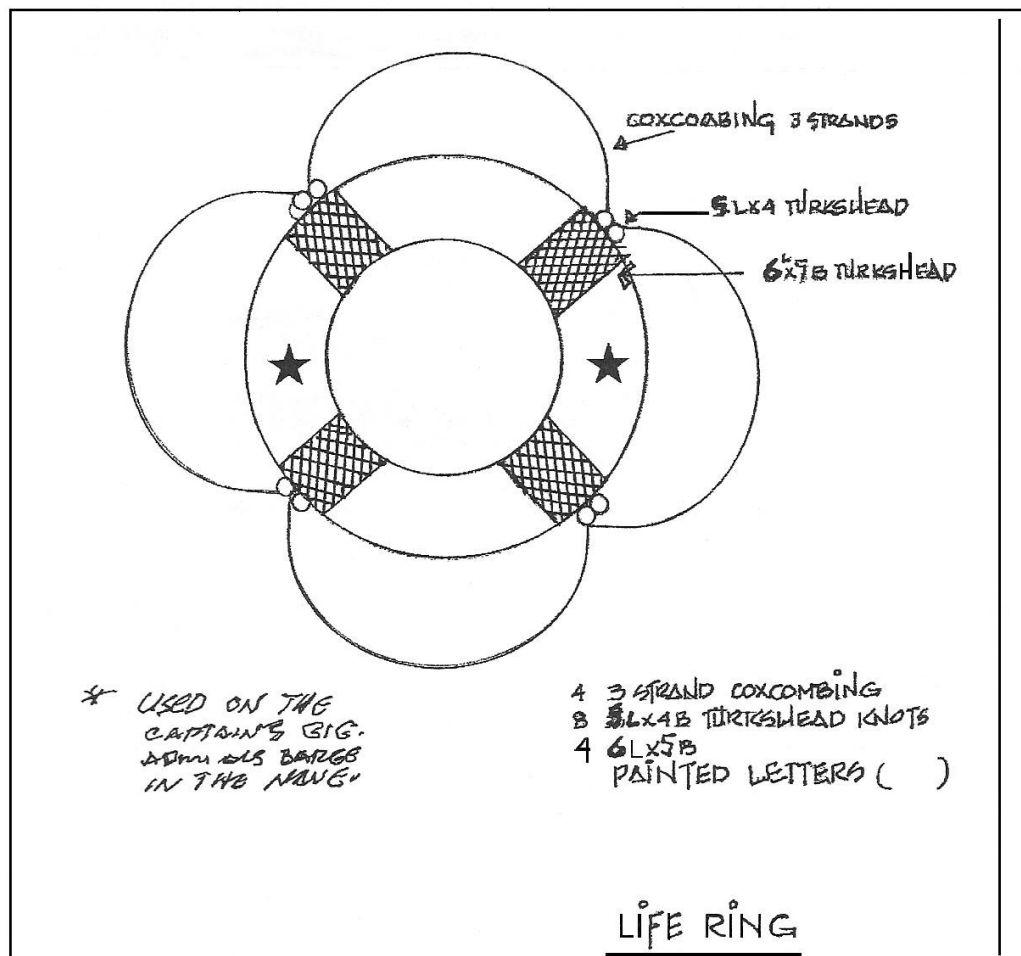
# The InterKnot

Newsletter of the International Guild of Knot Tyers  
North American Branch

JANUARY 2009



IGKT-NAB Member Jim Doyle has sent in some examples of his work. He has included a sketch of this "Life Ring" and a description of the knots used in finishing this "Life Ring".



## "Rope Yarns"

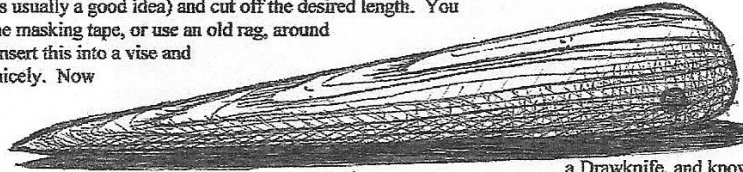
By: Mr. Twisty

### FIDS: LET'S MAKE ONE...

OK... now it may seem like a simple thing: making a FID, but for some of the "newbies" it may be a big deal. I've got quite a collection: Oak, Maple, Magnolia, Ash, some foreign unknown wood and even one made from deer parts (yes, I said deer parts)! So how do you make a FID? Well, I have several ways. Depending upon the wood and the size of FID you want will determine the method.

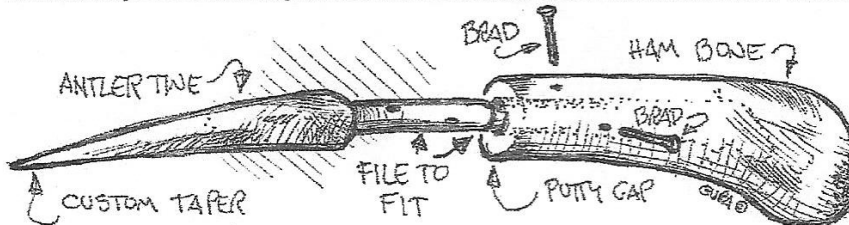
First, let's start off with a simple, small FID... say 1/2 an inch diameter. An easy way would be to purchase a 1/2 inch dowel rod, cut it to length and insert the one end into a drill with a chuck that will take at least a 1/2 inch bit. Now clamp down the drill, turn it on and shape your FID with sandpaper as the drill turns... now you want to be careful here... I don't want anyone writing back telling me that their Cardigan got caught up in the spinning chuck and ended up looking like a seventeen strand overhand braid (along with their fingers)... finish off with a nice spray finish (you can buy this at a hardware store) or use wax... I personally like Kiwi brand brown shoe polish... which, by the way, I use to finish the furniture I build!!!

The next way to fabricate a larger FID would be this... take an old broom stick (using a wooden one is usually a good idea) and cut off the desired length. You can wrap some masking tape, or use an old rag, around one end and insert this into a vise and tighten it up nicely. Now if you have



a Drawknife, and know how to use it...use it. If you don't you can use a rasp and file to get the taper you want and then finish off with an electric sander, or hand sand, and spray finish or wax. You can customize your FID at this time... taper end or hand end. Drill a hole in the hand end and put a lanyard on it if you want! If you have a wood lathe... well if you have one I shouldn't have to tell you what to do now should I???

Now to get fancy. I have a "high-class" FID I use made from deer bone and antler. To accomplish this I took the thigh bone (after I cooked the ham) cut it in half, cleaned it out and let it dry. Then I took a rack (the antlers) and found one tine that was approximately the same diameter of the bone, cut it and filed a rim around the edge so that it would fit into the hollow end of the bone. This may take some time, inserting and sanding until it fits nice and tight. I then epoxied it in place. After it dried, I cross drilled some 1/16" inch holes near the place where the two joined and inserted some small brass brads... this will lock the antler end



piece in place. I then took epoxy putty and filled in the gaps between the antler and bone. After all dried I took the piece to the small belt sander and carefully tapered the two pieces until they looked natural. Finish with a couple of good coats of wax (brown wax will give it a nice antique look)... Polish....and Wa-lah!

Well, that's about it for my advice... now I'm sure some of you have a better way, your way, and that's OK... the important thing is... you get a FID out of it when you're done!!! Hey newbies write me and let me know how yours comes out!!! Till then... Buen Suarte... (Good Luck)

### SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & PICTURES FOR THE "InterKnot"

Please submit written articles in MS Word Document or convertible document. If sending instructions for tying a knot please include black & white sketches with motion arrows would be easier to understand. Pictures are welcome but try to make sure that they are high-contrast black & white photos in jpeg format. Color Pictures are also welcome, but it increases the cost of publication significantly.





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#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**The IGKT is holding its Half-Yearly Meeting October 10, 2009, at The Whaling Museum, in New Bedford, Massachusetts. We believe that this will be a Friday-Saturday-Sunday event.**

**The IGKT-NAB will be participating in the Half-Yearly Meeting. Hotel accommodations can be made at either Residence Inn 508-984-5858, Single Suite \$159.00, plus taxes or Comfort Inn Single 508-996-0800, Room \$109.95 plus taxes. You will need to tell them you are with the International Guild of Knot Tyers**

**So please mark your calendars so that you do not miss this meeting. The IGKT-NAB Executive Board encourages everyone to join in this event.**