



ART AND SCIENCE 1: FIRST TURKS HEAD KNOT
by Larry Schemel, retired USGS scientist.

I learned this knot while working on a USGS research vessel in the late 60's. It is a three bight, four lead knot that makes a very nice whipping on lines, spars and even beads.

To learn this knot, use a piece of nylon cord about 48 inches long. It will usually let you make three wraps after you "throw" the knot. Place the cord with the short end down and wrap the long (working) strand over the short end and up next to the short strand (end), making a clove hitch, a common nautical knot.

With your thumb, push the working strand under the short strand to make a loop. Wrap the working strand around the back of your hand and thread it through the loop.

Continue the weave with the working strand by going over, under, and over the existing wraps.

Bring the working strand under your hand and loop it through next to the short strand. From here on, just continue weaving the working strand next to the existing wraps of the short strand. You will want to tighten the knot a bit and it is easiest to do this around a wooden dowel or marker pen core. Three or four complete wraps makes a beautiful knot. Use a marlinspike to help insert the lead and to tighten wraps around the core. To finish, cut off each loose end under an overlying wrap.



You can use this knot as a napkin ring or flatten it for a coaster. Shellac both to maintain shape.