

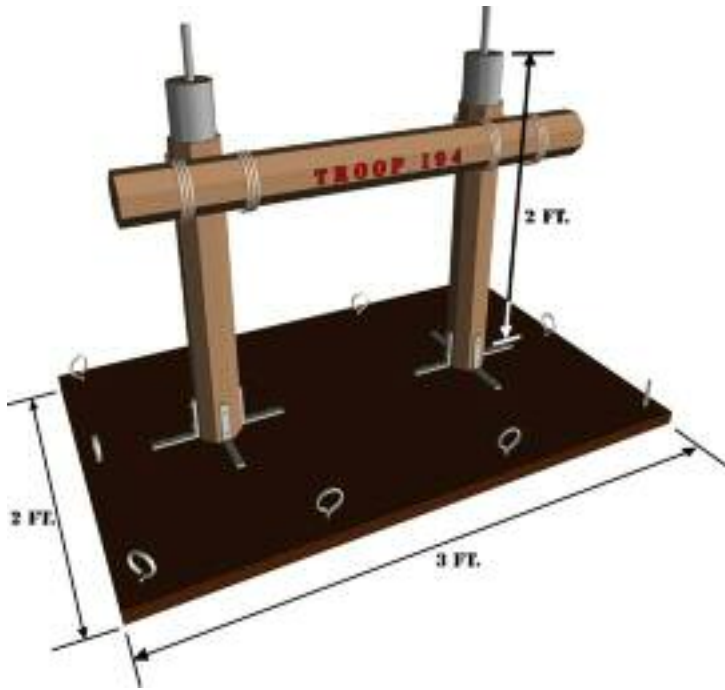
# Knot Demonstration Board

Create your own knot demonstration board. It doesn't have to be this one, but any appliance you can use to let the boys tie or practice knots in a set location and help them help each other at troop meetings and in an indoor environment. Plus this is something that can be used in the future and if properly taken care of for future generations.

The one pictured here has 10 eyelets for the boys to tie tautlines at the base and the top of the poles for two half-hitches, plus the cross pole can be left untied for lashing practices.

Materials used:

- 1 – 3' x 2' .5" plywood
- 10 – eyelet screws
- 2 – old tent poles cut to 2' lengths with tops left on them
- 8 – "L" brackets and screws to anchor to plywood
- 1 – additional 2' section for the cross beam for lashing



*Knot Sure?*

**Program Rules!**  
**2020**

**by ASM Greg F. Firestone**

Some forms of recognition: A: Make Turkshead knot/woggles in some paracorde that you feel would be special to your individual unit. B: Tying a sailors star mat and mounting it on simple wood blocks. C: You could even do various levels. As youths (or even adults) prove their expertise to others, have Bronze, Gold, Silver level awards similar to Scouting Eagle palms.

## Background, suggestions and requirements!

With advent of pop-up tents and leave no trace programs the practical applications for knot tying are not as obvious or necessarily as needed when camping as they used to be. Having a patch to work towards would add some incentive to learn these knots and also give the older boys a reason to brush up on the knots as well.

The "Knot Sure?" program was developed for the purpose of learning the 7 basic knots required for earning the scout ranks, and to instill into scouts the desire to teach it to younger scouts. Although developed for Boy Scouts, Webelos can use this program too. Leaders may also learn from this program.

The best way to present this program is to do a demonstration on the 7 basic scout knots. In your initial presentation be sure to provide each scout with their own knot rope. The ropes should be 4' to 5' length and would best be a braided blend of rope (not all nylon, polyester, or natural fibers, as they tend to have draw backs with repetitive knot tying).

Additional materials: such as a knot board & knot displays, any reference books, different types of ropes of girth and materials can be quite helpful, and different forms of whipping materials to aid in your demonstration.

To complete the "Knot Sure" Program the scout must accomplish the following requirements:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1: The scout must be able to successfully demonstrate tying the 7 basic scout knots.
 

_____	Square Knot	(scout rank)
_____	Two Half Hitch	(tenderfoot rank)
_____	Tautline	(tenderfoot rank)
_____	Bowline	(first class rank)
_____	Clove Hitch	(first class rank)
_____	Timber Hitch	(first class rank)
_____	Sheet Bend	(not required for rank)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2: The scout must be able identify each knot and tell what each knot is used for.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3: Then the scout must successfully teach a younger or beginning scout two or more knots specified by a leader and have that scout demonstrate tying that knots to a leader.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4: Explain the different types of whipping and demonstrate at least one type.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5: Be able to demonstrate at least one lashing style (square, diagonal, or sheer)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6: **Optional:** Do one of the following:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Create a knot board for either demonstration.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Create a knot board displaying at least 10 different knots.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Give a knot tying demonstration to the troop.

Once the scout has completed these requirements then an official presentation should be performed with some form of recognition.

## The Seven Basic Scout Knots



The Square knot is the first knot you learn as a scout. It is required for earning your "Scout" rank. This knot is also sometimes called the Reef knot (but in actuality there is a difference). It has another name, superstition has it that it was called the knot of Hercules, due to its strength. Ancient Greeks considered this knot useful in healing, it was believed using this knot on a bandaged wound would cause the healing to be faster. Probably similar in our reasoning today. We consider it a First Aid knot because it is strong and can be easily undone and retightened again in cases of severe bleeding. This knot is located on page 8 of your Boy Scout handbook.

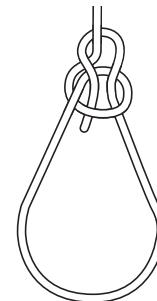


The Two Half-hitch knot is best remembered as the knot to be used at the top of a tent pole or tarp. This knot is required learning for your earning the rank of Tenderfoot. It can be used in a variety of ways, and is reliable as it will not slip once tied properly. It can be tied to a ring, a tree, or a tarp or even the corner of a blanket without holes. It can take a great deal of strain and still be untied fairly easily. See page 36 in your Boy Scout handbook.



The Tautline knot is very similar to the Two Half-hitch and easy to remember by associating it with a knot to be used at the bottom of a tent. Knowing this knot is required for earning your Tenderfoot rank. The word "Taut" meaning tight also helps for remembering this knot. Used in conjunction with the two Half-hitch it is great for securing a line that needs to pull something, or rather anchor it down. It can then be adjusted as needed to allow for slack or more tension. See page 37 in your Boy Scout handbook.

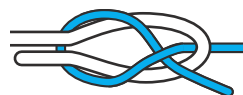
The Bowline knot is considered an excellent rescue knot. This knot forms a loop that does not slip. By placing the loop around the body it can be used to lift without constricting. In addition it can be tied with one hand in case of personal injury. The Bowline is required for the First Class scout rank. There are several variations of this knot. Bowline with a stopper, Bowline with 2 turns, Spanish Bowline. This knot is located on page 149 of your Boy Scout handbook.



The Clove hitch is the knot you should use at the beginning and finishing of most your lashings. The word clove comes from the word cleave which means to hold fast. The Clove hitch is one of the more commonly used knots. This knot is required for earning the First Class rank. See page 139 of your Boy Scout handbook



The Timber Hitch knot is a great knot to be used for pulling or dragging logs or bundles across the ground. This knot is required for your First Class rank. The more strain put on this knot the tighter it will become. Yet it can easily be untied after you've reached your destination. If pulling something for a great distance it is recommended to add an extra half hitch further along the item (such as a long log) for more stability to keep it from swinging during movement. This knot can be found on page 138 of your Boy Scout handbook.



The Sheet Bend knot is the best for joining two ropes of different diameters together for a long rope. This knot is often confused by boys and adults alike with the Sheepshank. Similar looking to the square knot yet different in finishing. If the diameter of one of the ropes is greater, then a variation of this knot should be tied called the Double Sheet Bend. This knot although not required is listed in the First Class section and can be found on page 150 of your Boy Scout handbook.