Turks Head Knot
Walking Stick program

Written Instructions and Templates

Paul Young-Davies
Matthew Young-Davies
1st Stittsville scouts

1st Stittsville Scout Group

Carleton Area Scouting

DRAFT
Turks Head Knot
Instructions

The information contained in this document provide the following instructions:

- **Page 3:** How to construct the “Turks Head Jig”
- **Pages 4, 5:** How to weave rope around the “Turks head Jig”
- **Page 6:** How to finish off the Turks Head Knot
- **Pages 7-11:** Turks Head Template illustrations
- **Page 12:** Turks Head Knot Bight/Lead Truth Table.

Highly detailed photographic guides are also available. These guides cover the following:

- How to construct the “Turks Head Jig”
- Weaving the 1\textsuperscript{st} pass of rope
- Weaving the 2\textsuperscript{nd} pass of rope
- Weaving the 3\textsuperscript{rd} and final pass of rope
- Finishing the Turks Head knot on the walking stick
- Constructing the Needle used for weaving
Constructing the “Turks Head Jig”

The following 5 sheets provide a 5 bight / 25 lead pattern that can be used for making a handle for a walking stick (Scout Staff) using the Turks Head pattern knot.

The 5 patterns are designed to work with different diameter sized staffs and rope thickness as defined below.

1. 3/4 inch diameter staff using 1/8 diameter rope * XX feet in length
2. 7/8 inch diameter staff using 1/8 diameter rope * XX feet in length
3. 1.0 inch diameter staff using 1/8 diameter rope * XX feet in length
4. 1 1/8 inch diameter staff using 1/8 diameter rope * XX feet in length
5. 1 1/4 inch diameter staff using 1/8 diameter rope * XX feet in length

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED**
1. 1 * Wooden dowel (The dowel should match the diameter of the walking stick that you desire).
   - The dowel will be called “Turks Head Jig” from this point on.
2. 1 * Printed Turks head pattern matching the diameter of the Turks Head Jig (¾ to 1 ¼ inch)
3. 10 * 3/16 wooden dowel pins (¾ inch length)
4. Threading needle for helping weave the 1/8 inch rope.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREATING YOUR TURKS HEAD KNOT SIZE**
1. Print the Turks head pattern that matches the diameter of your Turks Head Jig
2. Cut out the pattern along the dotted lines
3. Wrap the pattern around the Turks Head Jig and secure with sticky tape.
4. Cover the entire pattern with sticky tape (this makes it slippery and saves wear and tear on the paper)
5. Drill 5 x 3/16 inch diameter holes at the top bight positions as shown:

```
1 2 3 4 5
```

Drill hole positions

6. Using the “Turks Head” truth table, calculate the length of the handle you wish to make by following the 5th bight column downwards to the appropriate “X” and “O” markers and then cross referencing that combination with the handle length marked on this sheet.

   *Example: 5 bight x 11 to 14 leads gives a Turks Head knot of length = 8 to 10 centimeters*

7. Drill 3/16 holes at intersections where you have chosen the length of your handle.

```
1 1 1 1 1
```

Drill hole positions

8. Insert 3/16 inch dowel pins into the 10 holes that you have drilled. This is the length of your knot.
9. Calculate the length of 1/8 rope that you require (based on the diameter of your Jig and the length of your Turks head knot. Add at least 6 inches to desired length of rope and then cut.
10. Seal both ends of the rope with a flame to stop the rope from fraying.
Weaving the Turks Head Knot

Understanding the Turks Head Weave Pattern

The Turks head pattern is an OVER/UNDER/OVER weave pattern.

Take a look at the pattern that is on the jig. You will see a diamond shaped pattern. Where the lines intersect you will see thicker lines that are called “Grid Markers”. The Grid Markers indicate where the rope will be weaved OVER or UNDER.

Making Your Turks Head Knot

1. Using a simple overhand knot, tie the rope to the 3/16 dowel pin at position #1 at the top of the jig.
   This is your fixed end.
   The rest of the rope will now be called your ‘working end’.
2. Hold the jig in one hand, and gently pull the working end of the rope taught.
3. Turn the jig in your hand and weave the rope downwards from your fixed end following the grid pattern line on the jig until you reach the bottom dowel pin.
4. Pass the rope around the bottom dowel pin follow the grid pattern line upwards.
5. Weave the rope upwards following the grid lines until you come to the first intersection.
6. Look at the direction of the “Grid Marker” where the rope intersection is.

If the “Grid Marker” is at 90 Deg to your rope, then this means that you pass the rope UNDER the other rope.

If the “Grid Marker” is the same direction to your rope, then this means that you pass the rope OVER the other rope.
Weaving the Turks Head Knot

**EXAMPLE TURKS WEAVE**

The following diagrams illustrate the Turks Head weave pattern.

Rope passes OVER because the “Grid Marker” is in line with the rope direction.

Rope passes OVER the lower rope because the “Grid Marker” is in line with the rope direction and then passes UNDER the next rope because the “Grid Marker” is 90 degrees to the rope direction.

Rope passes OVER the lower rope UNDER the middle rope and OVER the top rope.

**ADDING COLORS TO YOUR TURKS HEAD KNOT**

Adding a second rope of different color will make your Turks Head Knot quite attractive. All you have to do is follow these steps:

1. Complete the first weave from start to finish – WITHOUT FINISHING THE ENDS.
2. Add a second rope and weave it along the route that as the first rope, weaving under and over in exactly the same places.

**OPTIONS**

1. Complete the first weave and repeat the weave again using the same colored rope. Add a second rope of different color and weave it between the two original weaves
2. Complete the first weave and then repeat twice more using different colored rope.
Once you have completed your Turks Head Knot weave, you will need to finish it off. The best looking knots all look like it has been made from one ‘continuous’ piece of rope.

This means that you will have to cut both the ‘working end’ and the ‘fixed end’ of your rope and make tuck them into the Turks head weave to make them disappear. Though this sounds challenging, it is quite simple and you will get skilled at it the more you try. Follow steps 1 to 5 to finish your knot.

1. Undo the overhand knot on your Fixed End

2. Weave the Fixed End of the rope over the rope beside it and tuck it under the under the next rope.

3. This is where you should cut the fixed end of your rope to length. Cut the rope and seal the end to stop it fraying.

   NOTE: You always want to cut the rope where it passes underneath another rope weave as this hides the end of the rope.

4. Your fixed end will now look like this

5. Determine where to cut the ‘working end’ of the rope as it tucks under the rope weave.

   Cut to length and seal and then tuck under the weave.
Template

3/4 inch diameter rod (2.35 inch – 5.89cm)
7/8 inch diameter rod (2.75 inch - 6.87cm)
1 inch diameter rod (3.142 inch - 7.85cm)
1 1/8 inch diameter rod (3.534 inch / 8.83 cm)

Template
# Turks Head Bight/Lead Truth Table

"X" means the knot cannot be tied. "O" means the knot can be tied.