

Bushcraft knots

Clove hitch

A really useful and incredibly strong self-tightening knot that can be used in many different scenarios.

What you'll need: string and knife or scissors

Preparation: You don't need much to prepare for practising your clove hitch, just a piece of string or cord and a stick to slide it on.

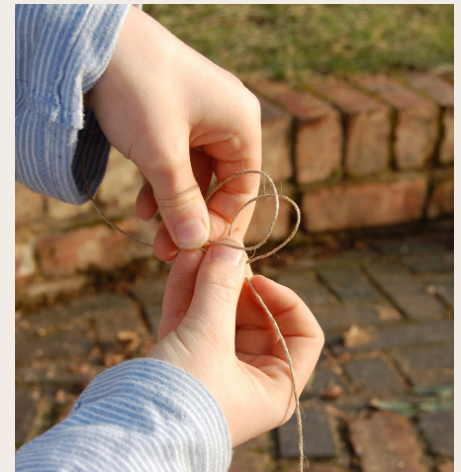
When working with groups it's really handy to have 1 metre lengths of cord ready and available for the group to practise with – they are also great to give out for people to fidget with when listening.



STEP 1 Create a loop - we call this loop the **p**. The descending stem of the **p** should sit over the top of the loop.



STEP 2 Create another loop to the right of the **p**. We call this the **q**. The descending stem of the **q** goes over the top of the loop. If you pull it apart slightly it creates a spiral.



STEP 3 Slide your **q** behind your **p**. If you slide it the wrong way, when you slip it on the stick it will all unravel, so its easy to see if you have gone wrong.



STEP 4 Slip the loops onto your stick. If done loosely it should look like our photo, with a diagonal bar going across the incoming and exiting strings. If its not correct it will probably all just spring apart.



STEP 5 Pull the knot tighter. A clove hitch is a self-tightening knot and will stay gripped. Have a little play with it - it is incredibly strong. When pulling in the same direction the strings pull away but if you pull the string back down in the opposite direction the knot can slip.

Take it further:

The clove hitch can be threaded or slipped on. In this example we've shown how to slip it on. Make sure you become familiar with the threaded clove hitch as well. Keep practising the clove hitch - it is so useful to use - We find we use it all the time, from tying string onto sticks for leaf mobiles, to constructing shelters.

