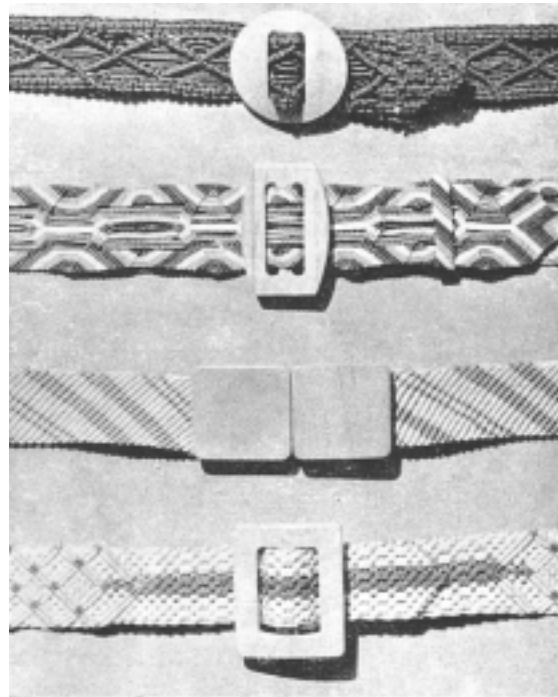


CORD KNOTTING

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DRYAD HANDICRAFTS
LEICESTER

CORD KNOTTING

AND DECORATIVE STRING WORK

Knotting, described in the Oxford Dictionary as "The intertwining of parts of one or more ropes, strings, etc., to fasten them together," is an ancient practice, and dates back to very early days, when materials other than ropes and cords had to be securely joined. The craft of Knotting may be divided into two groups, the first being Ropework, which is vital to many trades and occupations, and upon which much security depends. The second group is Decorative Knotting, which can in itself be useful and purposeful, but which has, as a part of its function, that of being ornamental. It is with the latter that this pamphlet deals.

The word "macramé" was not originally used to describe a quality of twine: it referred to the purpose for which the twine was made, being the Arabic for "fringe" or "trimming of knotted or plaited cord."

It is hoped that the suggestions and instructions in the following pages may prove valuable as a guide to the possibilities in knotting, and once the methods of making some of the knots are mastered, it is probable that the experimenter will be able to invent a number of combinations of the various techniques. The instructions and measurements given can only be considered approximate, as they vary with the worker and the material used. In this case they are given for macramé twine, size 5s.

1. BUTTONHOLE. (a) On itself.

LENGTH REQUIRED: Just over double the desired length.

METHOD: Tie 2 threads, A and B, to some rod, ring, or hook, and attach to a fixed point.

†Hold A straight downwards on the left. Take B towards and over A, back under A, up through the loop A-B, and over itself. Pull firmly.

Repeat from †, but using A as B, and B as A. Continue both these movements, setting each knot firmly before making the next.

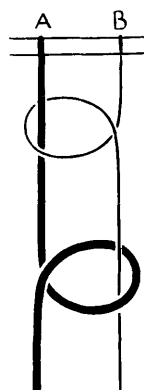
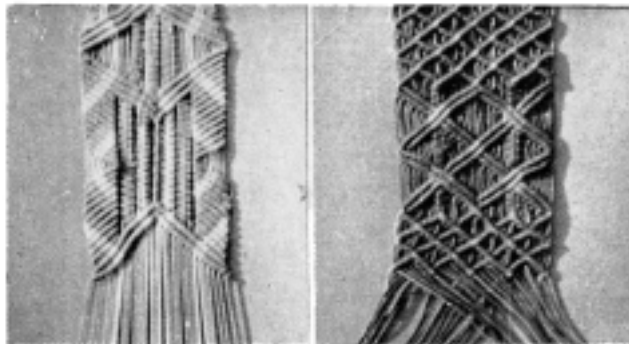
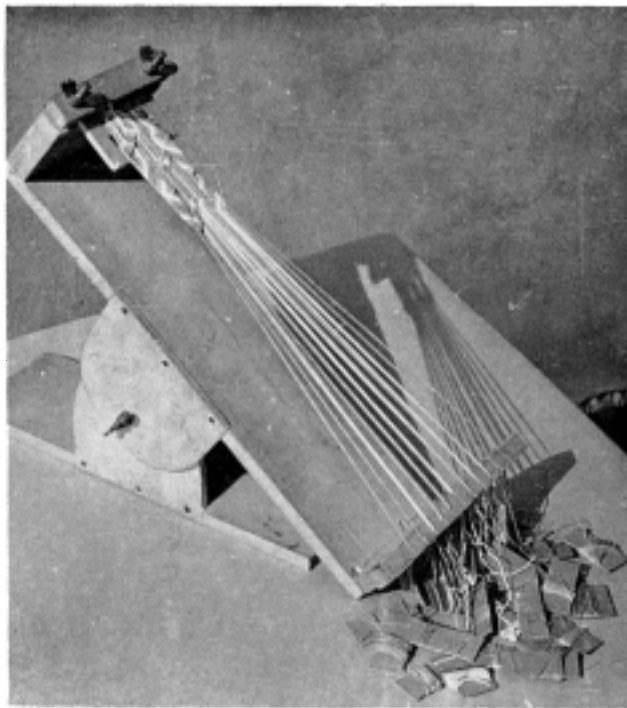


FIG. 1.



SAMPLES OF BELTS



WORK STAND FOR BELTS

1. BUTTONHOLE. (b) On an inner cord.

LENGTH REQUIRED: Centre strings, X and Y, as long as the required length of the finished strip.

Side strings, A and B, 5 times this.

METHOD: Attach all threads to some rod, ring, or hook, and fix firmly to some point.

Fix X and Y at the opposite end, by tying to a belt, or some other fixed point. These strings should be held taut.

†Take thread A over Y and X to the left, and back under X and Y to the right, bringing it up through the loop and over A. Drop alongside Y.†

§Take thread B over X and Y to the right, and back under Y and X to the left, bringing it up through the loop, and over B. Drop alongside X.§
Repeat †—† and §—§ alternately.

NOTE: Always pull A and B firmly at right angles to X and Y. Do not attempt to cover the core, X and Y, completely.

Allow room at the sides for the actual knot of the buttonhole to lie firmly and flatly, but do not work so loosely that A and B slide up and down on X and Y.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Bag handles, belts, children's reins, etc.

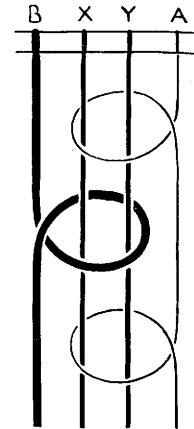


FIG. II.

2. FINGER KNITTING.

LENGTH REQUIRED: Five times the desired length.

METHOD: Take two different coloured threads, A and B. Knot together within 2" of the end.

Make a slip-knot on A and put this on the forefinger of the right hand, holding the joining knot between the thumb and the middle finger.

†Insert the forefinger of

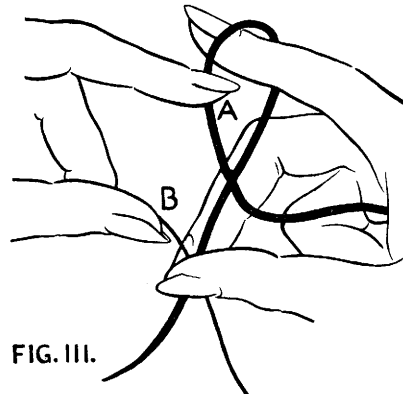


FIG. III.

the left hand through the loop on the right forefinger, *pointing it in the same direction* as the one holding the loop. (Fig. III.)

With the newly inserted forefinger, catch thread B, and pull, or hook, it back through the loop of A.

Keep loop B on the forefinger of the left hand.

Drop loop A over it.

Transfer the joining knot from the right hand to between the middle finger and the thumb of the left hand.

Pull the long end of A to tighten the slip loop round B. (Fig. IV.)

Repeat from †, but this time read: Right for left, and left for right, and A for B, and B for A.

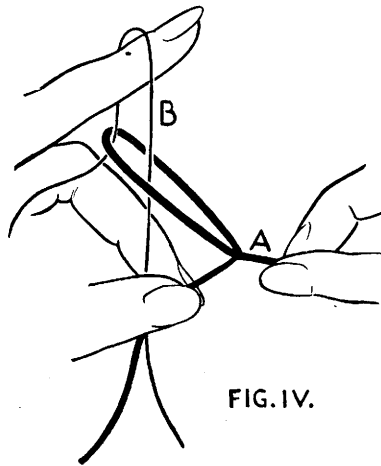
Continue working on left and right forefingers.

NOTE: Always hold the *long* ends of A and B in the right and left hands respectively when working, to maintain tension.

Have the loops on the forefingers big enough to insert the other forefinger.

When tightening, pull the threads *downwards*, not outwards.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Dressing gown cords, cushion cords, sandal cords, bag handles, children's reins, etc.



3. FOUR IN HAND.

LENGTH REQUIRED: From a $\frac{1}{4}$ to a $\frac{1}{2}$ more than the desired length, dependent on the tension of the work.

METHOD: Cut 4 strings, A, B, C and D:

A: All in one colour, or

B: In 2 colours, and set them alternately, or

C: In 2 colours, and set them 2 and 2, or

D: All in different colours.

†Take A over B and C to the right.
 Twist C over B to the left.
 (The order is now C, B, A, D.)
 Take D over A and B to the left.
 Twist B over A to the right.
 (The order is now C, D, A, B.)
 Take C over D and A to the right.
 Twist A over D to the left.
 (The order is now A, D, C, B.)
 Take B over C and D to the left.
 Twist D over C to the right.
 (The order is now A, B, C, D.)§
 Repeat from †.

NOTE: Do not relax the tension. Watch your movements carefully.
 If the work is to be left half done, stop only at §, and slip a rubber band on.
 It may be necessary to tie a tiny label to the end of each string, giving its letter, so that, in starting again, it is possible to find the correct place.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: As for Finger Knitting.
 (This knot can be done by two people who can work up a high speed on it. One holds A and C, and moves them, and the other holds B and D, and moves them.)

4. THE HALF HITCH.

LENGTH REQUIRED: This varies with the width, and the pattern used.

For open-work, with a single row of knots, 5 times the desired length.
 (Fig. VIIa.)

For solid rows of knots, 6, 7, or 8 times the desired length. (Fig. VIIb.)

METHOD: Loop the strings on to some buckle or hook, and attach them to some fixed point.

Take string A, on extreme right, and carry it diagonally across to the left on top of the others.

†§Bring the next string on the right, B, under A, over A, and down through the loop made by A and B.

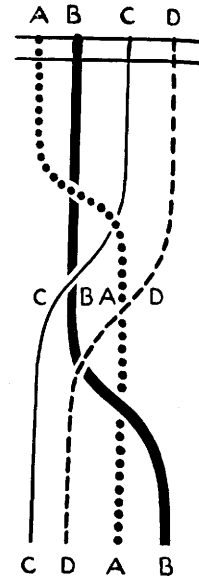


FIG.V.

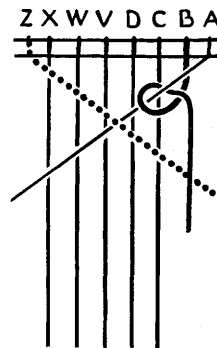


FIG.VI.

Pull firmly and set the tension of the knot B round the string A.
 Knot B round A as before, and set up against the first knot §
 Now take string C, and follow the instructions given above for B,
 §—§. Do the same with D.
 A is now lying diagonally across the others from right to left, with each string, B, C and D, knotted round it twice.

Now drop all these strings.
 Start working from the left, using Z as A, and carrying it diagonally across to the R.
 Use X as B, W as C, and V as D.
 Now both Z and A meet in the centre.

Carry A on to the left, knotting Z, V, W, X over it twice each, in that order.

Carry Z on to the right, knotting D, C, B over it twice each in that order.

The order of the strings should now be: A, X, W, V, D, C, B, Z.
 Repeat from †, using Z as A and A as Z until the whole movement has been gone through again.

TO FINISH OFF: Work several rows of knotting together, and stitch the end of each string back into its own knots on the wrong side of the belt. (Fig. VIII.)

For solid work, work all the knots in rows immediately against each other, as Fig. VIIb. A variation is shewn in Fig. IX.

NOTE: Always keep the centre, or "core," A or Z, tilted upwards a little. Always set the first of the two knots very firmly; the tension is set by this knot, and kept by the other.

Work close up to the knots for speed and ease.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Belts, pochettes, collars and cuffs, sandals.

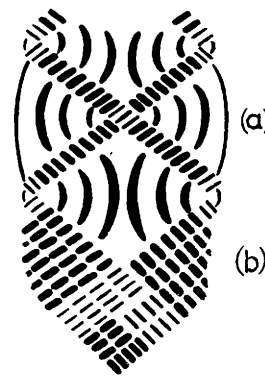


FIG. VII.

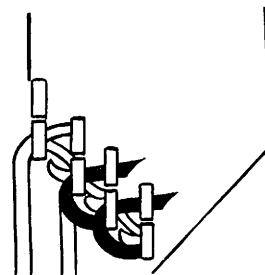


FIG. VIII.

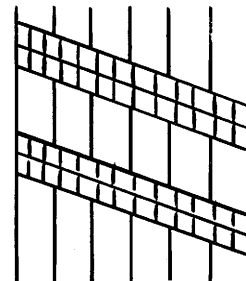


FIG. IX.

5. NINE OR SEVEN PLAIT.

(Must be an uneven number.)

LENGTH REQUIRED: $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the desired length.

METHOD: Tie all the strands to some fixed point. Number them from left to right.

Take No. 1 over 2, 3, 4 and 5, and down alongside No. 6.

Take No. 9 over 8, 7, 6 and 1, and down alongside No. 5.

Take No. 2 over 3, 4, 5 and 9, and down alongside No. 1.

Take No. 8 over 7, 6, 1 and 2, and down alongside No. 9.

And so on.

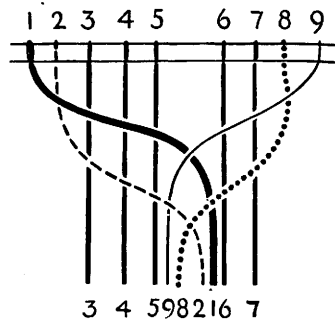


FIG. X.

NOTE: After each movement give a sharp pull to the thread which did the movement *before* the one which has just been completed. Keep the threads flat, and prevent them riding up on to each other.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Cord, gimp or braid for a stool finish.

6. ROUND PLAIT (a).

LENGTH REQUIRED: Core and pairs of strings, the desired length. A double weaver at least 4 times this length (measured on the double).

METHOD: Bind an odd number of pairs of strings to the top of the core, binding in the long weaver as well. Attach to a fixed point. If possible, fix an empty cotton reel on to the core and pairs of strings, as a string and tension holder. Fix into position with a rubber band. (Fig. XI.)

To weave, relax the tension between the fixed point and the reel, and weave in and out of the pairs of strings.

To push the weaver up into place, tighten the tension by pulling the strings with, or through, the cotton reel, and push the weaving string up with a needle.

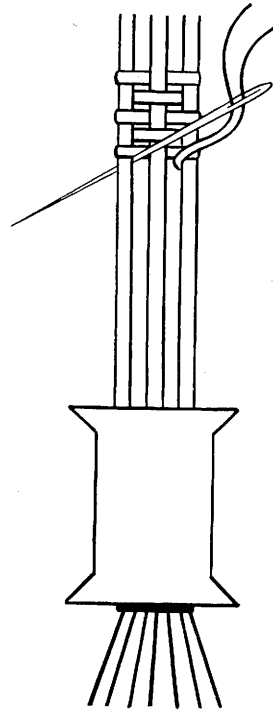
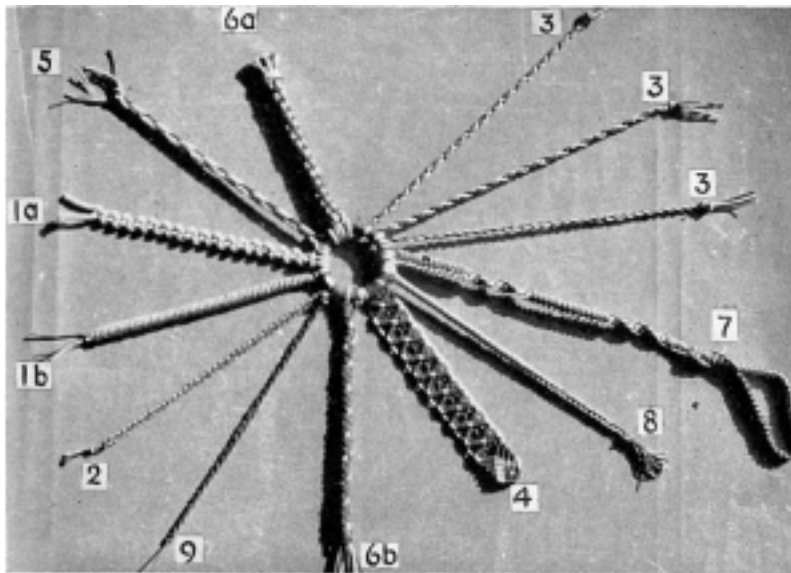


FIG. XI.



SAMPLE RING OF CORDS DESCRIBED

6. ROUND PLAIT (b).

LENGTH REQUIRED: Three times the finished length.

METHOD: Attach the core, and 4 pairs of strings (or 4 strings) to a fixed point.

†Take No. 1 over No. 3 and the core to the left.

Take No. 2 over No. 4 and No. 1 and the core to the right.

Take No. 3 over No. 2 and the core to the left.

Take No. 4 *under* No. 1 and *over* No. 3 and the core to the right.

Now turn the work over and repeat from †.

NOTE: Remember always to start with the outside right string after each turn of the work.

It may be a help to remember this formula:

“Over, over, over, under, over.

Turn the work.”

These plaits are excellent when done in leather thonging.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Bag handles, cords, etc.

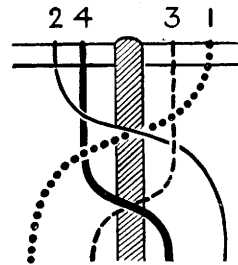


FIG. XII.

7. SOLOMON'S KNOT.

LENGTH REQUIRED: Centre strings, X and Y, the desired length.

Side strings A and B, 5 times the length of the above.

METHOD: Attach all the above to some loop, hook, ring or buckle.

Fix the other ends of X and Y to something firm to keep the tension.

1ST MOVEMENT:

† Take side string B and hold down alongside X and Y. Take side string A and turn over X and Y at right angles, and under B. (Fig. XIII.)

Take side string B under X and Y at right angles, and up through the loop made by A X. (Fig. XIV.) §

Pull tightly sideways. ← — — — →

2ND MOVEMENT:

Start this time with B lying alongside X and Y on the left. Take side string A and turn over X and Y at right angles, and under B.

Now take side string B under X and Y at right angles and up through the loop made by A and Y.

Pull tightly sideways. x — — — x Repeat from †.

To get a twisted cord repeat from § — § only, keeping B and A down alongside X and Y on the right alternately, and taking A and B across X and Y and through the loops alternately.

To get a flat cord repeat the whole from † to †.

NOTE: Do not attempt to cover the centre threads X and Y too completely. Allow room down the sides for the knots to lie firmly and flatly.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Dog leads, bag handles, belts, bags, etc.

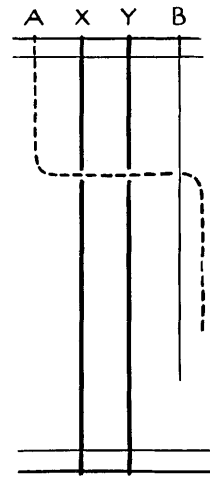


FIG. XIII.

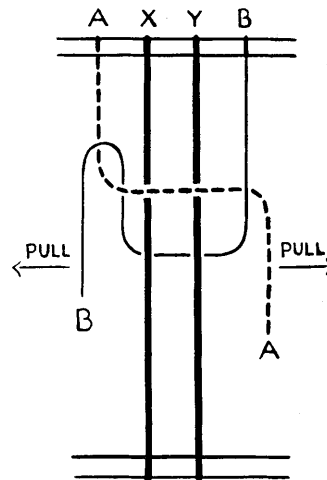
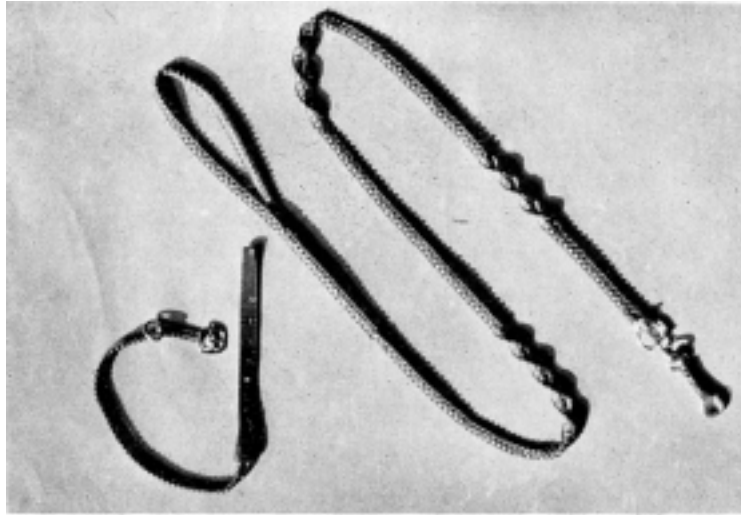


FIG. XIV.



DOG LEAD AND DOG COLLAR (SOLOMON'S KNOT)

8. SQUARE SENNATE.

LENGTH REQUIRED: Measure the desired length and add a $\frac{1}{4}$ to this.

METHOD: Fix the 8 threads to some firm point.

Take No. 1 *under* 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 to the right, and back *over* 6 and 5 to the left. Lay between 4 and 5.

Take No. 8 *under* 7, 6, 5, 1, 4 to the left, and back *over* 4 and 1 to the right. Lay between 1 and 5.

Similarly, take the outside threads from left and right alternately, and go: *under* 5 threads, and back *over* 2.

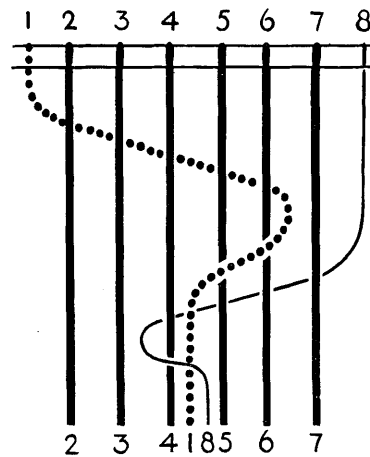


FIG. XV.

NOTE: Do not work too loosely, but avoid the work being so tight that one thread rides up on to another.

USES FOR THE ABOVE: Bag handles, heavy cords, and matting, if sewn together.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING BELTS

(Illustrated on front cover)

BELT A.

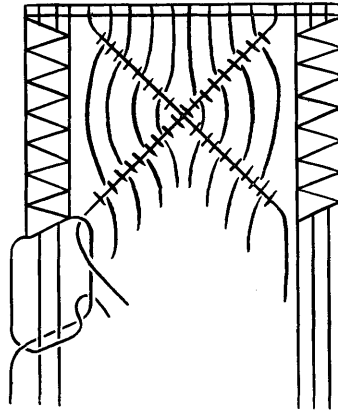
MATERIAL REQUIRED: Take 9 strings, each 12 times length of belt.

METHOD: Attach strings to buckle (as in Fig. A, Belt D). Fix the other ends of Nos. 2, 3, 16 and 17 to something firm to keep the tension.

With threads Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, and 15, 16, 17 and 18, Solomon's knot is worked, (see Figs. XIII and XIV), the ten centre strings forming a half hitch, (see Fig. VIIa) at an angle of approximately 45°.

When the first complete cross of the half hitch has been worked, the diagonal threads of the half hitch should be brought up through the next loop of Solomon's knot, in order to secure the centre section to the edges.

Proceed as above, repeating the join every time a cross is completed. The end of the belt can be finished off as shown in Fig. VIIb.



BELT B.

MATERIAL REQUIRED: Take 17 strings, each 16 times the length of belt. Attach to buckle as in Diagram A, Belt D, giving 34 strings, each string being 8 times the length of the belt.

The following colour scheme is suggested:—Black, red, cream, blue, black, red, cream, red, blue, red, cream, red, black, blue, cream, red, black.

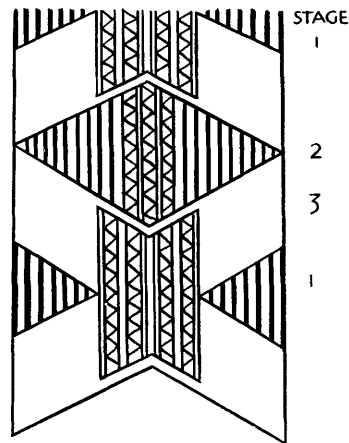
METHOD: *Stage 1.*—Work 8 outer threads (both sides) in solid half hitch, the leaders starting *from inside* at approximately 45°. Work centre pair in buttonhole on itself, and the 8

threads on either side of this in 2 groups of Solomon's knot (approx. 1").

Stage 2.—The central pair now divides to form leaders for half hitch, which is worked out to the edges at 45°. This is repeated for 2 more rows, each time with the central strands as leaders (blue, red, red).

The centre 3 groups of 4 threads are worked in Solomon's knot. Then with leaders *from outside* at 45°, 3 rows of solid half hitch are worked. This results in an open diamond of half hitch with 3 bars of Solomon's knot in the centre.

Stage 3.—The outer 8 threads on both sides continue with solid half hitch, the leaders starting *from outside*. The inner 18 threads are worked as in Stage 1. The half hitch continues for 1". This completes the pattern. Repeat from Stage 1.



BELT C.

MATERIAL REQUIRED: Take 12 strings (8 white, 4 black) each 14 times the length of belt. Double them and attach to buckle as in Diagram A, belt D. This gives 24 strings, each 7 times the length of belt, with colours arranged as follows:—3 white, 2 black, 1 white, 2 black, 4 white.

METHOD: Take the 4th thread from the left as leader, half-hitch with threads 3, 2, 1.

Taking the 8th thread as leader, half-hitch with threads 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Taking the 12th thread as leader, half-hitch with threads 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, etc., and similarly with threads 16, 20 and 24 as leaders.

Continue taking leaders from right to left and half-hitch over each (as instruction 4) until the required length is

completed. Darn back the threads and cut them close to the work.

BELT D.

MATERIAL REQUIRED: Take 14 strings (10 white, 4 black), each 12 times the length of belt. Attach to buckle as in Diagram A, giving 28 strings, each 6 times the length of belt, with the black threads in the centre. Number from left to right, 1-28.

METHOD: *Row 1.*—Work in Solomon's knot with each group of 4 threads—1, 2, 3, 4; 5, 6, 7, 8; and so on.

Row 2.—As row 1, but grouping 3, 4, 5, 6; 7, 8, 9, 10; and so on. Twist thread 2 over thread 1, thread 27 over thread 28. Repeat these 2 rows of interlocking Solomon's knot for 6" ending with Row 1.

Next Row.—†With thread 13 as leader to left, work half-hitch with threads 12 and 11. Work 1 Solomon's knot with 3, 4, 5, 6; and 1 with 7, 8, 9, 10; (twist 2 over 1). Work thread 16 as leader to right, complete right side similarly.

Next Row.—With the same thread (13) as leader, work half-hitch with 10 and 9, completing row with Solomon's knot. Complete right side similarly. Continue in this way until 2 threads remain at each edge. Half-hitch these also.

Returning to † with centre threads, 14 and 15, as leaders to left and right respectively, half-hitch with all threads, including those on outer edges.

Fill in centre with interlocking Solomon's knot, until a row of 5 knots has been completed.

Taking the 2 outer threads of centre knot as leaders, half-hitch with the 2 threads on their outer sides to left and right. Complete row with 2 Solomon's knots and 1 half-hitch each side.

Next Row.—Working outwards on both sides, half-hitch

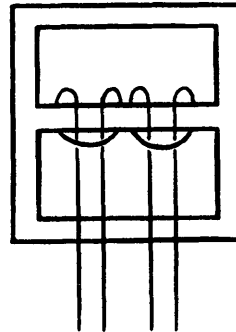


FIG. A

with 2 threads and work 1 Solomon's knot; working outwards on both sides half-hitch next 2 threads; working outwards on both sides with central threads as leaders half-hitch 6 threads each side; working inwards on both sides, work 2 rows of solid half-hitch with 6 threads on each side Fill in centre with interlocking Solomon's knot. Work 1 Solomon's knot on each side with outside threads.

Cross and re-cross lines of solid half-hitch as in Diagram B, filling in square with interlocking Solomon's knot.

Complete belt with 6" of interlocking Solomon's knot.

All the centre diamond spaces have the Solomon's knots worked the reverse way round.

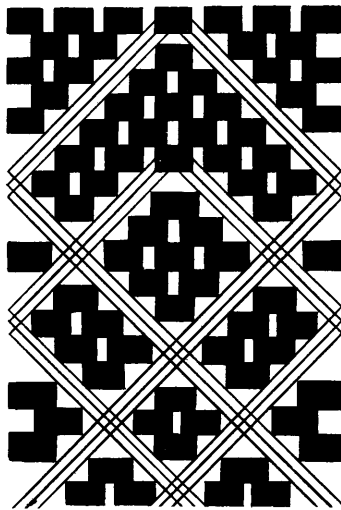


FIG. B.

The drawings throughout are by Olwen M. Owen, A.T.D., and the instructions for making belts were drawn up by first year students of Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy.

Other Materials which can be used for knotting: Rug wool, blind or stool seating cord, raffia, and cottons of all kinds.