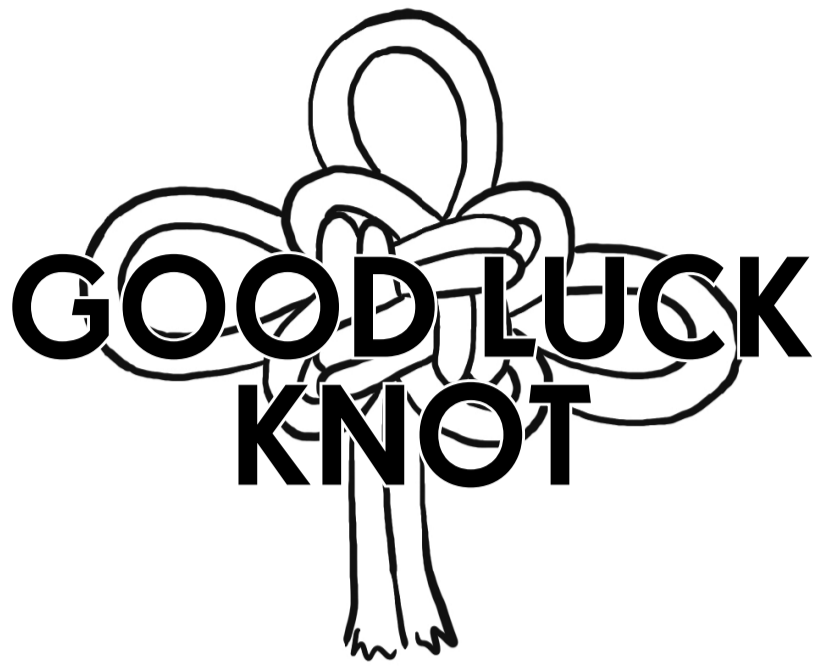


MAKERS MANUAL #51

Windy Chien



BIO OF THE DESIGNER

San Francisco-based artist Windy Chien is best known for her 2016 work, *The Year of Knots*, in which she learned a new knot every day for a year. Her work ranges in size from a knot that can fit in the palm of a child's hand to room-sized installations that are sought after by private collectors.

FURTHER READING

- *The Year of Knots: Modern Projects, Inspiration, and Creative Reinvention* by Windy Chien, 2019
- *Chinese Knotting* by Lydia Chen, 1982
- *The Ashley Book of Knots* by Clifford Ashley, 1944

LIST OF THINGS

MATERIALS

- 5 feet (1.5m) of 1/4" (6 or 8mm) of any kind of pliable rope to make a knot about 13cm wide.

(If your cordage is thinner, you will need proportionally less of it, and your knot will be smaller.)

INTRODUCTION

I make art that elevates the vernacular forms of knots to inspire awe and understanding. Knots are artifacts of human ingenuity: an ancient technology predating the wheel and use of fire. There are almost 4,000 documented knots (mathematicians tell us there are theoretically an infinite number!) and most of them come from maritime culture. In some sailors' knotting manuals, this knot is titled the Shamrock. It appears in chapters covering "fancy work", which is the sailor's term for decorative knots that have no functional purpose. Because I learned it from Chinese knotting master Lydia Chen, I use her name: Good Luck Knot.

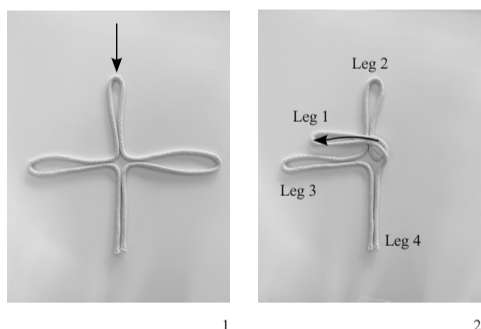
Makers Manual is a collaborative project between exciting makers and STORE STORE. This is a collection of manuals encouraging people to make objects from what is around them. These manuals are both a practical guide to making for beginners and experts, and a journey into the designers' practice. You can share your creations using #makersmanual.

This project is supported by G.F. Smith.

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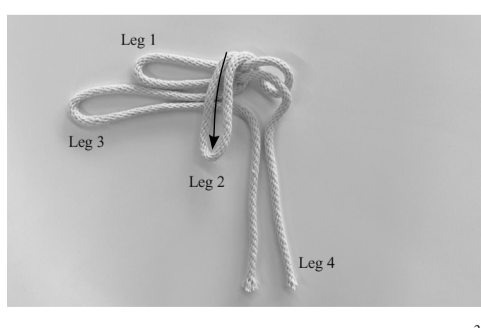
STEP 1
Find the mid point of your cord. Keeping the midpoint at the top, arrange the cord into a + (plus sign) shape. Each of the four 'legs' of the plus sign should be equal length.



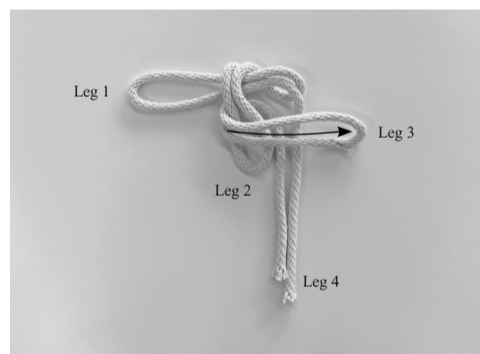
STEP 2
Now we 'crown' the four legs counter-clockwise: Flip Leg 1 leftwards to cross over Leg 2. Make sure it looks just like the photo. You may have to press the leg against your tabletop to make it stay flat and in place.

NOTE: Make sure to leave a small open loop at the base of Leg 1.

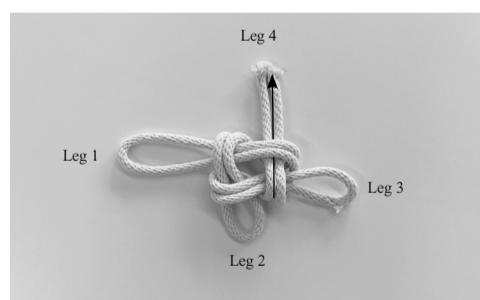
STEP 3
Repeat for the other legs. In this photo, we flip Leg 2 downwards to cross over Leg 3. (In doing so, Leg 2 will also cross over Leg 1.)



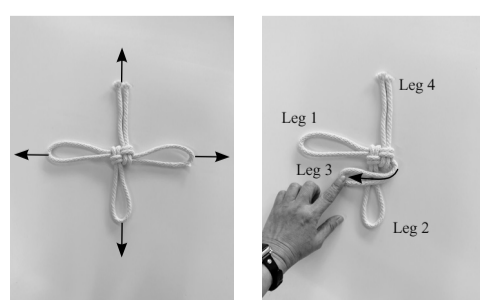
STEP 4
Flip Leg 3 rightward to cross over Leg 4. (In doing so, Leg 3 will also cross over Leg 2.) Notice the small open loop at the top right.



STEP 5
Tuck Leg 4 under Leg 1 here into the small open loop.

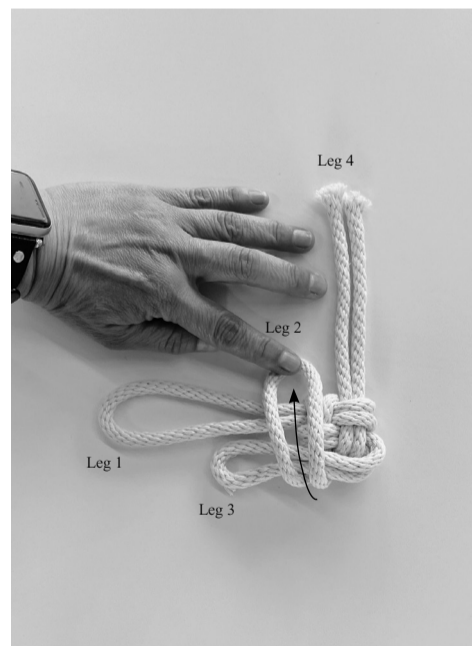


STEP 6
Tug each leg outwards until the square is snug and holds together, with no space in the middle of the square. The legs should be roughly equal in length. If they are not, gently shift the cord around to make them equal.



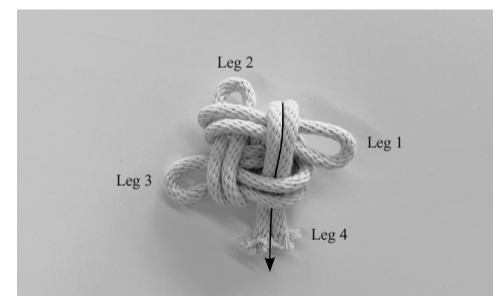
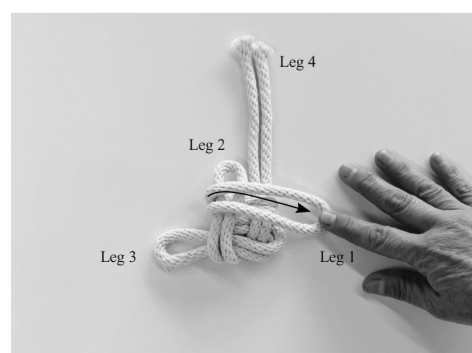
STEP 7
Now we crown the legs again, this time moving clockwise. Flip Leg 3 leftwards to

cross over Leg 2. You will probably have to hold the leg in place so it stays flat against your tabletop.

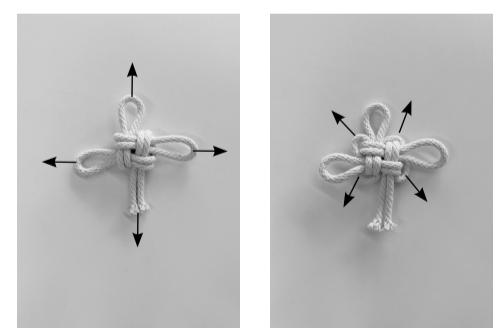


STEP 8
Flip Leg 2 upwards to cross over Leg 1. (In doing so, Leg 2 also crosses over Leg 3.)

STEP 9
Flip Leg 1 rightwards to cross over Leg 4. (In doing so, Leg 1 also crosses over Leg 2.)



STEP 10
To complete the crown, flip Leg 4 downwards and tuck it under Leg 3. (And in doing so, Leg 4 will also cross over Leg 1.) If you have done this correctly, the knot will again look like you have created a small open square in the middle of the knot, bounded by pairs of lines.



STEP 11
Tug each leg outwards until the little square is snug and holds together. The legs should be roughly equal in length. If they are not, gently shift the cord around to make them equal.

STEP 12
This is the magical part. With your index fingers, reach behind the little square and flip outwards the little loops you'll find back there, creating cute small petals.

STEP 13
Flip the knot over, so the cute small petals are in "front" of the three large petals. You're done! Congratulations!

