

Cuckolds' Necks

The humble loop where every knot is born - a rope ring crossing itself.



FIG. 5.—Cuckolds' necks.

From A. Hyatt Verrill's *Knots, Splices and Rope Work* (1917) · public domain

"Every knot begins as a cuckold's neck - just a rope crossing itself."

1

Cross the parts

Bring the end of the rope across the standing part so the two parts cross and a simple ring forms.

2

Form the ring

That crossing loop is the cuckold's neck - the basic ring from which nearly every knot begins.

3

Pick over or under

It can be made overhand or underhand depending on whether the end crosses over or under the standing part.

4

Make a clinch

Seize the two crossing parts together with a turn of twine and the ring becomes a fixed loop called a 'clinch'.