

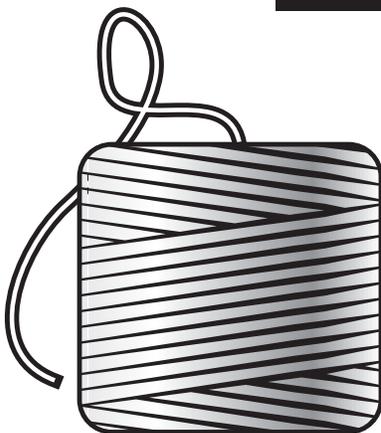


Ropemaking

with a pendulum-style spinner.

Surprisingly high-quality rope in a variety of sizes can be quickly and easily made with these simple tools and materials. These tools are not difficult to make nor are the materials expensive or hard to find. Building this style of ropemaker and completing one six-foot piece of rope, with whippings, will satisfy Requirement Five of the Pioneering Merit Badge.

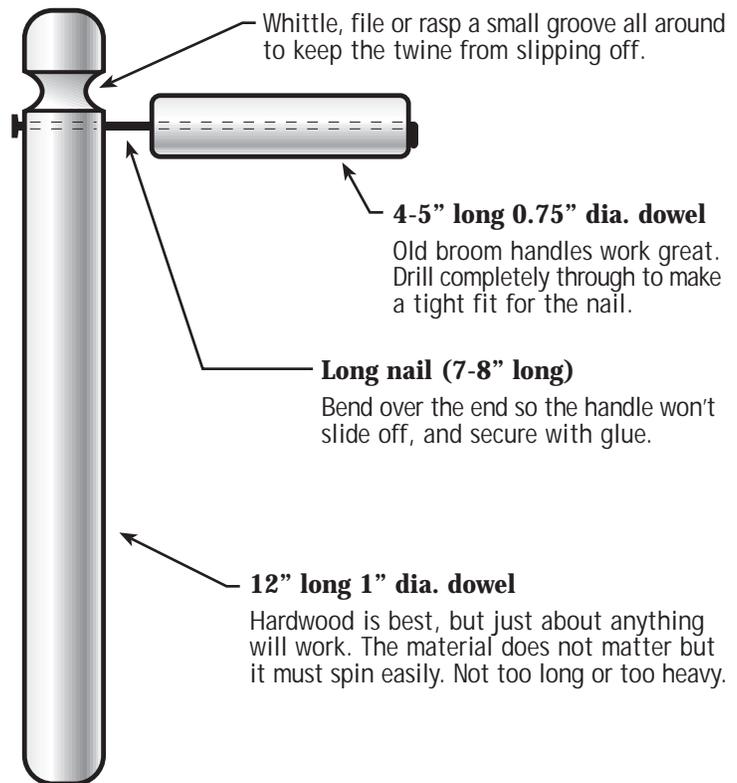
TWINE



Sisal binder twine seems to be the cheapest and most available material for ropemaking. Synthetic poly twine will also work for Scouting purposes.

NECESSARY TOOLS :

ROPE SPINNER



ANCHOR STICK



1" dia. dowel

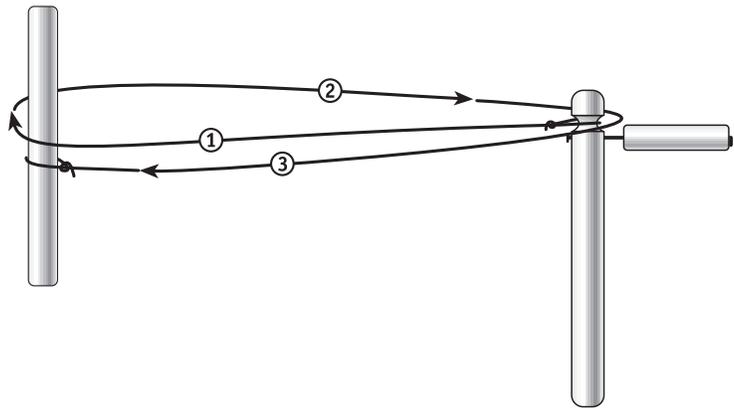
Another broomstick or anything round and fairly sturdy.



Ropemaking

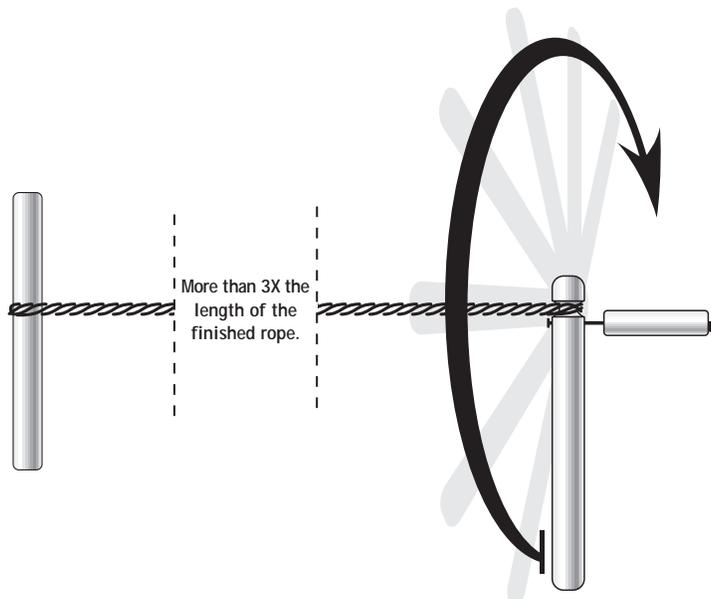
1. Setup

Attach the twine ends to the spinner and the anchor stick using a bowline knot or another loop knot. Make the loop large enough to slip off the spinner when you are finished or else you will need to cut it off. Three yarns of twine make a nice lashing rope (about 1/4" to 5/16") but you can add more for larger diameter rope.



2. First Spin

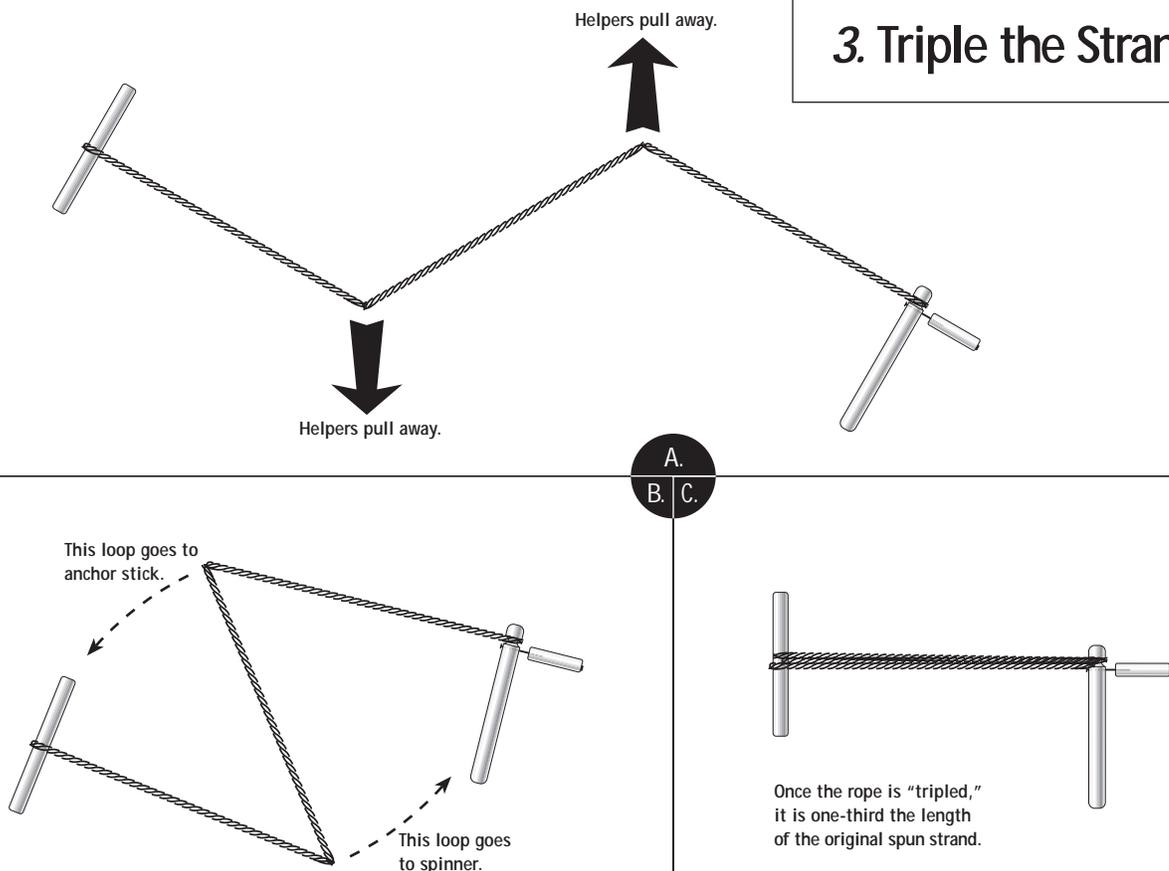
Stretch the twine to ensure all the yarns are of equal tension and begin spinning clockwise. Only experience will tell you when the strand is "just right," but as it becomes more difficult to spin while the strand is under moderate tension, the first spin is probably finished. (For very long strands, use a spinner at each end to speed up the process.)





Ropemaking

3. Triple the Strands

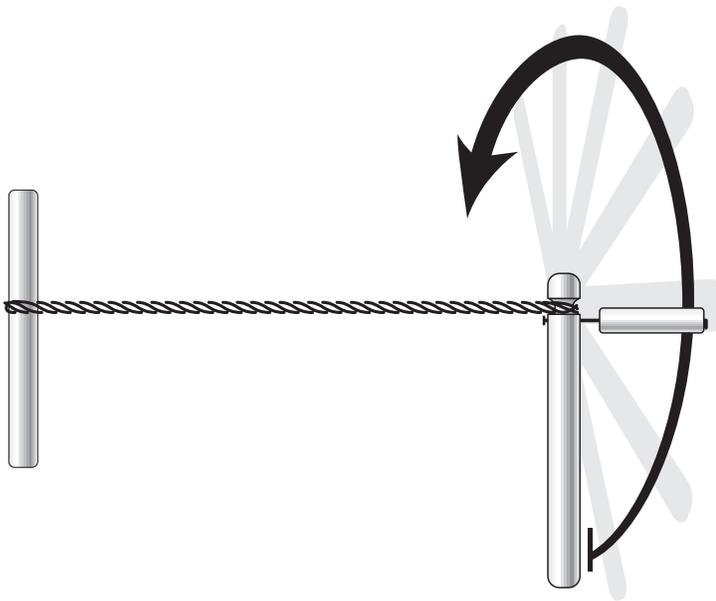


Once the strand is tightly spun, it must be "tripled" or "Z-bent" to make rope. This is the tricky part for youngsters or even first-time adults, since the individual segments must be kept tight at all times to prevent kinks. With two additional helpers placed at "thirds" on opposite sides of the strand, have each back up while holding his segment. These bends are then looped over the spinner and the anchor stick, respectively, making the rope one-third its original length. (This can be done with only two people by looping the strand over something like a trailer hitch ball or a sturdy fence post.)



Ropemaking

4. Second Spin



Stretch the three strands until they are even lengths and continue spinning, in the opposite direction (counterclockwise) until tight. Overtighten this spin and pull a quick tug-of-war to “set” the rope.

5. Finish



Slide the rope off the tools and let it relax a bit, whip or backsplice the ends (tape works temporarily) and you're done. Burn off the hairy fibers with a candle or propane torch if you wish.