

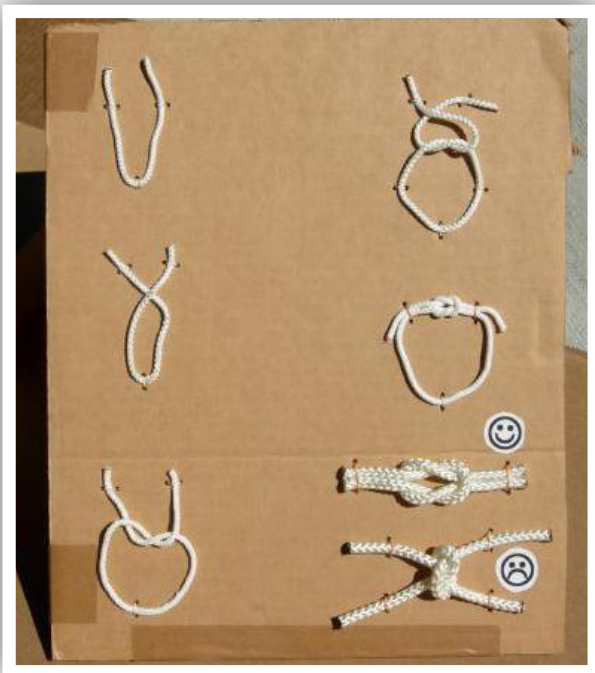
## Not Just Knots How To

# Make a Temporary Knot Board

Skill level: beginning, immediate, advanced

by Glenn Dickey, Member, International Guild of Knot Tyers, North American Branch; and Volunteer, 4-H Youth Development, Ohio State University Extension

To show your work or teach someone how to make a knot, it is sometimes useful to make a step-by-step display. Less effort than permanent knot boards, temporary knot boards are inexpensive and easy to make, transport, and eventually take apart.



## Materials

**Cordage or the “preserved” knots**

**Cardboard box**

**Light wire or twist ties**

## Tools

**Marking pen**

**Masking tape**

**Pencil**

**Punch**

**Ruler**

**Utility knife**

**White glue**

## What to Do

1. Before cutting the cardboard, take some time to plan the layout of your board. If this is a board to show how a knot is made, consider showing the knot in each of its stages. The way to tie a knot may be obvious to you, but it may not be obvious to a person tying it for the first time. It is important to break it down into as many steps as you need for teaching. If you are simply displaying knots, arrange them in a pattern that looks good to you.
2. After the knots are laid out, cut a piece of cardboard large enough for the display. Make sure to make a square cut with the cardboard. This is a good time to put the title on the board using the marking pen.



3. Arrange the knots on the board as planned. Be sure to leave enough room between them for writing a label. For example, steps in making a knot might be labeled 1, 2, 3, etc., and finished knots might be labeled with their names.



4. Using the punch, punch holes around the knots or knot parts. Tie the knots to the board using the twist ties or light wire.



5. Label each step or knot with the marking pen. If desired, you also can make hand-printed labels on colored paper or printed labels from a computer. Cut out the names and glue the labels to the cardboard.



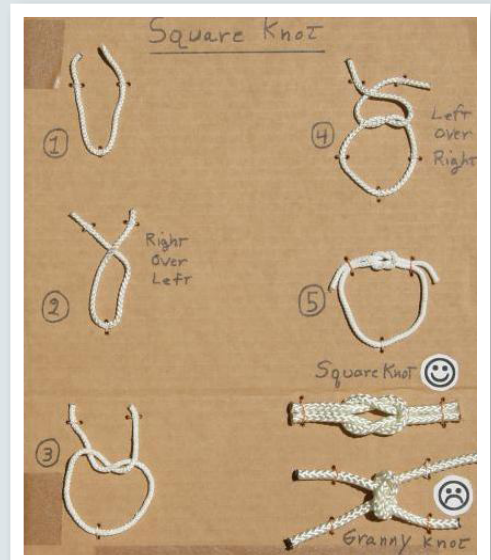
6.

After the steps or knots are tied on and labeled, flip the board over and use masking tape to secure the wire ties on the back of the board. This keeps them from coming undone or catching on something.



7.

Embellish your board any way you would like. In the board shown here, which is used to teach very young children about tying a square knot, the smiley face and frowny face are easy ways to communicate what the good and bad knots look like.



**Congratulations! You've finished the temporary knot board!**

