

Friendship Knot

This knot is woven in friendship true
 And Interlaced with memories too
 Of friendship found and shared by two,
 The ties time and smiles can't undo.

The friendship knot is also known as the Japanese Crown Knot or the Success Knot. It has been tied since ancient times by Asians for ornamental purposes. At first, it might perhaps seem strange that this knot has found its way, across thousands of miles, to us. But, in reality, it isn't really so strange at all - for friendship knows no barriers. This knot is also aptly named, for is it not so that one's crowning success is friendship?

The Norwegian Legend of the Friendship Knot

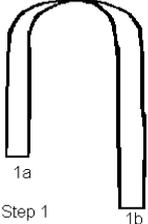
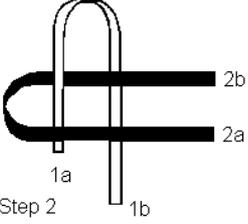
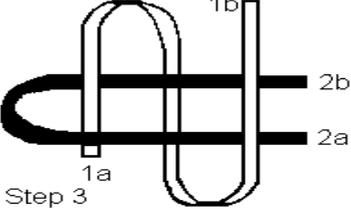
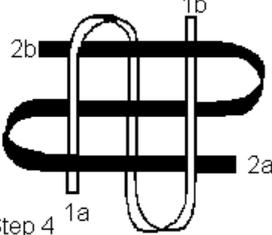
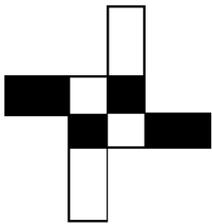
There once lived in Norway, facing the North Sea, a fisherman and his daughter. The child was lonely. All day and long into the evening, her father was on the water fishing. Her mother had died when she was only five years old. She was alone so much of the time. To help her idle away the lonely hours, her father taught her the art of knotting, lacing and braiding and she spent many a happy hour doing this work. Her favourite knot was one her father called *the knot of friendship*. It fascinated her because it looked so much like a four-leaf clover, which she had read about and which was supposed to bring much luck to a person who found one. She was fascinated also because she could not understand what friendship was. Her father could not explain 'friendship' ... he could not relate it to a person, place or thing. He could only say a friend was 'good', 'kind', 'sincere', and so on; these things she understood.

When the child was eleven years old, the sea claimed the life of her father and she was sent into the city to live with an elderly distant relative. The woman did not understand the needs of a young child and, once again, she was lonely and afraid. Across the street from the house in which she lived was a small park and, each week, the child watched a group of young people gather there. They all looked so happy and there was so much laughter and singing. She decided that the next week she would go and sit on the bench and be there when the girls arrived so she could hear what they said and see what made them so happy.

And so, the very next week, she was sitting on the bench when the group came tramping down the walk. She watched and listened and found it was a group of Girl Guides and they were working with a map and compass. They seemed unaware that she was even around. In her deep interest in what was going on, she did not see the tall blonde girl leave the group and come to her bench. The girl said, "Come, join us and be our friend." Only then did she become conscious that she was there. There was the magic word, *friendship!* Now perhaps she would find out what it meant. Time passed; the child did join the group and did become their friend. On one lovely evening during a campfire ceremony, the child presented to each member of the group a light blue rope neck tie and, on the end of each, she had carefully made her *knot of friendship* as her token of love and friendship. She finally understood the word, *friend*.

Directions for making the Friendship Knot

This knot symbolises the ties which bind the girls and adults who belong to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and is a sign of the continuous friendships they share. The four ends of the knot represent the Promise, the Law, the Motto and Service to others. The four squares stand for the four World Centres. Wear it with pride!

 <p>Step 1. With the first ribbon, make a loop with the back end (1b) longer than the front end.</p>	 <p>Step 2. Lay the second ribbon across the top part (1a) of the first ribbon. Loop the end under the top part (1a) and across the bottom part (1b). This end (2b) should be parallel to and above part 2a.</p>	 <p>Step 3. Bring the end of the first ribbon (1b) up over both parts (2a, 2b) of the second ribbon.</p>
 <p>Step 4. Bring the end (2b) back over the ribbon (1b) and under 1a.</p>	 <p>Step 5. Pull the ends taut.</p>	