

Little Tool Makes Fish Knot-Tying Easy

Attention all fishermen: If tying good knots is a problem for you, Rodney Long has a solution.

Long, who farms near Adamsville, Alabama, says 60 percent of lost fish are due to a knot that failed. Tired of losing fish himself, he invented EZ Knot, a little plastic device that, even in untrained hands or arthritic fingers, can turn out a perfect knot every time. He used black plastic to fashion EZ Knot for a reason. "That makes it easier to see the fishing line," he notes. And the device floats, so if you drop it overboard, you can retrieve it with a net.

He says most fishermen tie knots by hand, and the process can take a minute or more. EZ Knot can reduce that time to just a few seconds, even if you no longer have nimble fingers and keen eyesight. And it doesn't matter whether you're right or left-handed. "It's a product most people don't realize they need. You can't make a mistake with it," Long says. "It is to knot tying what the pocket calculator is to math."

You can order it from Toolite, the Ohio company that produces it, or contact

Long directly. "Most people order several. Once people see how easily you're tying knots, they'll borrow them to keep," he says. One EZ Knot sells for \$1.50. Shipping costs \$1 whether you order one or ten EZ Knots. It's a little more if you order more than 10.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rodney Long, 5121 Edgewood Rd., Adamsville, Ala. 35005 (ph 205 674-1495; E-mail: rod@ezknot.com; Website: www.ezknot.com); or Toolite Inc., EZ Knot, 998 Stevenson Road, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 (ph 800 833-7101; Website: toolite.com/ezknot).



EZ Knot is made from black plastic, making it easy to see fishing line.



Finished Knot

"Gourd-Style" Bird Houses Hang From Satellite Dish

Old TV satellite dishes make great purple martin bird houses when you hang gourds from them, says Bud Dodd, Winfield, Alabama, who converted an old 8-ft. dia. satellite dish.

He mounted the dish upside down on top of a metal pole and hung about 25 big home-grown gourds from it.

"I've been making purple martin bird houses for many years, but I think this idea is by far the best yet. It looks nice and supports a lot of birds, and it doesn't cost much to put together," says Dodd.

The satellite dish - with all the mesh screen stripped away from it - mounts on a 1 1/2-in. dia. pole about 17 ft. above the ground. The gourds are attached by short lengths of wire to the dish's frame and are spaced about 3 ft. apart. The dish can be quickly raised or lowered from the ground by turning a crank attached by cable to a 2-ft. length of pipe welded to the center part of the dish. The cable runs over a pulley at the top of the pole.

"I built it two years ago and also built another unit that's nearly identical. I've had good luck with both of them," says Dodd. "The two satellite dishes can support a total of up to 150 purple martins. I mounted a small metal ring above the middle part of the dish for the birds to perch on.

"It takes only about a half minute to lower the dish to the ground. I lower the dish after each nesting season so I can clean the gourds out. I store it in my barn during the winter months."

It's important to space the gourds far enough apart so they can swing in high winds without bumping against each other and cracking, says Dodd. "The

gourds have to be at least 8 inches in diameter in order to provide enough room for the birds. I put a cupful or so of cedar shavings in each gourd to keep mites and fleas away."

According to Dodd, natural gourds work better than commercial plastic ones because they stay cooler in hot weather. He uses a hole saw to make a 2 1/8-in. dia. entry hole and then cleans out the inside with a spoon. After that he brushes on primer followed by a coat of white paint. "The white color keeps the temperature inside the gourds about eight degrees cooler than it would be otherwise," he says. He also bores four or five 1/4-in. dia. holes around the gourd for ventilation, and he drills four or five small holes in the bottom for drainage.

Rubber-coated wire is used to connect the gourds to the dish frame. "It doesn't wear through the gourd as much as plain wire," notes Dodd.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud Dodd, 2494 Co. Rd. 69, Winfield, Alabama 35594 (ph 205 487-6553).



Bud Dodd uses an old 8-ft. dia. satellite dish to hold his "gourd-style" bird houses.

Reader Recipes

(Continued from page 30)

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 3 slightly beaten eggs
- 1 1/2 cups scalded milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/2 lb. sharp cheddar cheese

Combine crumbs and melted butter, blending thoroughly. Press evenly into buttered, 9-in. pie plate. Fry onions in butter until lightly browned. Place in cracker crumb crust. Slowly add eggs to milk, stirring constantly. Add salt, pepper and cheese. Pour over onions. Bake at 325° for 40 to 45 min. or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Serves 4 to 5.

Backwoodsman Magazine

Bread With Potato & Rye Flour (potato bread with no dairy products)

- 1 cup hot potato water
- 1/2 tsp white sugar
- 1/2 cake corn-free yeast (1/2 oz)
- 2 1/2 cups rye flour
- 1/4 cup potato flour
- 1/2 cup riced potatoes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds (optional)

Pour lukewarm potato water into mixing bowl. Add sugar and yeast dissolved in 1/8 cup warm water. Stir in remaining ingredients. Knead until smooth. Let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk. Put on board floured with potato flour. Form into loaves, place in greased pans, and let rise again until doubled in bulk. Brush tops with water. Bake at 500° for 20 min. Decrease temperature to 450° for 20 min., then bake for 20 min. at 400° for final 20 min. Makes two loaves.

Billie Little in Recipes For Allergies

Work Out With Walking Sticks

Back surgery made Tim Affield serious about exercise. So serious that he designed walking sticks to get even more out of his daily walks.

"Simple walking engages the leg muscles, but the advantages end at the lumbar region," explains Affield.

The Marengo, Illinois farmer knew he needed to strengthen his upper back and shoulder muscles as well. He had heard about Nordic walking, where you use walking sticks to get a full body workout. Affield saw several problems with existing walking sticks, so he designed his own.

"The handle is a rolling rung hand grip," he explains. "It sits on top of the walking stick. At the other end of the stick is a wheel. As you swing the stick forward, the wheel runs free on the ground. As you push down on the stick, a jackknifing design locks the wheel in place, giving you something to push down and against."

The pole itself is curved toward the back so all the action is behind the user. Horizontal to the ground, the rolling handgrips distribute the pressure evenly across the hand and wrist. Conventional walking sticks, like ski poles, place most of the pressure on the sides of the hand and wrist.

Affield says his walking sticks capture the natural arm swing reflex that we all have when walking. Pushing down and back on the sticks strengthens the trapezius muscles of arms and shoulders.

Affield has patented his design and is looking for a manufacturer to begin production of the sticks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup Tim Affield, 1904 River Road, Marengo, Ill. 60152 (ph 815 568-7128).



Walking stick captures the natural arm swing movement we have when walking.



As you swing stick forward, wheel runs free on the ground.



Handle is a rolling rung hand grip attached to top of walking stick.

Folding Electric Scooter

Al Maneth, Arlington, Arizona, recently called FARM SHOW to tell us about a unique electric scooter he sells that folds up in less than five seconds for transport.

"It eliminates many of the hassles of a conventional scooter because you can easily take it with you wherever you go," says Maneth. "It disassembles in three parts, allowing you to store it in any car, RV or boat. The rig can also be folded up into one piece like a suitcase on wheels, allowing you to check it in with any airline."

Made in Israel, the Easy Travel scooter has a carrying capacity of 300 lbs. and a range of 8 to 10 miles. It measures 41 in. long, 22 1/2 in. wide, and 34 in. high. The unit disassembles into the rear frame, front column, and battery pack. No bolts or screws are required for disassembly. Total weight is 65 lbs., with the heaviest part weighing 27 lbs.

"It has great engineering and workmanship," says Maneth. "Folded weight without the battery and basket is 45 lbs. By folding the scooter up, you can easily store it in your closet or stand it up next to your table in a restaurant."

Sells for \$2,195.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Al's Scooters, 34414 W. Dobbins Rd., Arlington, Arizona 85322 (ph 800 523-1669 or 623 393-8188).

Easy Travel scooter has a carrying capacity of 300 lbs. and a range of 8 to 10 miles.



Rig can be folded up into one piece like a suitcase on wheels.



Unit breaks down into three pieces: the rear frame, front column, and battery pack.

