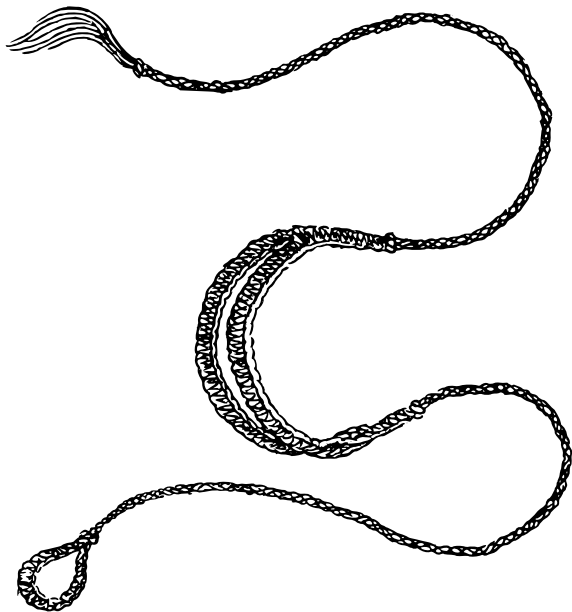


# KHERMADION

Issue 2



How to make a split-pouch sling

KHERMADION Issue 2

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In the second issue of KHERMADION, you will learn how to make a simple split-pouch sling. The retention cord and the release cord are four-strand round braids, whereas the finger loop and the pouch are wrapped with cobra knots.

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# 1 Required materials

For an 80 cm long sling of moderate thickness, you will need five lengths of cord with a diameter of 2 mm: two with a length of 5 m for the sling cords, two being 3 m long for wrapping the pouch and one spanning 2 m for wrapping the finger loop. Round, rigid cords such as paracord are particularly well suited for this sling. Furthermore, you can use different colors for the three groups of cords to get a more colorful sling.

## 2 Sling cords

First, take the two longest cords and fold them in half. To form the finger loop, tie a four-strand Matthew Walker knot about 6 cm after the fold. This knot is made by tying a wall knot and then threading each strand through the next bight, as figure 1 shows.

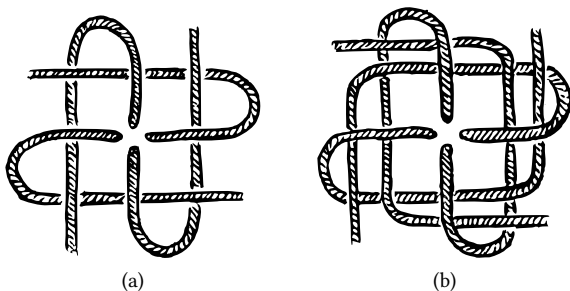


Figure 1: Structure of a four-strand wall knot (a) and a Matthew Walker knot (b).

Figure 2 shows the finished knot. The two loose cords which form the finger loop will be wrapped with cobra knots later on.

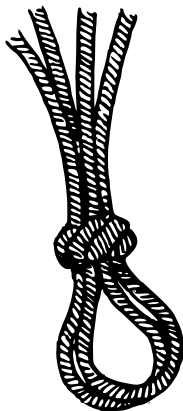


Figure 2: The finger loop, terminated by a Matthew Walker knot.

Look closely how the four cords emerge from the Matthew Walker knot. Take two adjacent cords and let one of them cross over the other. Lay the other two cords flat to the left and right of the crossed cords.

Now, begin to braid the retention cord of the sling by alternately folding one of the outer cords below the two inner cords, up between the two cords on the opposite side, and back to the inside on the original side. Figure 3 illustrates this method for creating a four-strand round braid.

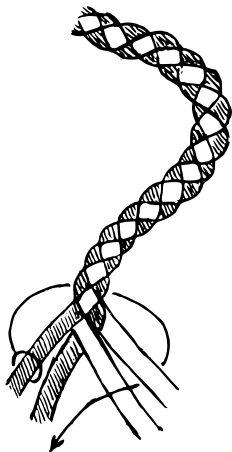


Figure 3: Structure of a four-strand braid.

To obtain a tight braid, always pull the cord you are about to fold over tight before doing so.

When the retention cord is at its desired length, such as approximately 60 cm for an 80 cm long sling, uncross the two inner cords and tie a Matthew Walker knot.

At some distance further down, tie another Matthew Walker knot. The four loose cords between these two knots will later form the pouch and should be long enough to incorporate the pouch and some clearance before and after it. For a 12 cm long pouch, which is suitable for most projectiles from pebbles to tennis balls, an adequate length of the pouch section is 25 cm. Figure 4 depicts this section of loose cords.

Now, braid the release cord until it is just long enough to be held between your thumb and the second phalanx of your index finger while holding the sling with the finger loop around your middle finger of the same hand. Take care that the two knots at the beginning and the end of the pouch section align precisely. Uncross the inner cords at the end of the braid and tie another Matthew Walker knot. This last knot will serve as the release knot.



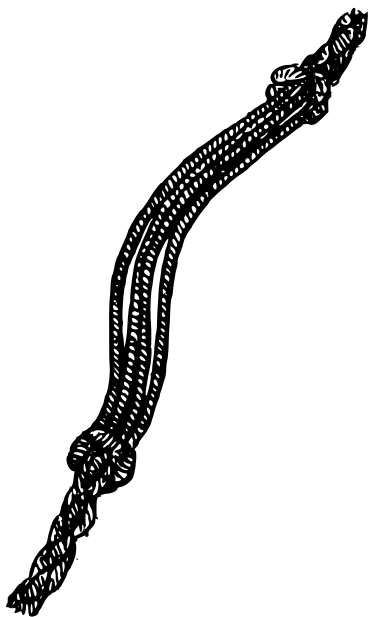


Figure 4: The pouch section, bounded by Matthew Walker knots.

### 3 Finger loop and pouch

Once you have finished the body of the sling, wrap the sections of loose cords at the finger loop and the pouch with cobra knots.

For the finger loop, take the shortest cord you have prepared earlier. Tie a half knot in the middle of the cord around the two loose cords of the finger loop. Figure 5 shows the structure of this simple knot.

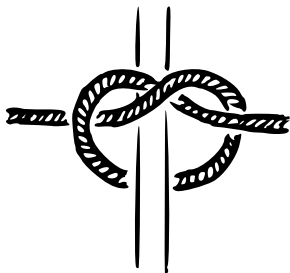


Figure 5: Structure of a half knot.

Push it up against the Matthew Walker knot and begin to wrap the finger loop by alternately tying left and right cobra knots. Figure 6 shows the structure of both of these knots.

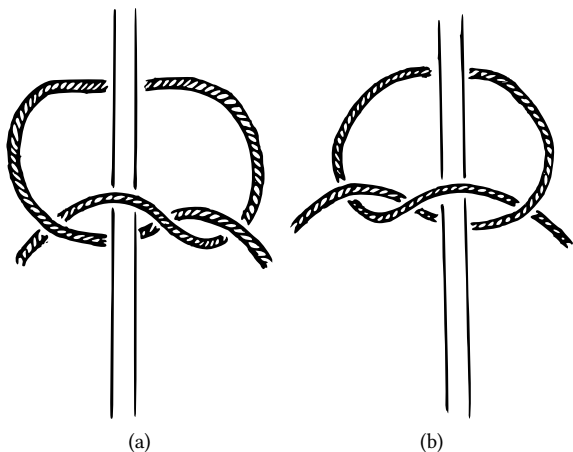


Figure 6: Structure of a left (a) and right (b) cobra knot.

Once you have wrapped the entire finger loop, finish it by tying a constrictor knot around all four cords of the finger loop just below the Matthew Walker knot. Figure 7 shows the structure of a constrictor knot. Cut the loose ends and carefully melt them down using a lighter, if you are using synthetic cords.

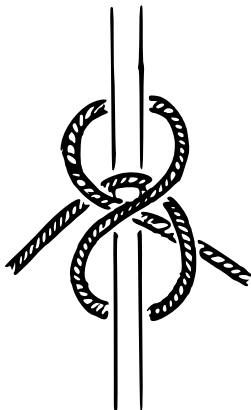


Figure 7: Structure of a constrictor knot.

For the pouch, take one of the remaining two medium-length cords you have prepared and begin in the same manner. Wrap the four loose cords, starting directly after the Matthew Walker knot which terminates the retention cord, until you have reached half the difference of the pouch section's length and the desired length of the pouch.

Now, take the last remaining cord you have prepared for wrapping the pouch. Split the four loose cords of the pouch section into two halves with two cords each. Take the center of the wrapping cord and put it to the inside of the split. Continue tying cobra knots around both halves of the pouch. If the last cobra knot before the split was a left cobra knot, start both pouch halves with a right cobra knot, and vice-versa.

When your pouch has reached its desired length, join the pouch halves by tying a cobra knot with the outer wrapping cords around all other cords, including the inner wrapping cords. The cords you added as inner cords when splitting the wrapping to form the pouch should be on the outside when joining the two halves of the pouch. Figure 8 shows how the pouch wrapping cords run at the split and the junction. Continue to wrap the six cords following the junction of the pouch up to the Matthew Walker knot which terminates the pouch section.

To finish the wrapping, tie a constrictor knot around all the cords. Cut the loose ends of the wrapping cords and melt them down, if they are synthetic.

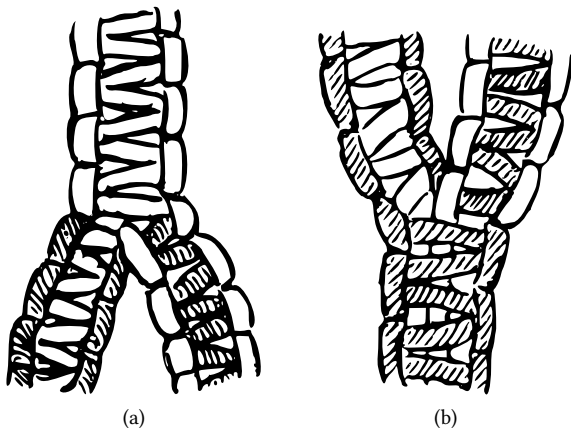


Figure 8: Cobra knots near the beginning (a) and the end (b) of the pouch. The second wrapping cord added at the split is shaded for better clarity.

## 4 Release knot and cracker

The sling is now almost finished. You can trim the loose cords which emerge from the release knot to a length of several cm and fray them, allowing the sling to crack like a whip upon proper release. Alternatively, you can cut and melt them flush with the knot and attach a replaceable cracker or leave the sling without one. Figure 9 shows the finished release knot with a separate cracker attached to it.

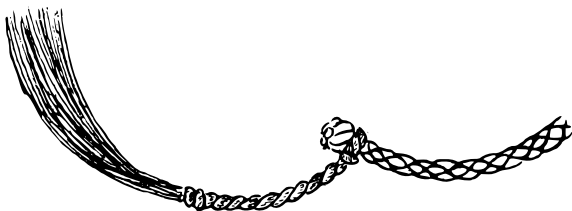


Figure 9: Release knot with a cracker.