

Speedy Gonzales

(Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the BIG HOLE!!)

Overview

How many times have you heard people (or even yourself) say: "Rope takes too long!" This whirlwind class will cover a ton of tips and tricks to more efficiently handle yourself and your rope in a scene. Spice up your scene with more confidence and purpose! CAUTION: Do not be mistaken - this isn't about who can reach the finish line first, it's about leaving more time to focus on your favorite parts of your ropework. Andale!

Bio

I'm a fun-loving rope geek and sex educator who has found a home in the Midwest kink community. When I'm not travelling to events, I contribute to the Iowa State University CUFFS group, and serve on the board of Minneapolis TNG group Min-KY. Although I'm a relatively new member of the scene, I've presented at numerous events across the country, including Kinky Kollege, Shibaricon, Denver Bound, and Beyond Leather.

As a presenter, I aim to provide a comfortable down-to-earth learning environment for all genders, orientations, and experience levels.

My long list of presentations, events, and class materials can be found at <http://www.kinkfriendly.org>

Lastly, I am not a medical professional. Evaluate your own risks before participating in any kink activities.

Enjoy yourselves!

LqqkOut

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PS: I carry a notebook in my toybag. In it, I record ideas, class notes, doodles, and write new presentations. This class started as a list of tips in that notebook and has grown quite a bit since then. By simply brainstorming, I opened the door to a lot of introspection and skill development. I encourage everyone to make this a habit of their own. Even if it doesn't feel like a major impact, the more we can do to document our amazing community, the better chance we will be able to share our knowledge with the next generation.

"It's dad's Grail Diary. Every clue he ever followed. Every discovery he made. A complete record of his search for the Holy Grail. This is his whole life." – Indiana Jones

Introduction

We've all heard some version of the following: "We've been playing for 4 hours?! Wow, time flies when you're having fun!" and "Rope is pretty and all, but it takes too damn long. I just don't have the patience!" So where's the middle ground?

All bondage has a speed, whether it's fast and rough or slow and sensual is another matter.

Benefits of Speed

- Establish Dominance
- Show Aggression and Force
- It's Showy!
- Solidifies Skills
- Act Decisively in an Emergency

The Difference Between Learning a Recipe & Learning to Cook

While most resources focus on specific ties, I've tried to present information that will help you with any tie you're doing. For beginners, these tips will help you keep things from falling apart while you learn new ties. Those more experienced can find new efficiencies to compliment their existing repertoire.

Remember: While efficiency and technical excellence are great, the goal is to let the details fall into the background so you can enjoy a greater connection with your partner. But how do we get there?

Speedy Tips & Tricks

As I practice and learn more about bondage, I add to my list of tips and tricks. Even on my best days, there's no way that I remember to apply everything listed below. In fact, some of the suggestions contradict one another. This will always be a work in progress. The important part is to reflect on your own style and identify things that compliment and enhance your style.

In an attempt to introduce a bit of order to this chaotic list, I've split things up into five broad categories:

- Prepare – Get your ducks in a row before starting your scene.
- Practice – Build a solid knowledge base to draw upon while tying.
- Plan – Thinking ahead will keep you out of trouble and allow for shortcuts.
- Pull Pull Pull – A concept so nice, I named it thrice. Pulling rope.
- Pirates!* – Keep your form and move fast in the heat of battle!
(* My alliterations have failed me, suggestions welcome!)

Prepare

Know Your Tools

Pick fibers that are conducive to quick tying – Natural fibers are less likely to burn when pulled quickly across skin.

Use knotted ends – this will allow you to quickly extend your rope without finding a place to tie in a new piece (alternatively, knot both ends together right before adding the new piece)

Use consistent (or easily identifiable lengths) – If you know what length you're picking up, then you won't be surprised when you get to the end of the piece.

Store your rope in a way that's easy to unwind and spot the center (See "Storing Your Rope" at the end of this document for details). Otherwise, mark the center of your rope – use a marker, knot, or whipping so you can quickly grab the center of your line.

Keep a dedicated pair of shears in your bag – they're cheap and you won't have to worry about finding them in an emergency.

If you want a smaller, wearable tool, consider a safety hook. They come with belt pouches and are very lightweight.

Prepare your rope – check your rope often for damage, rewrap tangled bundles.

Know Your Environment

Take off your shoes so you can feel when you're stepping on your rope.

Assess possible bondage positions prior to starting your scene.

Prepare the space - Lay out your gear, hardware, toys, water, etc. ahead of time.

Evaluate suspension points before the scene.

Know Your Partner

Negotiate effectively – once you know your partner's limits, you can start planning elements of your scene.

Hands are the first thing to go when in bondage, be prepared to perform a temporary tie or find some other way to occupy your partner's hands and tie them last!

Practice

Know Your Ties

Don't be afraid to reuse a tie or its elements – you don't have to be artistic or creative every time you want to play with rope. Remember, your favorite flogger/cuffs/whip are just as meaningful in their 100th scene, so are good ties.

Practice using up extra rope – rather than retie a section of bondage because you need 4" more slack, add a piece and decorate. Decorations will eliminate dangling ropes from getting in your way, add stability to the existing ropes, and adds visual interest to the tie.

Build a basic toolkit – if you know enough basic ties, you can add them without referencing a book or halting your scene. Remember that most complex ties are just multiple simple ties layered together.

... and Know How to Tie Them

Use two hands – two hands moves more rope than one working alone. (One-handed typing can be fun, but keyboards are designed for two ;)

Tie blind – you never know when you'll need to tie behind someone's back, during a takedown scene, or in the dark (or all three!). Also, looking your partner in their eyes while tying or untying them can create wonderful connections.

(Note: Emergency Preparedness – if a disaster occurs or your partner needs the comfort of your hand or arm, both of the above items become even more important.

Plan

Set a Goal

If you know your end result, you can identify the pieces required to build the final tie.

Keep an idea book for ideas when you want to experiment.

Combine Actions

Use a finger hook to remove gaps in wrappings while also checking tension.

(*Image coming soon – email me if you'd like to be informed of updates)

Make a stick – pull the rope taut between your hands while passing it through tight areas, this reduces burn and reduces the tendency of flying rope ends.

Think before adding on – when adding a rope, ask yourself if you'll save a complete pull through if you add after the next wrap, or pass the bight of the new rope through the opposite direction.

(*Image coming soon – email me if you'd like to be informed of updates)

In a suspension, pass the rope through your “pulley” prior to putting the support line under tension.

USE THE BIG HOLE

Many ties require cinching wraps. Rather than go the tight and pinchy route through an arm pit or behind a knee, pass the rope through the largest available opening, then pull it behind the main wrap.

(*Image coming soon – email me if you’d like to be informed of updates)

Other Shortcuts

Too much planning will slow you down. When in doubt, just keep moving.

Use temporary ties when necessary – takedown using a lark’s head vs single column tie.

Add new ropes by tying them on with an overhand knot, larks’ heads are slow because you need to pull the tails all the way through. (The Tie-on method adds loops that are also useful for anchor points later in the tie – but when left unused, these points are easy to untie, beware)

Don’t be afraid of Slipknots. They’re faster and easy to tie than most cuffs, and safe to use on furniture and other objects.

Pull Pull Pull

This is so important that it gets its own category. The major distinguishing feature of rope is it’s ability to transfer pulling forces very well, while failing at transferring pushes. Rather than trying to poke the ends of your rope through the next part of your tie, insert your finger through and pull the rope through. This helps you maintain tension on the tie and saves the trouble of trying to push a rope.

Pirates!

Create Foundations

Use basic harnesses to provide the base for other parts of the tie – Want to decorate your partner’s belly? Tie a chest harness and crotch rope to frame the area first.

Maintain tension in the tie at all costs, without it, everything falls apart.

Stroke your rope! When pulling the rope through a hole, loosely grab all four strands of rope and pull.

(*Image coming soon – email me if you’d like to be informed of updates)

Secure different portions of the tie separately – this helps foil would-be escape artists while ensuring that the foundations are stable on their own.

Utilize cross-overs – whenever you wrap the rope around an existing portion of the bondage, you add stability to the tie.

When crossing over another rope, add a twist or knot instead of letting the opportunity to embellish and stabilize go by.

Don't always add to the end of your rope, instead hook into preexisting bondage by knotting on a small loop and fill empty canvas.

Move the Rope!

Go Go Go! Planning has merit but may end up slowing you down!

Big motions move more rope (and are more interesting to watch).

Never be afraid to add more rope, it's often faster than retying.

When pulling rope quickly through an opening, loosely guide the tails with your other hand to stop the ends from whipping.

Reposition problem knots before they become an issue by adding an extra wrap or two before extending your rope.

Listen to the rope - When wrapping your rope, use the exit direction to determine where to wrap next.

Exercise/Homework

I love arm binders, but for a long time I avoided tying them because they were difficult for me to do without constantly readjusting or losing tension. Choose a tie that you would like to use more often and apply some of these tips while practicing.

Conclusion

The battle cry "Use the Big Hole!" has become a tradition for this class and it sums things up pretty well. By taking a new look at what's already in front of you, you can learn to utilize it better. Once you've defined your goal, you can tailor your actions toward that outcome.

I saved the biggest tip for last: There's no "one true way" for rope bondage. Be safe and responsible, and have fun doing your own thing. Don't limit yourself to someone else's ideas of style, quality, or success.

Thanks for reading!

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Material and Finishing Examples

Burn Rate: The natural fibers shown below – Hemp, Jute, & Cotton all have low burn rates.

End Treatment: Depending on your tastes, whipped, knotted, taped, and singed ends are all useful, I used knotted ends for quickly extending my rope.



Whipped 6mm Twisted Hemp



Knotted 6mm Twisted Jute



Braided ¼" Cotton With Core



Taped ¾ " Solid Braid MFP



Melted 4mm Braided Nylon w/Core

Extending Rope

Create an empty larks head by folding the bight down and pulling the tails slightly through the bight, then place your additional piece of rope in the lark's head loop and pull tight.



Storing Rope

Once you're done with your rope for a while, it's very useful to spend a little time keeping it organized for the next time you want to pull it out. Not only does this make life easier for the next play session, but handling your rope can help you build familiarity with how it feels and moves in your hands. Every profession that uses rope or cabling of any sort seems to have its own method for rope storage with strengths that benefit its users – rope bondage is no different. Many people double up their rope and use a chain stitch, this method is outlined on many websites, so I'll skip it here. Two other useful storage methods are:

Tie a slip knot at the bight of your rope and then fold the rope in half until there's just enough length to easily tie another slip knot using the entirety of the rope. This method can be theatrically untied with two snapping motions; however, it's not stable enough to travel well in a toybag without falling apart.



Starting with the ends, wrap the rope in a figure 8 between your thumbs, leaving enough remaining rope to circle your bundle a few times. Tuck the bight under the final wrap to create a quick way to unwrap your rope and get to business! These bundles are useful for storage and general use since they don't easily fall apart.



Quick and Pretty Decorative Knots

Create a nice knot by only pulling a small amount of rope through a wrap, then twist the newly created small bight and feed the rest of the rope through it.

(*Image coming soon)