

TRIPOD LASHING

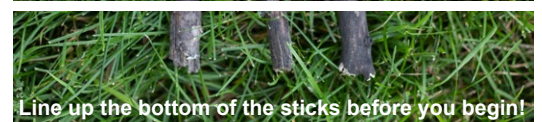


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Unless you were a boy scout or have spent a lot of time wilderness camping or pioneering, you are probably not real familiar with lashing knots. The tripod lashing can be used to hang a cook pot over a campfire, hold up a tarp for shelter, make an animal trap, or construct primitive scaffolding.

All you need for this project is about 5 ft. of paracord and three branches, each about 5 ft. long.

Throughout this tutorial you will learn important lashing terminology, such as “racking” and “frapping”



Line up the bottom of the sticks before you begin!



1. Lay your sticks side by side with the bottom ends flush. Lay the end of your paracord across them about 6" from the top. To attach the rope to the pole, we will use a clove hitch.

2. Wrap the short end of the paracord around the right-side stick. Cross it over and down across the standing end.



3. Wrap it around the right pole again. Emerging between the top pass and the standing end of the rope.

4. Tuck it under the top wrapped cord and tighten. This is a clove hitch.



5. Pass the long end underneath the middle stick and over the left one.



6. Then do the inverse back over to the right. Wrap the cord around behind the left stick, over the middle, and under the right. These are called "racking" turns.



7. Continue doing this until you have about 4-5 rows of paracord showing on every stick.



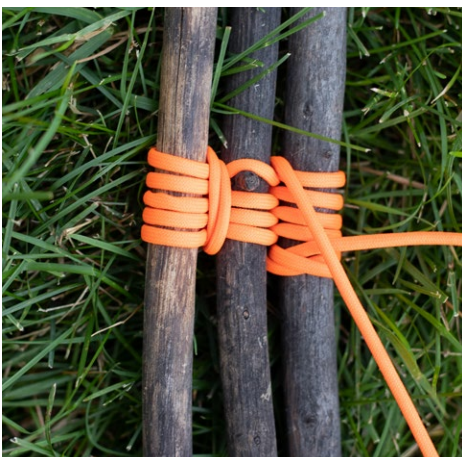
8. End on the left side. Now begins the "frapping."



9. Wrap the paracord once more around the left pole, so that it emerges between the left and the middle.



10. Wrap around the paracord, between the poles. 2 times around should suffice. This will tighten the rope around your poles, and will also create a sort of hinge.



11. Now cross the cord behind the middle pole and do the same between the middle pole and the right.



12. Two frapping turns.





13. Tie off the end of the rope with another clove hitch. Again, do this by wrapping the cord around the right pole, crossing over and down.

14. Wrap it around once more, tucking the cord underneath the top pass. This completes the love hitch and your lashing knot.



Now spread the three legs of your tripod. The outside legs can be either pulled apart, or crossed for added support.



Some worry that the paracord lashing will melt when placed over a fire. If your paracord were to melt, your wood poles would also be in jeopardy. This is why it is important to have a tall tripod (5-7ft) and keep cooking fires low. This will ensure that your tripod is not in danger—along with your supper.

