

The Houndstooth Knot.

We shall round off this section with an unusual knot the author devised, called The Houndstooth; its pattern resembles the tweed cloth of that name, also known as Dogstooth. It's one of the most complex knots in this book; however, if we take it a step at a time, it shouldn't prove too difficult. To keep things as clear as possible, we'll have a separate template for each stage of the tying (figs.1–5).

The templates are in false colour for added clarity, with the first 2-ply knot in red/magenta, and the 2nd 3-ply knot in green/black/blue. The author chose to tie the first of these knots in black, and the second in white, as you can see in the photo; but of course you may choose any combination of colours you like. The diagram below shows how it might look with the 1st knot tied in pale blue, and the 2nd in black.

Moreover, the number of plies may be altered, if you wish. The two houndstooth units of weave are shown below, both the 2- and 3-ply ones. You could give the same number of plies to the two units you used, or you could increase the number of plies even further, to give a 'higher resolution' pattern. To help you with this, the photo in fig.d shows the 4-ply houndstooth pattern woven into a pencil case belonging to the author's son. This should adapt perfectly into an interwoven knot, as the drawing in fig.e of a 4-ply 'tooth' indicates.

Tying the Houndstooth.

This knot is an interweave of two [6L-5B] THs, and the sequence of pins has an increment of 3:

L1 - R4 - L2 - R5 - L3 - R1 - L4 - R2 - L5 - R3 - L1.

As there are quite a lot of cords to control, it may be helpful to use a separate pin for each bight, giving a total of 25 pins on each side of the knot. The pins have only been shown in the first template (fig.1), so as to keep the drawings as uncluttered as possible.

You should use a larger mandrel than usual, as you'll need the extra space in the later stages of tying (things do get rather crowded then). The templates are not scaled for any particular size of mandrel.

You may find this knot takes several tries before you get it right, but it's worth persevering with. [*That's what I found, even though I was the one who designed it!* Ed.].

The origin of this knot.

There's a story behind the design of this knot. I was trying (and failing) to create a 2-cord version of Ashley's 8-cord Herringbone TH #1290. But despite much perspiration (and profanity), the knot ended up as a mess: nought but a 'complication in cordage' as someone once put it.

However, I noticed that there was something interesting buried in the failed tangle, namely a spotted element in the weave, which reminded me of this tweed pattern. Now, stripes and zigzags are fairly commonplace in interwoven knots, but spots are rather more unusual, so this caught my attention. (How many spotty THs have you ever seen?).

After a lot of fiddling around on squared paper, I came up with a pattern that consisted of alternating black and white 'teeth' tiled together in the houndstooth style. It's not easy to tie, but the results are worth the effort!

So, this knot was the product of failure. Who knows how many more undiscovered knots are lurking in the shadows on the hither side of other 'failed' experiments?!

This failure happened in part because I hadn't yet developed the reverse-engineering techniques we'll be looking at in Chapter 5. If I had, then this knot might never have seen the light of day!

And if you were wondering what happened to ABOK #1290, have a look at Chapter 5, where there are templates for several of his Herringbone patterns.

Tiling a template.

If you wish to explore other sizes of this knot, you'll probably find that the quickest way to do so is as follows:

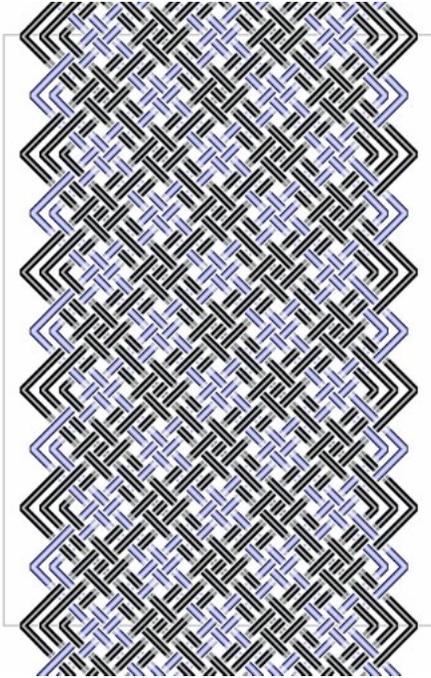
- use your drawing software to draw a unit of the houndstooth pattern in each colour, with your chosen number of plies,
- use copy-and-paste to tile the units so as to fill the area of knot you want,
- if your units don't fit together seamlessly, modify them until they do,
- tidy up the edges of the knot.

Alternatively, you could use paper copies of the Universal Template in the Appendix, if you prefer. Specimens of the 2-, 3- and 4-ply houndstooth units have been drawn for you overleaf.

Note that you can use this technique with just about any woven knot. It's particularly handy if you want to draw up a template for a very large knot.

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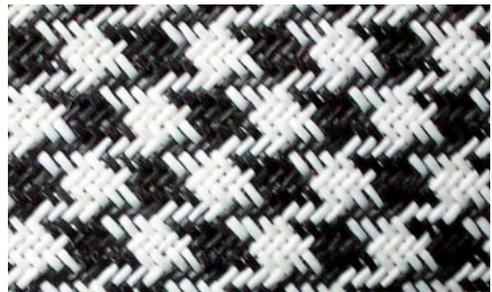
4B. Interweaving by the Ply-Weaving Method.



a. the appearance of the finished Houndstooth knot, tied in blue & black.



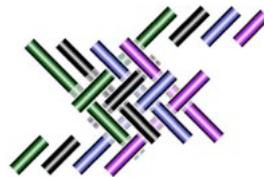
c. The 2- and 3-ply houndstooth units used in the present knot.



d. detail of a pencil case, woven in 4-ply houndstooth.

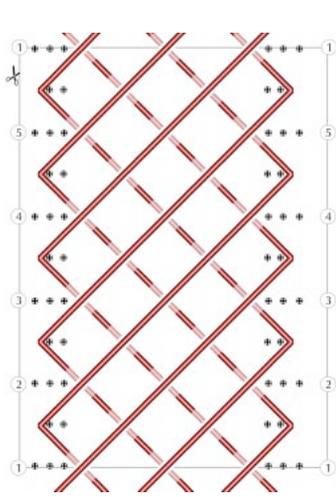


b. the Houndstooth, tied as a 2x[5L-4B] interweave, tied in black & white.

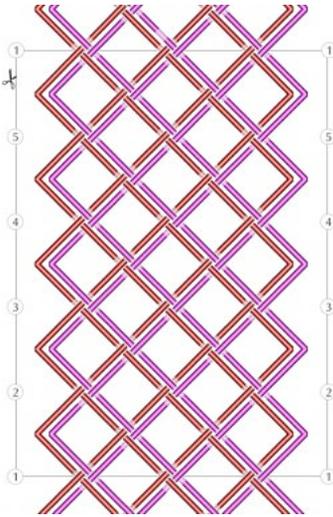


e. the 4-ply houndstooth unit used on the pencil case, and a modified 3-ply unit based on it.

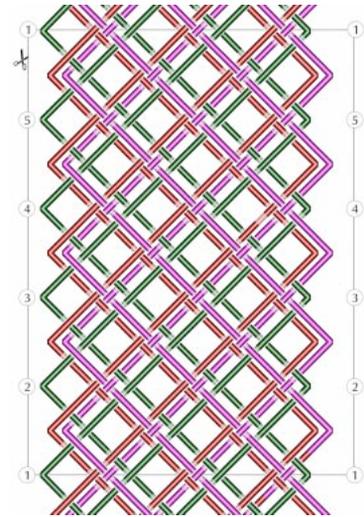
The Houndstooth Knot (in false colour).



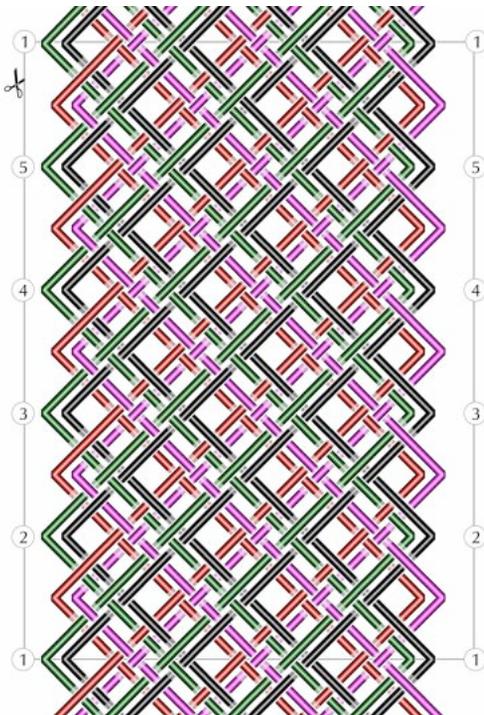
1. 'red':
rightwards leads go over
leftwards ones.



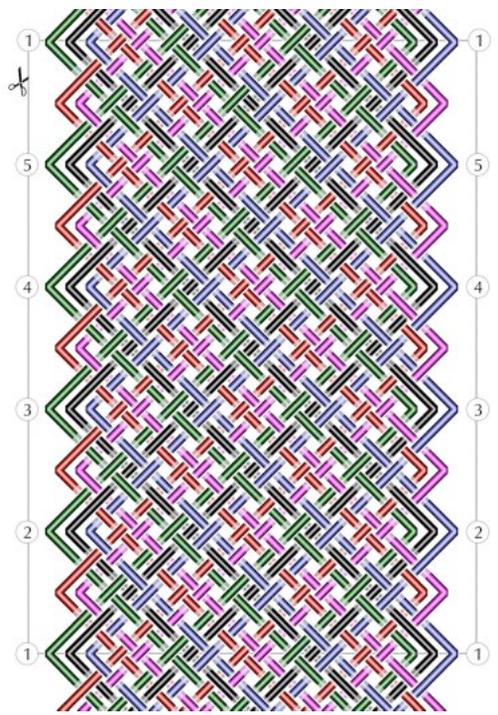
2. 'magenta':
does the opposite of the adjacent
'red', full split at intersections.



3. 'green':
[O1-U1], the opposite of the
adjacent 'magenta'.



4. 'black':
rightwards: [O2-U1-O1...],
leftwards: [O2-U2...], finishing with [O1-U1].



5. 'blue':
rightwards: [U1-O1-U1-O2...], finishing with [U1-O1],
leftwards: the same!