

Steps in Making Z-Twist Cordage

The steps below assume the cordage-maker is right-handed.

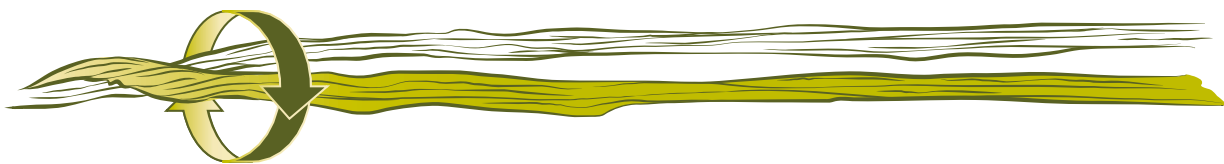


Step 1



Holding Strand A and Strand B side-by-side in your left hand, pick up Strand A with your right forefinger and thumb, and twirl the strand away from your body (clockwise).

Step 2



Bring Strand A toward your body, crossing it over Strand B (counterclockwise).

Step 3



Holding strands A and B between your left forefinger and thumb - about where you crossed A over B - pick up Strand B, and twirl the strand away from your body (clockwise).

Step 4

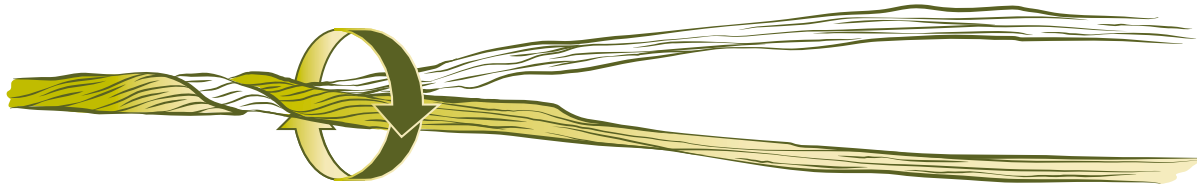


Bring Strand B toward your body, crossing it over Strand A (counterclockwise).

That's it. Now it's just a matter of repeating this process again and again.

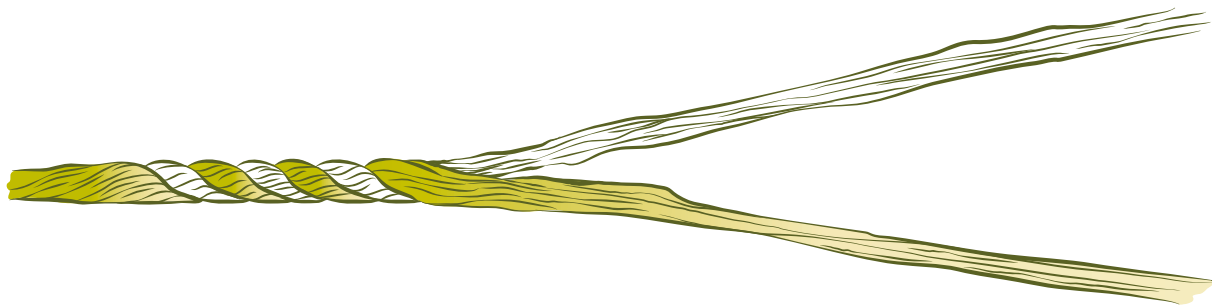


Twirl the strand farthest from you away from your body.



Take the strand you just twirled and cross it over the other strand.

By twirling in one direction and crossing in the opposite direction, the cordage-maker creates an interlocking pattern like that of machine-made rope.



Lesson adapted with permission from *Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth Through Seventh Grades*, by Shelley J. Smith, Jeanne M. Moe, Kelly A. Letts, and Danielle M. Patterson, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (1993), pages 81-86: *Lesson 16 - Experimental Archaeology: Making Cordage*. Also adapted from *Living Archaeology Weekend: Lesson 3 Experimental Archaeology: Making Cordage* (2009) and *Visual Arts Toolkit: Lesson Plan - Experimental Archaeology*, KET and Judy Sizemore (2016).

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