

The Magic Shoelace

Effect: The magician tells a story of when they got a knot in their shoe laces as they show a quick magic bow tie in a piece of rope. The bow tie gets a knot in it and through magic you make the knot de-materialize.

Process:

Take your open left hand with your palm facing toward your body and place the center point of your magic rope over the base knuckle between your index finger and your thumb. Then wrap the half of rope that is furthest from your body (on the back of your hand) up toward your body and then back over the second knuckle between your middle finger and index finger. Pinch the rope with your left index and middle finger. Your position should look like figure 1.

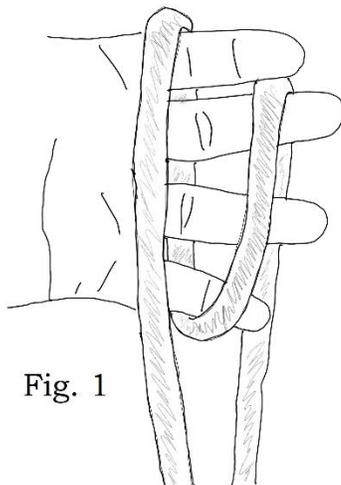


Fig. 1

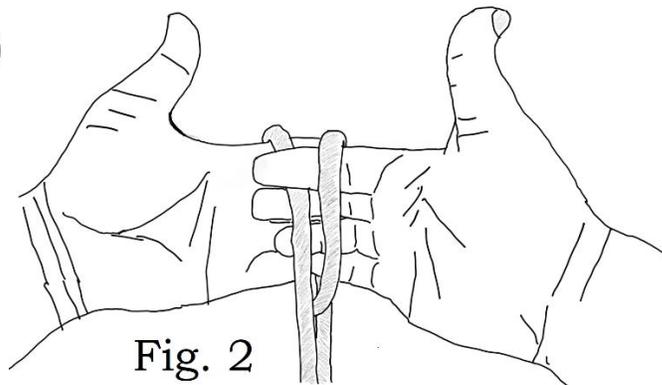


Fig. 2

Next, with your right hand, slide your index and middle finger behind the loop on the right (being clipped by your left fingers) and pinch the loop on the left with your index and middle finger as in figure 2.

Now, start to pull your hands away from each other while keeping the rope loops pinched by your fingers. This will form the bow tie (illustrated in figure 3) to start your story. You will want to pull the top parts of the bow tie a little tight (as in figure 4) so that when you form the knot, it doesn't fall out too soon.

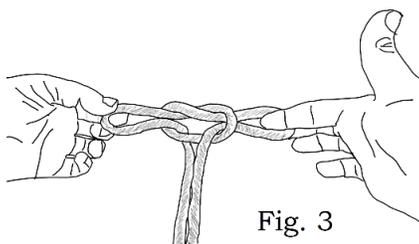


Fig. 3

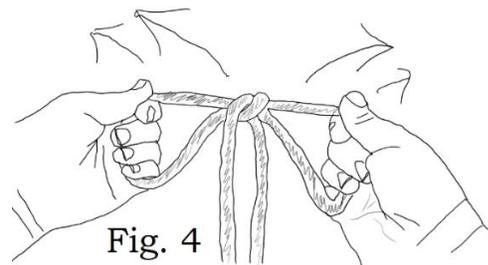
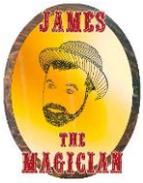


Fig. 4



While holding the bow tie in this position you will have two loops. The spot where the loops are being pulled tight are considered to be the top of the loops. Remembering the position of the tops of the loops, you will now use your thumb and index finger of both hands to dive through the loops away from your body and pinch the hanging ropes that are naturally hanging under each loop. Check out figure 5 for an image of this.

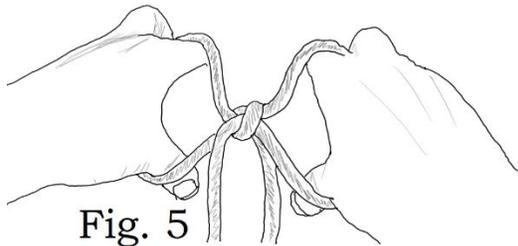


Fig. 5

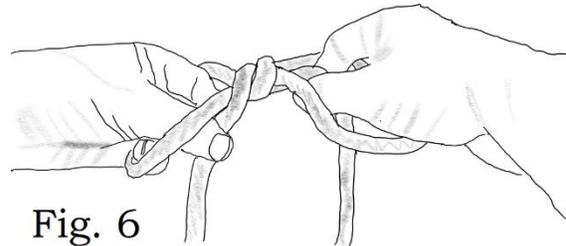


Fig. 6

After you have the hanging ropes pinched you can start to pull the ends of rope up and through the loops while explaining that you got your bow tie messed up into a knot. Figure 6 shows how the ends are being pulled through.

Now start to pull the ends of roped which will in turn shrink the loops of rope down until they look like a knot as in figure 7. Because you pulled the loops a little tight as in figure 4 the knot should not just fall loose.

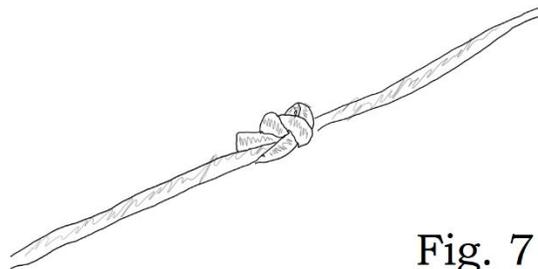


Fig. 7

Finally with a tug of the rope the knot should disappear!

Credits: Although I know that this bow tie knot goes back much further in time, I learned this piece of magic from Mark Wilson's complete course in magic.