

# Tutorial: A fast way to make a "Lovelock"-like sling

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## 1 Introduction

In this tutorial you will learn how to make a sling with a simple knotting technique. This knotting technique produces the same structure as observed in the "Lovelock sling" (please see "A Prehistoric Sling from Lovelock Cave, Nevada" by R. Heizer and I. Johnson in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Oct., 1952), pp. 139-147 for further information). However the aim of this tutorial is not to exactly reproduce said sling but to give an introduction into this technique and to demonstrate how the construction of the "Lovelock sling" could have happened. If you want to make an exact reproduction of the "Lovelock sling" I recommend to read the paper cited above. It contains all the informations you need.

This tutorial is a sequel to my previous tutorial "A sling with a Knotted Pouch". We will use exactly the same basic technique but in a different way.

## 2 You need:

- around 30 m of string (length depending on thickness of the string)
- a knife or scissors
- a pen
- a cardboard

### 3 Preparing the loops

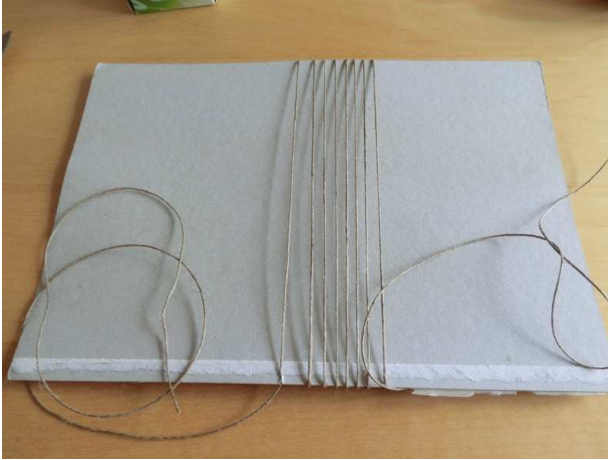


Figure 1: Start by cutting your cardboard into the right dimensions. The length of the cardboard will determine the maximal length of the pouch. So make it slightly longer than the intended pouch length. Then cut a small slit into the bottom edge of the cardboard and clamp your string into it. Then wind your string around the cardboard. This will determine the maximal number of warps you will be working with and therefore the width of the pouch. Here I wound the string eight times around the cardboard. Leave a reserve of string of about 0.5 m at the beginning.



Figure 2: Push the loops together and knot the thread in a manner that you can undo it later on. Then put your pen under the loops. The clip helps to keep the loops together. Alternatively you can also use a wooden dowel or another piece of string.

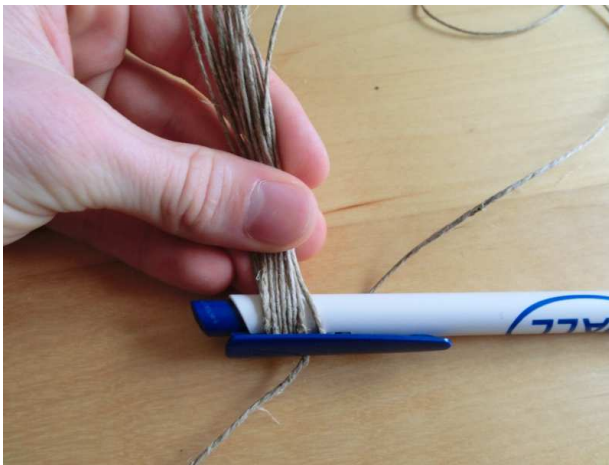


Figure 3: Take the cardboard away. Pay attention that you don't change the length of the loops.

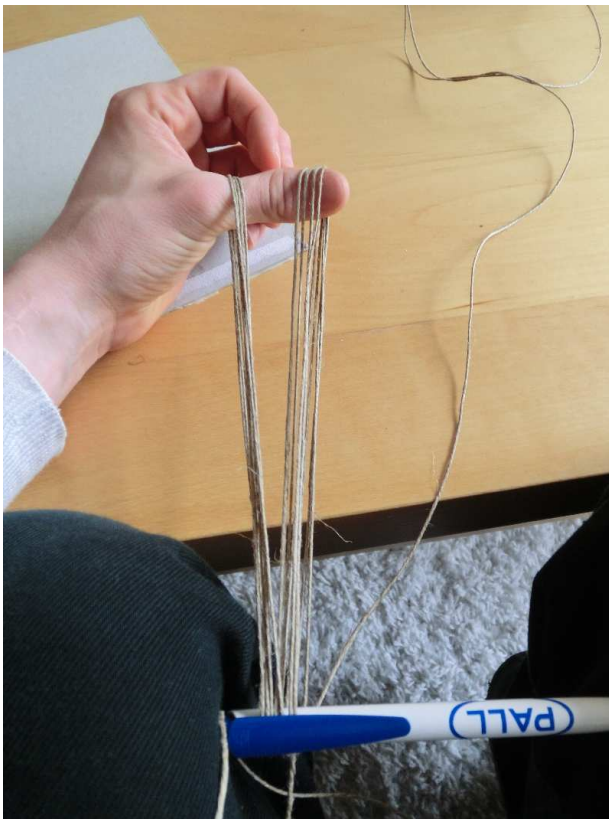


Figure 4: Now get yourself in a comfortable working position. I usually clamp the pen between my knees but you may find other positions more comfortable. Then group your loops into two groups of four loops.

## 4 Getting started

Now we will use for the first time the basic knot. There is a left and a right version of this knot. We will start with a left one. If you have trouble to make this knot please read my previous tutorial "A Sling with a Knotted Pouch". There I explain it in more detail.



Figure 5: Make a loop as shown in the picture. The string from the bottom comes from the prepared loops, the string at the top goes to your string coil.

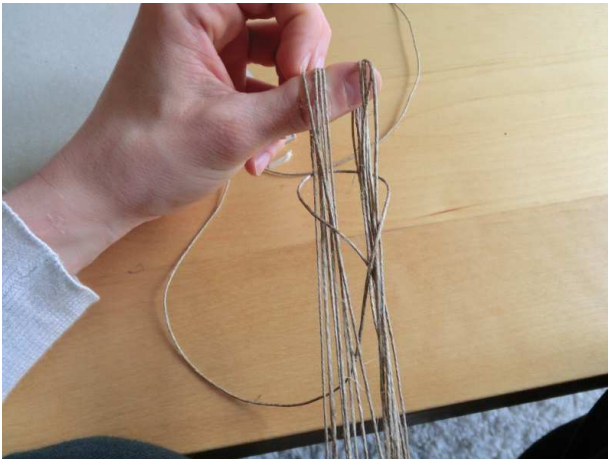


Figure 6: Put your two bundles through the loop as shown in the picture. Then tighten it.





Figure 7: Make a loop in the other direction (to the right).



Figure 8: Put your two bundles through the loop as shown in the picture. The working end stays always behind the bundles.



Figure 9: You should end up with this situation. Now you don't need to hold up the tension anymore as the two knots hold the bundles in place.

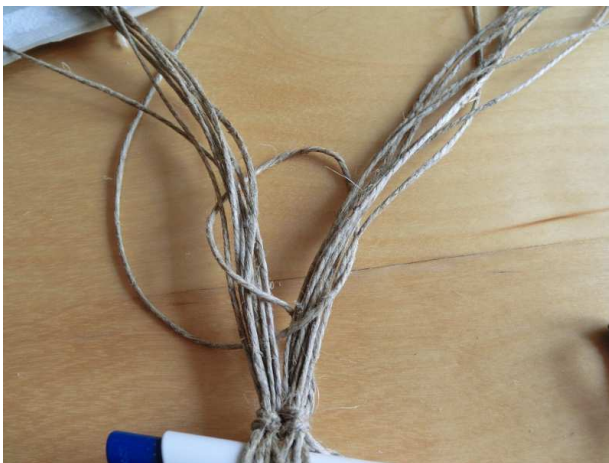


Figure 10: Make another left and right knot so that you have a total of four knots. The left knot is shown here.



Figure 11: You have now this situation.

## 5 Increasing the width for the first time

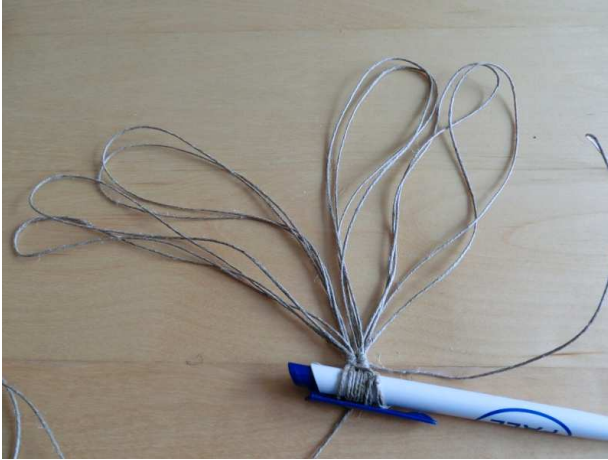


Figure 12: Now split up your two bundles of four loops each into four bundles of two loops each.

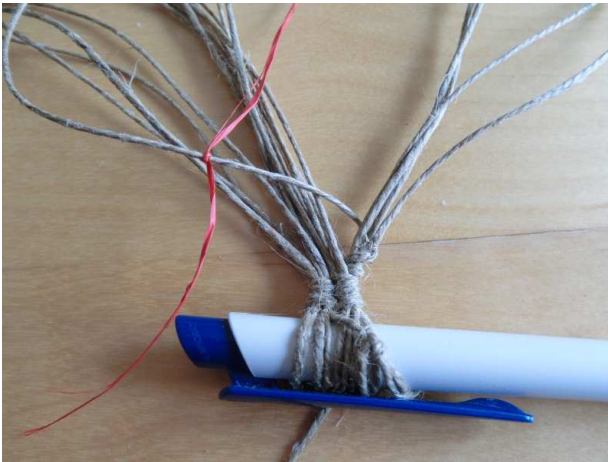


Figure 13: Wind your active end, from now on marked with a red piece of bast, two times around the bundle at the left side.



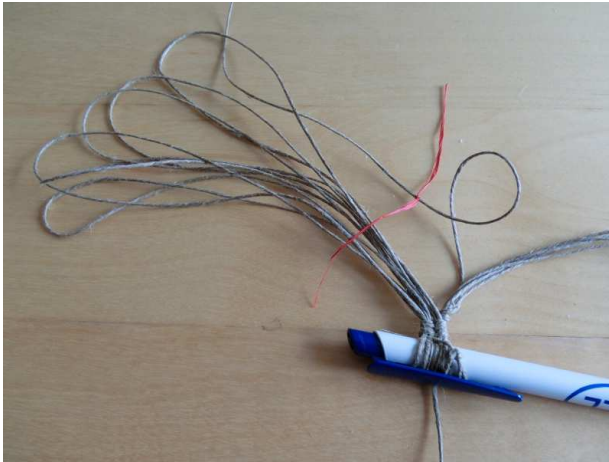


Figure 14: Now continue with a left basic knot. Make a loop with the active string ...

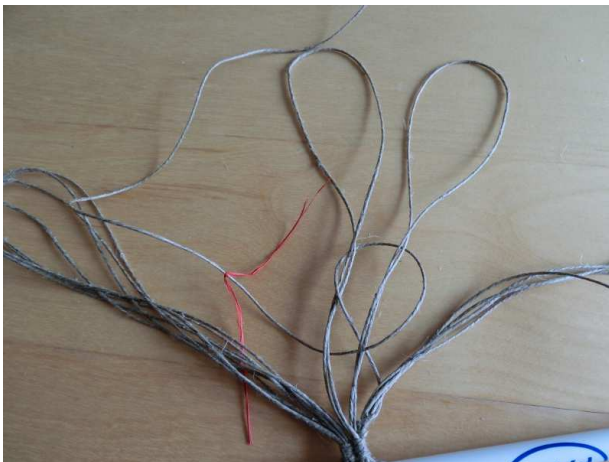


Figure 15: And put the loops of the second bundle through it as shown in the picture. Then tighten it.

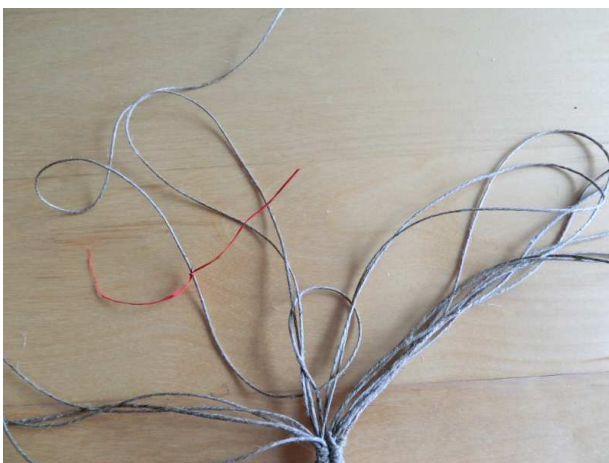


Figure 16: Do the same with the third bundle.

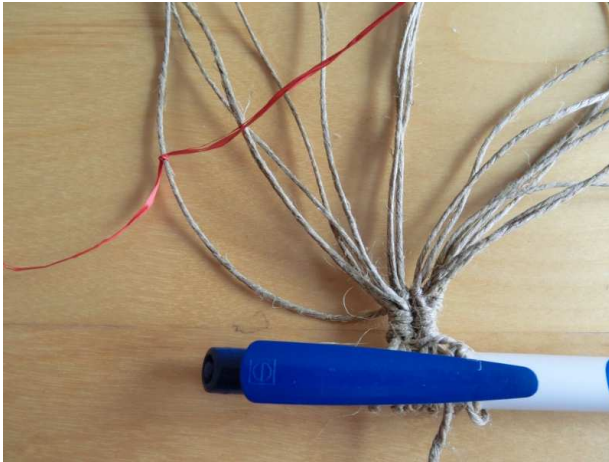


Figure 17: You end up with this situation.

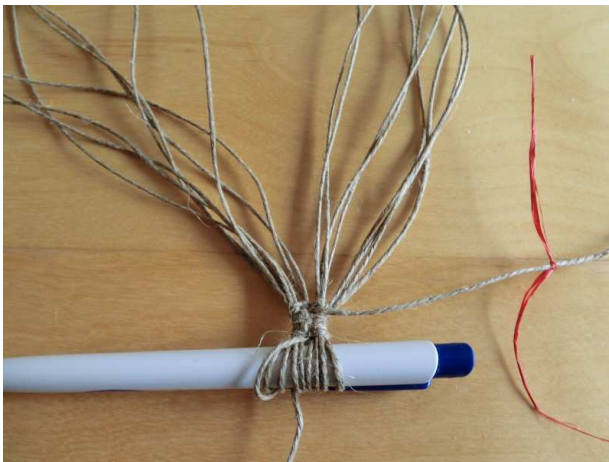


Figure 18: Now flip the whole work over. The active end is now on the left.

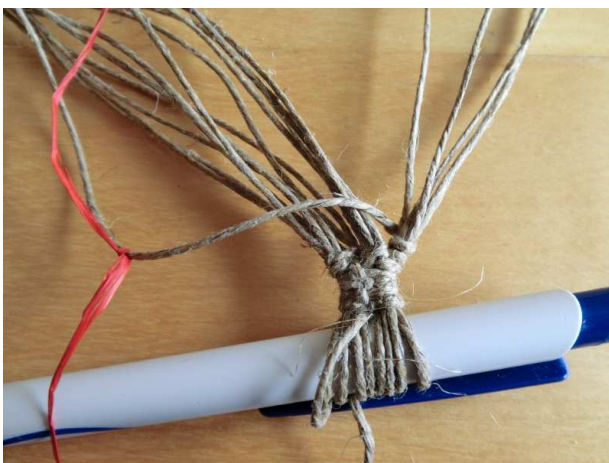


Figure 19: Wind the active end three times around bundle at the left side.



Figure 20: Repeat the previous steps of left knots and flipping over until you have made a total of four rows. After the last flip you will have this situation.

## 6 Increasing the width for the second time

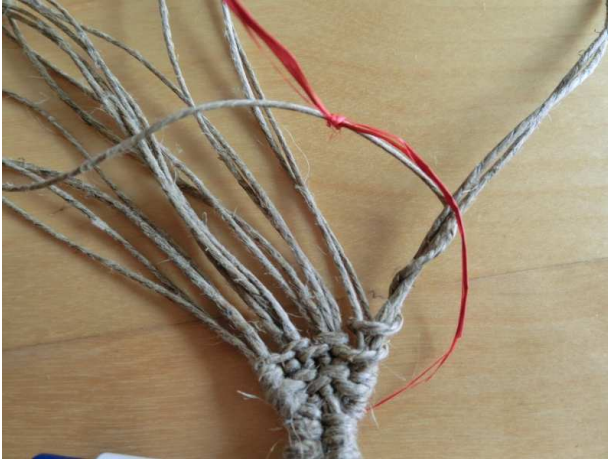


Figure 21: Now we will increase the width for the second time. Wind your active end once around both loops of the left bundle and twice around one loop of this bundle.



Figure 22: Make a left basic knot around the second loop of this bundle.

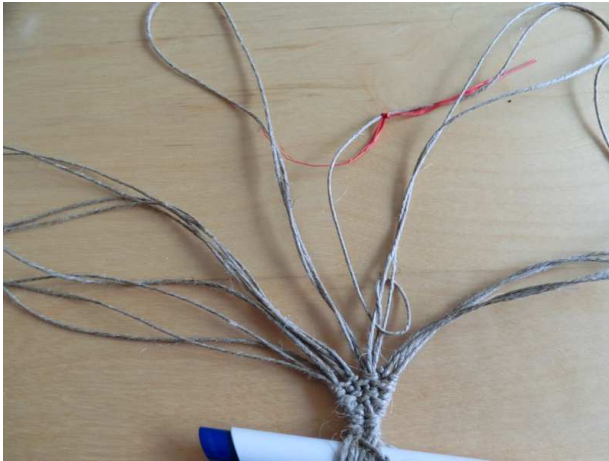


Figure 23: Continue in the same manner with the other bundles. You are now making the main part of the pouch. You can steer the width by leaving more or less space between the knots. To steer the density you can make more or less turns at the borders.



## 7 Optional: Making patterns

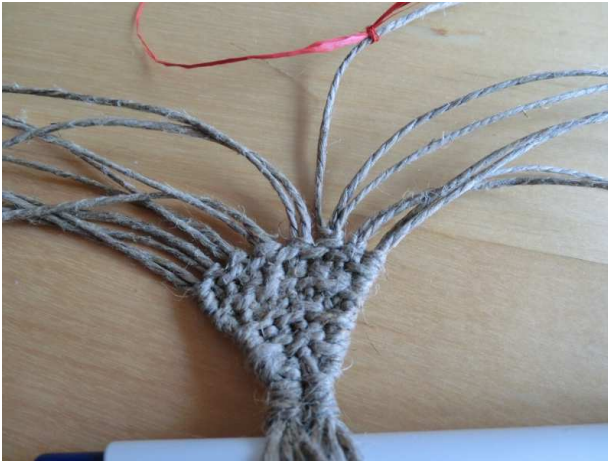


Figure 24: After several rows it should look like this. Now we can either continue in the same manner as before with left basic knots and flips or we can make patterns into it. If you don't want to make patterns skip the next step and continue as above until you want to decrease the width of the pouch.



Figure 25: Flip the whole work.



Figure 26: Make a right basic knot. This will produce a ribbed pattern on one side and a float on the other. By turning the piece in the middle of a row and making left and right basic knots you can now continue as you like. The visibility of the pattern depends on your string and also on how dense you work.

## 8 Decreasing the width



Figure 27: Decreasing the width is done in exactly the same way as it was increased. Wind the active string two times around the outermost loop and once around the outermost and the second one.



Figure 28: Then make a left basic knot around the next two loops.



Figure 29: Continue with working with four bundles of two loops until you have made a total of four rows. Don't forget to reduce the space between the knots to shape the pouch.

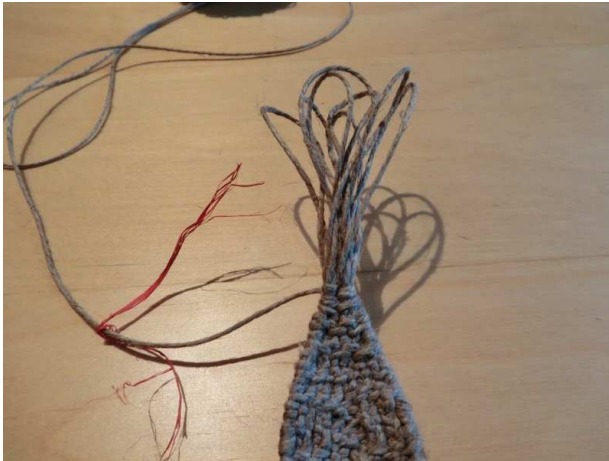


Figure 30: Finish the pouch with four left and right basic knots with two bundles.

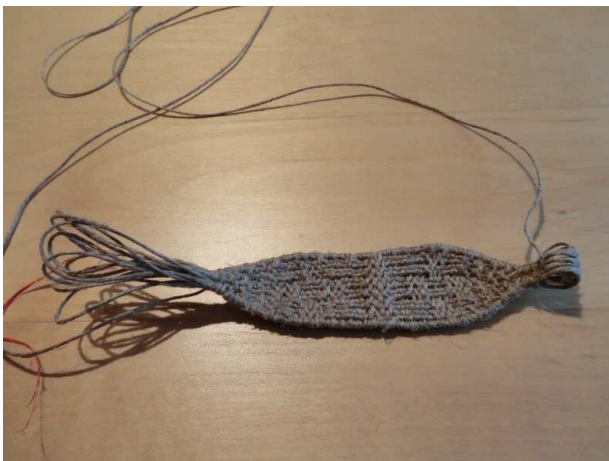


Figure 31: The finished pouch.

## 9 Finishing the sling



Figure 32: Now you can attach the release and retention cord. In this sling I used reef knots to connect longer strings to the loops. Then I made an eight strand square braid. The string reserve from the beginning I used to make a small section of marline hitching (not shown) over the beginning of the braid and finally hid the end in the core of the braid.



Figure 33: Closeup of the woven release tab and the twisted tail.





Figure 34: Closeup of the finger ring. To make it I bent the braid over and worked it backwards into the existing braid.

## 10 Variations

You can make many variations with this technique e.g. patterns as described before, color changes, split pouches, different materials...



Figure 35: Example piece displaying several variations. This pouch is not intended for use.



Figure 36: A sling made with the same technique but coarser string and no pattern. It is intended for use with tennisballs.

## 11 Last words

I hope, that you have fun with this sling you made here. If you have any remarks, ideas or corrections, please let me know. I will happily include them in this tutorial.

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