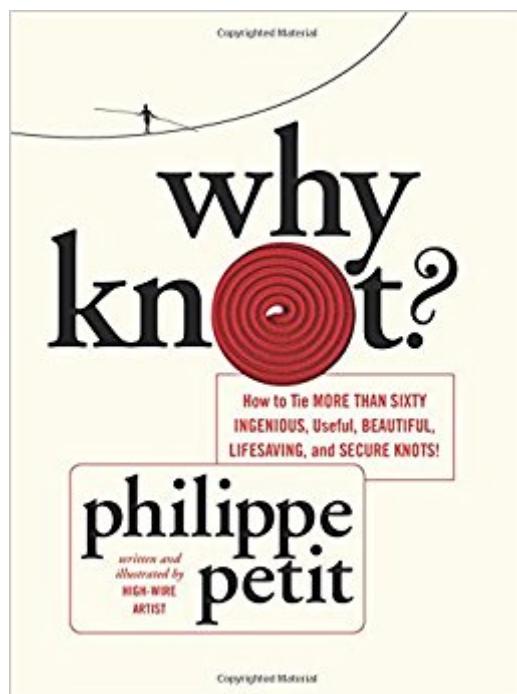


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# Why Knot?: How To Tie More Than Sixty Ingenious, Useful, Beautiful, Lifesaving, And Secure Knots!



## Synopsis

On August 7, 1974, Philippe Petit stepped out on a wire illegally rigged between the New York World Trade Center's twin towers, where he performed for nearly an hour. The death-defying event has been the subject of two major films, the documentary *Man on Wire* (2008) and *The Walk* (2015) staring Joseph Gordon-Levitt. During this history-making walk, and many others throughout his celebrated career, knots have always been indispensable components—the guardian angels protecting his life in the sky. After years of hands-on research, Philippe presents *Why Knot?*, a guide to tying his essential knots. Philippe's own practical sketches illustrate original methods and clear, clever tying instructions. Photographs in which special knots were used during spectacular high-wire walks, quirky knot trivia, personal anecdotes, helpful tips, magic tricks, and special tying challenges ensure that, if you're not already nuts for knots, Petit will transform you into a knot aficionado.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“In reading Philippe's book we are cogently reminded that without the ability to secure a rope, or tether a goat, or make fast the sheets of a galley, much of the civilization that we take for granted would disappear as easily as a slipknot in the hands of a Vegas conjuror. (Sting) Philippe Petit is an artist of knots: We get taken and sprung free at the same time. This is a dynamic book, eclectic, fun, and practical. From Nabokov to the World Trade Center to improvised handcuffs! Wonderful. (Colum McCann) “Read this book and pop it in

your pocket. . . . One day it may save your life!" (Melissa Leo) "This is not your normal book for Boy Scouts. This is for those with a sense of poetry—the poetry and the mystery of the Bowline in the Bight, the Highwayman's Hitch, and the Monkey's Fist" revealed to us by a man whose life depends on ropes and knots. (Werner Herzog) "Petit's distinct and deeply insightful philosophy through the guise of mere knots forever binds us to surprising new joys." (Elizabeth Streb) "The book describes, among other things, the kind of knots that held fast when was high up without a net—the 'locked constrictor' he used at the trade center, the 'farmer's loop' he fastened to the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia in 1973, the 'jug sling' he cast before he walked between Avery Fisher Hall and what was then the New York State Theater in Lincoln Center in 1987." (The New York Times) "Petit's illustrated guide to some of his favorites, like the slipped clove hitch he used to anchor the wire on which he walked across New York's Grand Central Terminal." [He] carried a length of rope in his pocket in order to perform tricks at a moment's notice. The book comes equipped with a section of cord so readers can do the same. (WIRED) "In explaining the purpose and creation of knots, Mr. Petit earns perfect marks. Thanks to those flawless drawings, I relearned the bowline in record time." (Wall Street Journal) "Petit, who knows how to tie 200 knots and has a knot library of 200 volumes, is a poetic and passionate instructor." (Boston Globe) "His newest book celebrates the unsung heroes of his work: knots. This beautifully packaged hardcover comes complete with a practice rope coiled in the title." (Mental Floss) "Thank you for this very smart book, everyone needs one!" (Charlie Rose) "Mr. Petit is the perfect teacher. His descriptions are clear, he deploys humor frequently and he makes his points with anecdotes that are colorful and memorable. Explaining the purpose and creation of knots and thanks to those flawless drawings Mr. Petit earns perfect marks." (Wall Street Journal)

Philippe Petit has been artist-in-residence of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine for more than 30 years and has performed on the high wire more than 80 times around the world. He also street juggles, lectures, and practices magic. He is the author of several books, including *To Reach the Clouds* (*Man on Wire*). In 2011, he performed his one-man show *Wireless!*, and in 2012, he was selected as a TED speaker, and he recently finished *Cheating the Impossible*, the first TED multimedia book. He lives in New York.

Philippe Petit's latest book, WHY KNOT? is no ordinary knot book--it's a joy, full of surprises, tales, tips, technical info and most importantly, the illustrations (all done by Petit) are simple and elegant with clear step-by-step knot tying instructions that are singularly Philippe's. The book itself is a work of art that is practical and fun...and to get everyone in on the game, it comes complete with a little red cord coiled in the cover so one can jump right in and start knotting!It makes a great gift for Father's Day, Campers on their way into the woods, Climbers, Riggers & Stage Hands, Sailors, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts, Spelunkers, Timber Framers,Longshore Men, Firemen, Tree Surgeons & Brain Surgeons, Circus schools, Performers & Crews, Motorists, Survivalists, Farmers, Movers--the list just goes on and on...why it's even a great wedding gift--WHY KNOT? when you're tying the knot--there's even a True Lover's Knot on p. 196!Pick up one for yourself and for your friends and start a knotting party! WHY KNOT?

I purchased several other books on how to tie knots. This was by far the best one. It was worth the price to learn how to tie your shoe laces so they never come untied. The author has a unique style of writing and illustrating that makes learning the knots both fun and entertaining. If you're looking for a book on how to tie knots, you can stop looking right now. Buy this one!

Great read. More than just a how to tie x. This book goes into the history and appreciation of the details of knots and knot tying. It also details the language used to describe knots. This demystifies the naming convention used to describe knots. Well written. Enjoyable.

I've always wanted to know how to tie more than a Granny Knot, in different situations. This book shows how to tie knots easily because of the clear illustrations. The red "O" in the front title of the book is a coil of cord to practice knot tying. This will be a good book to keep on the shelf as a reference.

Some times the books' print font are just too small...appreciate the author as artist and his universal approach to this historical craft.

Petit is not only a magnificent climber, he is an excellent teacher. The color diagrams simplify the complexity of all those knots. The book makes one even more impressed with the man and his work.

Great book. Humorous, lots of interesting anecdotes, great illustrations and a very simplistic approach to tying knots. I have many knot books, but this will be one of my favorites.

This is a super book for knots, that make the subject easy to learn and master quickly. I have a pretty good background with knots, so while I didn't learn too many new ones, the book is a joy to read, and was my go-to book for a couple of nights on the couch. Would highly recommend to anyone wanting to learn knots, and practice the skill.

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