3. The Ring Appears: The Fisher Ring method

You should be holding one end of the string (which still has a knot) in the RH and the ring should be finger palmed in the LH. You're going to magically produce the ring tied in the knot that is currently in the string. The knot needs to be larger than the ring. If it isn't, just work it open a bit with the fingers of the LH.

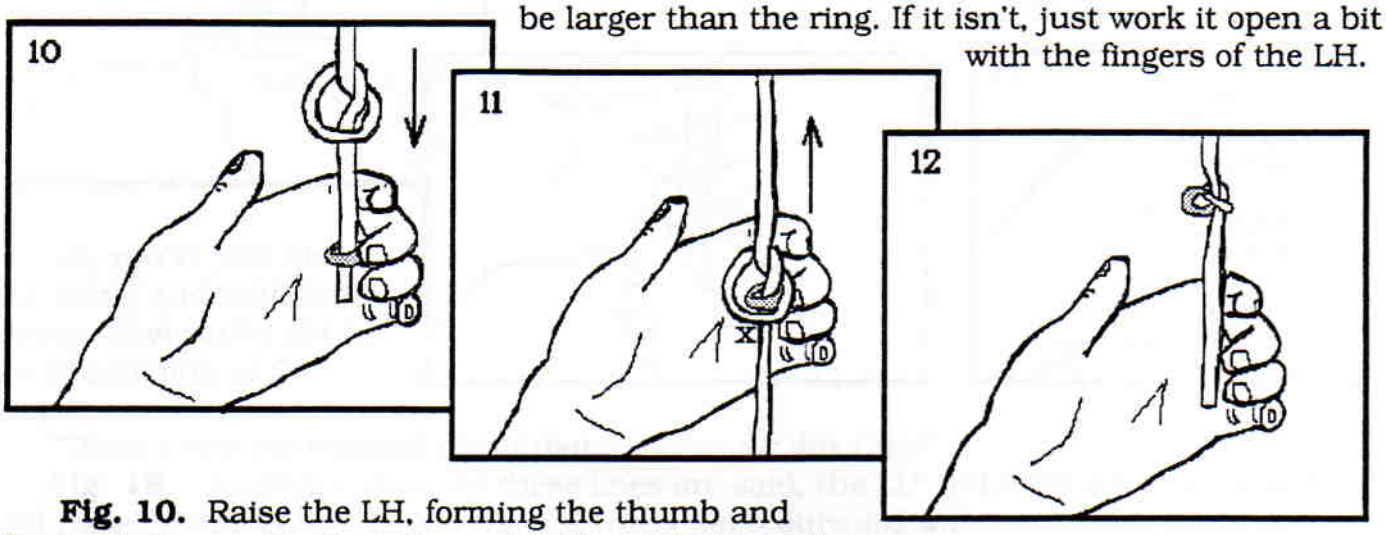


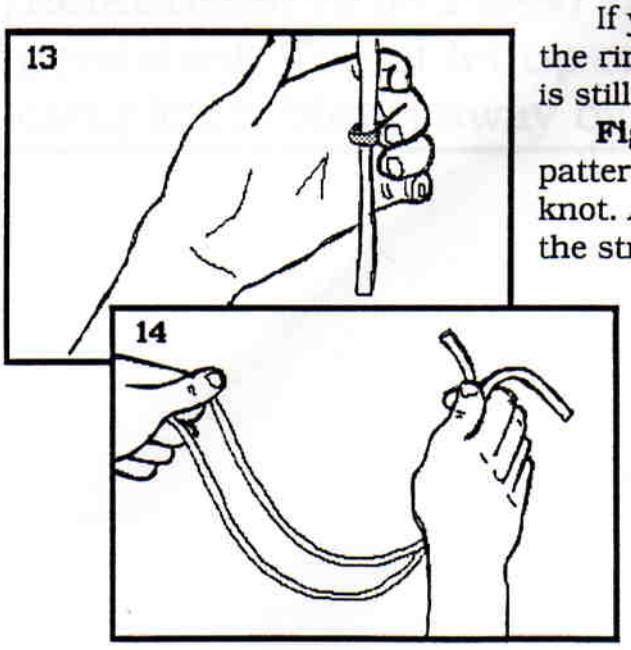
Fig. 10. Raise the LH, forming the thumb and fingers into a circle. Drop the end of the string into the circle of the LH and through the ring.

Fig. 11. Lower the string until the lowest loop of the knot passes over the ring. To force the ring through the knot: with the thumb press the loop of knot against the palm at point 'x' where it crosses in front of the vertical strand. The thumb presses against both strands at once. (Thumb moved back in diagram for clarity.) Start to pull upward on the string, causing the knot to start to tighten. To prevent the knot from slipping off around the ring: tilt the palm downward a bit causing the ring to swing through the knot completely. The knot will pull free from between the thumb and palm, but keep pressure against the bottom strand of string with the thumb. The knot will tighten.

Fig. 12. Raise the knot showing that it is now tied around a ring.

"Looks like I've caught something!"

3. The Ring Appears - alternate method



If you pull the string upward and the knot slips off of the ring, here is an alternate way to produce the ring that is still secretly palmed in the LH.

Fig. 13. As you untie the knot from the string, you patter about how you taught the string to tie itself into a knot. As you say this, you secretly drop one of the ends of the string through the ring that is finger palmed in the left hand.

"But it is a regular shoestring on the ends..."

Fig. 14. Raise the ends with the RH.

"...and in the middle."

Fig. 15. Now the LH is raised to display the middle of the string and the RH is lowered. During this action, the ring is secretly transferred from cover of the LH to cover of the RH. Gravity will do most of the work letting the ring slide down along the string just as the RH covers the string (and ring)