

Advanced Techniques

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1 Overview

The TIASOU Method details a number of techniques for increased speed and efficiency. These techniques are not necessary for successful tsukeshime tightening, but they do make the process less awkward. They should be practiced only after the basics of tsukeshime tightening and the TIASOU Method are comfortable.

2 Reverse Lacing

When lacing the drum, generally the start-knot is tied first and the rope is laced from there through the holes of the two heads. With this standard method, the full length of the rope is pulled through every hole. A small amount of time can be saved by lacing only the amount of rope necessary (less than half of the total rope length) and tying the start-knot last. This also slightly reduces the wear on the rope due to lacing.

In order to achieve the up-and-to-the-right, outside-inside lacing direction recommended by the TIASOU Method, the rope must be laced in exactly the opposite direction when using reverse lacing. Thus the rope is laced up-and-to-the-left, inside-outside. When the start-knot is tied at the end of lacing, the result will be the standard TIASOU Method lacing direction.

Start by measuring three and a half to four full arm spans of rope. Lacing the rope through the first hole to this point, the rope should pass inside-outside through the hole. Proceed around the drum, threading only the measured section of rope. The section will get shorter and shorter as threading proceeds. At the final hole, tie the start-knot as usual. The start-knot can be tied around the loose end of the rope so that it needn't be threaded through the start-knot loop once the knot is complete. Work the remaining slack back around the drum when finished.

3 Agebatchi Twist, Rope Location

The various motions of the standing pull are accomplished by opposite sides of the body with each successive over-under loop. Sometimes, the right knee maintains tension after a pull, and other times the left knee. The tug direction alternates with each pull as well. The location of the rope and agebatchi for the first standing pull immediately after finishing Stage One tightening is slightly non-standard. When the drum is laced up-and-to-the-right, outside-inside as suggested by the TIASOU Method, the second standing pull of Stage Two tightening can be formalized and breaks down as follows.

- rope and agebatchi start on **left** side of the drum
- rope is threaded and placed on **right** side of drum
- agebatchi is picked up by **left** hand, butt end nearer the pinky
- agebatchi is twisted and the rope wrapped two to three times
- standing pull
- during bend down, **right** hand holds agebatchi, **right** knee maintains tension
- **left** hand pinches loop
- **right** hand tugs, leaves agebatchi on **right** side for next standing pull

The TIASOU Method provides a set of motions to easily wrap the rope around the agebatchi to prepare for a pull, without tangling the rope. These motions also put the agebatchi in the proper position for the final tug. The agebatchi is grasped at its center with the butt end nearer the pinky, the flat end nearer the thumb. With the palm facing forward, the agebatchi is inserted beneath the arch of the rope coming up from the drum. The free hand holds the free end of the rope beneath the agebatchi, so that the rope travels up from the drum, over the agebatchi, and down to the free hand. The agebatchi is twisted 180° so that the palm is now facing the body. The free hand coils the free end of the rope over the agebatchi. (See figure 1.)

It is often easiest to remember that the rope and agebatchi should always be on the same side when beginning threading. The rope is threaded and placed on the opposite side. The agebatchi moves across to join the rope during the bend down, immediately following the pull. With practice, the pattern becomes second nature and the agebatchi and rope move from side to side smoothly and without interruption.

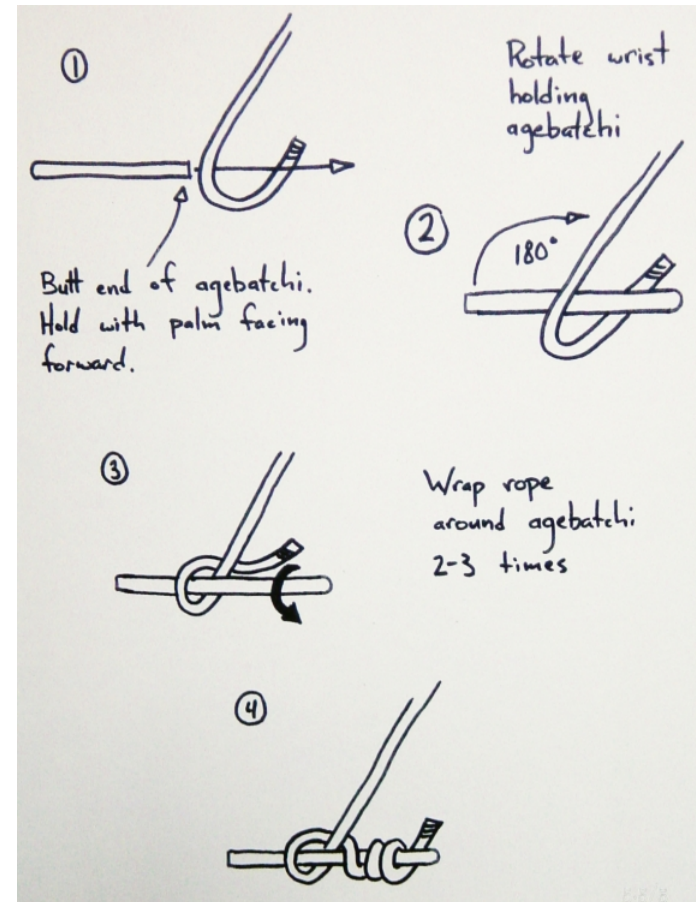


Figure 1: Formalized agebatchi wrap

4 Wrap Removal

Following the tug, removing the wraps of rope around the agebatchi can be an awkward endeavor. The TIASOU Method describes a quick series of motions for removing the wraps.

First the agebatchi is flipped a half-turn in the hand, so that the butt end is nearer the pinky. With the fingers pinching the nearest wrap on the underside of the agebatchi, small circles are drawn in the air with tip of the agebatchi such that the wraps at that end are removed. The agebatchi is then flipped another half-turn, during which the remainder of the wraps fall off. The agebatchi is then placed on that same side of the body, the flat end facing forward.

5 Threading From Rope Center

One of the most time-saving techniques during the second stage of tightening is to thread the rope from its center point. Before each of the standing pulls in Stage Two tightening, the loose rope is threaded around the next pair of laces. When threading from the end of this loose rope, the whole of it needs to be pulled through. By threading from the point halfway between the drum and the end, (the loose rope's center point,) the time required of threading is cut roughly in half. An approximation of the center point is fine, erring on the side of over-shortening the free end. Fold the rope at the estimated center point and thread it normally.

6 More Information, Copyleft

For more information, please visit tiasou.org or contact Kristofer Bergstrom by email, phone, or the address below. All questions and comments are welcome.

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