



Building a tripod – lashings as a team

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors, level ground



Key idea

Learning lashings and building a structure with them



Effort

Materials 10 min · Preparation 15 min



120 minutes



teams of 3–4



12–16 years



lashings



Materials

- ☐ 3 poles per team (approx. 2 m long, 5–7 cm thick)
- ☐ bucket of water (load test)
- ☐ sisal rope, approx. 4 m per lashing
- ☐ instructions “Square lashing” from Scout skills
- ☐ work gloves



Schedule

0–15'	Practising the clove hitch – Everyone practises the clove hitch – it starts and ends every lashing.
15–45'	Tripod lashing – Step by step (see below).
45–90'	Building challenge – Each team builds a tripod that can hold a bucket of water.
90–110'	Load test – Hang up the bucket; teams present their tripods.
110–120'	Closing – Thought: the threefold cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12).



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Lay the three poles side by side, with the middle one pointing the other way.
- 2 Start with a clove hitch on an outer pole.
- 3 Weave the rope loosely over and under the poles 6–8 times.
- 4 Make 2–3 frapping turns between the poles and pull tight.
- 5 Finish with a clove hitch. Then spread the legs – your tripod is ready.

 **Example:** “Don’t wrap it too tight, or you won’t be able to spread the legs.”

Safety

- Wear gloves; do not wrap rope around fingers.
- Nobody stands under the bucket.
- Do not throw poles.

Variations

- Older scouts: build a cooking stand with a crossbar.
- Competition: who can build a stable tripod fastest?

Something to think about

What holds our group together like a good lashing?