



Camp gadgets in miniature – model building with lashings

AT A GLANCE



Place

Indoors or outdoors at tables



Key idea

Building models of camp gadgets with sticks and string while practising lashings



Effort

Materials 20 min · Preparation 20 min



120 minutes



teams of 3–4



12–16 years



square and tripod lashing



Materials

- ☐ straight sticks or wooden skewers (about 20–40 cm), around 30 per team
- ☐ thin string or raffia
- ☐ scissors, rulers
- ☐ sketches of camp gadgets: gateway, tower, table, bridge
- ☐ small weights for testing (e.g. a water bottle)



Schedule

0–15'	Opening – Show pictures of big camp gadgets: which lashings hold them together?
15–35'	Lashings in miniature – Practise square and tripod lashings with skewers and string.
35–90'	Building – Each team plans and builds a model: camp gateway, lookout tower, bridge or camp table.
90–105'	Load test – Does the bridge hold a water bottle? Is the tower stable?
105–120'	Devotion – 1 Corinthians 3:10–11: every building needs a firm foundation – for Paul that is Jesus Christ.



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 First draw a sketch: how many sticks, where are the joints?
- 2 Build the load-bearing parts first: base frame or legs.
- 3 Join right-angled crossings with a square lashing and three poles with a tripod lashing.
- 4 Stabilise with diagonals – triangles make any frame rigid.
- 5 Test and improve before presenting your model.

 **Example:** “Your tower wobbles? Then a diagonal is missing. A rectangle can be pushed out of shape, a triangle cannot.”

Safety

- Shorten sharp skewers or cut off the points beforehand.
- Use scissors only at the table.
- Nothing heavy above anyone’s feet during the load test.

Variations

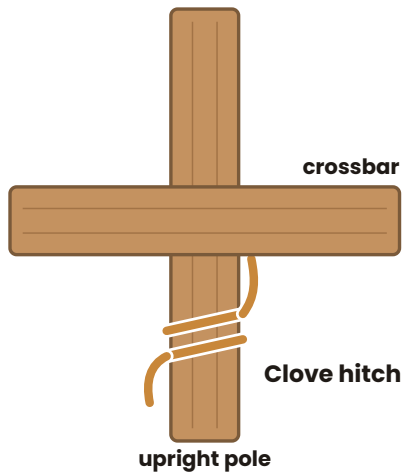
- Build the best model for real at the next camp.
- Bridge competition: who can carry the most weight with the fewest sticks?

Something to think about

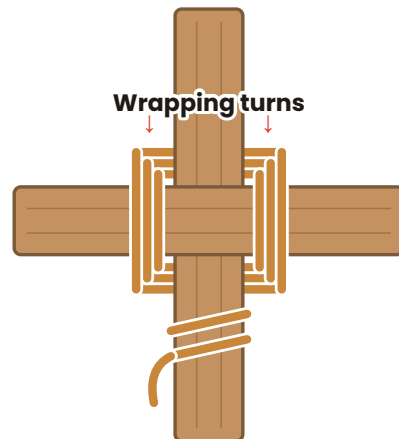
What are you building your life on – and does the foundation hold when things wobble?



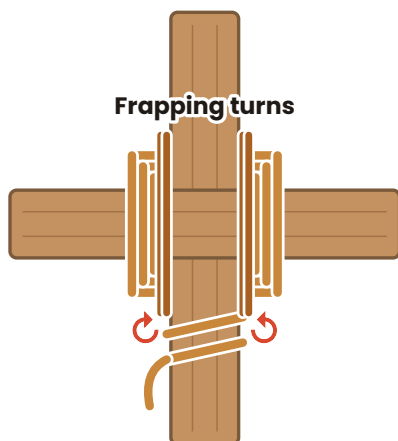
Square lashing in four pictures

**1**

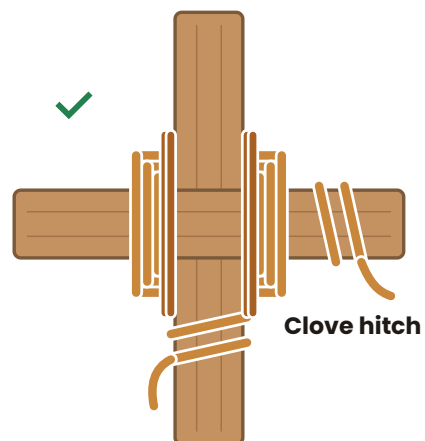
Clove hitch on the upright pole, just below the crossbar.

**2**

Wrapping turns: over the crossbar, behind the upright pole – 3 to 4 times, close side by side.

**3**

Frapping turns: wind between the poles around the wrapping turns and pull tight.

**4**

Finish with a clove hitch on the crossbar. Done!