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WESTERN HORSEMAN



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the Holiday
Spirit



A Young
Buckaroo
Continues
His Father's
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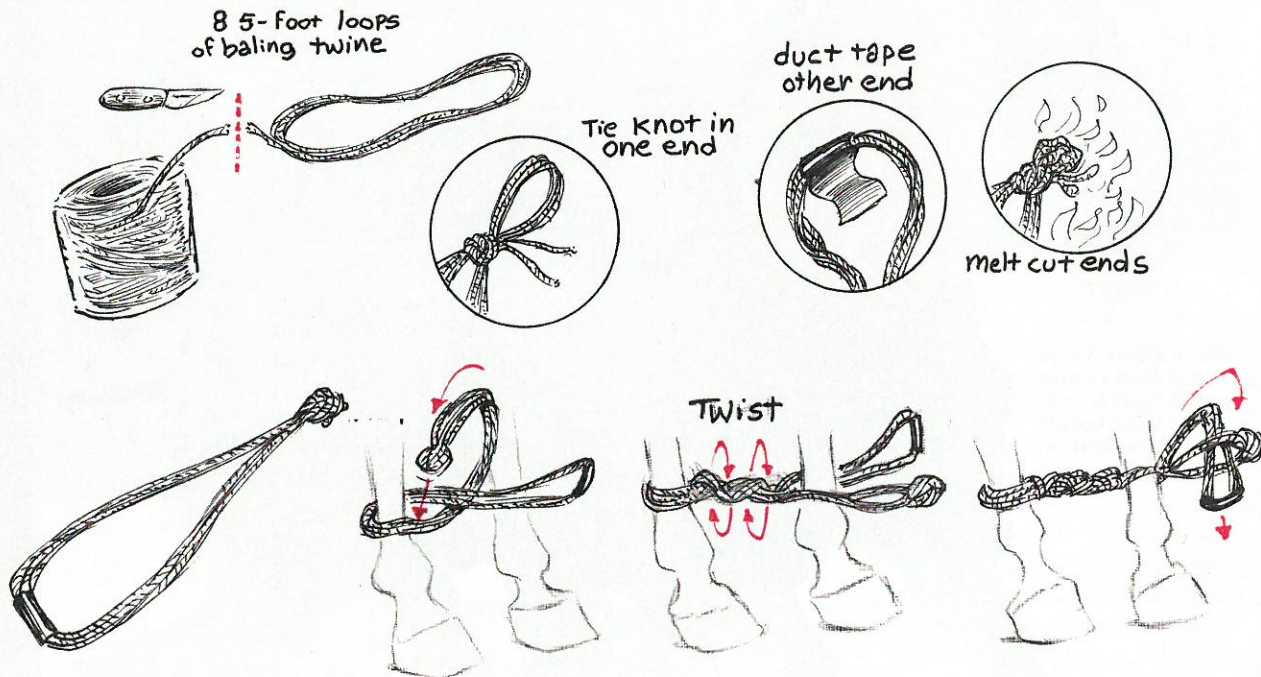
SCRAPBOOK

Twisted Twine Hobbles

FOR AN INEXPENSIVE WAY to secure your horse, tie a set of hobbles using baling twine. Steve Rodrigues, a backcountry guide near Durango, Colorado, started using these creative hobbles when sets made of other materials kept cutting horses' and mules' legs. He and Randy Palmer, one of the owners of Over the Hill Outfitters, and a couple of other guides came up with the design while sitting around a campfire one night.

Rodrigues likes the material because it's lightweight and compact for traveling, and the hobbles can be made on the cheap. "You don't have to worry about hardware, and the only tools required to make them are a knife, tape and fire," he says. "Plus, if the horse gets tangled up, you can use a knife to easily cut them."

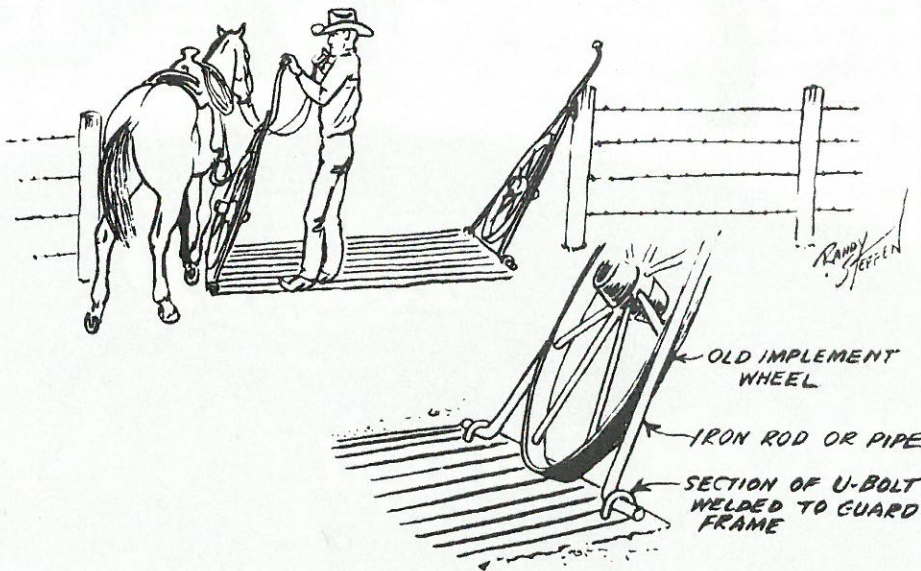
He coils 40 to 50 feet of twine into 5-foot loops, and believes that using more twine makes a softer hobble for inexperienced horses. He ties a knot at one end of the coil and sticks a couple of wraps of duct tape around the other. To keep the tied end from fraying, Rodrigues melts it using flames from the campfire. Starting at the outside of the leg, the hobble is twisted a few times before being laced through itself, which keeps it secure.



Classic Scrapbook:

From *The Revised Horseman's Scrapbook* by Randy Steffen

THIS CATTLE GUARD DESIGN is useful as well as good-looking. The implement wheel and pipe ends are hinged on the guard itself, and fold back out of the way to allow a man to lead a saddle horse through either side. A pair of old steel horse collar hames welded to the top of the pipe frame form a distinctive and useful handle.



• Share your handy hints by emailing them to edit@westernhorseman.com, with "Scrapbook" in the subject line. Please include photos to illustrate your idea.