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You can find LOOP online here:
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LOOP #1

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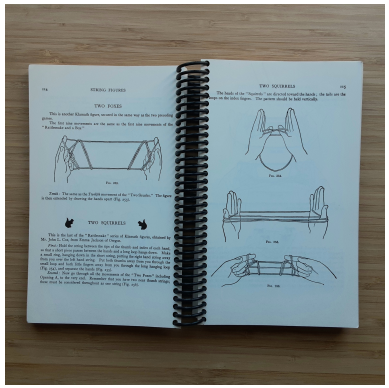
Introduction

A few months back, I sent out a small hand-written and hand-photocopied zine about string figures. When I was putting it together, I imagined that it would be read by people who are not especially interested in string figures. I thought that my family and a couple old friends who were in to zines would ask for copies. Much to my surprise, the only people who requested copies were all string figure adepts. And so, I decided for the next issue of LOOP that I ought to put together something for string connessuiers.

A Box of String

In early May, my family spent a week at a cottage resort owned by Native Child and Family Services Toronto. While we were there, I went looking for some string to play with. Imagine how surprised I was when I found out this box. Whoever labelled this box is certainly a kindred spirit.

Spiral Binding String Books

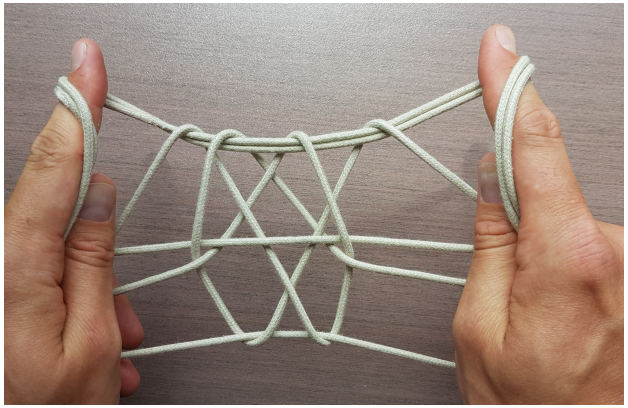


Any string figure artist knows the hassle involved in holding open a book of string figures with string on their hands. Over the years, I've played around various solutions: book stands, paper weights, photocopying. Recently, I got two string books spiral bound. It works great!

I contacted a local print shop and asked if they were able to cut off the usual bindings and spiral bind them. They said that it would be no big deal, but were concerned about cutting off the text. I brought them two books: Jayne and Murphy. They tried out spiral binding Jayne, and it went well. The margins on Jayne are quite tight, so the text occasionally gets close to spiral binding. After the test run, they spiral bound Murphy's String Figures. Both books open flat and are a joy to read and use.

Conclusion

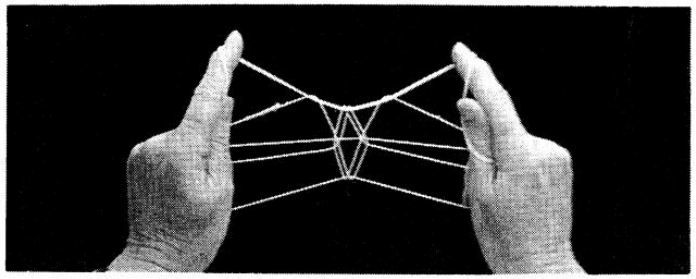
Thanks for reading! Putting this fancier version of LOOP together was a lot of fun. If you've got any thoughts about it or you tried any of the figures, please let me know. I would be happy to chat more about LOOP. Perhaps we could collaborate on something. Contact details on the back cover.



Antares

This figure is #33 ROMWINIMADA from Maude's The String Figures of Nauru Island. It appears on p. 42 of that work. The figure was slightly re-worked in Storer's code. For example, the roles of the left and right hand in ① have been reversed compared to the original Nauruan construction. Storer doesn't specify how to effect move ④ > $u2\infty \to 5$. The Nauruans have a clever way of doing it. Quoting Maude:

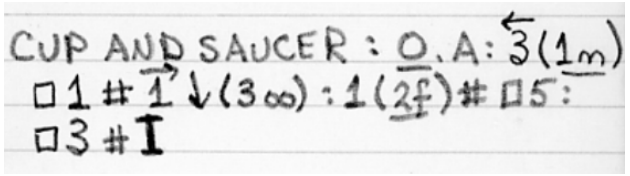
> 6. Transfer upper index loop to thumbs; pass little fingers over the index loops, insert into upper thumb loops from above, with the backs of the little fingers pick up the upper near thumb strings and return to position releasing thumbs from upper loops.



Figures from Tom Storer's Little Red Book

Recently, I've been playing with figures from Tom Storer's Little Red Book. The ISFA has a scan of The Little Red Book, as well as introductory remarks online in the Items from the ISFA Archive section[1]. The Little Red Book is written in Storer's String Figure Calculus, a highly compact way of annotating string figures. There are very few (maybe a dozen) people who read String Figure Calculus. And so, I transcribed some of the figures in to Rivers-Haddon-Jayne nomenclature for your enjoyment.

Cup and Saucer II: String Figure Calculus



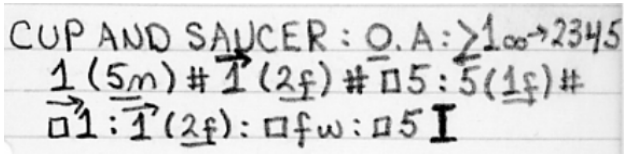
① $\underline{O}.A$ ② $\overleftarrow{3}\,(\underline{1n})$: □1#
③ $\overrightarrow{1}\downarrow(3\infty)$: $1(\underline{2f})$# ④ □5
⑤ □3# I

Cup and Saucer II: Rivers-Haddon-Jayne

1. Opening A.
2. The middle fingers passes over all the intermediate strings and pick up the near thumb string. Release the thumbs.
3. The thumbs enter the middle finger loop from above, and pick up the far index string.
4. Release the little finger loop.
5. Release the middle finger loop, and extend fully.

[1] http://www.isfa.org/private5/archives/red_book.htm

Cup and Saucer I: String Figure Calculus

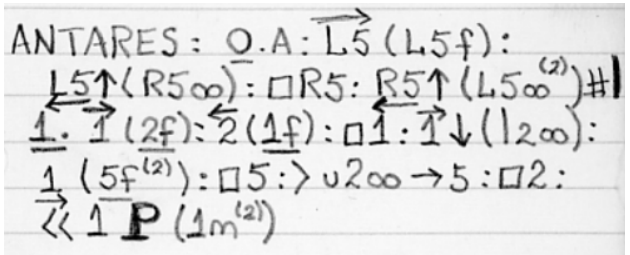


① $\underline{O}.A$: ② $>1\infty \to 2345$
③ $\underset{\rightarrow}{1}(\underline{5n})\#$ ④ $\overrightarrow{1}(\underline{2f})\#$ ⑤ $\square 5$ ⑥ $\overleftarrow{5}(\underline{1f})\#$
⑦ $\square 1$ ⑧ $\overrightarrow{1}(\underline{2f})$ ⑨ $\square fw$ ⑩ $\square 5$ I

Cup and Saucer I: Rivers-Haddon-Jayne

1. Opening A.
2. Rotate the thumb loop half a turn away from you and place it on the index, middle, ring, and little fingers.
3. The thumbs pass under all the strings and return with the near little finger string.
4. The thumbs pass over all the strings and return with the far index string.
5. Release the little finger loop.
6. The little fingers pass over all the strings and return with the far thumb string.
7. Release the thumb loops.
8. The thumbs pass over all the strings and pickup the far index string.
9. Release the far wrist string.
10. Release the thumb string and extend fully.

Antares: String Figure Calculus



① $\underline{O}.A$: $\overrightarrow{\overrightarrow{L5}}(L5f) : \underset{\Leftarrow}{L5}\uparrow(R5\infty) : \square R5 : \underset{\Leftarrow}{R5}\uparrow\left(L5\infty^{(2)}\right)\#|$
② $\overrightarrow{1}(\underline{2f}) : \overleftarrow{2}(\underline{1f}) : \square 1$ ③ $\overrightarrow{1}\downarrow(\ell 2\infty) : \underset{\rightarrow}{1}\left(\underline{5f}^{(2)}\right) : \square 5$
④ $>u2\infty \to 5 : \square 2$ ⑤ $\ll 1 : \mathbf{P}\left(1n^{(2)}\right)$

Antares: Rivers-Haddon-Jayne

1. Opening A. The little finger of the left hand passes away from you, over the far little finger string, and enters the right little finger loop from below. Drop the loop on the right little finger. The right little finger then enters in to both loops of the left finger loop from below. Return the hands to normal position and extend.
2. The thumbs pass any intermediate strings and pick up the far index string. The indices come towards you, passing over any intermediate strings, and pickup the far thumb strings. Release both of the loops from the thumbs.
3. The thumbs enter into the lower index loop from above, and pass under all the strings to pickup both of the far little finger strings. Release both loops on the little fingers.
4. Rotate the upper index loop a half-turn away from you and transfer it to the little fingers. Release the lower index finger loop.
5. Rotate the thumb loops a full turn towards you. Perform a Pindiki movement (or Caroline extension), picking up both near thumb strings with the index fingers.