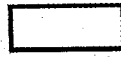


Introduction to "Square Knot" Emblems

To see information on the "Square Knot" awards listed in the navigation panel to the left, click on the name of the award. Information related to the award will display here. Note that not all of the emblems are actually "Square Knots", but we'll refer to all of them as "knots" for convenience. Our thanks to Paul Wolf and Mike Walton for much of the information provided here.

About BSA's Knots: Many Scouters have asked about how to properly display knots on their uniforms. You may wear as many different knots as you would like (the uniform insignia committee in the past had recommended that not more than 15 knots be worn). However, you may only wear one of each knot. If you have earned the same knot more than once - for example, the Scouter's Key and Commissioner's Key, you would wear a single knot with two **devices** to denote multiple awards. There is no order of precedence as to what knot is worn in what order. You can wear them in the order of importance to yourself, the order earned, etc. To keep your uniform sharp, however, you attach the knots to your uniform shirt properly. Mike Walton (Settummanque!) developed this handy chart to show the proper way to wear knots above the left uniform pocket flap.



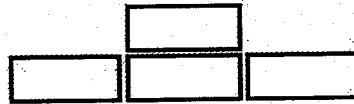
one knot



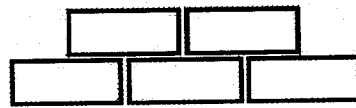
two knots



three knots



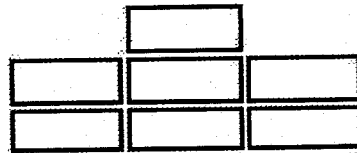
four knots



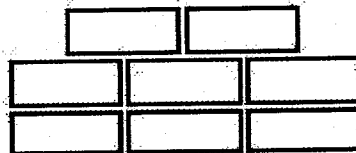
five knots



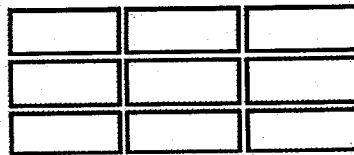
six knots



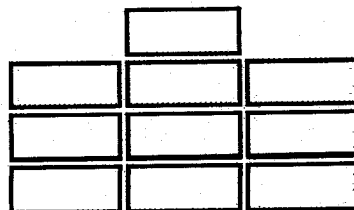
seven knots



eight knots



nine knots



ten knots

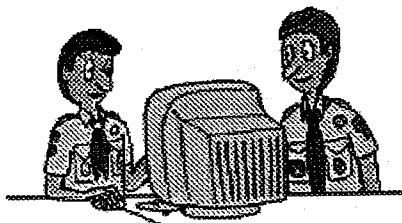
Adapted from an original graphic by
Mike Walton, Settummanque!

The knots are worn centered on the left side of the uniform, above the left pocket and in rows of three with the bottom edge of the knot emblem(s) touching the top edge of the pocket flap. Subsequent rows of knots are placed above the initial set, in rows of three and again, at the discretion of the wearer.

As a general rule, the knots should not be worn when the medal, medallion or device is worn. The knots are designed for informal, everyday wear by Scouts and Scouters including Professional Scouters.

A few years ago Professional Scouters were discouraged from wearing training awards or other awards except for those related to achievement and training. During his years at the helm, Chief Scout Executive Ben Love, changed this policy and encouraged professional members of Scouting to wear all of the square knots that they were entitled to wear. He also lifted a longstanding restriction on allowing exceptional professionals to receive the Silver Beaver, District/Division Award of Merit Awards, and other service awards. Now, if a professional is nominated for a BSA service or tenure award, in addition to the approval of the local Council's Scout Executive, the award must also be approved by the Director of Operations at the National Office, BSA.

Page updated on: August 09, 2007



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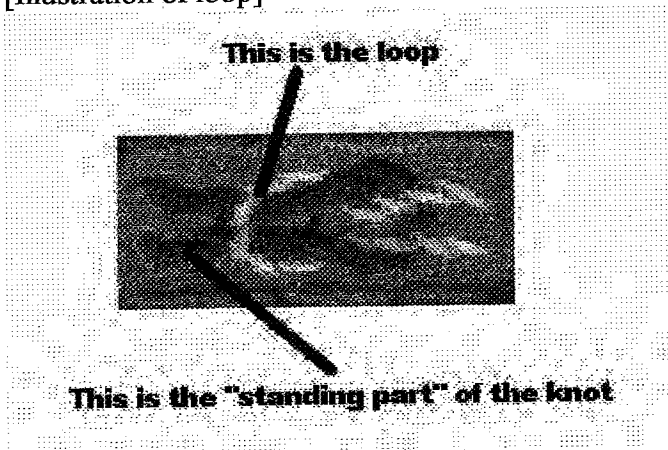
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From the BSA's Insignia Guide, page 44:

"The loop of the embroidered square knot that comes in FRONT of the standing part (the part to the left as you are looking at it) is ALWAYS to the wearer's right." (In other words, the loop "tells you which side is "up" on the knot since it is always found on the LEFT SIDE AS YOU ARE LOOKING AT IT; and on the RIGHT SIDE AS YOU WEAR IT ON THE UNIFORM.)

[Illustration of loop]

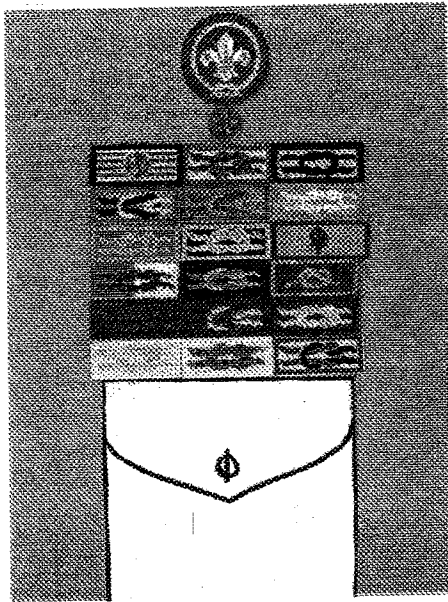


Uniform Template Left Side/Pocket

Fold this template in HALF and align with your uniform as indicated.

The basic rule of Scout uniforming is NEATNESS. Some of the various badges and insignia shown will not apply to you; use this template as a FULLSIZED GUIDE as to how to place/sew insignia onto the official BSA shirts.

For more guidance, check out the BSA Insignia Guide or go to the Badge and Insignia Site.



Square knot insignia are worn in rows of three immediately above the left pocket. Adults do NOT wear the cloth Eagle, Arrow of Light, Silver, Ranger, Ace or other youth awards but rather the square knot insignia representing those awards. Medals, if worn formally, are worn in a row at the user's discretion on the top seam of the pocket flap. Square knot insignia is worn in any order as the wearer chooses; and no more than 18 such emblems should be worn for proper uniforming.

<http://www.muinternet/~blkeagle/insignia.htm>

