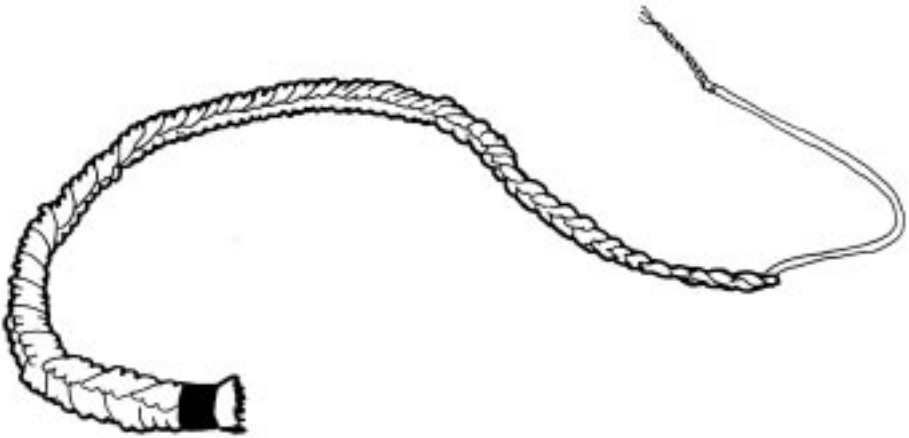


# BASIC SINGLETAIL #2



This "ropie" cracks as well as many leather bullwhips and costs a few cents to make. If you want it mostly for whipcracking, make a cracker; for impact play, leave the cracker off and simply let the end fray.

*Materials:* 30' of nylon rope  
electrical tape  
twine for cracker, if desired

*Tools:* sharp knife  
lighter

*Time:* about half an hour

Cut the rope into the following lengths: six feet, nine feet, seven feet, five feet and three feet (see fig. 1). The six-foot piece will form the core of the finished whip.

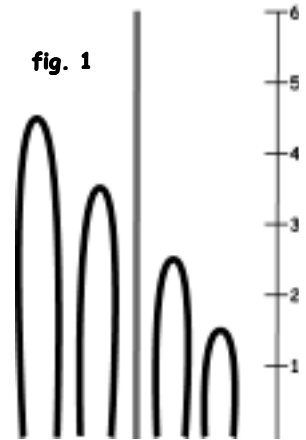


fig. 1



fig. 2

Fold the nine-foot piece in half and place its fold 18" from the end of the core piece. The 18" at the end will form the "business end" of the finished whip, and you'll be braiding away from that toward the "holding end."

Begin to braid the three pieces together, using a simple three-strand braid, the kind used to braid hair (see fig. 2).

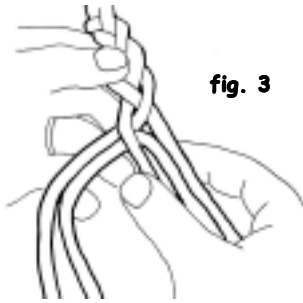


fig. 3

When you've braided for one foot, fold the seven-foot piece in half and lay it between the two outer ropes in your braid (see fig. 3). When you start braiding again, two of the strands in your braid will have two pieces of rope in them, and one will have one piece.

Braid for another foot, and add in the five-foot piece in the same way. You'll now have one three-piece strand and two two-piece strands.

Braid for another foot, and add in the three-foot piece in the same way. You'll now have three three-piece strands. Braid until you run out of rope.

Bind the end of the rope with several turns of electrical tape, and trim away the ragged ends with a sharp knife.

If desired, add a cracker (see p. 24 for directions about how to make a cracker). To prepare the end of the rope to receive a cracker, find the core of the rope. Most braided nylon rope consists of a core with fine strands woven around it. To find the core, let the ends unravel slightly if they haven't already. Hold the core in one hand and push the strands backwards about 9", or half the length of the end of the rope. Cut the core and pull the strands back into position. Cut off the end nice and evenly, and finish it by holding it near (not in) the flame of a lighter until it melts. If the melt looks blobby, you can refine it by rolling it between two hard surfaces while it's still soft, but don't touch it – it's hot enough to burn your fingers badly. Add your cracker and get cracking!

.....  
Need contributor credit of up to 50 words here  
.....