



# Tekhelet Tying Detailed Instruction:

Rambam

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The following pages describe, in detail, the necessary steps to tie tzitzit according to the Rambam (as per the tradition maintained by the Teimani community). The diagrams are broken up into three sections: (1) First Chulya; (2) All Blue Chulya – which is to be repeated between 5 to 11 times; (3) Last Chulya. The First Chulya description begins assuming that the tier has placed the four strings into the corner hole, folded them over evenly, and tied them with a double knot. (The double knot is not necessary according to the Rambam, but is done by many to insure that the biblical requirement for a “keshet elyon” is fulfilled according to all opinions).

## General Glossary




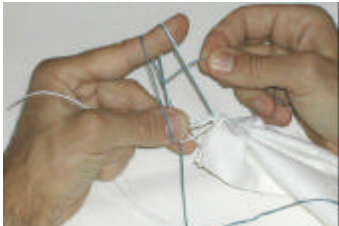


Finger names: thumb, index, middle, ring, little.

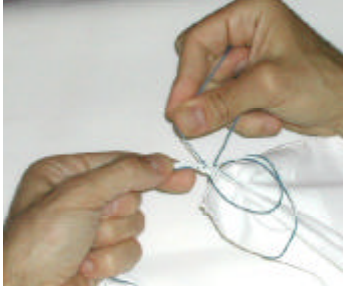




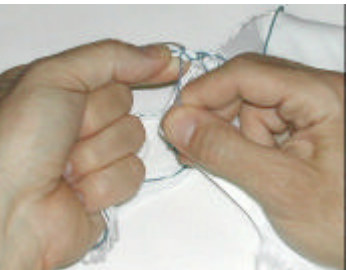
Shamash: primary winding strand

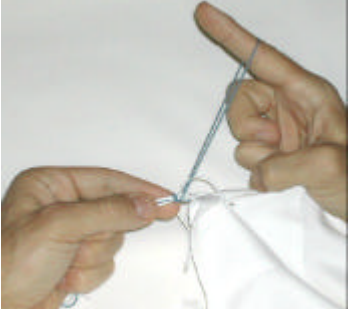






Chulya: triplet winding



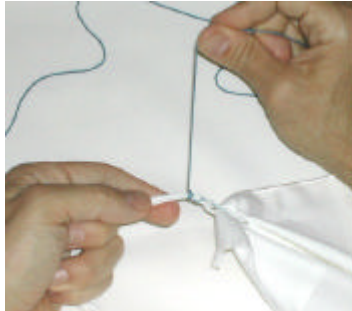
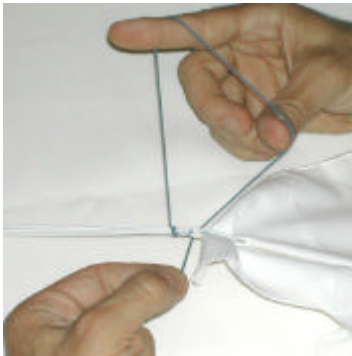

Special thanks to Noam Kaplan for his instruction


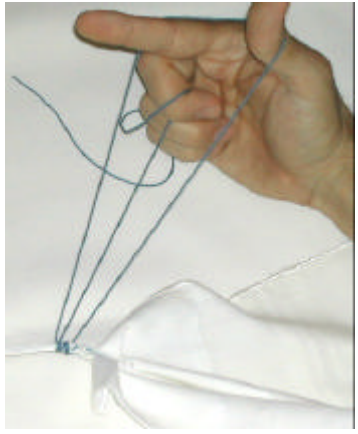
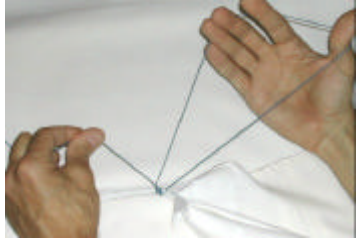


THE FIRST CHULYA		
1		<p>Hold six white strings (“core”) in the left hand and take the two shamashim (one white and one blue) in the right hand - keeping the white shamash to the right of the blue shamash.</p>
2		<p>Wrap the shamashim over the left index finger, bringing them down below the white “core” strings; holding them between the left middle finger and the “core” – thus creating a “triangle”.</p>

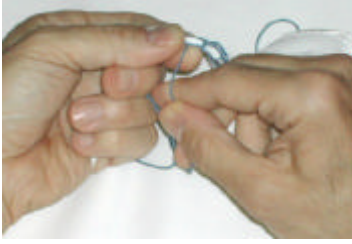




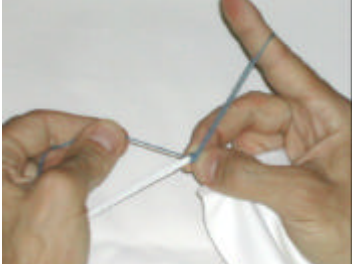
3		<p>With the right hand, take the white shamash and place it through the "triangle". The end of this white shamash is now placed along with the other six white strings of the "core"; leaving a bit of the white loop lying loose on the edge of the garment.</p>
4		<p>With the right hand, take the blue shamash and wrap it up around the left thumb and over the left index finger.</p>
5		<p>Continue to wrap the blue shamash over the left index finger, bringing it down below white "core" strings; holding it between the left middle finger and the "core" – shown here under the left thumb. This now adds another "triangle" to the original blue and white "triangle".</p>
6		<p>With the right hand, take the blue shamash and place it through the two triangles. The end of the blue shamash is now placed along with the seven white strings; leaving a bit of the blue loop lying loose on the edge of the garment – holding all eight strings between the thumb and middle finger of the left hand.</p>
7		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, grasp the tops of the triangles (two blue and one white strings).</p>
8		<p>Pull the three triangle tops back toward the garment corner, and lie them on the garment.</p>

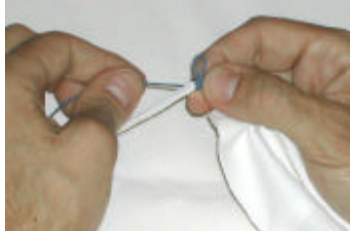



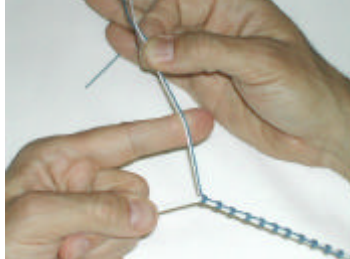
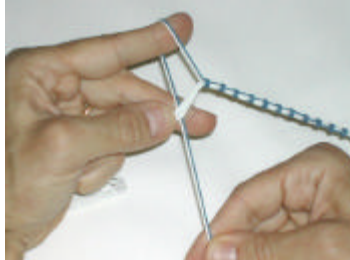
9		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, grasp the middle of the blue shamash where it exits the initial double knot.</p>
10		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, guide the blue shamash to lay on the core, and grasp it with the left thumb in the approximate place where the chulya is to be made (yet still holding it with the right thumb and index finger).</p>
11		<p>Wrap the blue shamash around the core. This is done by taking the blue shamash (held with the right thumb and index finger) and pulling away and down, tucking it under the left index finger as you wrap.</p>
12		<p>Release the blue shamash and let it drop down, then grab it again with the right thumb and index finger from below the core.</p>
13		<p>The wrap is completed by bringing the blue shamash up and placing it next to the start of the wind on the side closest to the garment corner and held under the left thumb and index finger. (In the picture, the left thumb is pulled away to show the wrap).</p>
14		<p>The blue shamash is then wrapped around the core one more time – as in steps 11,12,13.</p>

15		<p>Holding the two blue winds tightly under the left thumb and index finger, unravel the excess loop wrapped around the upper part of the strings by the garment corner till you have a clean loop (as shown). (The left thumb is here pulled back to show the two full winds of blue).</p>
16		<p>Hold the two blue winds tightly under the right thumb and middle finger with the excess shamash wrapped around the right index finger. With the left thumb and index finger, take the end of the blue shamash (currently lying with the core strings) and pull it slowly till the excess loop is gone – thus making a two-wind-knot.</p>
17		<p>The two-wind-knot will have the white shamash intertwined within it.</p>
18		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, take hold of the middle of the white shamash which is intertwined within the blue knot – make sure that when you pull up on it, it is directly exiting the initial double knot.</p>
19		<p>Wrap the white shamash around the core once. (Similar to steps 11,12,13).</p>
20		<p>Unravel any excess white loop wrapped around the upper part of the strings by the garment corner till you have a clean loop (as shown). (The left thumb is here pulled back to show all the winds).</p>
21		<p>Hold the two blue winds and the single white wind tightly under the right thumb and middle finger. With the left thumb and index finger, take the end of the white shamash (currently lying with the core strings) and pull it slowly till the excess loop is gone – thus making a white single-wind-knot within the blue two-wind-knot.</p>

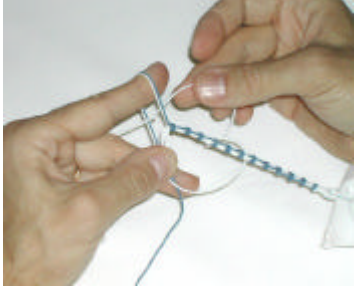



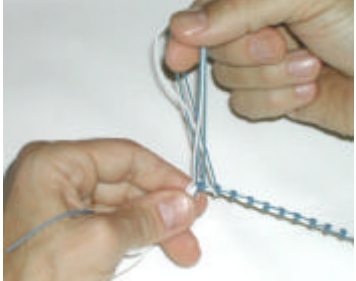

22		<p>The completed chulya consists of a two-wind-knot of blue intertwined with a single-wind-knot of white.</p>
23		<p>On the opposite side of the knotting, one sees two winds of blue and one wind of white.</p>
THE ALL BLUE CHULYA		
24		<p>The seven core strings are pulled taut to the left (perhaps held in place under the thigh). The right thumb and index finger take hold of the blue shamash.</p>
25		<p>Held by the left hand, the blue shamash is wrapped around the right index finger and thumb and then down under the core back toward the corner of the garment.</p>
26		<p>The shamash is brought upward, and tucked into the large loop.</p>




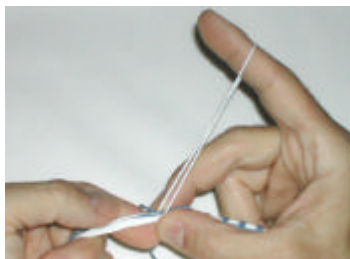
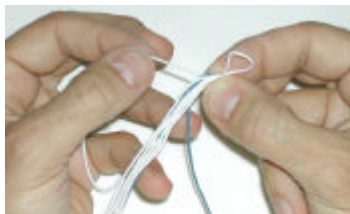
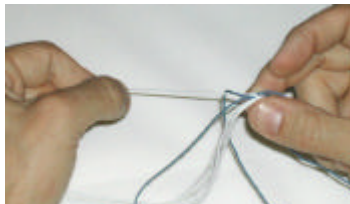
27		<p>The shamash is then wrapped loosely around the core – thus making one “preparatory” wind.</p>
28		<p>Two more “preparatory” winds are made by performing steps 26, 27 two more times. Thus, three preparatory winds are made in total.</p>
29		<p>The shamash end (which is now inside the large loop) is pulled behind left hand side of the loop, and laid down along with the rest of core – and held there using the left thumb and index finger.</p>
30		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, grasp the middle of the blue shamash where it exits the previous chulya.</p>
31		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, guide the blue shamash to lay on the core, and grasp it with the left thumb in the approximate place where the chulya is to be made (yet still holding it with the right thumb and index finger).</p>

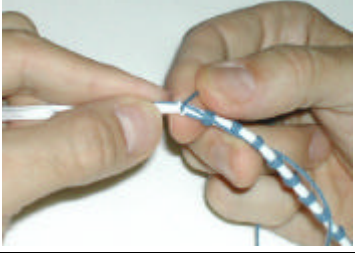
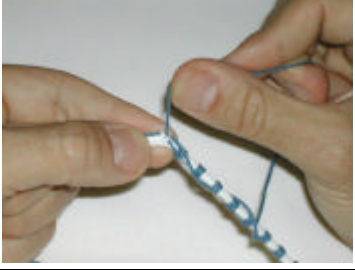

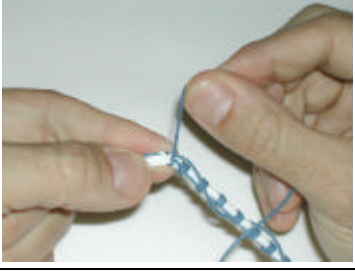
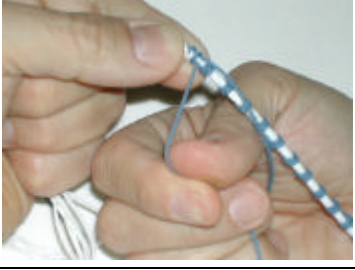
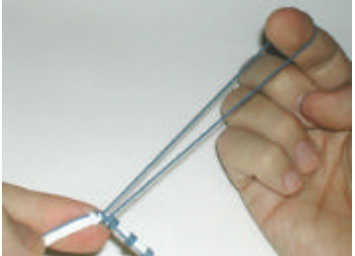
32		<p>Wrap the blue shamash around the core. This is done by taking the blue shamash (held with the right thumb and index finger) and pulling away and down, tucking it under the left index finger as you wrap. Release the blue shamash and let it drop down, then grab it again with the right thumb and index finger from below the core. (Similar to steps 11,12).</p>
33		<p>The wrap is completed by bringing the blue shamash up and placing it next to the start of the wind on the side closest to the garment corner and held under the left thumb and index finger. (Similar to step 13).</p>
34		<p>Wrap the shamash around the core a second time (as in step 32).</p>
35		<p>Complete the second wrap (as in step 33).</p>
36		<p>Wrap the shamash around the core a third time (as in step 32).</p>
37		<p>Holding the two blue winds tightly under the left thumb and index finger, unravel the excess loop wrapped around the upper part of the strings by the garment corner till you have a clean loop (as shown) – use the right thumb and middle finger to hold the chulya in place. (Similar to step 15).</p>

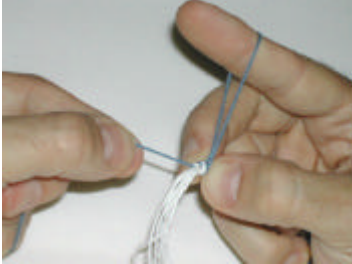


38		<p>With the left thumb and index finger, take the end of the blue shamash (currently lying with the core strings) and pull it slowly till the excess loop is gone – thus making a three-wind-knot - i.e., a chulya. (Similar to step 16).</p>
39		<p>Position the chulya in the precisely desired position and then pull the knot tight.</p>
40		<p>The completed chulya - a three-wind-knot of blue.</p>
41		<p>On the opposite side of the knotting, one sees three winds of blue.</p>
<b>THE LAST CHULYA</b>		
42		<p>Hold six white strings ("core") in the left hand and take the two shamashim (one white and one blue) in the right hand (keeping the blue shamash to the right of the white shamash).</p>
43		<p>Wrap the shamashim over the left index finger, bringing them down below white "core" strings; holding them between the left middle finger and the "core" – thus creating a "triangle".</p>



44		<p>With the right hand, take the white shamash and place it through the "triangle". The end of this white shamash is now placed along with the other six white strings of the "core"; leaving a bit of the white loop lying loose on the knotted area of the tzitzit.</p>
45		<p>With the right hand, take the blue shamash and wrap it up around the left thumb and over the left index finger.</p>
46		<p>Continue to wrap the blue shamash over the left index finger, bringing it down below white "core" strings; holding it between the left middle finger and the "core" – shown here under the left thumb. This now adds another "triangle" to the original blue and white "triangle".</p>
47		<p>With the right hand, take the blue shamash and place it through the two triangles. The end of the blue shamash is now placed along with the seven white strings; leaving a bit of the blue loop lying loose on the knotted area of the tzitzit – holding all eight strings between the thumb and middle finger of the left hand.</p>
48		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, grasp the tops of the triangles (two blue and one white strings).</p>
49		<p>Pull the three triangle tops back toward the garment corner, and lie them on the knotted area of the tzitzit.</p>

50		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, grasp the middle of the white shamash where it exits the previous chulya.</p>
51		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, guide the white shamash to lay on the core, and grasp it with the left thumb in the approximate place where the chulya is to be made (yet still holding it with the right thumb and index finger).</p>
52		<p>Wrap the white shamash around the core once. This is done by taking the white shamash (held with the right thumb and index finger) and pulling away and down, tucking it under the left index finger as you wrap.</p>
53		<p>Once the white shamash is wrapped around the core once, hold the wind between the right thumb and middle finger, with the excess loop around the right index finger.</p>
54		<p>Hold the single white wind under the right thumb and index finger. With the left thumb and index finger, take the end of the white shamash (currently lying with the core strings) and pull it slowly till the excess loop is gone – thus making a white single-wind-knot.</p>
55		<p>Pull down tightly, though the knot will be slightly unstable because it is intertwined with the blue shamash.</p>

56		<p>The single-wind-knot will have the blue shamash intertwined within it.</p>
57		<p>With the right thumb and index finger, take hold of the middle of the blue shamash which is intertwined within the white knot – make sure that when you pull up on it, it is directly exiting the initial double knot.</p>
58		<p>Wrap the blue shamash around the core. This is done by taking the blue shamash (held with the right thumb and index finger) and pulling away and down, tucking it under the left index finger as you wrap.</p>
59		<p>The wrap is completed by bringing the blue shamash up and placing it next to the start of the wind on the side closest to the garment corner and held under the left thumb and index finger. (In the picture, the left thumb is pulled away to show the wrap).</p>
60		<p>The blue shamash is then wrapped around the core one more time – as in steps 58,59.</p>
61		<p>Holding the single white wind and the two blue winds tightly under the left thumb and index finger, unravel the excess loop wrapped around the upper part of the strings till you have a clean loop (as shown). (The left thumb is here pulled back to show the winds).</p>

62		<p>Hold the winds tightly under the right thumb and middle finger. With the left thumb and index finger, take the end of the blue shamash (currently lying with the core strings) and pull it slowly till the excess loop is gone – thus making a blue two-wind-knot within the white single-wind-knot.</p>
63		<p>The completed chulya consists of a two-wind-knot of blue intertwined with a single-wind-knot of white.</p>
64		<p>On the opposite side of the knotting, one sees two winds of blue and one wind of white.</p>
<b>THE COMPLETE TIE</b>		
