



Tekhelet Tying Detailed Instruction:

Ba'alei Tosafot

by Mois Navon
Ptil Tekhelet Organization

The following pages describe, in detail, the necessary steps to tie tzitzit according to the Ba'alei Tosafot. This method consists of making 5 knots, in between which there are four groups of winds. Groups 1, 2, 3 consist of a white chulya (of three winds) and a blue chulya (of three winds). Group 4 consists of a single white chulya.

The photographs below show how to make the chulyot for group 1 – which is to be repeated for groups 2 and 3. Group 4 is also the same without doing the blue chulya.

The 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.

Click on any picture to view it enlarged.

(The enlarged picture will open in a separate window, and all subsequent enlargements will open in this existing window).

General Glossary

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

Shamash: primary winding strand

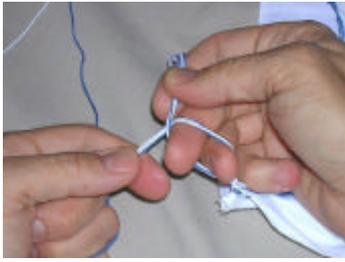
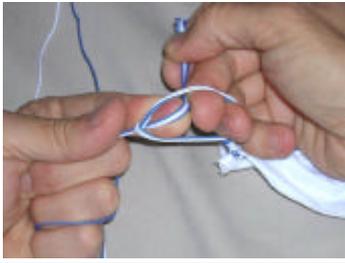
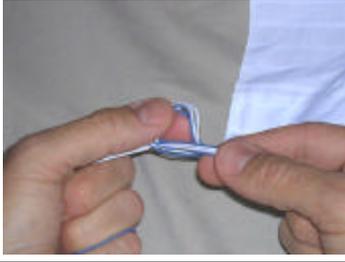
Chulya: triplet winding

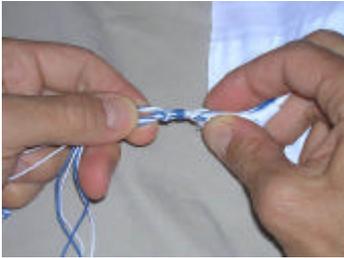
Special thanks to my wife Deena for the photography

THE FIRST GROUP		
1		Take hold of the white shamash with the right thumb and index finger. Hold the remaining seven strings ("core") in the left hand.
2		Wrap the shamash around the core strings – going over the top of the core and away from oneself, then pulling down and under the core towards oneself.

3		<p>Wrap the shamash around the core again – going over the top of the core and away from oneself.</p>
4		<p>Complete the wrap of the shamash around the core strings – pulling down and under the core towards oneself.</p>
5		<p>Repeat step 3.</p>
6		<p>Repeat step 4.</p>
7		<p>Complete the third wind of the white shamash, wrapping it up and over the core and then hanging it down behind the core. Use the left index finger to keep the wrappings in place.</p>
8		<p>Take hold of the blue shamash with the right thumb and index finger. Hold the remaining seven (“core”) strings – including the white shamash – in the left hand.</p>

9		<p>Wrap the shamash around the core strings – going over the top of the core and away from oneself, then pulling down and under the core towards oneself.</p>
10		<p>Wrap the shamash around the core again – going over the top of the core and away from oneself.</p>
11		<p>Complete the wrap of the shamash around the core strings – pulling down and under the core towards oneself.</p>
12		<p>Repeat step 10.</p>
13		<p>Repeat step 11.</p>
14		<p>Complete the third wind of the blue shamash, wrapping it up and over the core.</p>

15		<p>While never letting go of the blue shamash, gather the remaining 3 strings of the shamash's group of 4 strings (recall that when the 4 strings were folded through the garment hole – two groups of 4 strings are made).</p>
16		<p>Prepare to make the first knot of the double knot using the two groups of 4 strings. Holding the shamash's 4 string group between the right thumb and index fingers, place the right middle and ring fingers between the 2 string groups. Take the 4 strings in the left hand and place them on top of the other 4 strings, taking hold of them with the right thumb and index fingers.</p>
17		<p>Now, insert the left thumb between the right middle and ring fingers and strings going over them in order to open the "hole" (not shown). Using the left index finger, push the strings being held by the right thumb and index finger through the hole.</p>
18		<p>Use the right thumb and index finger to take hold of the strings being pushed through by the left index finger.</p>
19		<p>Use the left hand to pull the left string group to the left and the right hand to pull the right string group to the right.</p>
20		<p>Pull the two string groups tight – thus creating the first single knot of the desired double knot.</p>

21		<p>Prepare to make the second knot of the double knot. Holding the one group of 4 strings between the right thumb and index fingers, place the right middle and ring fingers between the 2 string groups. Take the other 4 strings in the left hand and place them on top of the right-hand 4 strings, taking hold of them with the right thumb and index fingers. Take hold of the right-hand group with the left thumb and index finger, and widen the space between the two groupings using the left index finger.</p>
22		<p>Now, use the left thumb in order to hold open the "hole" (not shown). Using the left index finger, push the strings being held by the right thumb and index finger through the hole (as in step 17). Use the right thumb and index finger to take hold of the strings being pushed through by the left index finger, and pull them through the hole.</p>
23		<p>Pull the two string groups tight – thus creating the second single knot of the desired double knot.</p>
24		<p>The completed chulya should appear as shown.</p>

THE COMPLETE TIE

