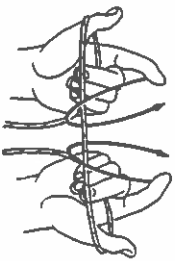


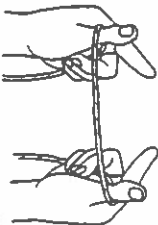
The Little Dog With Big Ears

My favourite string figure was created by an unknown Inuit string artist and collected by Diamond Jenness. The Dog is a delight to make and is guaranteed to impress your friends.

1. Hang the string loop over the backs of your thumbs. Your thumbs are about 10 cm (four inches) apart. Your index fingers are pointing away from you and your middle, ring, and little fingers are holding the strings which cross your palms.



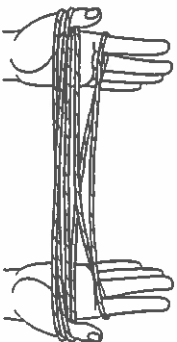
2. Turn your hands until the palms are facing up. Your index fingers hook towards you down over the near thumb string. Now turn your hands away from you until the palms are facing out and straighten up your index fingers. The near thumb string now curves around your index fingers.



3. Your hands are still facing each other about 10 cm (four inches) apart. Your thumbs are pointing up, your index fingers are pointing away from you. Your other fingers continue to hold the hanging strings. Your left thumb goes, from below, up into the right thumb loop. It returns to its position carrying the straight string which runs between the right index finger and thumb.



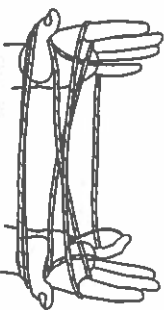
4. Your right thumb goes, from below, up into the left thumb loop. It returns to its position carrying the string which runs between the left index finger and thumb.



5. Your middle, ring, and little fingers let go of the strings they are holding and straighten up. Tighten the strings of the figure by pulling your hands apart as far as they will go.

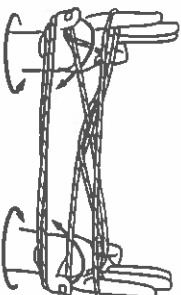
On your hands there are the following strings:
A near index string which runs from index finger to index finger, far index strings which cross and then run down to the thumbs to become far thumb strings. (NB. The far right index string must cross over the top of the far left index string.) In addition to the far index/far thumb strings which form the cross, each thumb has a straight far thumb string which runs from thumb to thumb, and two straight near thumb strings.

6. Turn your hands so that the palms are facing you. Your little fingers come towards you under all the strings. They get the far straight thumb string and carry it, on their backs, out under all the strings.

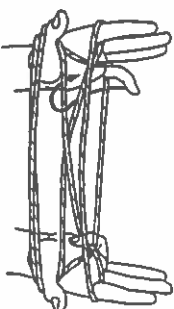
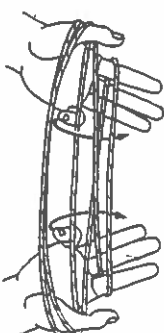


8. Your left little finger travels under the strings of the left index loop and hooks down over the left far thumb string. Don't worry about the string around your left little finger. Your little fingers are hooked down over the same straight string. Return your hands to the basic position.

Return your hands to the basic position.

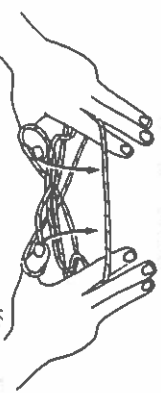


7. Now your right little finger hooks down over the right far index string (the top string of the cross). Don't worry about the string around your right little finger; it will look after itself.



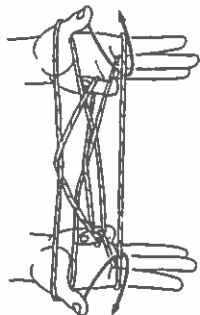
9. Each thumb has a true thumb loop with a near and a far string, and also a loop with a near straight string, and a far string that goes across your palms. The figure is not symmetrical.

To keep the true thumb loops but to get rid of the other thumb loops, hook your thumbs down over the far thumb strings and turn your hands so that the palms are facing out. Your thumbs will keep their true loops, but the other thumb strings will slip off.

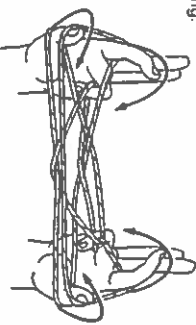


Keep going.

10. You now have thumb loops, index loops, and loops held in the hooks of your little fingers. There is an elaborate criss-cross arrangement in the middle of the figure. Your thumbs go up into the index loops and return to their position carrying the near index string.

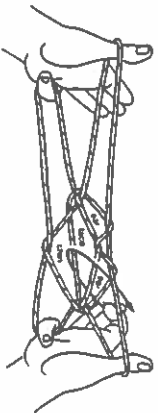


11. Navaho the thumb loops. Your index fingers release their loops.

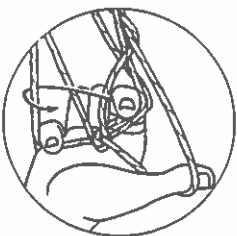


12. Hold your hands with the fingers pointing away from you. You have actually made the head of the dog! Two large ear triangles which are hooked over the near thumb string at the top of the figure; a chin triangle which runs under the straight little finger string at the bottom of the figure; and a flat string triangle which runs across the face just below the ear triangles.

13. Your right index finger comes from behind into the chin triangle. It catches like a hook the two strings of the flat face string triangle. (These strings do not hook over either of the straight framing strings of the figure.) Pull these strings back, up, and then stuff them towards you through the right thumb loop. Your right index finger has two strings on one side and one on the other. These strings will make a space in the next step. Your right index finger is not actually holding any strings.

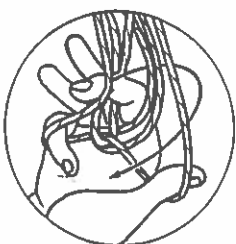


14. Your right index finger goes down in front of the other strings, then behind the straight bottom string of the figure. This string runs from little finger to little finger. Your right index finger catches this straight string in its hook, then carries it back out through the space made by the strings which were originally on each side of the index finger.



15. Your right index finger is now holding a loop.

Stuff your right index finger with its loop down through the right thumb loop. Your index finger is now at the front of the figure.



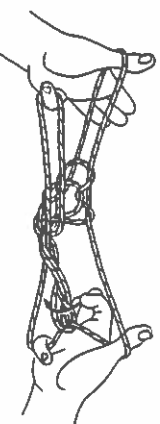
16. Your left little finger drops its loop. Your left thumb, with its loop, points up; your left fingers point to the right; you can see your left palm.

17. Your left hand travels in this position across the front of the figure. Your left little finger takes the loop from your right index finger and returns to its position. Your hands are pointing away from you. Your middle, ring, and little fingers are curled. Your thumbs, with their loops, are pointing up, and there are loops held in the hooks of your little fingers.

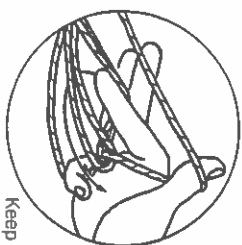


18. Now you must separate the dog's tail and back leg.

Your right index finger comes towards you through the big right thumb loop. Your right index finger starts to push back into the right little finger loop. The strings which make up the dog's tail and leg are being pushed away from you a little on the back of your index finger.

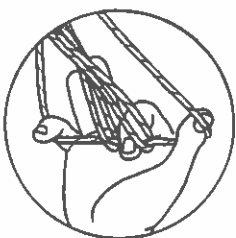


19. Your index finger can now go from behind, up into the body of the dog and slide over the top of the double straight strings which make its back.



Keep going...

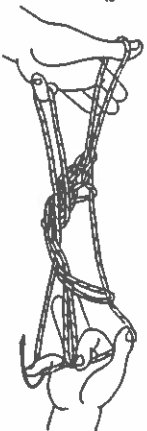
20 Your index finger then pulls back like a trigger, right back to the straight framing string which runs between your right thumb and little finger. You've split the loops which will make the tail and the leg



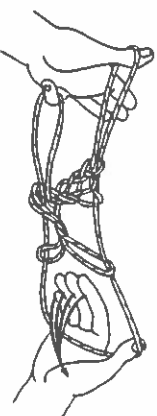
21 To let the tail loop go up, take your right thumb out of its loop. Pull a bit with your right index finger and the tail loop will slide up. Put your right thumb back into its loop.



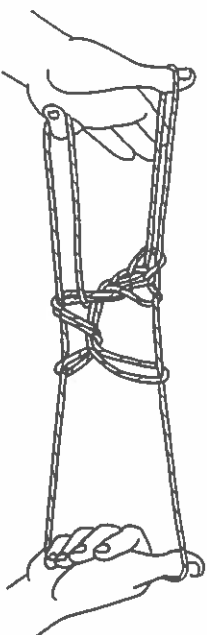
22 To let the leg loop go down, take your right little finger out of its loop. Pull a bit with your right index finger, and the leg loop will slide down.



23 Now put all the fingers of your right hand down into the thumb loop. Your thumb should be pointing up to give the loop extra height.



Now the dog can walk along the string. Just pull gently with your right hand and the dog will travel. You can pull him back and let him walk across the string again.



To take apart the Little Dog With Big Ears, just put your left index finger, from behind, into the dog's right ear loop. Now drop the loops from your left thumb and left little finger and pull out the ear loop as far as it will go.