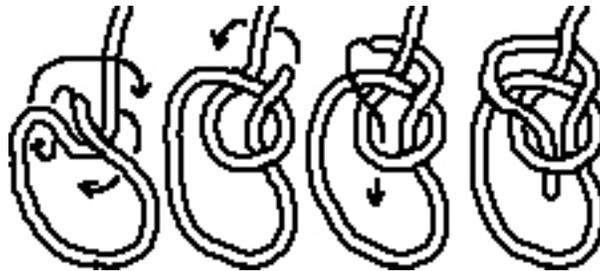


Throw Bags

Thanks for Purchasing your Throw Bag Kit from Hamsource.com. Here are a few steps to get you going.

First start out by attaching the line to the bag. Because the slick line is so slick it's difficult to tie some knots. The bowline is a fine knot to use with slick line. Tie the slick line to the "D" ring using a bowline. You will also want to put an overhand knot approximately 18 inches up from the "D" ring.



Next, you will need some type of container to hold your line. There is a commercial stuff bag that attaches to the tree climber's belt; however, a 3 lb. coffee can will also work. The line is looped into the can.



To deploy the line, hold the line at the over hand knot you made earlier. This is important! That knot assures you hold the line in the same place every time. When you swing the throw bag and line the arc will always be the same giving you some consistency. Stand facing your target, hold the bag in you dominant hand and set you feet with the foot opposite your dominant hand forward. So, if you are right-handed, the left foot will be forward.



Make sure that your line is not fouled on an object. Standing on the line is also counter productive. Please make sure you don't have the line running between your legs. Start to swing the line back and forth. On your forward swing release the line near the end of the swing. The release point will vary

depending on how high an arc you need. This release point is a matter of feel and accuracy comes with practice.

“How far from the tree do I stand?” you may well ask. The higher you want the line to go the further back you will have to stand. Again, judging this distance comes with practice.

After my shift was done I brought my new toy home and started to play. My first throw went wide of my target but the line and weight dropped through the tree easily.

If you miss on the first try you have three choices:

1. pull all 150 feet of the line through the tree and throw again
2. pull the throw bag back up through the tree and back to you
3. live with where the line ended up

I suggest that you pull the line through rather than try to pull the weight back through. When the bag does get stuck and you pull on the line the throw bag will inevitably come shooting back at you.

If you do pull the line through the tree don't be too concerned about stuffing the line back into the can or sack right away unless you are in some rough terrain. If you are standing on grass or other relatively smooth surface you will be able to simply lay the line out on the ground.

With practice you will be able to get line over a 45' tree without little effort. A little more practice and you should be able to hit the branch of your choice.

Now for some words of caution:

1. You are throwing 10 ounces of metal into the air. Make sure you know who and what is down-range. I personally have a cracked windshield to show for my early efforts!
2. Check the area carefully for power lines. You do not want to accidentally pull a branch into a utility line. Though the polypropylene is non-conductive you can pull wires down. If the line gets sufficiently wet it can potentially become a conductor. While the possibility of this happening is low is still something to be considered.
3. Wearing gloves when throwing. Despite its name slick line, especially at the overhand knot can be abrasive to skin. I've gotten blisters while practicing.

The throw bag and line are an easy to carry, versatile means of launching and supporting your antennas. I've used it at Field Day to place antenna support lines over some lamp poles and on a Dxpedition to get the support lines over a tree. Of course I use it most of the time when I operate in the woods I'm sure you will find it a welcome and versatile addition. Have fun!

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