

How to Tie a Hunting Stock

"I see a surprising number of people in the hunting field with improperly tied and pinned stocks," writes Daphne Wood, MFH of the Live Oak Hounds (FL). "Also, I don't think a lot of field members realize that the only appropriate stock tie pin is a plain one, pinned horizontally," she adds. "Don't you think these instructions on how to tie a stock would make a good piece for *Covertside?*" she concludes.

We agree. It's really not that hard to do! I took the following instructions and a stock tie to my mirror to test them out—sort of like testing a recipe before serving the dish to guests. I found it worked perfectly, although I think Steps 4 and 5 are more complicated than they need to be.

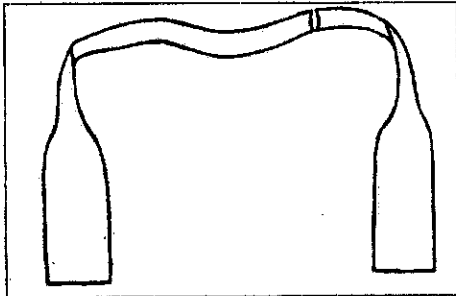
All you need to do at Step 5 is tie a

simple square knot, which most people who tie their own shoelaces can do. (Of course, there are people whose shoelaces are always coming undone; these people invariably are tying granny knots rather than a true square knot.) To tie a square knot, if your first knot is left-over-right, then the second knot must be right-

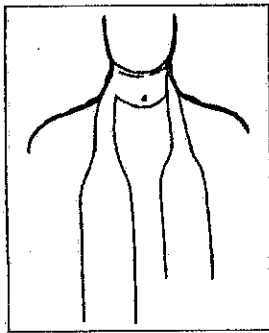
over-left. Or visa versa. Anyhow, give this a try. You've got all summer to practice.

The drawings and much of the instructions are courtesy of Hows Racesafe, manufacturers and wholesalers of equestrian clothing and accessories.

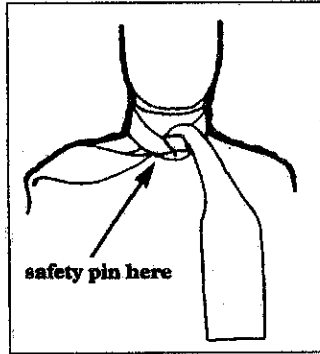
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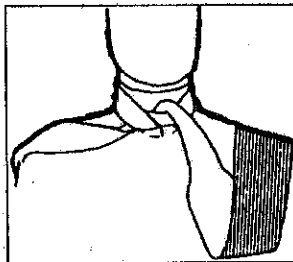
Step 1. The normal stock has a buttonhole in the front with a slot in the band.



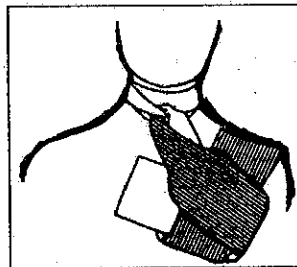
Step 2. Toss one end over each shoulder so the ends hang down the back. Fasten the front buttonhole to the shirt stud or collar button at the front. Push the longest end through the slot in the band behind the neck, from the inside to the outside, and bring both ends onto the chest.



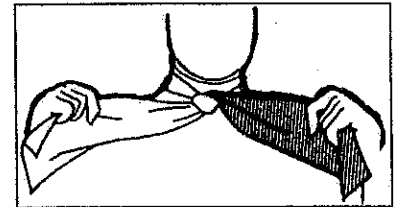
Step 3. Make a single right-over-left knot close into the neck so that one end will be over the right shoulder and the other on the chest. A safety pin may be used to secure the knot to avoid movement.



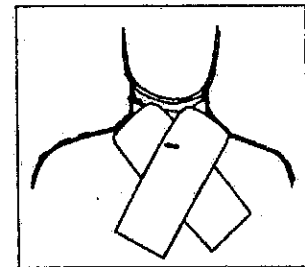
Step 4. Place the end on the chest over the left shoulder, folding it upward and over.



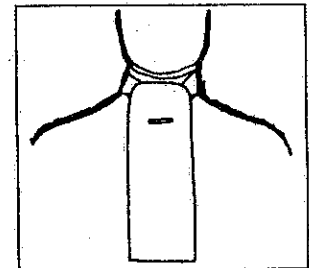
Step 5. Then bring down the other end over and through the fold at the right.



Step 6. Now pull the ends upward.



Step 7. Cross both sides of the stock to hide the knot, and secure in place with a stock pin, horizontally, through both ends of the stock and into the knot (or into the shirt just below the knot). Safety pins may be used to secure the very ends of the stock to the shirt to prevent them from riding up.



Step 8. The tie illustrated here is an alternative. To achieve this effect, pull the ends tighter than indicated in Step 6, then fold down over the knot and smooth the stock out. Again, the stock pin should secure the stock to the knot horizontally.