

## PLY and PASS

Sadly those two elementary concepts, though being **SO DIFFERENT** one from the other, are not yet fully understood by many a knot-tyer if I have to believe my (past and recent) reading of posts on forums.

It could be advantageous for the reader to go to [this page](#) and read the relevant topic(s).

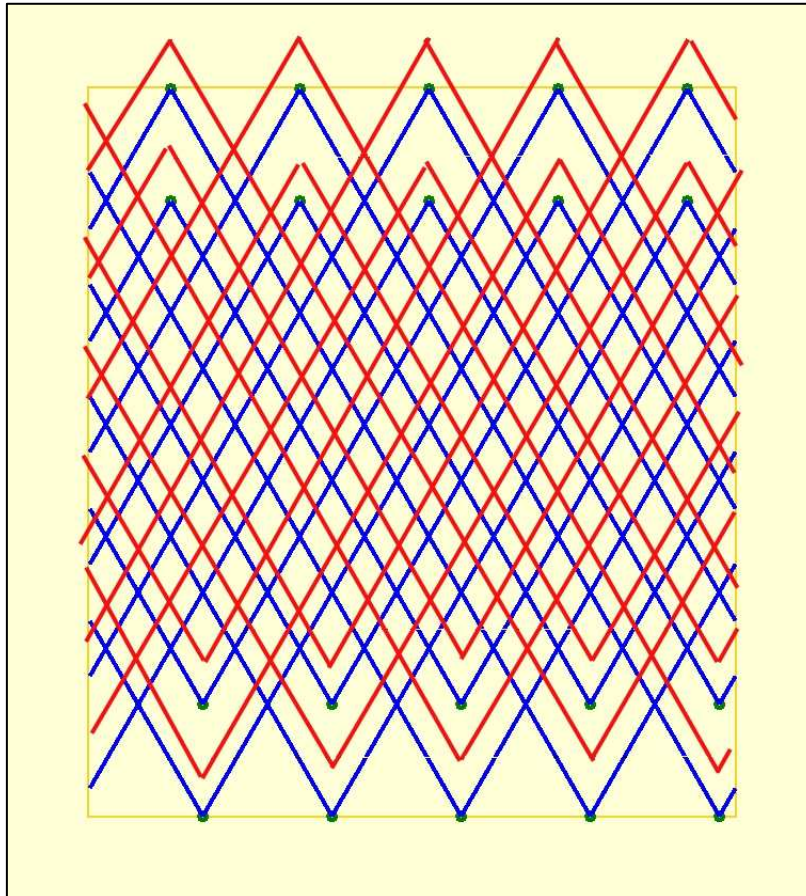
**PLY** pertains to **CORDAGE ROUTE**

**PASS** pertains to **CODING PATTERN**

It is a really egregious mistake to confound those two concepts and doing that confusion is flagging ignorance which is never a good thing to happen to someone.

Let us consider [Fig 1](#)

[Fig 1](#)



Quite obviously, red and blue lines are parallel identical CORDAGE ROUTE.

I have seen such knots qualified by some as being **2-PASS** which is surprising as it is just one cordage route that has been **DOUBLED**, that is **run twice**.

As such is may be considered to have been made with **2 PASSAGES** of cordage but that is **NOT** equivalent to **2-PASS**.

**PASS** is a "reserved" word in **CYLINDRICAL KNOTS NOMENCLATURE**

Having been ignorant enough to say that [Fig 1](#) is **2-PASS** then you have painted yourself in a corner : how then will you label [Fig 2](#) which is indeed a 2-PASS?

**Fig 2**

Will you label **Fig 2** 2-PASS 2-PASS ?

Such a stuttering label would be compounding idiocies !

To avoid being in such a quandary the only way is to **use a PROPER way to express concepts.**

In **Fig 2** a CODING PATTERN was applied on the **twin cordage routes**

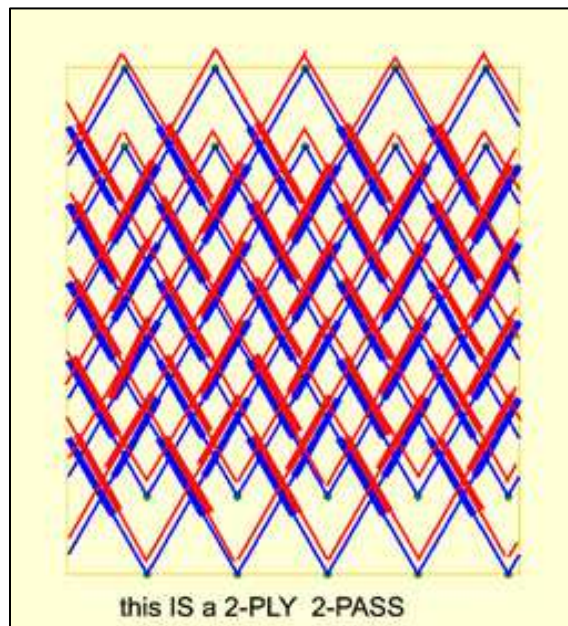
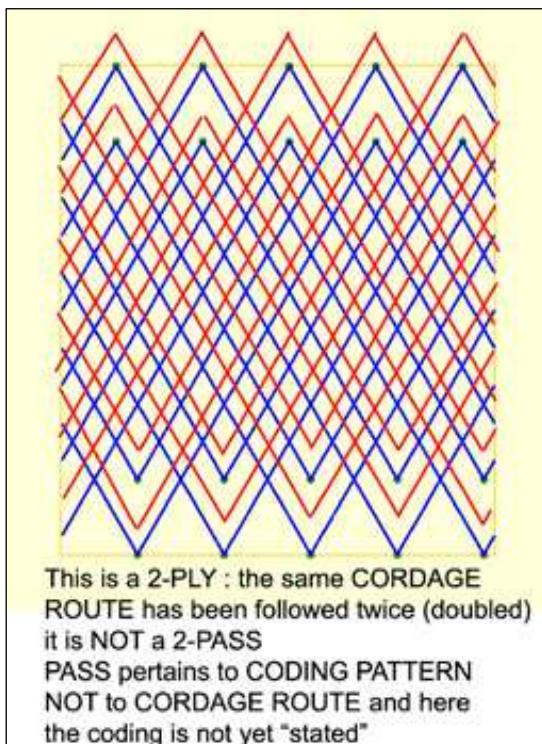
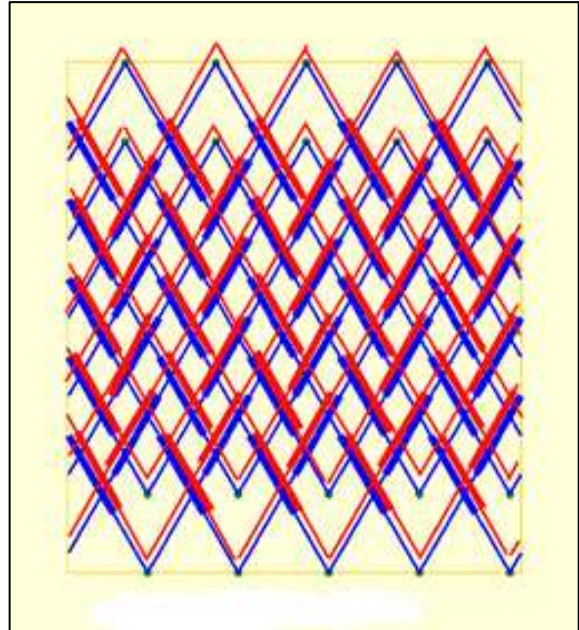
It happens that it is a HERRINGBONE pattern made with successive "units of two bones" alternating **O2** with **U2**.

It is the **2** in **O2** **U2** that is the **PASS** value and this **2** pertains to the **CODING PATTERN NOT TO THE CORDAGE ROUTE**, hence the necessity, to be clear and unambiguous to use "words" that *clearly differentiate CODING and ROUTE*.

So to give **CORDAGE ROUTE SPECIFICATION** and **CODING PATTERN SPECIFICATION** we use **PLY and PASS** to which a numerical index is appended. **2-PLY 5-PASS** or **3-PLY 2-PASS** or **3-PLY 3-PASS**

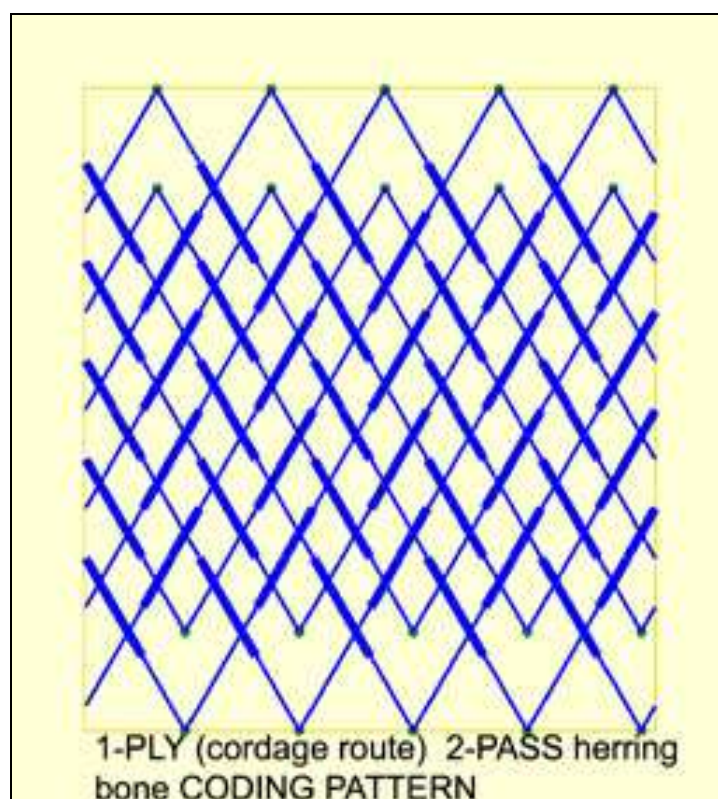
**Fig 1** is **2-PLY**

Once the CODING PATTERN is specified as in **Fig 2** then it is a **2-PLY 2-PASS**



This one is **1-PLY 2-PASS**

**Fig 3**



**BEING IGNORANT IS A ( temporary ) RIGHT BUT MUST NEVER BE A (permanent) STATE**