



Method of Flying Banner Above Canopy

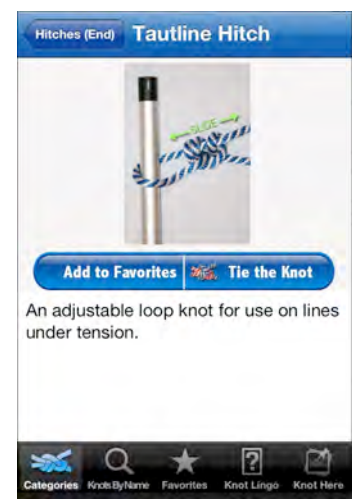
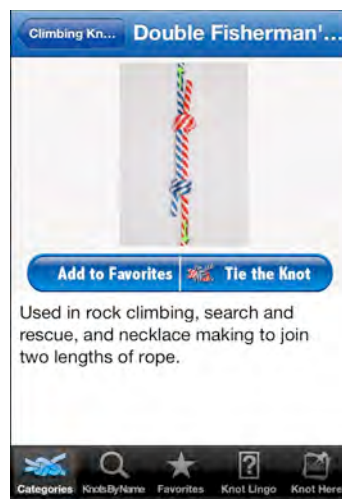
There is a simple, inexpensive (about \$10) way to fly a banner in a prominent position above a pop up canopy, which is often used to house displays at public events. As seen in the above photograph, two poles consisting of 10-foot lengths of 1/2 inch thin-wall conduit are secured to the legs of the canopy with a couple of wraps of duct tape near the bottom and just below the canopy.

The top of each pole holds a small screw eye, which is threaded into an appropriate sized expansion anchor. Expansion anchors are used to mount things to concrete or cement block structures; the two sides of the anchor expand when a lag bolt, or in this case a screw eye, is threaded into it. Select an expansion anchor, which will fit into the end of the 1/2 inch conduit (a turn or two of duct tape can make it fit snugly). Screw eyes with a shaft diameter of about 1/4 inch, length of about 2-3 inches, and an eye diameter of about 1/2 inch, should work well. Make sure that the screw threads fit into the expansion anchor.

The upper ropes from the banner pass through the screw eyes and are led down the pole to a point where they can easily be adjusted and tied off from the ground once the poles are in position.

The ropes from the bottom of the banner pass through prusik loops attached to the conduit poles. Prusik hitches are used in mountain climbing and other things; they allow the loop to be moved along another rope, or in this case the pole, but resist being moved when under load. The ropes from the bottom of the banner are also led down the pole to an appropriate tie off point.

Banner ropes can be tied to the pole using a tautline hitch, which is often used to secure the guy ropes of a tent. In the diagram below, the hitch would be tied around the pole, instead of being tied to the standing part of the line; the left side of the hitch should be toward the top of the pole.



One disadvantage with this method is that the 10 foot long poles may be difficult to transport. Many people have roof racks to carry canoes or kayaks on their small cars. The poles have very little weight and windage, and should be easy to tie onto a roof rack.

Pole Top Details

