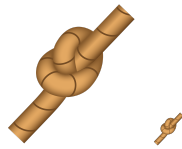# Proposal for Emoji: KNOT

Submitter: Samantha Sunne
Date: March 2019
Emoji Name: KNOT
Sort Order: in the Tool category, after PICK
Reference Emoji: WRENCH
Keywords: TIE | ROPE | LASSO | TWINE | TWIST

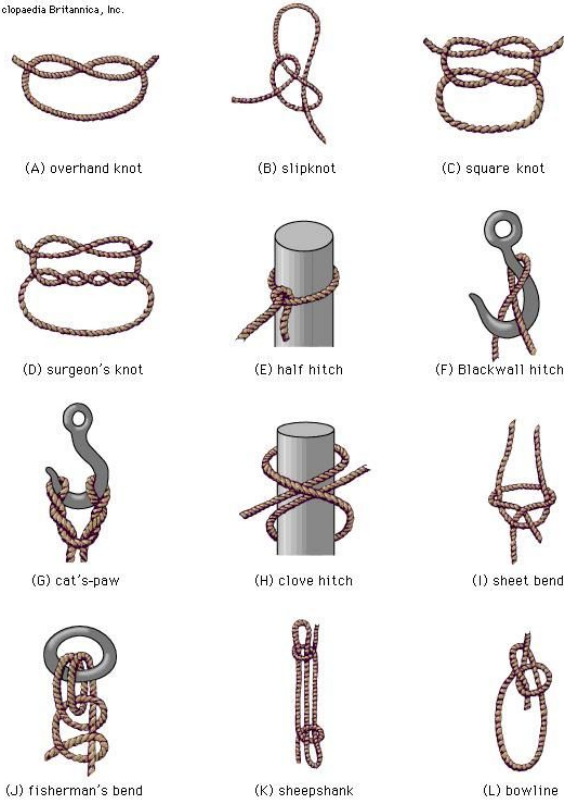*Credit: Aphelandra Messer/Emojination. Free for use in context of this proposal.*

Introduction

Knots tied from rope and other materials are an ancient practice that have been used consistently since prehistoric times. Without knots, countless human innovations would have been impossible, like the building of the pyramids, the Wright brothers' flight and the infamous Rocky training montage.[1] Knots have an extremely versatile set of use cases and visual representations.

---

[1] https://www.ropesdirect.co.uk/blog/a-brief-history-of-rope/

©1994 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

(A) overhand knot (B) slipknot (C) square knot

(D) surgeon's knot (E) half hitch (F) Blackwall hitch

(G) cat's-paw (H) clove hitch (I) sheet bend

(J) fisherman's bend (K) sheepshank (L) bowline

A few kinds of knots. Image from Encyclopedia Britannica.

However, most images on Google Images depict a simple, tightly coiled, light yellow- or brown-colored rope knot similar to the one in our proposal. Rope knots are most often constructed of hemp, cotton, linen, straw and other natural materials.[2] This suggests that this type of rope knot is the most commonly recognized representation of a "knot."

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rope
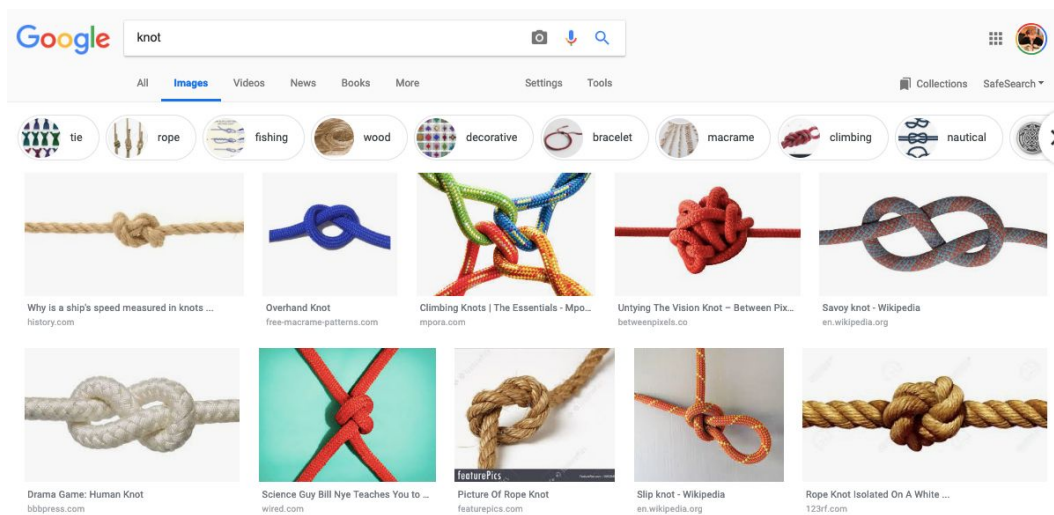
While the current library contains a range of construction-related materials or tools, like "brick" (🧱), "hammer" (🔨), "pick" (⛏️), "hammer and pick" (⚒️), "wrench" (🔧), "hammer and wrench" (🛠️), and several others. Yet there is no KNOT emoji or anything close to it.

Out of all emojis, knots may in fact have the absolute widest range of uses and contexts, as indicated by our research. Posts on social media show there is demand for a knot emoji in reference to food, clothing, weddings, jump rope, costume, crafts, sex, construction, death, tightrope walking, exercise, rock climbing, slacklining, hairstyling, video games, Pokemon and more.


A player executes a series of knots in "Nancy Drew: Sea of Darkness." Knots are a common sight and tool in video games, including Fortnite and Pokemon. Image from Gameboomers.

This emoji can also pull double duty as a stand-in for "lasso", which is used as a selection tool on computers. As Christoph Päper said, "a Lasso is a characteristic tool used by cowboys (and cowgirls) 🤠. Like a Noose, it's actually just a Rope twisted and knotted in a special way. Similar to the Magic Wand, Bucket, Spray Can and Pipette, the Lasso has a canonic metaphorical meaning as an icon in graphic editing software: selecting a group of objects."[3]

---

[3] https://github.com/Crissov/unicode-proposals/issues/273
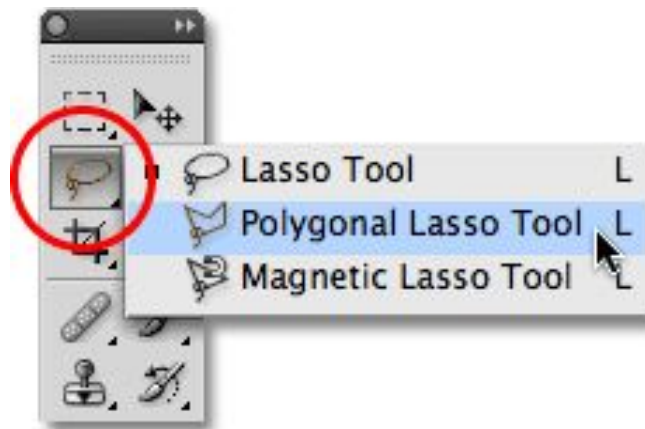
A knotted rope, similar to the one in our proposal, is the glyph that Adobe chose to represent its Lasso Tool, which allows the user to select several objects at once, Image from Photoshop Essentials.

A knot is also a very durable and significant word in that is used to mean commitment and togetherness, as well as entanglement and literal knots themselves, as we will see in the Multiple Uses section of this proposal.

The Knot is an extremely popular website for planning and announcing weddings. While their logo is not a rope or knot, their use of emoji suggests they would be more than happy to put our proposed emoji into circulation. Screenshot from Twitter.

This advertisement from Princess Cruises uses a rope and knot imagery to suggest getting married on a cruise. Image from Princess Cruises.

Selection Factors Inclusion

### A. Compatibility

We are not aware of an existing KNOT emoji or icon.

B. Expected Usage Level

Evidence of Frequency

Here we compare usage of the term "knot" with that of "wrench", an emoji of median usage. We chose "wrench" as the reference emoji because it is also in the "tool" category.

Google Trends Web Search:

Worldwide since 2004, "knot" has consistently been searched on Google more often than "wrench."
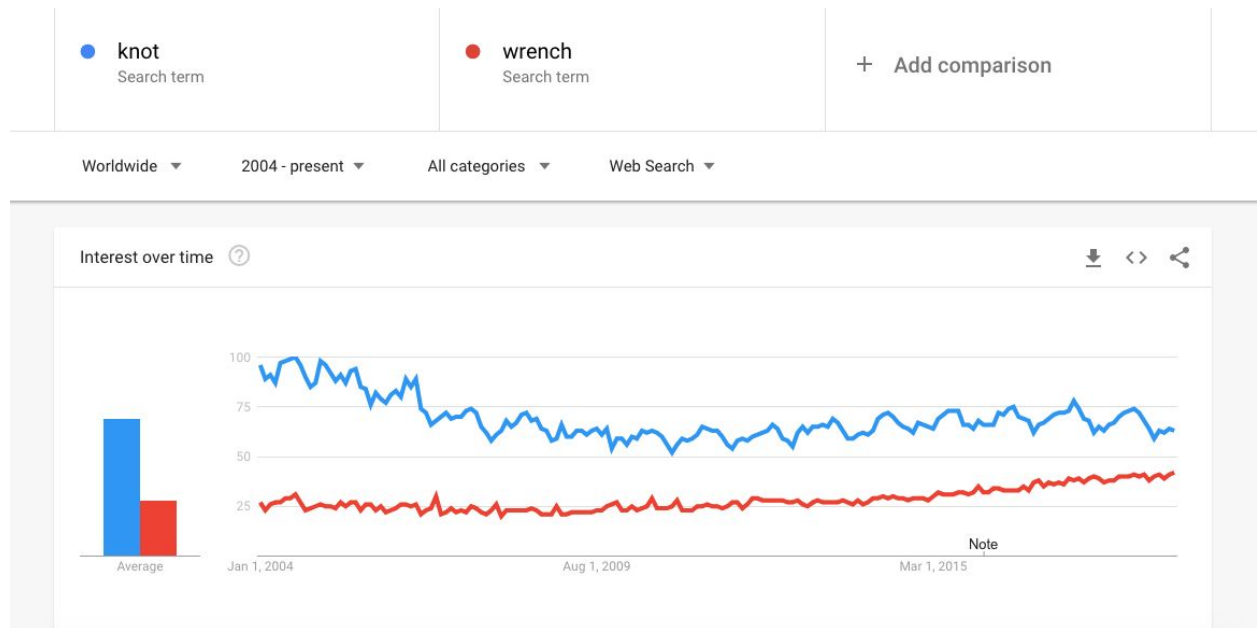
The same is true for the 50 states of the United States, where "knot" out-searched "wrench" in every region. The Related queries on the right also help indicate the wide variety of uses for "knot." The top five shown here pertain to weddings, food, clothing, hair, and Pokemon strategies.
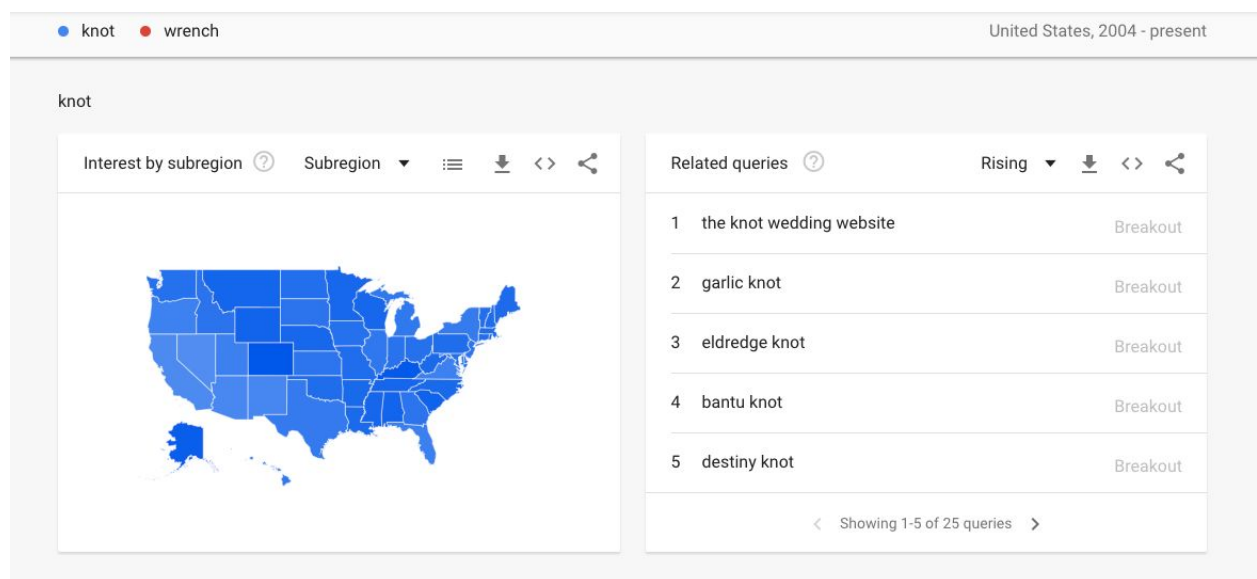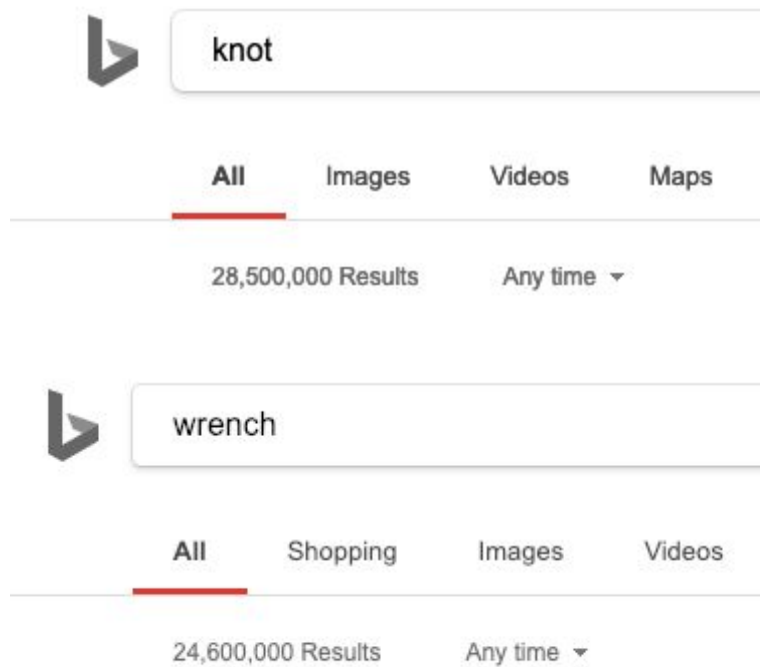

Google Trends Image Search:

The same is true for Google Images searches for "knot" and "wrench" worldwide since 2008.
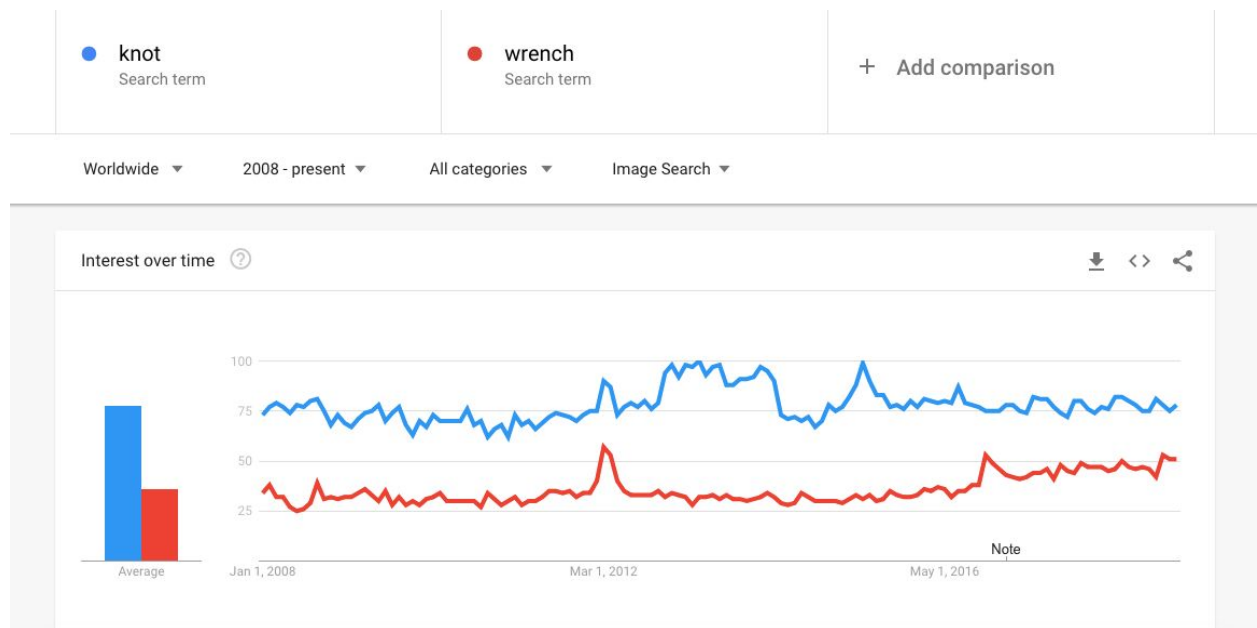
Bing Search:

Bing returns 28 million results for "knot", more than "wrench."

YouTube:

YouTube also contains more videos mentioning "knot" than "wrench."

Google   site:youtube.com knot

All   Images   Videos   News

About 24,800,000 results (0.57 seconds)

Google   site:youtube.com wrench

All   Images   Shopping   News

About 17,000,000 results (0.86 seconds)
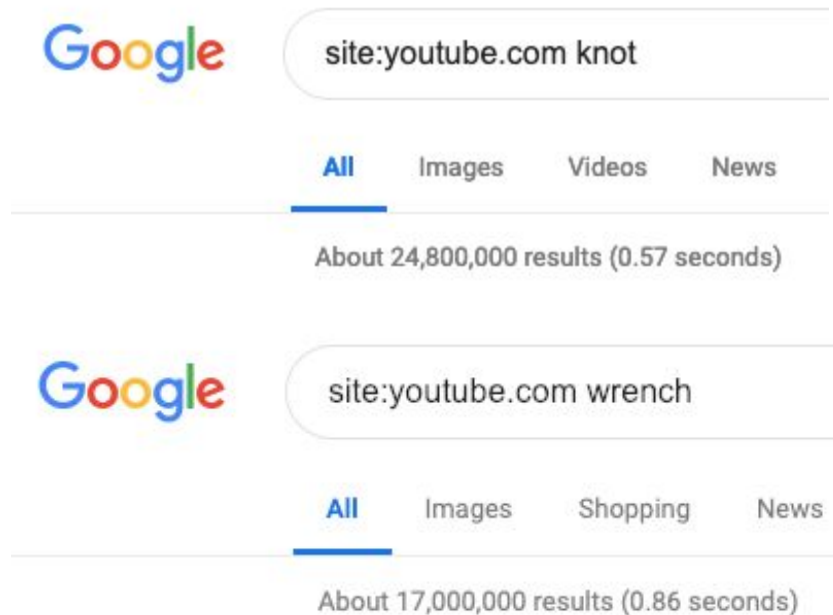
Ngram Viewer:

The Google Ngram Viewer shows that books indexed by Google Books between 2000 and 2008 also used the word "knot" far more often than "wrench." There was also an uptick in mentions of the word "knot" in 2007 onward.

Multiple Usages

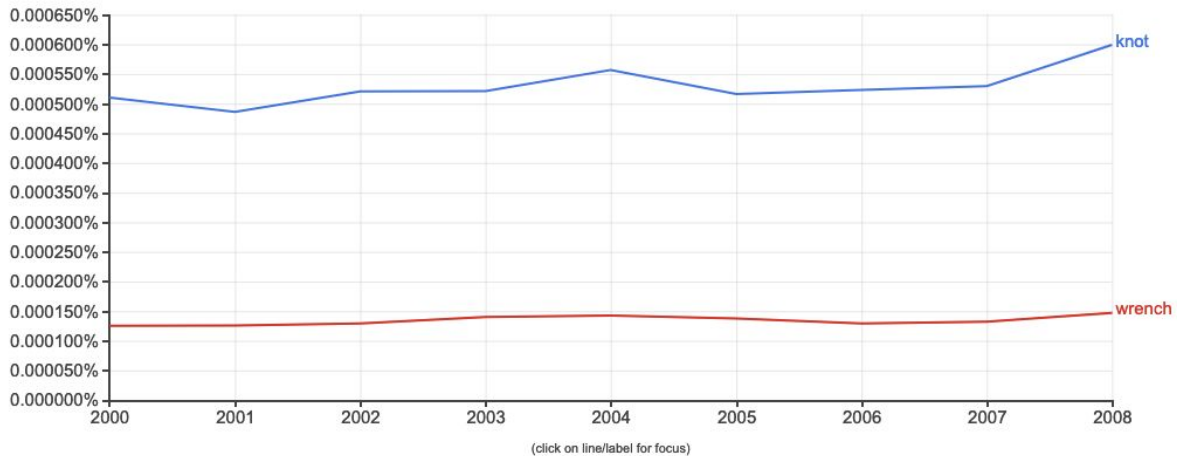There is demand for a knot emoji for several different contexts, including the partial list in the Introduction above. Knots are a common enough feature that they have made their way into several sayings and idioms, including:

- "Tying the knot" means getting married
- "To tie oneself in knots" means to get upset or nervous
- "Cut the Gordian knot" means to solve an extremely difficult problem
- "All tied up in knots" means something is overly tangles or tedious
- "Seek a knot in a bulrush" means to try accomplish an impossible task
- "A knot of anxiety" refers to feeling tense or stressed

In addition, alternative meanings of our emoji, like "rope" and "lasso" have their own sayings:

- "To lasso someone" means to control or convince someone
- "To show them the ropes" means to instruct someone
- "To have one's back on the ropes" means someone is nearing defeat
- "To rope in" means to coax or cajole someone, probably derived from the use of lassos
- "At the end of one's rope" means someone is fed up
- "Piss up a rope" is an insult variably meaning "fuck off" or "get out of here"
- "To put a rope through the eye of a needle" means to try accomplish an impossible task
- "A rope of sand" is a weak connection

- "Money for old rope" means something is an easy way to get money
- "Walking a tightrope" means maintaining a very delicate balance
- "Devil's rope" is wartime slang for barbed wire[4]
- "To put one's head in a noose" means to incriminate oneself
- "Tightening the noose" means preparing someone's downfall
- "Enough rope to hang themselves with" means someone has incriminated themselves

Related search terms on Google Trends shows that people use the word "knot" to refer to an extremely wide range of contexts. These include, but are not limited to:

- Eldredge and Windsor knots, ways to tie a tie
- Garlic knots, a pizza-like type of snack food
- Bantu knots, a hairstyle for textured/African hair
- The destiny knot, a Pokemon breeding strategy
- The Devil's Knot, a popular true crime movie
- A top knot, a type of hair bun
- The lanyard knot, a decorative way to tie a lanyard
- Knots and Crosses is the British term for the game Tic-Tac-Toe

We believe our proposed KNOT emoji will be in many of these different meanings and contexts. To wit:

maya
@maya_kal_

where is the knot of anxiety emoji

9:26 AM - 28 Aug 2018

1 Retweet 6 Likes

SubstanceASMR
@SafetymanDerek

I wanna look into building a basic mannequin torso. I've been using my guitar case but I need something with actual shoulders lol. Also we need a rope emoji!
#NewRiggerproblems

9:58 AM - 6 Nov 2018

Hunter Kree
@KreeJackson

I want a jump rope! *trys to find the emoji for it and of course they would have all these hobbies, but jump roping!

12:15 PM - 2 Jan 2019

---

[4] https://www.bbc.com/news/business-40448594

sarah beaves @beaverstweeter · 19 May 2014
I wish there was a **knot emoji** so I could insert it for the word not

♡ 4

CashingTickets @Thisthingwedo · 19 Apr 2017
I can't find a bed sheet tied in a **knot emoji**

♡ 2

Essence 🤩✨ @EssenceSimmone · 8 May 2017
Can we please get a garlic **knot emoji**?

♡ 3

HEROES Virtual Reality Adventures
@HeroesVR

Follow

🔥 January Titles 🔥
Clash of Chefs 🍔
Sam & Dan: Floaty Flatmates 🛶
Wardust 🔫
Windlands 2 (Rope Swinging Emoji)

8:20 PM - 3 Jan 2019

Use in Sequences

In addition, combining the KNOT emoji with others could help create the following sentiments:

KNOT + "anchor" (⚓) could create the in-demand "rope and anchor" icon of sailing.

KNOT + various construction elements ("hammer" (🔨), "pick" (⛏), "hammer and pick" (⚒), etc.) could indicate "building."

Breaking New Ground

N/A

C. Image Distinctiveness

Our proposed KNOT emoji is distinct from all others in the current library. The "dizzy" emoji (💫) is represented on most platforms as a star with a circular tail.[5] This is visually similar to our KNOT emoji due to its shape and color, but not enough that users would be confused, due to the texture on the knot and the star in the dizzy symbol.

"Prayer beads" (📿) are somewhat similar in shape, but very different in meaning and color. PRAYER BEADS are most likely not an adequate stand-in for KNOT.

D. Completeness

Adding a "knot" to the "tool" category will add an extremely widely used construction and crafts tool that has been missing so far.

E. Frequently Requested

Knots are not on the lists of most requested emojis, but rope is available as a Slackmoji.[6]

Selection Factors Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

A knot is an extremely adaptable and common tool everywhere in the world. We do not believe that this window emoji is overly specific in any way.

G. Open Ended

We do not believe that the addition of this core tool opens up a new category of emoji.

H. Already Representable

The only alternative to a KNOT emoji suggested by Emojipedia is the "curly loop" (➰), which could potentially be used to mean "tie" or "string." However, many platforms display this emoji

---

[5] https://unicode.org/emoji/charts/full-emoji-list.html
[6] https://slackmojis.com/

as a bright blue band or ribbon, which would make it less useful for this particular meaning.[7] Therefore, we believe there is currently no emoji that could be used to mean "knot."
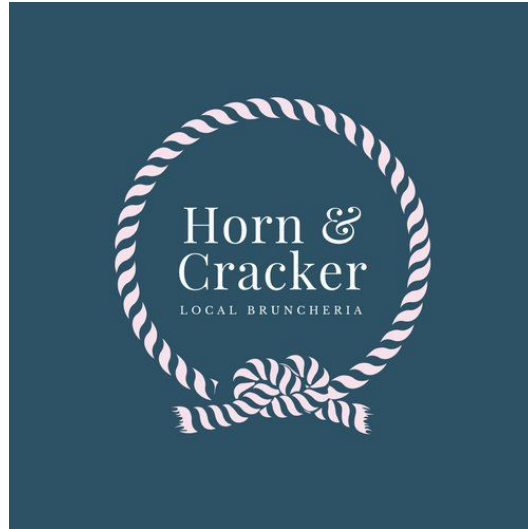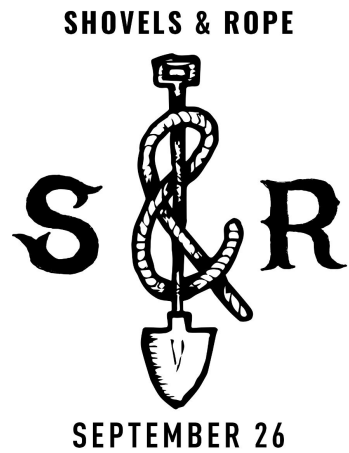
I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Knots can be found in many brands and logos, but it is a very common and old product and as such is not copyrightable. These brands are often using "knots" to represent craft, seafaring, togetherness, or the product itself.

---

[7] https://emojipedia.org/curly-loop/

SHOVELS & ROPE

S&R

SEPTEMBER 26

Horn & Cracker
LOCAL BRUNCHERIA

AWRF
Est. 1976
SERVING THE LIFTING, RIGGING & LOAD SECUREMENT INDUSTRY

BRK
BATTLE ROPE KITCHEN

J. Transient

Knots have been an incredibly useful and variable tool for millennia, and there is no reason to believe the window will decline in popularity.

K. Faulty Comparison

N/A

Other Information

Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.
General Category:
Canonical Combining Class:
Bidirectional Class:
Decomposition Type:
Decomposition Mapping:
Numeric Type:
Numeric Value:
Bidirectional Mirrored:
Name:
ISO Comment:
Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Authors

Samantha Sunne (samantha.sunne@gmail.com) is a freelance journalist and an emoji enthusiast.