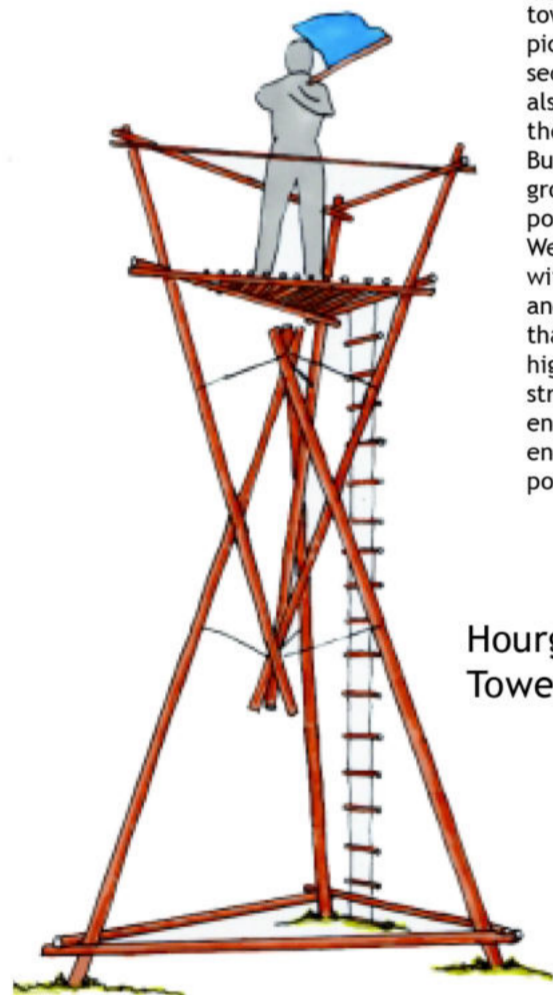


Tripod Tower

The tripod provides the most stable structure for tower building. A figure of eight lashing in the middle joins the three poles together and square lashings are used to fix the rest of the cross bars. All towers need to be secured into the ground either by digging shallow pits to seat the tower in or by driving in pickets beside the legs and securing with a lashing. It may also be necessary to guy down the upper structure. Build the towers on the ground and then lift into position. We should concern ourselves with the activity of building and using the towers rather than trying to build extremely high and dangerous structures. 5 meters is high enough and manageable enough to build and lift into position.

Tripod tower



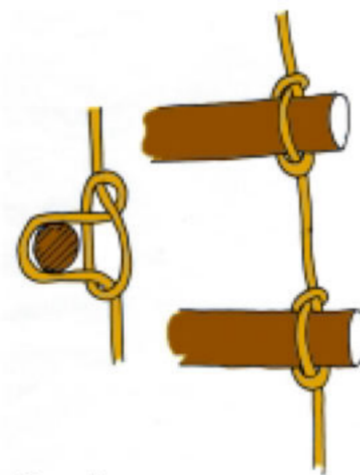
Hourglass Tower

Square Tower



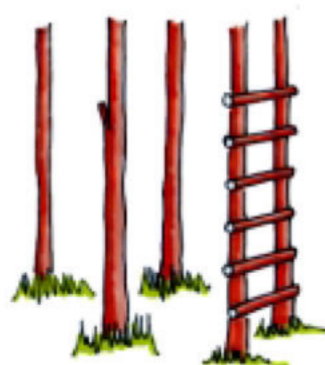
Stilt Tower

The stilt tower is easy to construct but requires a large degree of organisation and experience to erect into position. Try the tripod towers first then move on to the more difficult towers.



Getting up

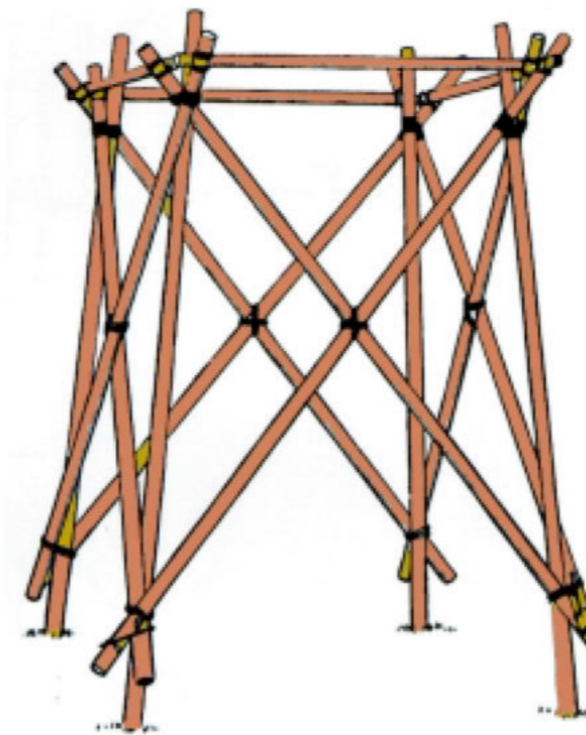
By far the simplest way to climb up your tower is via a rope ladder. The rope ladder can be time consuming to make and if you are pioneering a lot it is best to make a permanent ladder and keep it in your equipment store. Ladders can also be constructed as a separate item or as a fixture to your tower. Don't forget to fix rope ladder before you lift into place.



Tree houses and platforms are great fun to make and sleep in. You can either use a large tree with suitably spaced

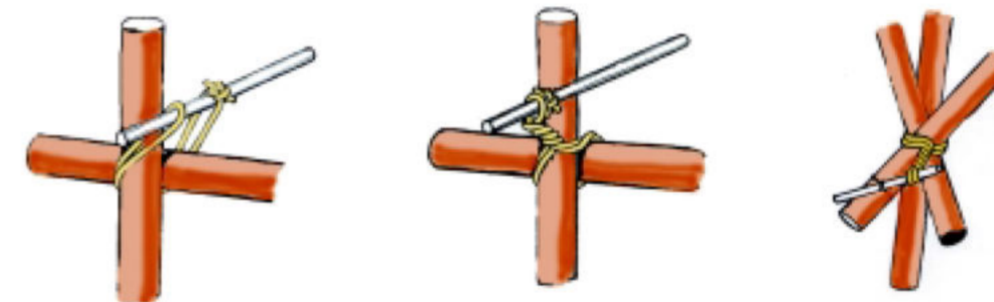
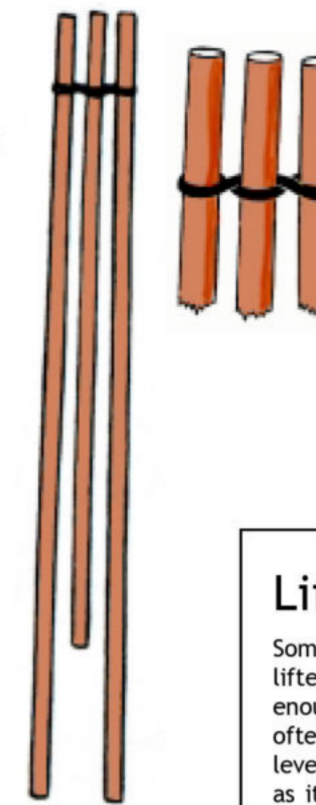


branches or you can opt from a platform build around a selection of closely planted trees as we have illustrated.



Ten Minute Tower

The ten minute tower is constructed using turnique lashings and a well practiced team is said to be able to erect it in ten minutes. 4 sets of three poles as shown are joined together using a figure of eight lashing. The shorter of the poles is the corner spar, the longer being the braces. The turnique lashing (see illustration) is tied using loops of rope or webbing tape. The loop is tightened using a short dowel or stick and this stick is secured in place with a short lashing. The ten minute tower is often used in bridge construction with a series of towers being connected by a platform.



Turnique Lashing

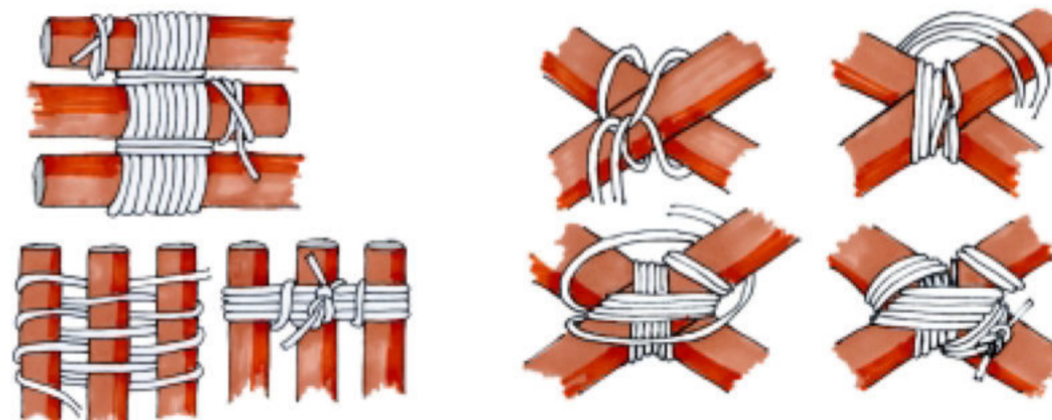
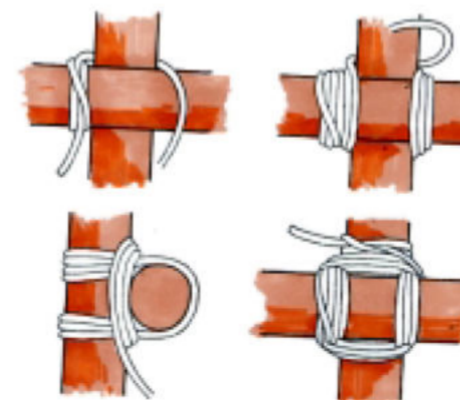
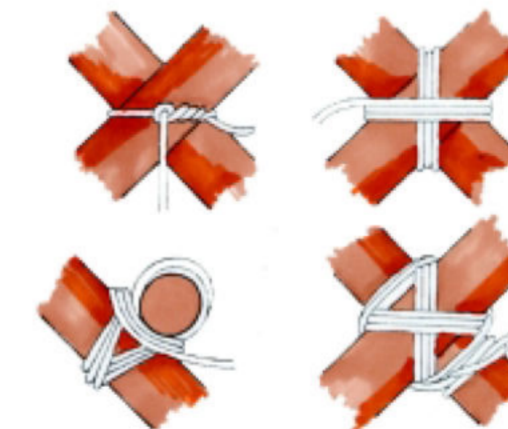


Figure of eight lashing

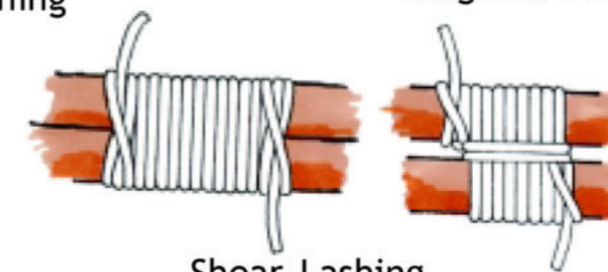
Filipino Lashing



Square Lashing



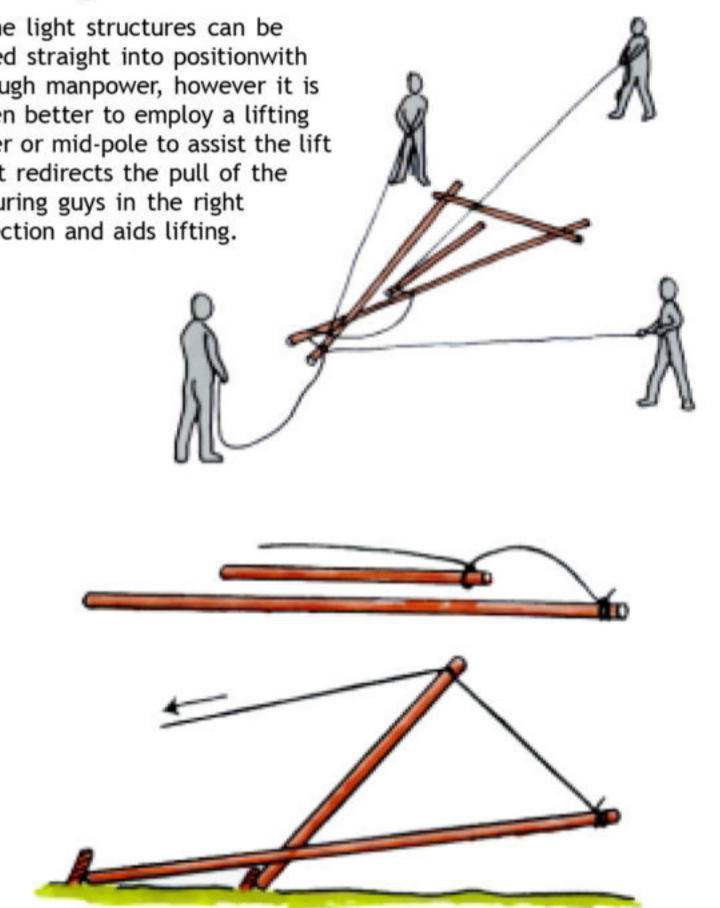
Diagonal Lashing



Shear Lashing

Lifting

Some light structures can be lifted straight into position with enough manpower, however it is often better to employ a lifting lever or mid-pole to assist the lift as it redirects the pull of the securing guys in the right direction and aids lifting.



Heavy pole lifting is best undertaken in slow calculated steps to avoid accidents. Dig a receiving trench and then start your lift slowly securing each stage with A frame props and guy ropes. Once the pole has been lifted to a suitable angle it is then possible to pull it to its final upright position with relative ease. The lifting team needs to be managed carefully in the final stage with guy ropes employed in each direction so that the structure or pole does not topple over or rock from side to side as it is lifted.



TOWER BUILDING