

## MIST-NET POLES

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It has often seemed to me rather surprising that, in my experience, most ringers' equipment is makeshift and extremely cumbersome to use. When I obtained my full permit I spent some time thinking out ways of making the erection of nets as simple and convenient as possible. With the equipment I shall describe I have found it a simple matter to erect 80' nets single-handed - something that is quite a task with heavy poles, pegs reminiscent of tree stumps and old frayed and knotted sisal ropes!

The poles are (à la Underhill)  $2\frac{1}{2}$  broomsticks, jointed with 8" lengths of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " aluminium pipe, giving an overall length of 10 feet. In the centre section, some 7' above the ground, there is a small loop of twine tied about the pole, and kept in position by a small eye-hook.

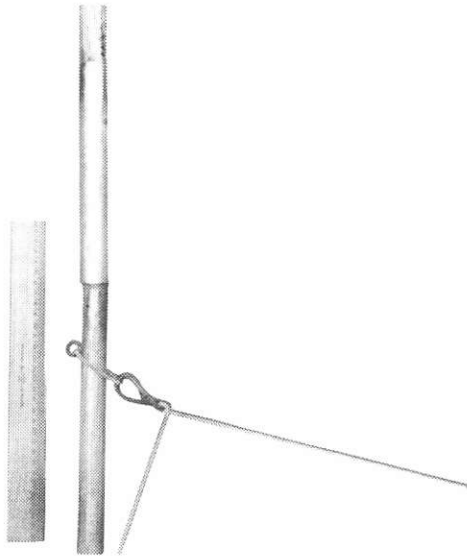


Fig 1: To show how the guys are attached to the poles. The pegs (Fig 2) are pushed into the ground with the upper arm horizontal.

The two guy-ropes are attached to this loop by means of a single snap hook. I use 3 mm. nylon rope, for which miniature plastic sliding toggles are readily obtainable. See Fig. 1.

The pegs, obtainable from any camping shop, have many advantages. They hold very well even in fine sand or glutinous mud, and in 'bush' may be used as hooks to attach the guys to branches. (Because of the sucking action of the tidal wash, I have sometimes found it necessary to anchor the pegs to a second peg when netting in the surf.) Further more if the guy-ropes are stored using the 'spring' of the peg to keep them taut (as shown in Fig 2) they do not become tangled.

The convenience of these poles certainly justifies their cost:

Poles	-	2½ @ 19c	-	.48
Joints	-	2 @ 18c	-	.36
Varnish	-	40 cc.	-	.07
Eye-hook	-	1 @ 1c	-	.01
Snap-hook	-	1 @ 40c	-	.40
Toggles	-	2 @ 2c	-	.04
Rope	-	10m @ 5c	-	.50
Pegs	-	2 @ 12c	-	.24

R2.10 per pole.

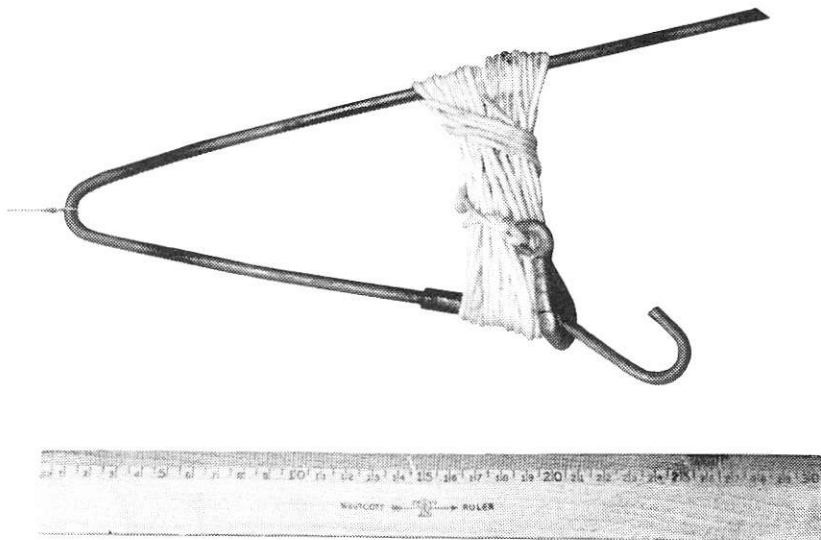


Fig. 2: To show how the guys are stored on the pegs.

For wader net poles I use 8 foot lengths of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " aluminium rod, (an expensive item at 20c per foot) and these have proved to be a practical compromise - they are light and easy to use, but are a bit 'whippy'. Therefore the end poles I secure with a single guy-rope. This is no hardship, and a useful precaution against gulls, ducks and the like! The cost of aluminium poles increases sharply as the diameter increases, but, for the more affluent, 5/8ths may be the ideal size.