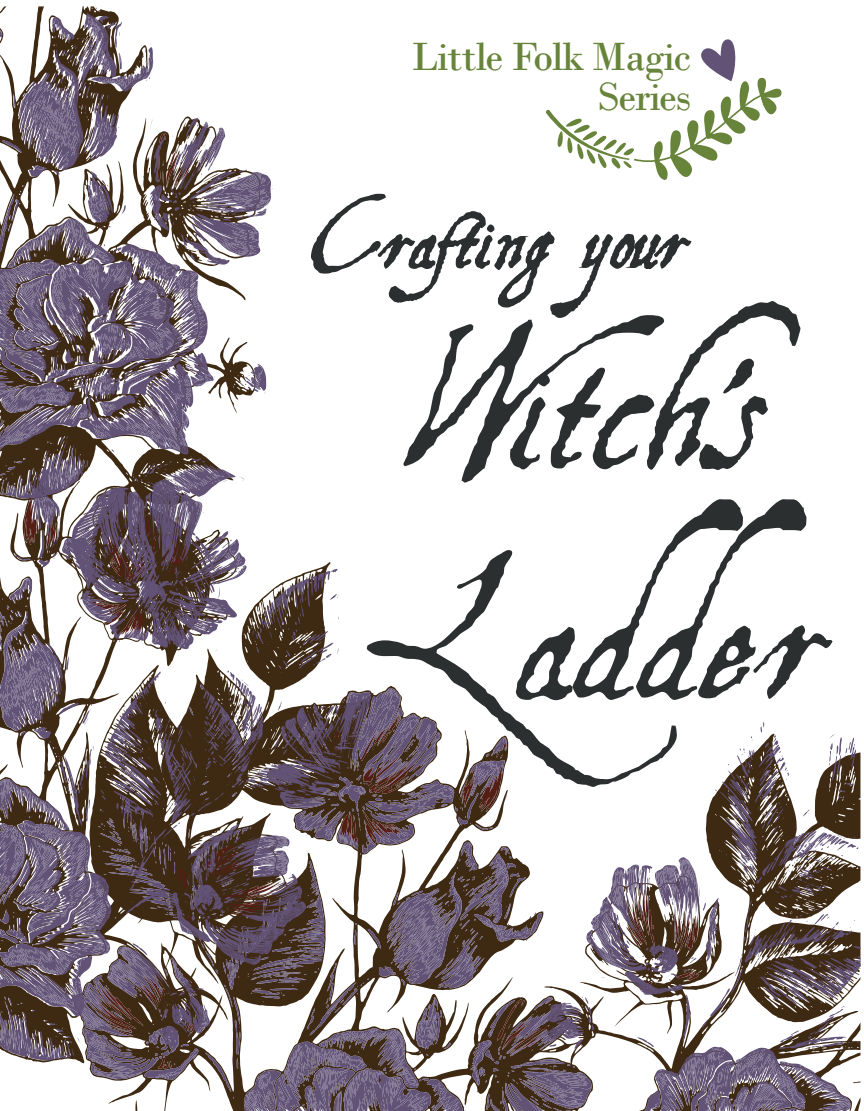


Little Folk Magic
Series



Crafting your
Witch's
Ladder



To the reader:

The Little Folk Magic Series was created as inspiration for developing your magical practice. These guides are by no means extensive or the only way to use these types of magic. Your magic should be as unique as you are. Experiment, use your intuition, and always infuse your magic with the elements that are most meaningful to you!

What's a Witch's Ladder?

A Witch's Ladder is a magical talisman/object that employs knot magic and magical correspondences to protect and empower the user.

Other Names

- ☠ Witch's garland
- ☠ Rope & feathers

Magical Uses

- ☠ Elemental / weather magic (harness the wind)
- ☠ Protection
- ☠ Attraction/Repulsion
- ☠ Empowerment

One way to use a witch's ladder is to bind power within the knots to be used as needed, unknitting to release the power. A classic use of a witch's ladder was storing wind for sailors. It was believed that the wind's power could be knotted into the ladder, and then as a sailor needed it, they could unknit one or two of the knots to unleash the wind.

In other types of spells, such as protection or attraction, the final knot of the ladder is believed to store the talisman's power.

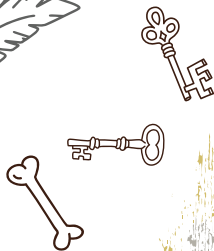
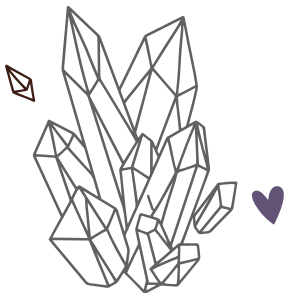
Witch's ladders can also be used like a rosary, strengthening the power of a magical working by repeating a chant or incantation as you move your fingers from knot to knot.



What You'll Need

Depending on your spell's intention, you can use any of the following items to enhance the strength of the magical working.

- ☠ Yarn, ribbon, cord, rope, etc.
- ☠ Beads, charms
- ☠ Shells (home & security)
- ☠ Feathers (flight freedom, and travel)
- ☠ Herbs or leaves
- ☠ Gems & crystals (grounding)
- ☠ Sticks, bark, acorns, pinecones, etc.
- ☠ Bones (structure, foundation)
- ☠ Keys (unlock answers)
- ☠ Bells (clear space)
- ☠ Buttons (hold things together)



Considerations

As you create your witch's ladder, you'll also want to think about how you can incorporate correspondences to make the spell more potent:

- ☠ Color magic: colors of yarn, ribbon, cord, rope, etc.
- ☠ Numerology/number magic: Number of threads and knots, number of items, or length of yarn
- ☠ Elemental correspondences
- ☠ Using candle magic to raise the power of the spell
- ☠ You may want to add symbols or sigils
- ☠ Incantations to be repeated as you tie the knots
- ☠ Lunar phase/day of the week the ladder is created
- ☠ Consider making a petition to roll up and bind into the knots of the ladder





Anchor the ladder using a twig or a loop of rope at the top. You can use a single cord or braid three (or more) together. While you are braiding, chant an incantation and/or focus on your intention on the desired outcome. Infuse each knot with the power of your magical intention. Here is a common witch's ladder incantation:

By knot of one, the spell's begun (or been done).

By knot of two, my wish come true (or my magic's true).

By knot of three, so mote it be (or so it shall be).

By knot of four, this power I store (or the power stored).

By knot of five, my spell's alive (or my will shall thrive).

By knot of six, the spell I fix.

By knot of seven, events I'll leaven.

By knot of eight, it will be fate.

By knot of nine, it's done, and mine (or what's done is mine).

History



In England, in the late 1800s, a strange object was found during the demolition of a house. Thus began the speculation on the purpose and history of the witch's ladder.

While theories exist about where the witch's ladder originated and its use in the past, no one knows if the witch's ladder as a magical working is a modern or historical phenomenon. What we do know is that all the elements of the witch's ladder work. Knot magic works, correspondences work, and incantations work. They are all standard folk magic practices, and combining them will imbue your spellwork with tried and true magical elements. The fact that the witch's ladder lacks a clear history with detailed references to it in arcane texts means that you can feel free to make it your own should this form of spell crafting call to you.

Further Reading / Mentions

- ☠ Leland, Charles Godfrey, *Aradia, or the Gospel of the Witches*
 - ☠ Morgan, Louisa, *A Secret History of Witches*
 - ☠ Pearson, Nigel C., *Treading the Mill: Workings in Traditional Witchcraft*
 - ☠ Valiente, Doreen, *Natural Magic*
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