

S.A.L.T. SKILL CHALLENGE by Thomas Robins

APACHE THROWING STAR

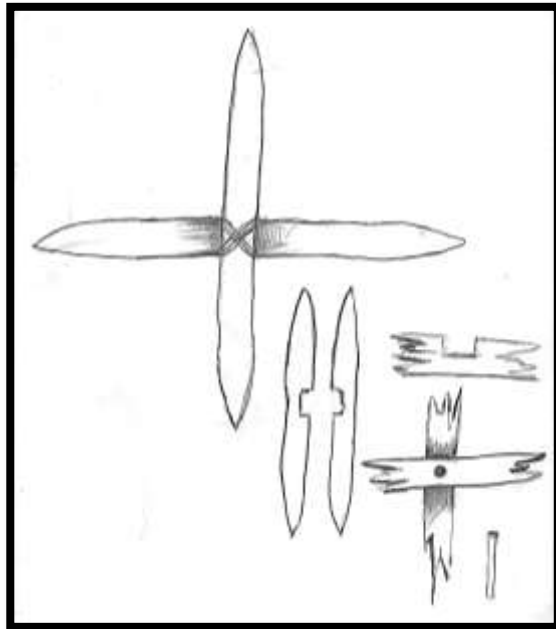
You will need one 2 to 4 foot branch at least an inch thick.

Clean off the bark and smooth the surface of the stick so you don't get splinters.

Cut it into two equal pieces at least one foot, but not more than two feet in length.

Sharpen both ends of each stick.

Fire-harden each tip until it turns brown (not black), then scrape or sand to re-sharpen.



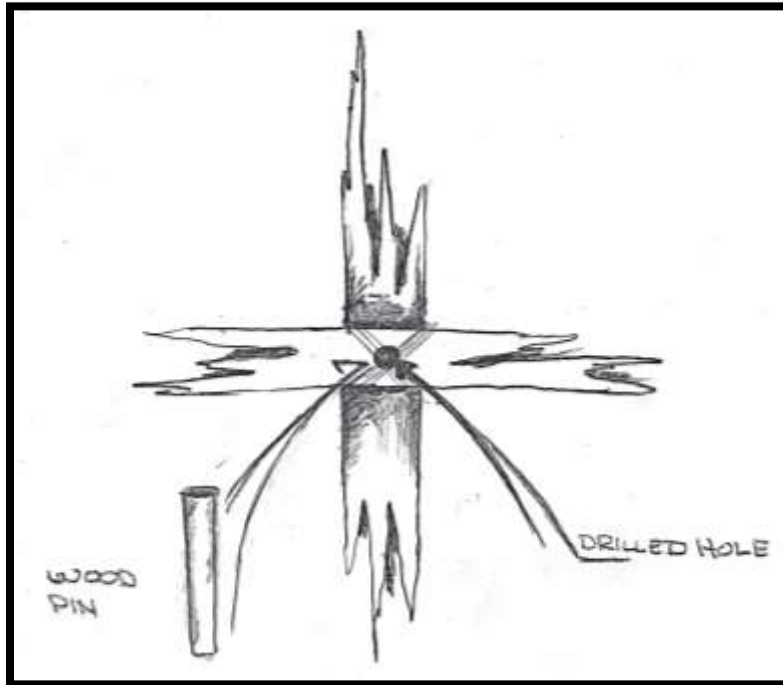
At the exact center point of each stick, lay the sticks on top of each other to form a cross.

Using the stick on top as a guide, draw a line along each side of it onto the bottom stick to get the width of the notch. Do this for both sticks.



Cut the notch down half way through the stick (half of the circumference) so that the two sticks will fit perfectly together.

**Drill a hole with an awl through the exact center of the notch on one stick.
Fit the sticks together and continue to drill through the other stick.**



Make a wooden pin about the same size as the hole you drilled and a little longer than the circumference of the sticks and tapered on one end to fit into the hole you drilled through the notches.

Put pine pitch (glue) on the notches and fit the sticks together and quickly pound the tapered wood pin into the hole before the glue sets.

Cut off the excess length of the pin so it is even with the sticks.



**Tie the star with cordage by crossing over the middle and around each side several times.
Use more pine pitch on top of the cordage to secure and protect it.**