

Six Knots to Know

Side 1: Figure Eight, Two Half Hitches, Bowline

Knowing how to tie a few basic knots is essential to a sailor's security.

On this card you'll find simplified instructions for tying a few of the most commonly used knots. Remember, how well the knot performs depends on you. Be careful to choose the right one and tie it properly.

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Definitions

Standing end: The end of the line that's attached to something, or is not close at hand.

Free end: The end of the line that's in your hand, where the finished knot will be.

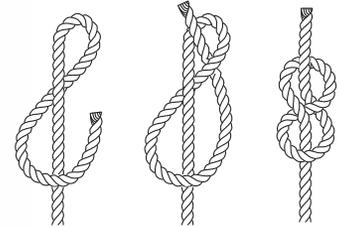
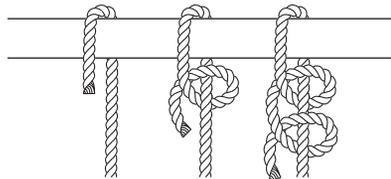
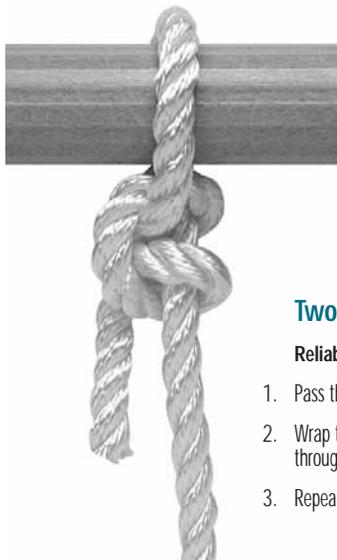


Figure Eight

The ideal knot to keep the free end of a line from running out of a block or fairlead.

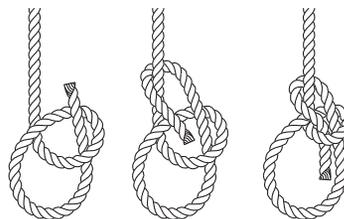
1. Make an underhand loop, bringing the free end around and over the standing end.
2. Pass the free end under, then up through the loop.
3. Draw up tight.



Two Half Hitches

Reliable, quickly tied and the hitch most often used in mooring.

1. Pass the free end of the line around a post or other object.
2. Wrap the free end under and over the standing end, passing the free end through the loop, forming the first half hitch.
3. Repeat around the standing end below the first half hitch and draw up tight.



Bowline

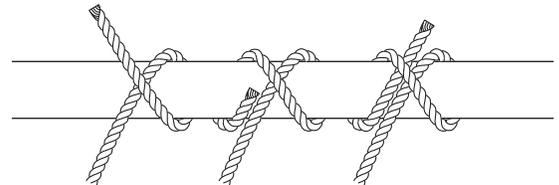
Known as the "King of Knots," it forms a fixed loop that won't slip, but is easy to untie.

1. Make a small overhand loop across the top of the standing end, leaving enough free end to make a loop of the desired size. Pass the free end up through the small loop in the standing end.
2. Pass the free end behind the standing end and down through the small loop.
3. Draw up tight.



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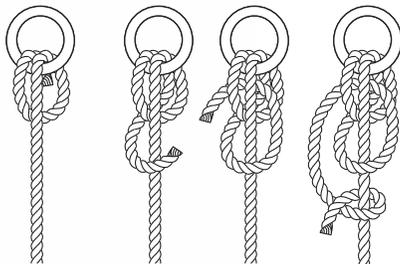
Side 2: Clove Hitch, Anchor Bend, Square Knot



Clove Hitch

The general purpose hitch, used wherever you need a quick, simple way of securing a line around a post, railing, spar or cleat.

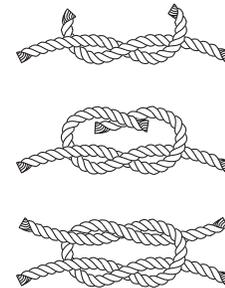
1. Make a turn with the free end of the line around the object, then cross over the standing end.
2. Take a second turn around the object.
3. Pull the free end under the second turn so it is between the line and the object. Draw up tight by pulling on both ends.



Anchor Bend

Used to secure a line to a ring on a buoy or anchor rode. A strong, chafe-resistant knot.

1. Pass the free end through the ring twice, forming two loops.
2. Pass the free end over the standing end.
3. Pass the free end through the two loops.
4. Complete with a half hitch below the two loops and draw up tight. The free end should be seized or whipped to the standing end if the knot is to be permanent.



Square Knot

Used at sea for reefing and furling sails.

1. Pass the left end over and under the right end.
2. Curve the two ends back toward each other. Cross what is now the right end over and then under the left end.
3. Draw up tight. The finished knot must be symmetrical.