









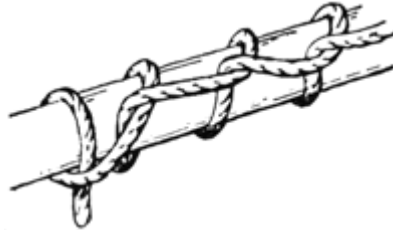




A very short guide to knotting terminology used on these pages.










This is not an exhaustive list of knotting terms; it just contains some of the more unfamiliar words that we have used.

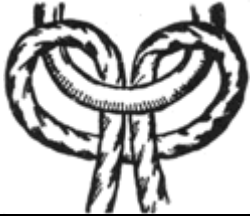



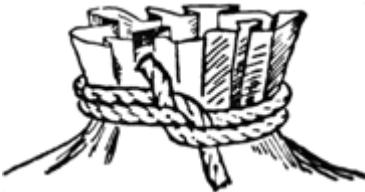

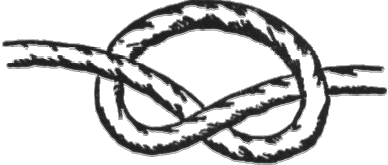


If you wish to research the subject further, any good book on knots should have a knotting glossary.









- **Knot.** Strictly speaking, a knot is tied in the end of a line as a stopper, such as the Thumb knot or Figure of eight knot.
- **Stopper knots** are used to stop the end of a rope fraying, or to stop it running through a small hole or constriction.
- **Bend.** A bend is used to tie two ropes together, as in the Sheet bend. Technically, even the Reef knot is a bend.
- **Hitch.** A hitch is used to tie a rope to a spar, ring or post, such as the Clove hitch. Hitches can also be used to tie one rope **onto** another rope, as in the Rolling hitch.
- **Running End** - the end of the rope that is being used to tie the knot.
- **Standing End** - the static end of the rope.
- **Splice** – A splice is used to fasten two ends of a rope together when a knot would be impracticable, as, for instance, when the rope must pass through a pulley.
- **Bight** can have two meanings:
 - The main part of the rope from the running end to the standing end
 - Where the rope is bent back to form a loop.
- **Jam** - when the knot tightens under tension and you cannot get it undone!

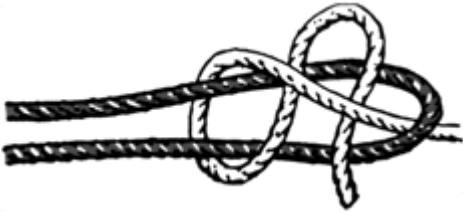
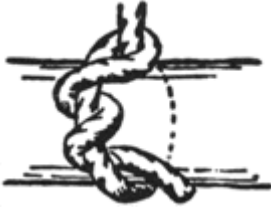
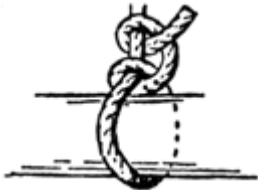
<p style="text-align: center;">Blackwall Hitch</p> 	<p>This is a simple half hitch over a hook. It will hold only when subjected to a constant strain. A stopper knot in the end will make it a little more secure but human life should never be trusted to it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bow Knot</p> 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Bowline</p> 	<p>The bowline has been called the king of knots. It will never slip or jam if properly made and, thus, is excellent for tying around a person in a rescue. Begin by formatting an overhand loop in the standing part. Then take the free end up through the eye, around the standing part and back where it came from.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bowline on Bight</p> 	<p>Like the French bowline, the bowline on a bight forms two loops, but they must be of the same size. Start by making a good-size bight and an overhand loop. Bring the end loop and bring it down and around the entire knot. Set the knot securely before putting weight on it</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Carrick Bend</p> 	<p>The carrick bend is used for joining 2 very thick ropes at the end, usually used by towboats to tow large cargo ships. The ends should be tied together.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cat's Paw</p> 	<p>The cat's paw is a better way to attach a rope to a hook than using a blackwall. It will not slip and needs no constant strain to hold. Form two loops and turn them inward one or two complete turns. Hang these "eyes" over the hook or other such object.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chain Hitch</p> 	<p>When we need to pull some cable from one tank to another we tie a chain hitch on the cable and use the rope to start pulling the cable. It is a very nice Hitch it locks on itself and you can pull anything with it."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Clove Hitch</p> 	<p>This is one of the most widely used knots. Because it passes around an object in only one direction, it puts very little strain on the rope fibers. Tying it over an object that is open at one end is done by dropping one overhand loop over the post and drawing them together. The other method of tying it is used most commonly if the object is closed at both ends or is too high to toss loops over. The latter is used in starting and finishing most lashings.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Double Figure Eight</p> 	<p>It is a knot that, among other things, is used for attaching a rope to a climbing harness. Your picture shows it tied with two separate ropes (which is possible).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Double Overhand</p> 	<p>An overhand knot, doubled for better strength.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Double Sheet Bend</p> 	<p>"The double sheet bend, like the sheet bend is used to fasten a small line to a larger one. In the illustration the light colored line would be the smaller and the darker one would be the larger. A double sheet bend may be employed when a sheet bend may not have enough friction to hold well.</p> <p>"In your web picture it would appear that the person that tied the knot was left handed or standing on their head as the darker line is held fast and the lighter line is manipulated to form the knot, it would have been quite awkward for a right handed person positioned right side up.</p>

<p>Figure Eight Knot</p> 	<p>Often used in such places as the end of a string when tying a package with a slipknot or in the end of a rope forming a lariat loop</p>
<p>Fisherman's Bend</p> 	<p>Fisherman's bend, or anchor bend, an specially strong and simple knot that will not jam or slip under strain and can be untied easily. When not under strain, however, the fisherman's bend may slip loose if the free end is not secured. The knot is used to attach a rope to a ring, hook, or other solid object, such as an anchor.</p>
<p>Fisherman's Eye</p> 	<p>The fisherman's eye is also known as the middleman's knot. The 2 knots will slide together and jam when strained, hence its great for carrying loads.</p>
<p>Fisherman's Knot</p> 	<p>The fisherman's knot is used for joining two fine lines such as fishing leaders. It is simply two overhand knots, one holding the right-hand line, and the other the left-hand line. Pull each of the two overhand knots taut separately. Then make the whole knot taut so the two overhand knots come together by pulling on the standing parts of each line.</p>
<p>Granny Knot</p> 	
<p>Half Hitch</p> 	<p>The half hitch is the start of a number of other hitches and is useful all by itself as a temporary attaching knot. It will hold against a steady pull on the standing part, especially if a stopper knot like the stevedore's knot or other figure eight knot is put in the end.</p>
<p>Halyard Bend</p> 	<p>As a signalman this securing style hitch was used to secure the halyards for the ships signal flags.</p>
<p>Hitching Tie</p> 	<p>This is a common method of hitching animals. Notice that it is a type of slippery hitch.</p>
<p>Killick Hitch</p> 	<p>A killick is the name for an anchor for a small boat that could be constructed in a relatively short period of time. Three or four "L" shaped pieces of wood - from the limbs of trees - and a large rock or stone plus rope/twine were used in the construction. The stone was positioned between the wood and securely fastened with the rope or twine. The killick knot secured the anchor rope to the wooden part of the "killick". The weight of the stone was enough to sink it and the outward facing parts of the wood dug into the sea floor. A very serviceable anchor.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Lark's Head</p> 	<p>The Lark's Head is often used on small sailboats to fasten a jib sheet to the clew since it is smaller and smoother than two bowlines would be and thus less likely to get hung up or add to wind resistance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lariat Loop</p> 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Marlinspike Hitch</p> 	<p>It is used to temporarily secure a marlinspike, a device used to splice rope, to another object. It is a useful knot if the sailor needed to hold something and wanted to be sure the marlinspike would be safe.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Midshipman's Hitch</p> 	<p>An excellent hitch which can be temporary or permanent. It is recommended by Ashley to be the best knot to use if you have fallen overboard and a rope is thrown to you. It also makes an excellent Guy line hitch if a slider on a guy is broken or missing. It is identical in form to a Rolling Hitch. This knot is also useful as a binder knot for a bale or roll: it can be made and slipped up tight, then slipped back to loosen the package as and when required.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Miller's Knot</p> 	<p>This is a close relative of the clove hitch and is used in tying sacks with heavy string or cord. Note that the first turn around the sack leads over the forefinger and the others pass under all fingers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Overhand Bow</p> 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Overhand Knot</p> 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Rolling Hitch</p> 	<p>Tie a clove hitch then bring the rope an extra turn around the post between the other two turns, and tuck under the diagonal section. The rolling hitch holds well as long as there is strain on the rope.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Running Knot</p> 	<p>It's a slip knot. If tied around another line, it could be pulled or 'run' along it. But, pulling would also tighten it and sometimes there could be too much friction.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Sailor's Knot</p> 	<p>It's basically two half hitches. It has the same advantage. Pulling the knot back along the line it goes around can be used to make the line taut. It's good for tent lines too.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sheepshank</p> 	<p>This knot is used to shorten a rope that is fastened at both ends. Take up the slack and then make an underhand loop and slide it over the bight and pull tight. Do the same to the other end to complete the knot. The sheepshank is only a temporary knot as it stands. But it can be made more permanent by adding a second half hitch to each end.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sheet Bend</p> 	<p>The sheet bend is the most important knot for joining two rope ends, especially if the ropes are of different sizes. Sailors named it in the days of sailing ships when they would "bend" (tie) the "sheets" (ropes in the rigging of a ship).</p> <p>Begin with a bight in the larger rope. Then weave the end of the smaller rope through the eye, around the bight, and back under itself. Snug it carefully before applying any strain to the knot.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Slippery Hitch</p> 	<p>This is occasionally useful but should be temporary. It is actually only an overhand knot around the object with the end run back through the knot and left "slippery." It can be quickly untied by pulling on the free end. The slippery half-hitch can be locked by passing the end back through the eye and pulling tight.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Square Knot</p> 	<p>You can loosen the square knot easily by either pushing the ends toward the knot or by "upsetting" the knot by pulling back on one end and pulling the other through the loops.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Stevedore's Knot</p> 	<p>This is the same as the figure eight knot, except that it has an extra loop. This makes it larger and more chainlike in appearance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Surgeon's Knot</p> 	<p>The surgeon's knot is a square knot with an extra twist. The purpose of this knot is to give added friction to hold until the second crossing is made.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Taut-line Hitch</p> 	<p>Since it will only slide one way, the Taut-line hitch is often used on tent ropes. The taut-line hitch will hold firmly on a smooth pole such as a scout stave. Place rope end around pole, make a turn below it, then bring rope up across the standing part around the pole and tuck through.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Tiller's Hitch</p> 	<p>A tiller is the "steering wheel" of a sailing vessel and is simply a long handle that's attached to the top of the boat's rudder (the piece in the water that causes the boat to change direction when it is moved). Sailor's want to have CONTROL over that tiller for it can mean disaster if it's not under control. However, not all things are perfect at sea (or life) and sometimes you have to make a "second-best" decision, like having to leave the tiller for a moment. You simply can't leave the tiller "loose" so the next best thing is to tie it down, hopefully in a position that will have the boat moving in the direction you want it to be going while you aren't holding the tiller for that short interval. So what kind of knot could you use that would be a good holding knot, YET IMMEDIATELY RELEASABLE WHEN YOU GET BACK TO IT? The Tiller's Hitch, as a sheet bend would probably slip.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Timber Hitch</p> 	<p>This is an important hitch, especially for dragging a heavy object like a log. It will hold firmly so long as there is a steady pull; slacking and jerking may loosen it. The timber hitch is also useful in pioneering when two timbers are "sprung" together. When it is used for dragging, a simple hitch should be added near the front end of the object to guide it.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Two Half Hitches</p> 	<p>This is a reliable and useful knot for attaching a rope to a pole or boat mooring. As it's name suggests, it is two half hitches, one after the other. To finish, push them together and snug them by pulling on the standing part.</p>
<p>George Merrick's Troop 7 of Coral Gables, FL</p> <p style="float: right;">How to Tie Knots</p>	