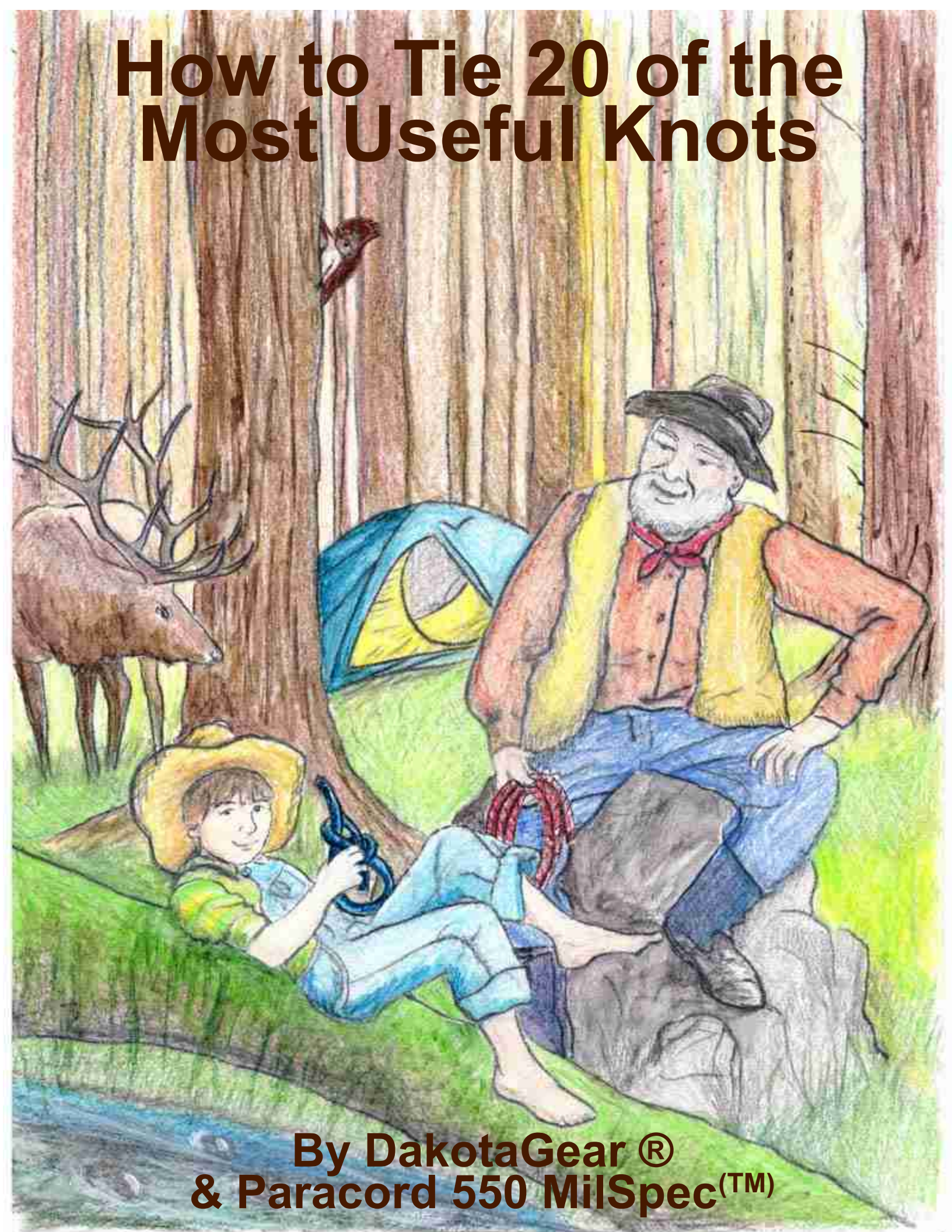


How to Tie 20 of the Most Useful Knots



By DakotaGear®
& Paracord 550 MilSpec™

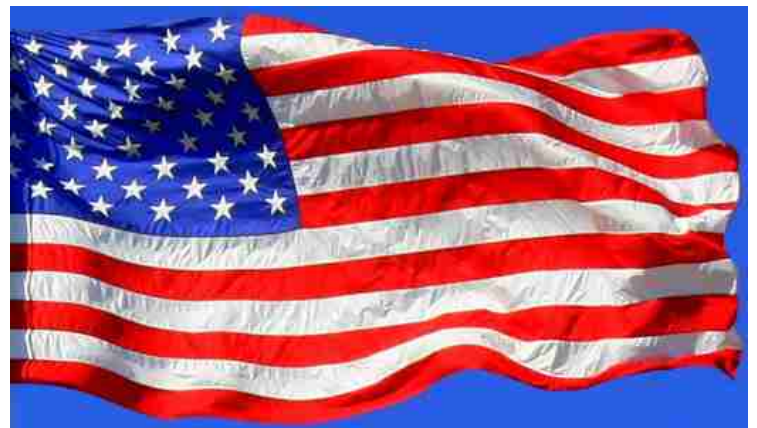


© 2022 All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods without prior written permission.

DakotaGear.com
Paracord550MilSpec.com

DakotaGear® and
Paracord 550 MilSpec™
are U.S. Military Veteran
Owned and Operated
Companies.



How to Tie 20 of the Most Useful Knots

Table of Contents

Bowline	4
Bowline on a Bight	6
Buntline Hitch	8
Butterfly Knot	9
Cleat Hitch	10
Clove Hitch	11
Constrictor Knot	12
Double Fisherman's Knot	13
Figure Eight	14
Half Hitch	15
Mooring Hitch	16
Prusik Knot	17
Rolling Hitch	18
Sheepshank	19
Sheet Bend	20
Square Knot	21
Tautline Hitch	22
Timber Hitch	23
Trucker's Hitch	24
Water Knot	25

Bowline

Mnemonic Device

“The Rabbit comes
out of the hole ...

... goes around the
tree ...

... and back down the
hole.”

The bowline knot is a time-tested, essential knot that every outdoors person should know. It is a strong, reliable and stable knot, sometimes even referred to as the ‘King of Knots.’

It is used to form a secure, fixed loop at the end of a rope.

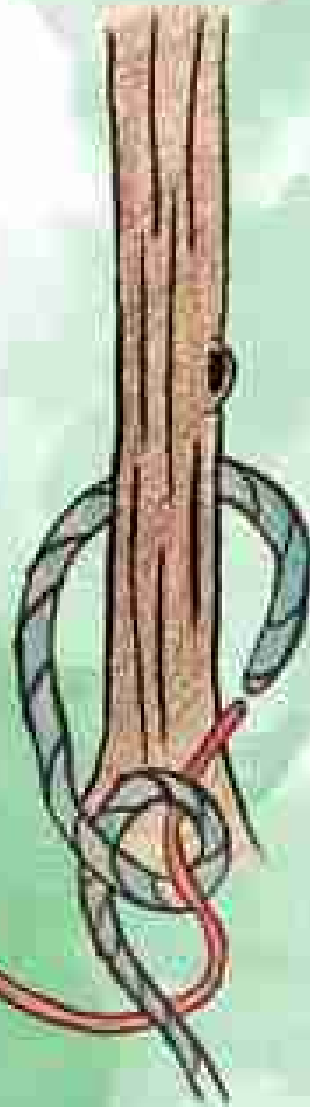
The bowline does not slip or bind under a load and it can still be easily untied while not under a load.

When not under a load, a bowline can work loose or slip when pulled sideways. As such, this knot is not recommended for life or death activities, or if it needs to be untied while under a load.

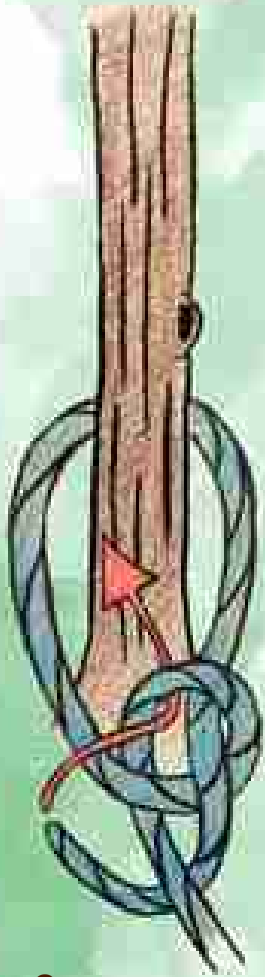
Step 1

Bowline Quick Notes

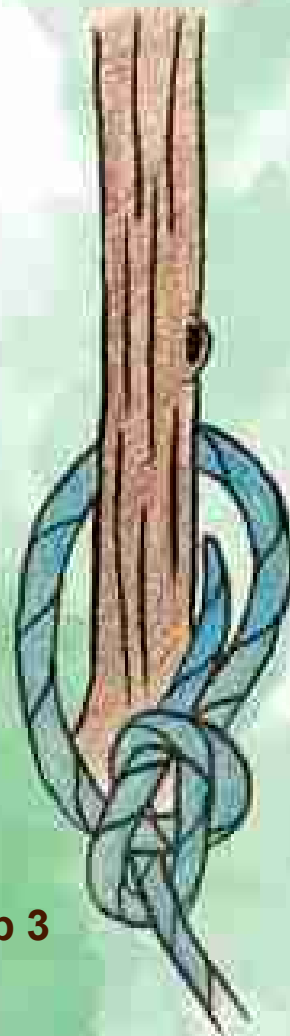
- Essential knot to know
- Quick and easy to tie and untie
- Strong, reliable and stable
- Can slip or work loose when not under a load



Bowline



Step 2



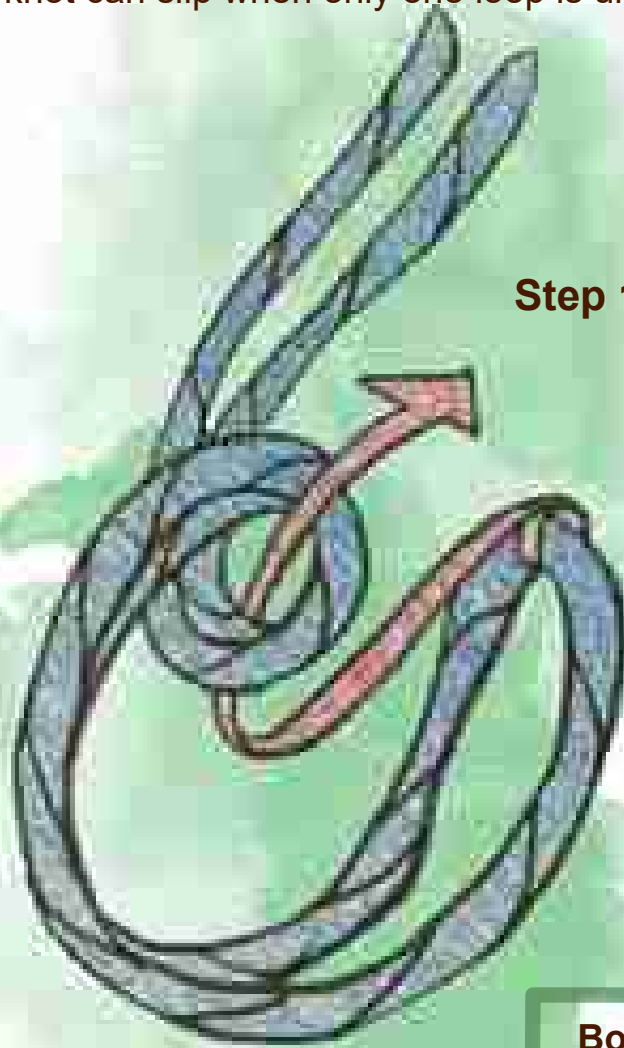
Step 3

Bowline on a Bight

The Bowline on a Bight is a common knot often used in activities such as climbing, caving, and emergency rescue. It can be used to form a non-slip loop in the middle of a line.

This knot does not easily jam so it is easy to untie even after it has been tightened under a load.

This knot can slip when only one loop is under a load.

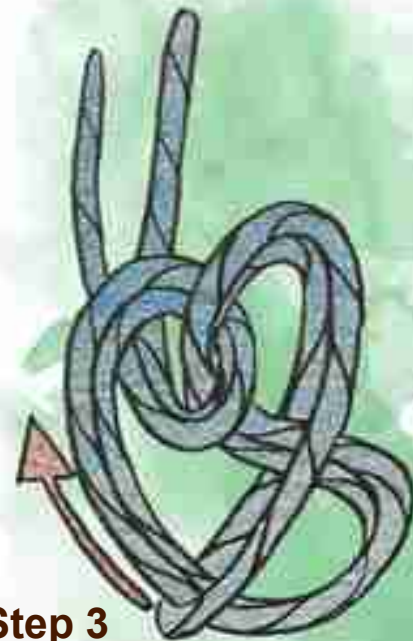
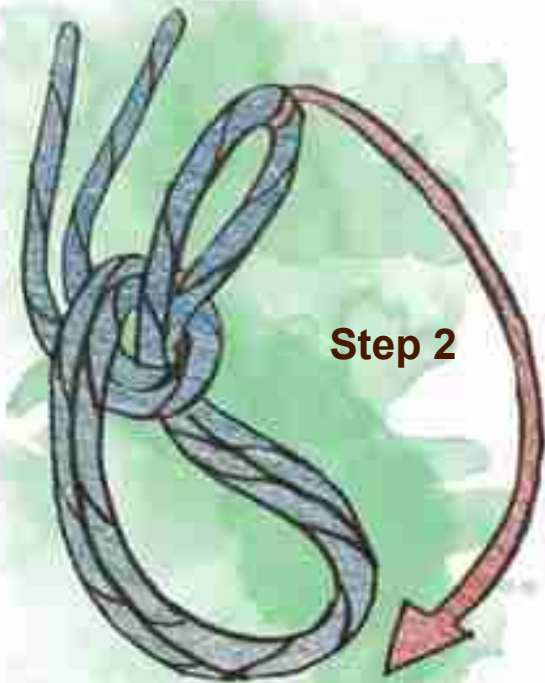


Step 1

Bowline on a Bight Quick Notes

- Can be used to form a secure loop in the end or the middle of a line
- Easy to untie
- Great for caving, climbing and rescue

Bowline on a Bight

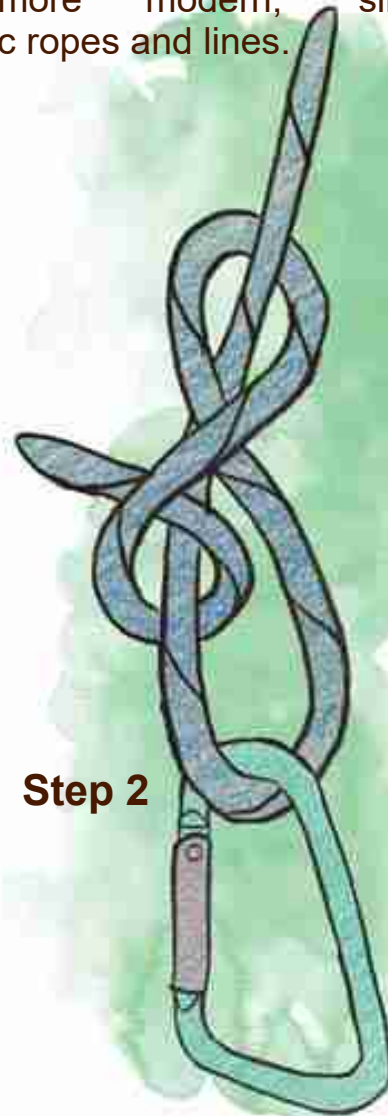
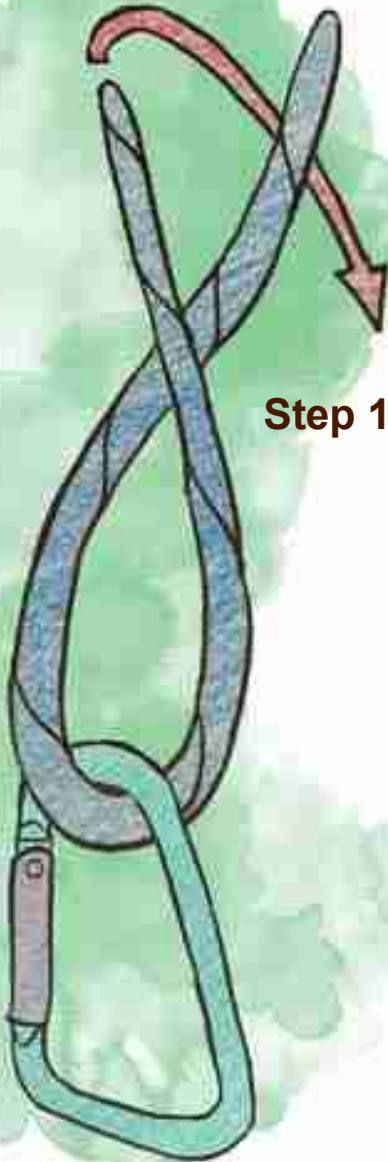


Buntline Hitch

The Buntline Hitch is a secure, compact, reliable and time-tested knot often used by sailors. It is used to attach items like snaps, rings, and carabiners to ropes or lines.

After this knot has been set, it generally tightens, rather than loosens, when it is pulled or jerked. This tightening also makes this hitch more difficult to untie.

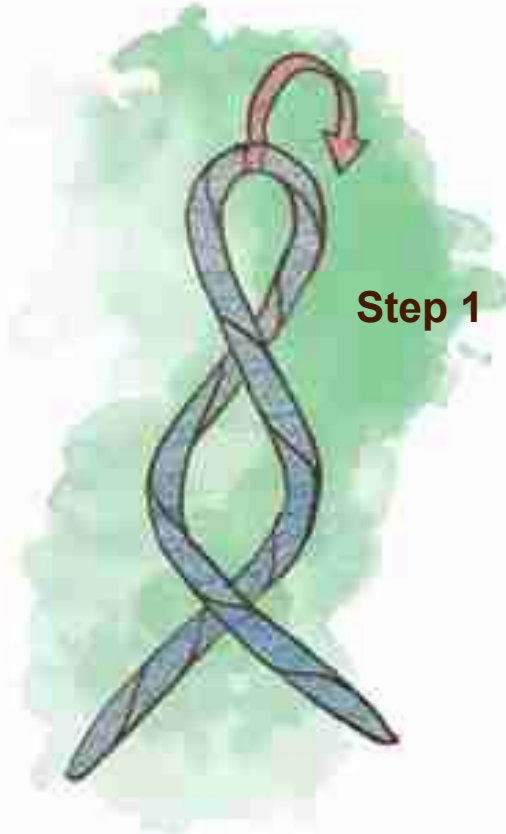
The Buntline Hitch often works well with more modern, “slippery” synthetic ropes and lines.



Buntline Hitch Quick Notes

- Secure, reliable and compact
- Stays tight, but more difficult to untie
- Good for “slippery” synthetic lines
- Often used in Sailing

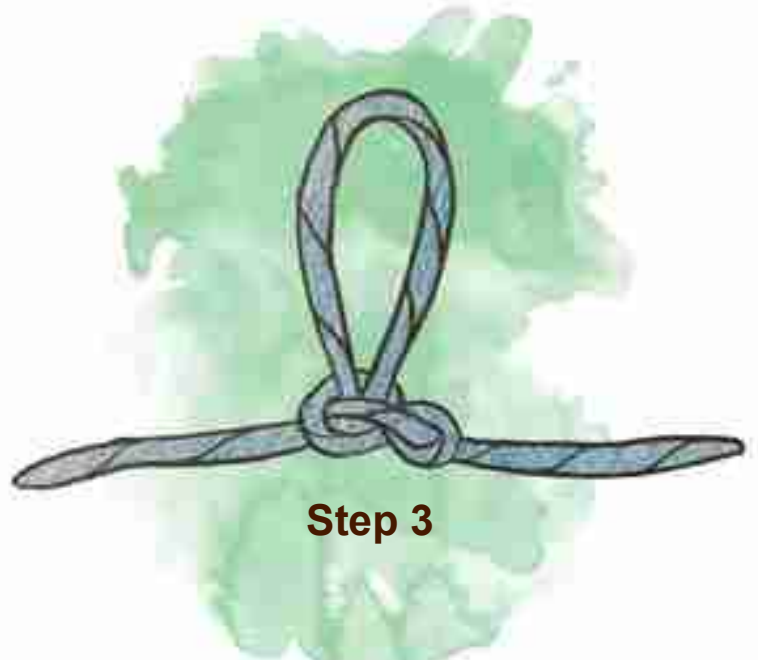
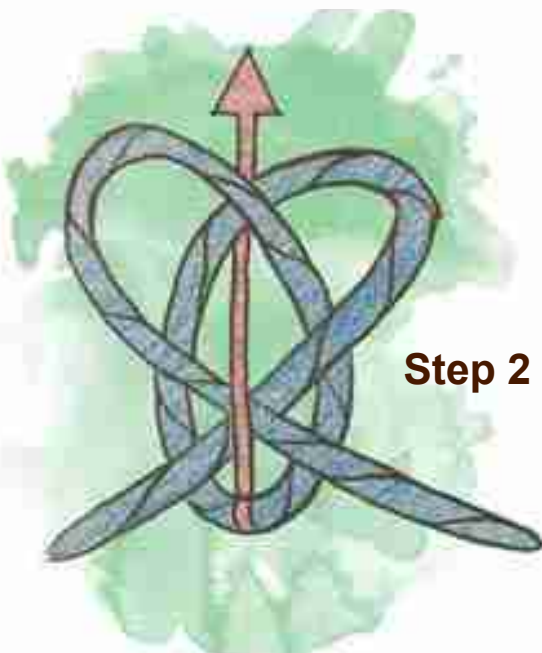
Butterfly Knot



The Butterfly Knot, also known as the Alpine Butterfly Knot or Lineman's Loop, is used to create a secure loop in the middle of a rope. It is commonly used in mountain climbing for creating non-slip loops to which carabiners can be attached.

The main strength of this knot is that it can accommodate a load in any of the three directions either all together, or independently.

This knot can be tied without access to the ends of the rope, as in the case of isolating a damaged section of the rope or shortening a section of the rope.



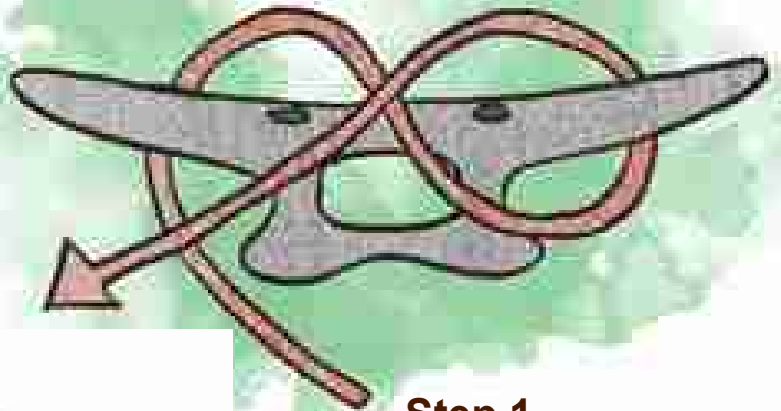
Butterfly Knot Quick Notes

- Quick and easy to tie and inspect
- Creates a secure and non-slipping loop in the middle of the rope

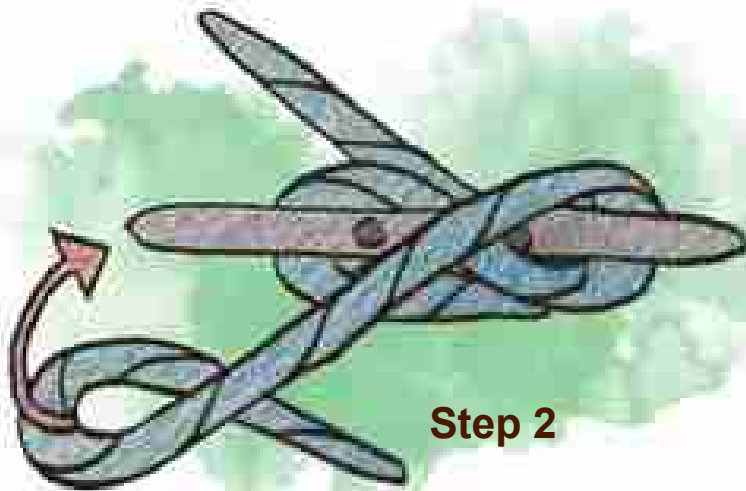
Cleat Hitch

The Cleat Hitch is essential to learn for any boater or sailor.

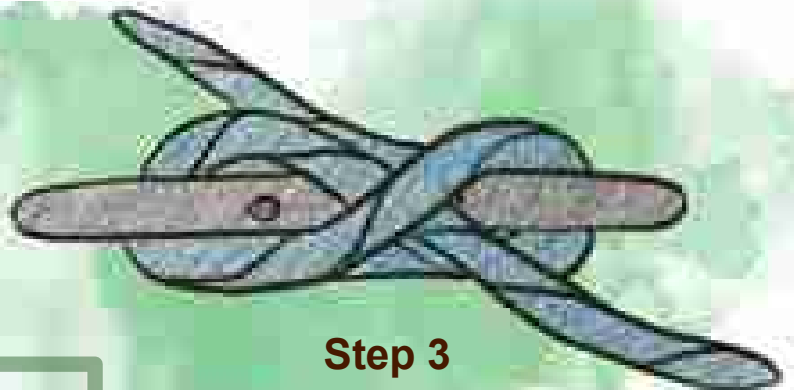
This knot is perfect to use when tying a rope or line to a cleat on the boat or on the dock. It will secure the boat to the dock, but is quick and simple to untie.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

Cleat Hitch Quick Notes

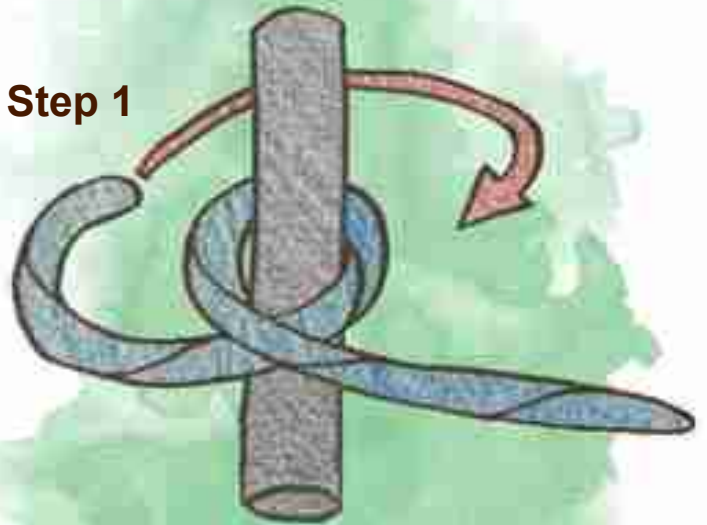
- Quick and easy to tie and untie
- Attaches lines to cleats on boats or docks

Clove Hitch

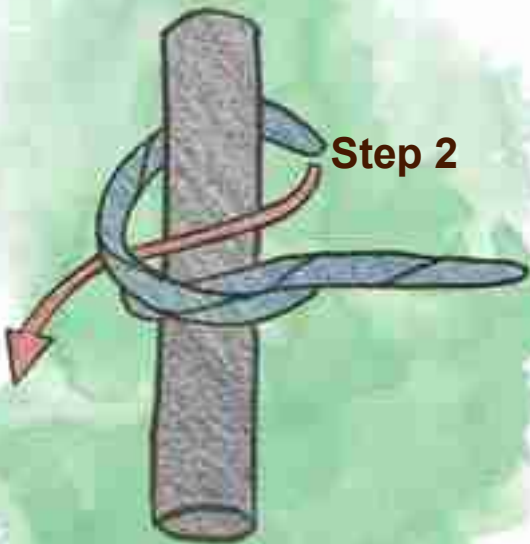
The Clove Hitch, also referred to as the Double Hitch, is one of the most useful types of knots.

It is used to attach a rope to a post or other object, and is most useful when the length of the running end might need to be adjustable.

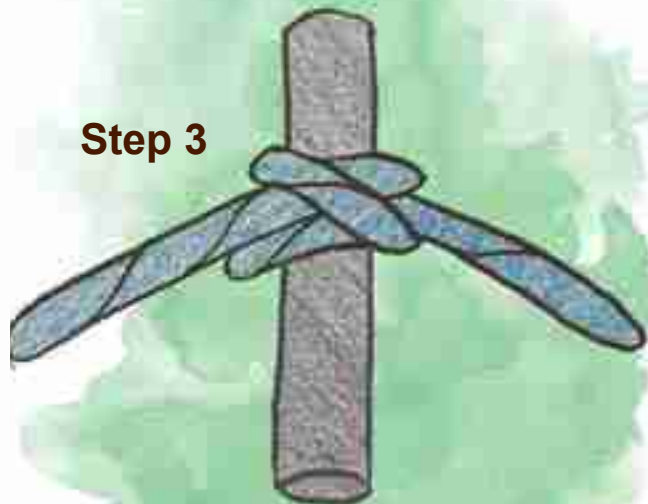
Step 1



Step 2



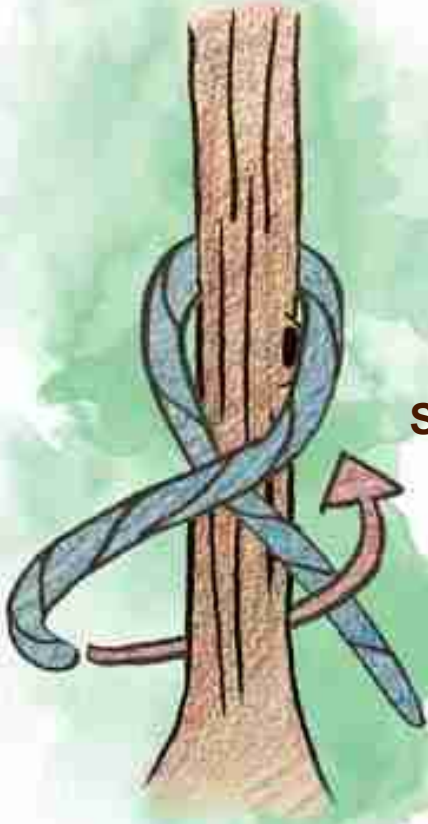
Step 3



Clove Hitch Quick Notes

- Very useful, quick and easy to tie
- Adjustable by feeding the rope into the knot from either direction
- Can bind, should not be used in critical applications

Constrictor Knot



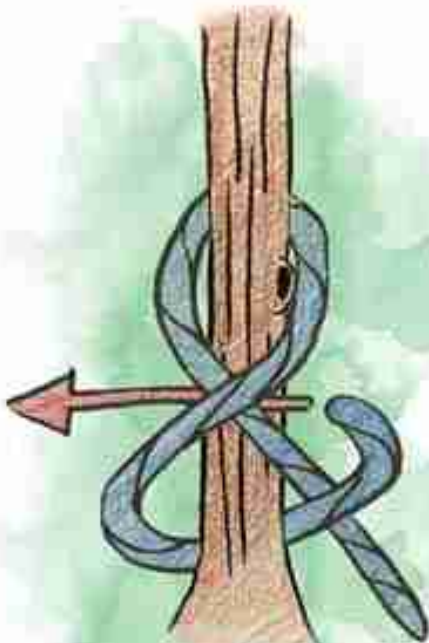
Step 1

The Constrictor Knot is one of the most secure, but difficult to untie knots.

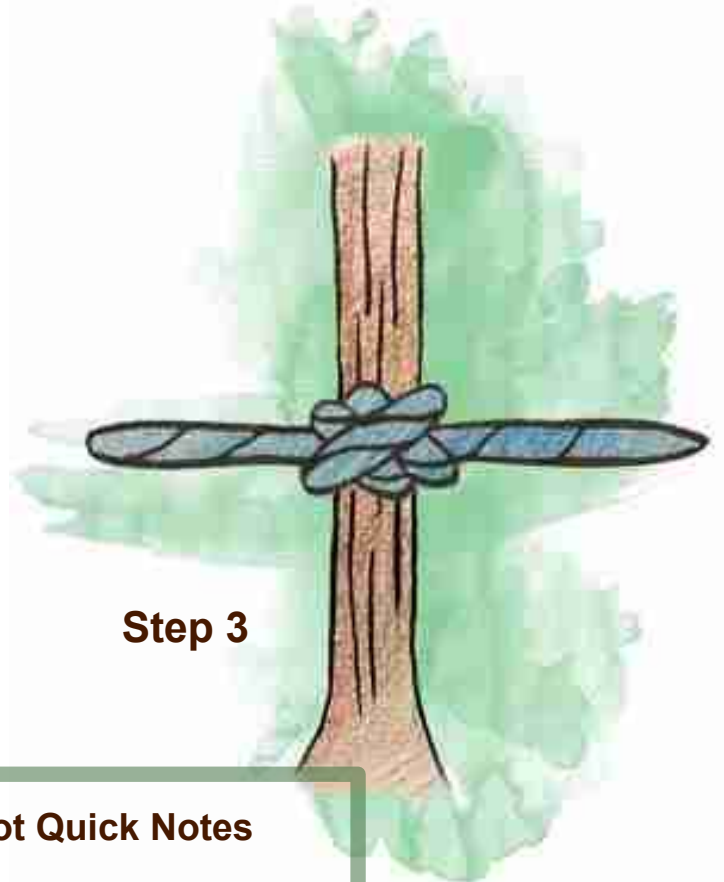
Especially after a load has been applied to this knot, it may become so difficult to untie that it must be cut to release it.

It is used in situations where a very secure binding is preferred. The “severe bite” of this knot can actually tighten enough to cause damage to the item around which it is tied.

The Constrictor Knot is useful as an improvised hose clamp, and as ligatures in surgery.



Step 2



Step 3

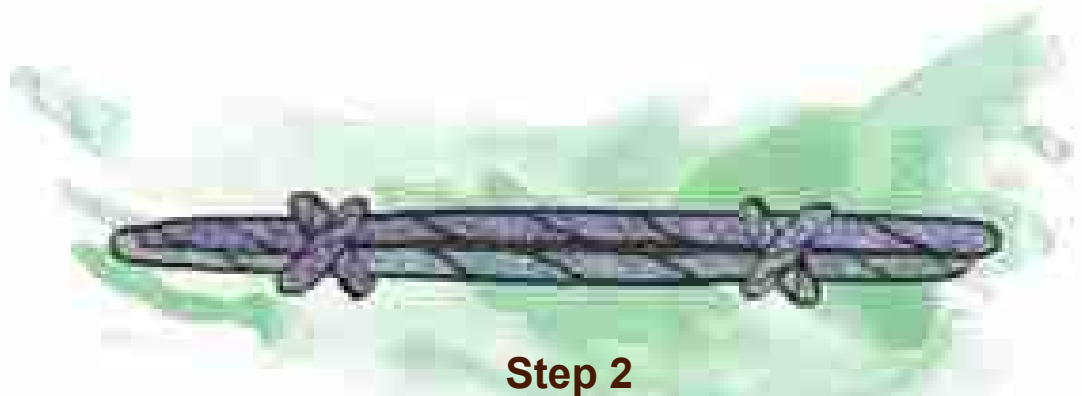
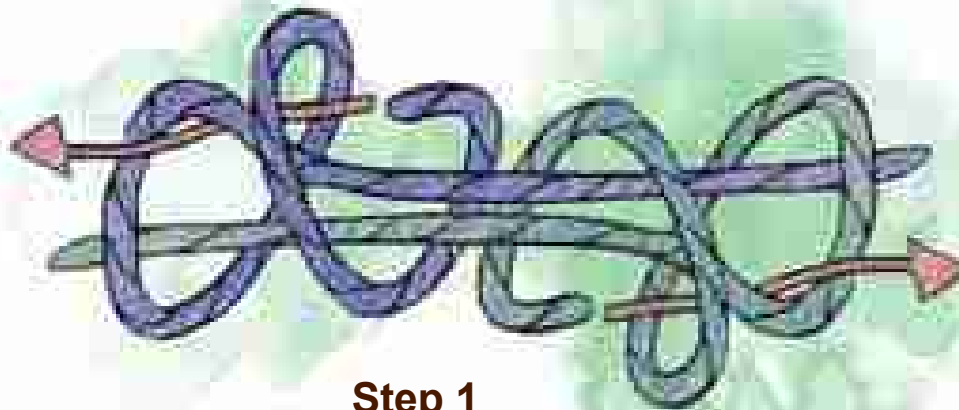
Constrictor Knot Quick Notes

- Especially secure, but difficult to untie
- Might require being cut to release the knot

Double Fisherman's Knot

The Double Fisherman's Knot is used to join two pieces of rope or cord together or fasten both ends of a single rope together to form a loop.

Despite its name, it is less commonly used in fishing and more commonly used by climbers to tie back-up knots, by kayakers to create grab handles for their boats, by crafters to create adjustable necklace closures, and in with search and rescue.



Double Fisherman's Knot Quick Notes

- Two knots sliding together to create the completed knot

Figure Eight Knot

The Figure Eight Knot, or Flemish Bend, is one of the strongest knots, and is essential for use in both sailing and rock climbing.

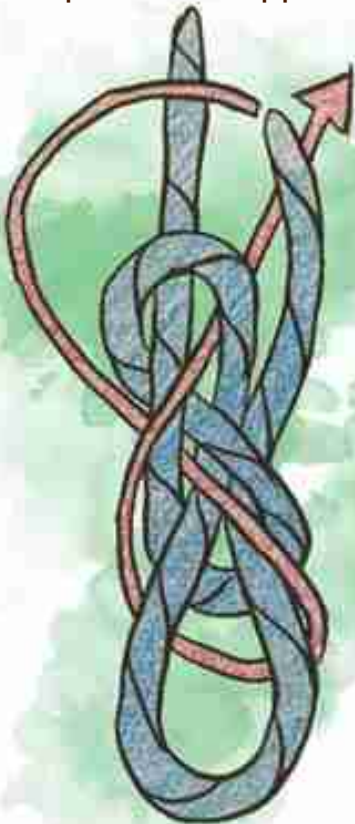
It creates a very strong and secure, non-slipping loop in the end of a rope.

A single Figure Eight Knot is sometimes used in the bitter end of a rope as a “stopper knot.”

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Figure Eight Knot Quick Notes

- One of the strongest knots
- Used to tie a very strong and secure loop in the end of a rope
- When tied properly, the loop in this knot will not slip

Half Hitch



**Single
Half Hitch**

The Half Hitch is a basic, simple Overhand Knot, frequently used in combination with other knots as a means of making the first knot more secure.

Two Half Hitches might be used together to loosely secure a rope to a boat, tree or other object.

This knot is not secure when used on its own.



**Double
Half Hitch**

Half Hitch Quick Notes

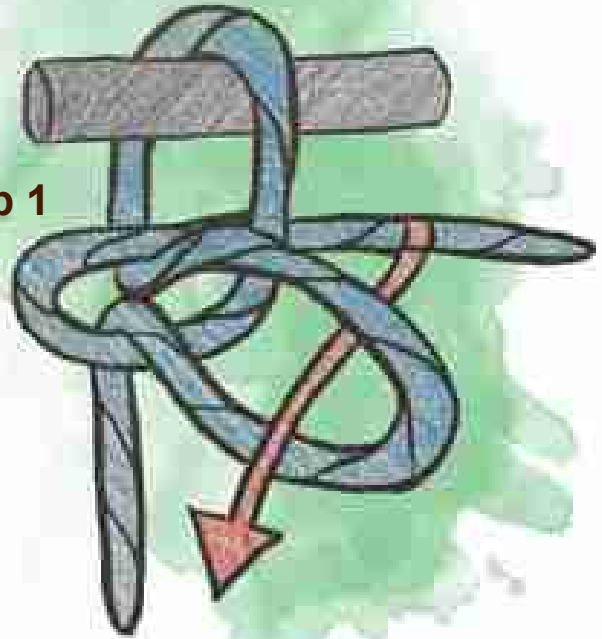
- Quick and easy to tie and untie
- Often used with other knots to make them more secure
- Not a secure knot to use on its own

Mooring Hitch

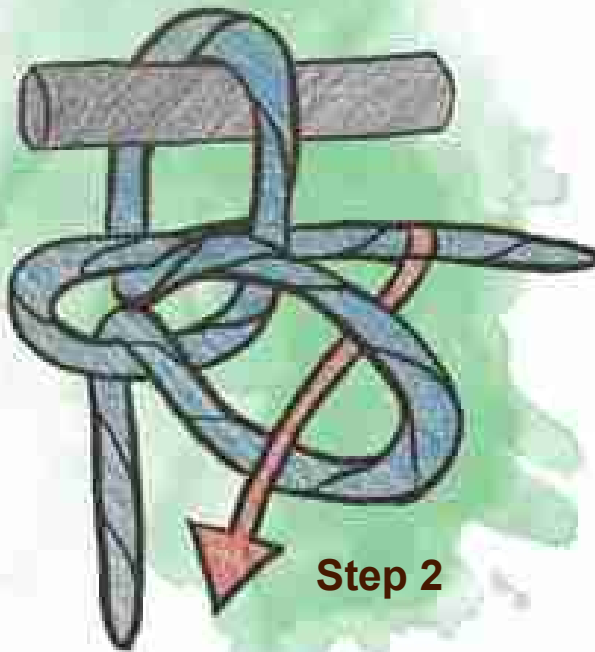
The Mooring Hitch is an e temporary hitching knot that quickly and easily released by on the tag end.

It is frequently used in boati riding, where it is important tha fast while under a load, but especially quick and easy to un

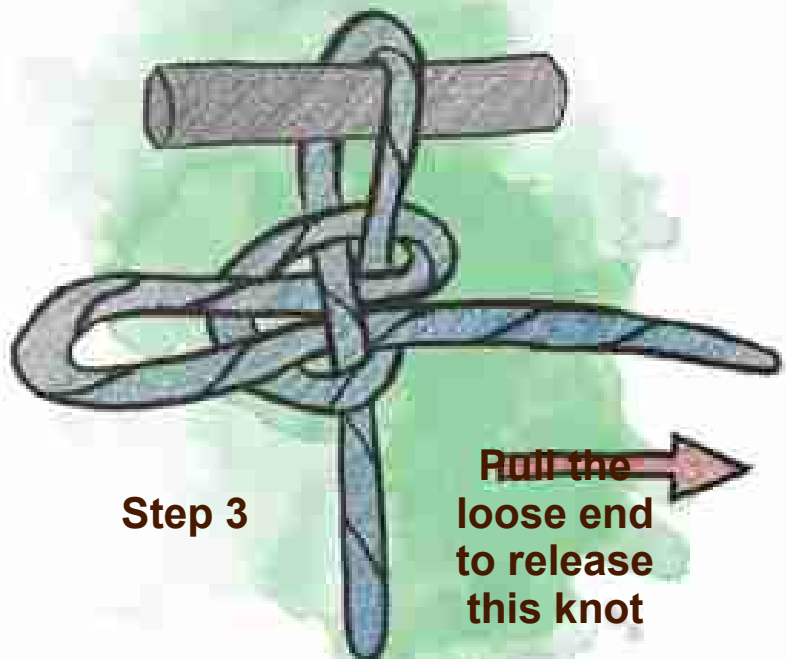
Step 1



Step 2



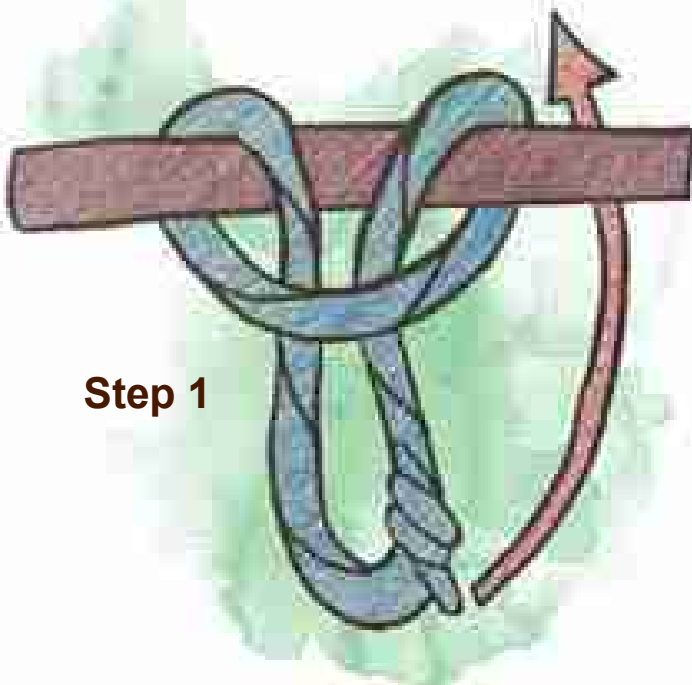
Step 3



Mooring Hitch Quick Notes

- Frequently used in riding and boating
- Secure knot under a load and especially fast to untie

Prusik Knot

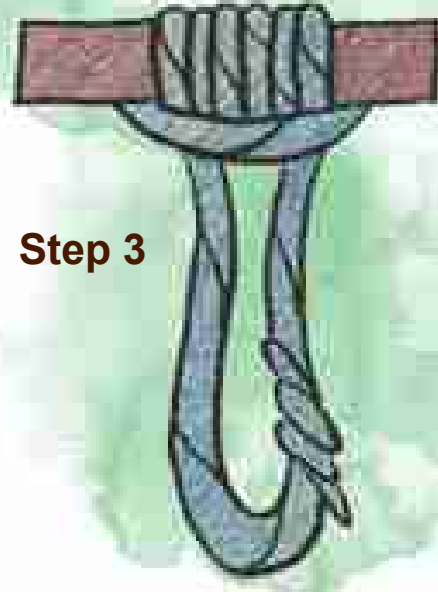
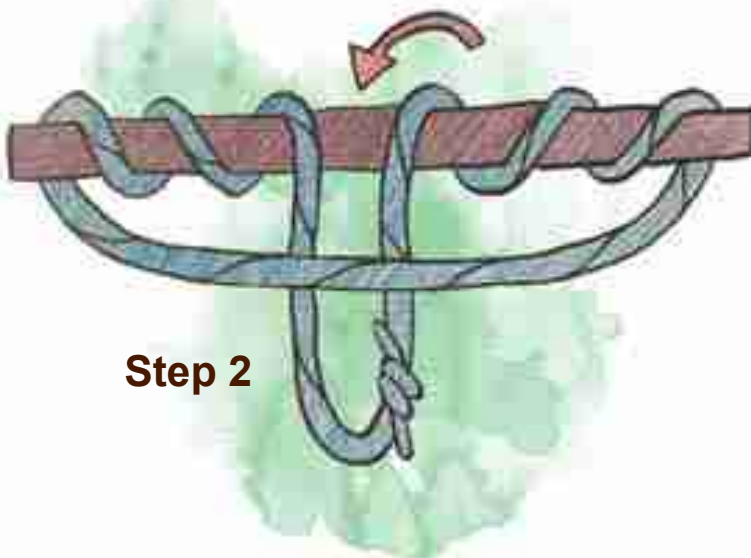


The Prusik Knot is named after its inventor, Austrian mountaineer Karl Prusik.

It is most commonly used in mountaineering, climbing, caving and rope rescue to secure a loop of smaller diameter rope onto another rope or larger diameter, or onto a pole.

The Prusik Knot can be used with ropes of different diameters and it provides a strong attachment that will generally not break or damage the rope to which it is attached.

The Prusik Knot does not work well on a frozen or wet rope and can be difficult to untie.



Prusik Knot Quick Notes

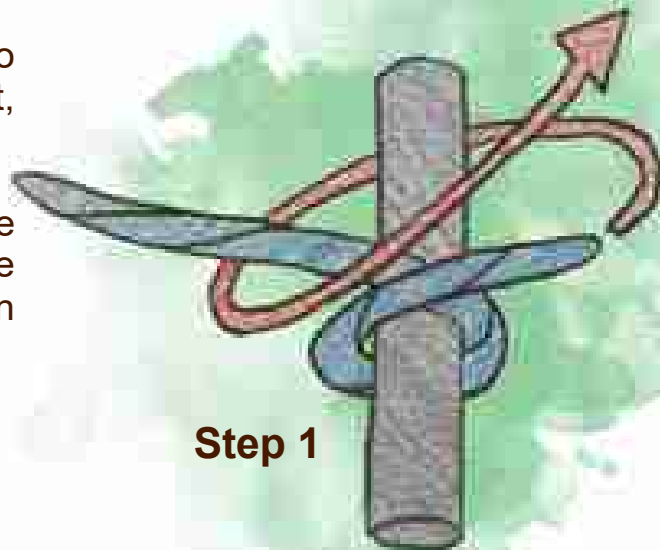
- Frequently used in mountaineering, climbing, caving and rope rescue

Rolling Hitch

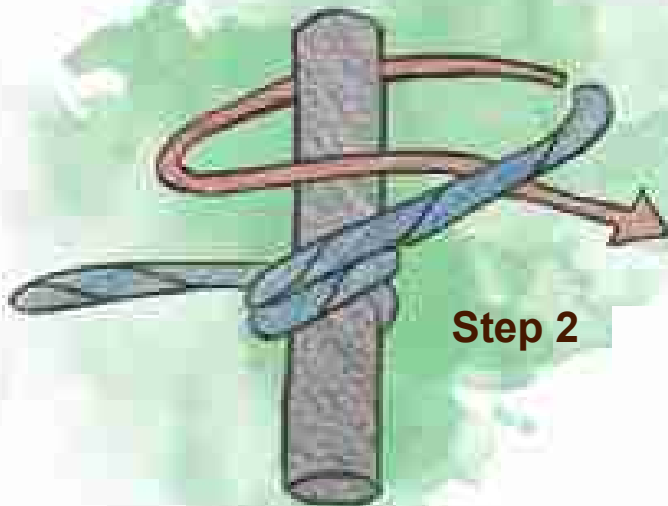
The Rolling Hitch is a secure knot to use to attach a rope to a rod, post, pole or another rope.

It is designed to resist lengthwise movement when there is only a single direction of pull, and it holds firmly in the direction of the standing line.

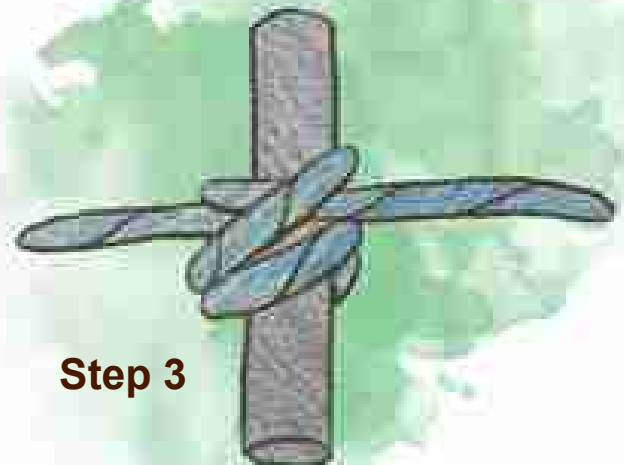
It is commonly used in sailing.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

Rolling Hitch Quick Notes

- Quick and easy to tie and untie
- Much more secure than a Clove Hitch

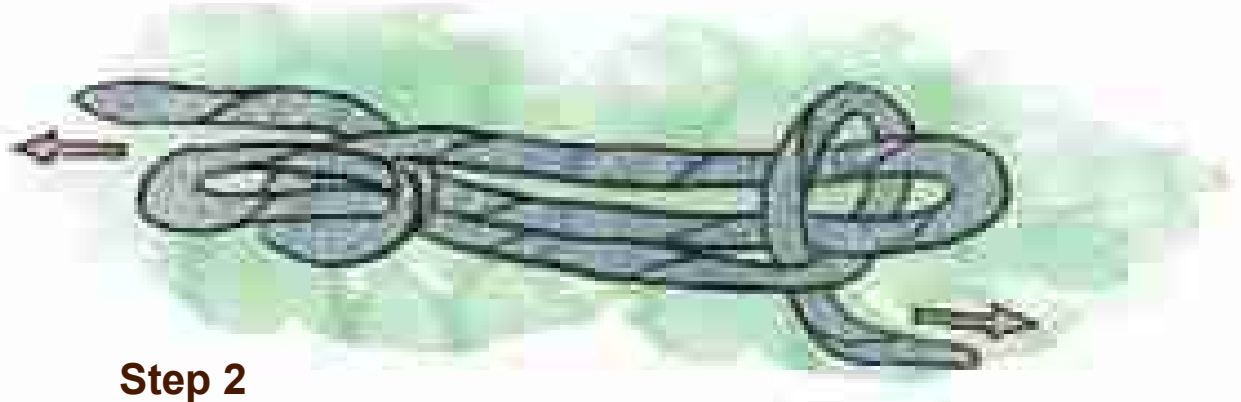
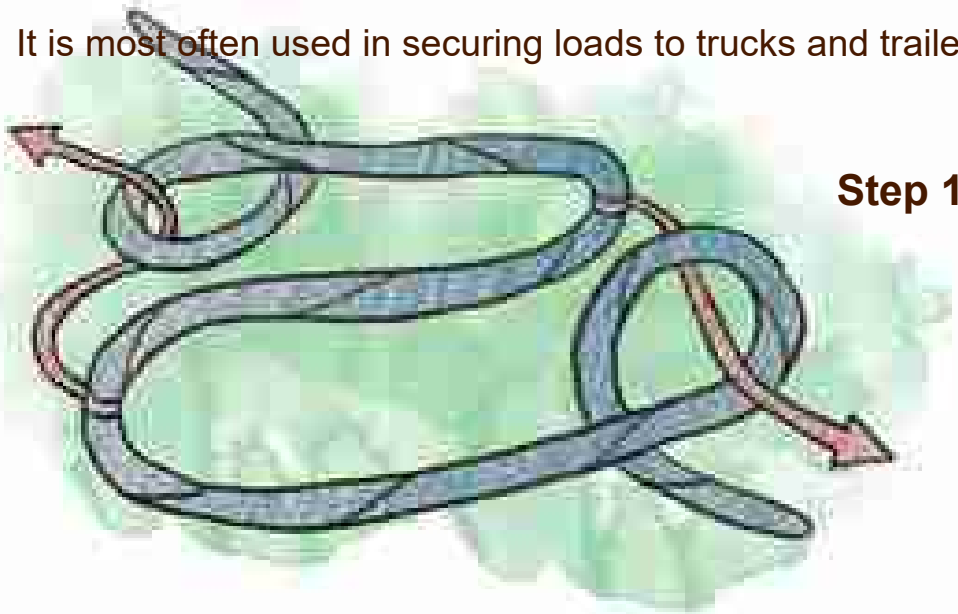
Sheepshank

The Sheepshank is used to “shorten” a rope, take up slack in a rope, or isolate a damaged area of the rope.

It is not a stable knot and easily comes apart when the tension is released.

The sheepshank holds best in a more “rough” type of rope, whereas, modern, synthetic, “slippery” types of rope and cord do not hold well with this knot.

It is most often used in securing loads to trucks and trailers, or in sailing.



Sheepshank Quick Notes

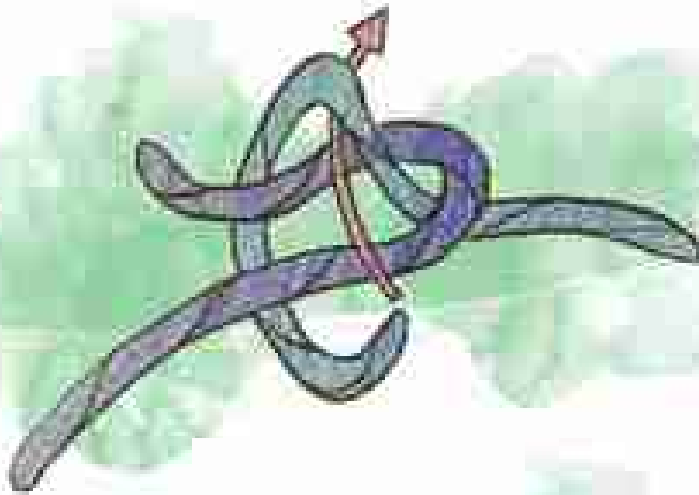
- Used to “shorten” a rope
- Unstable and comes apart easily when not under a load
- Works best with “rough” and “coarse” types of ropes

Sheet Bend

The Sheet Bend, or Weaver's Knot, is used to secure two ropes together, including ropes of unequal diameter or rigidity.

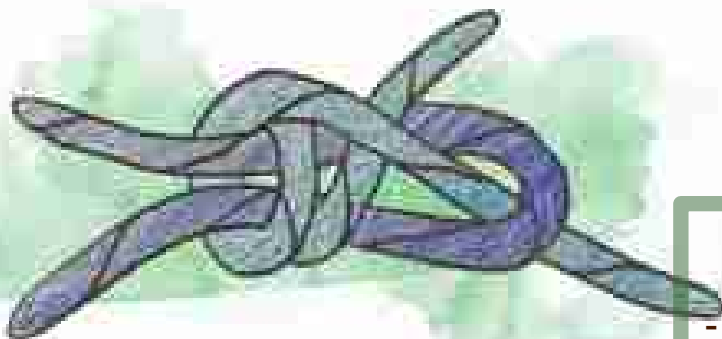
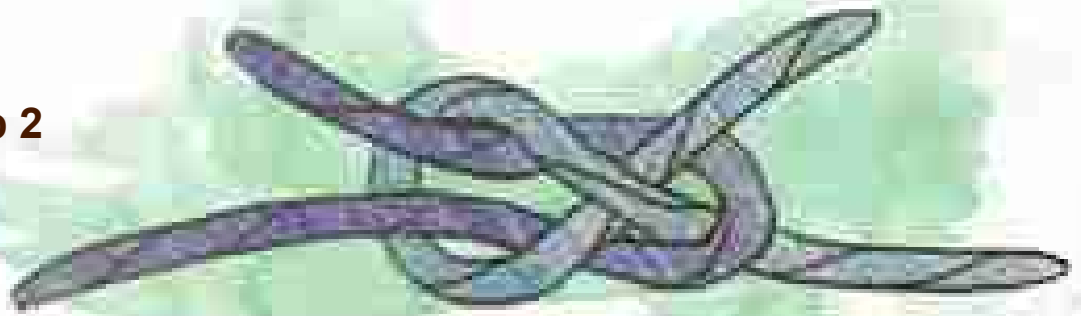
It is related in structure to the bowline, and can be doubled for increased security.

Although easy to untie, the Sheet Bend has a tendency to slip when not under a load.



Step 1

Step 2



Double Sheet Bend

Sheet Bend Quick Notes

- Used to secure two ropes together
- Quick and easy to tie and untie
- Might slip when not under a load

Square Knot

The Square Knot is a very ancient knot and is also referred to as the Reef Knot or Hercules Knot.

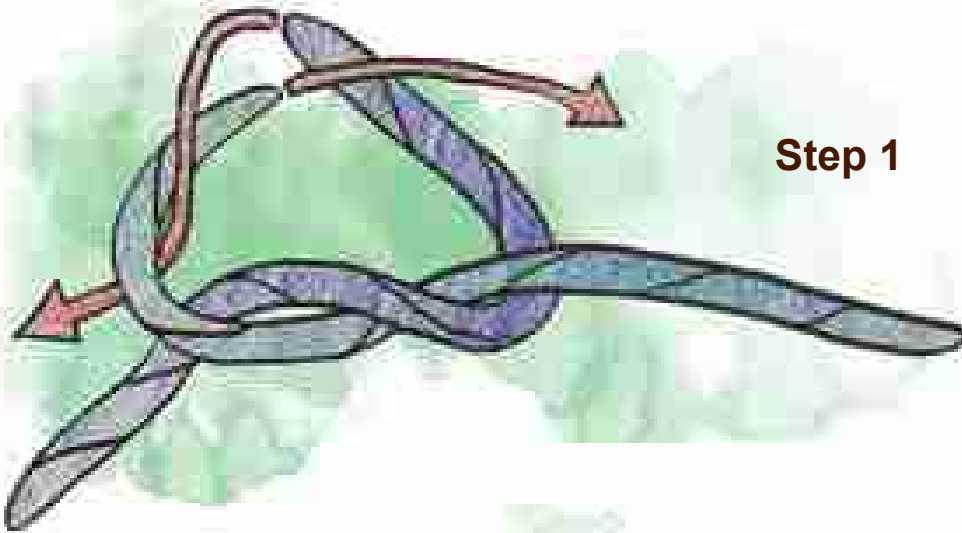
The Square Knot has been used for millennia by human kind for various purposes, including artwork, binding wounds, sailing, and textiles.

This knot should not be used to tie two pieces of rope together nor be used in critical situations, as it can easily slip.

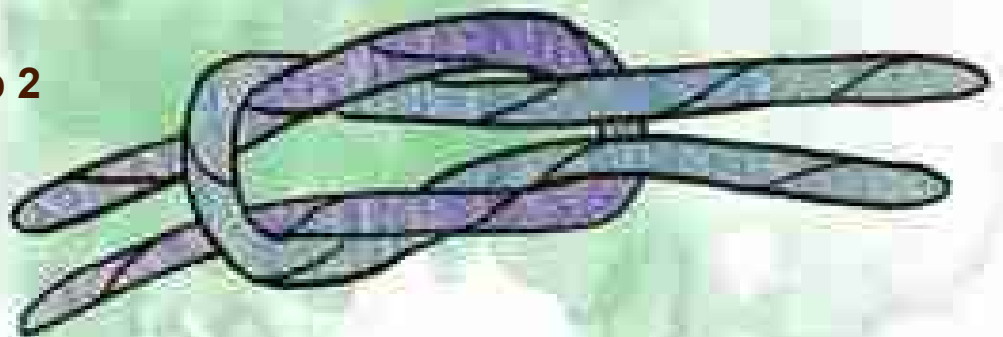
Mnemonic Device

“Right over left and
left over right;

Makes a knot both
tidy and tight.”



Step 2



Square Knot Quick Notes

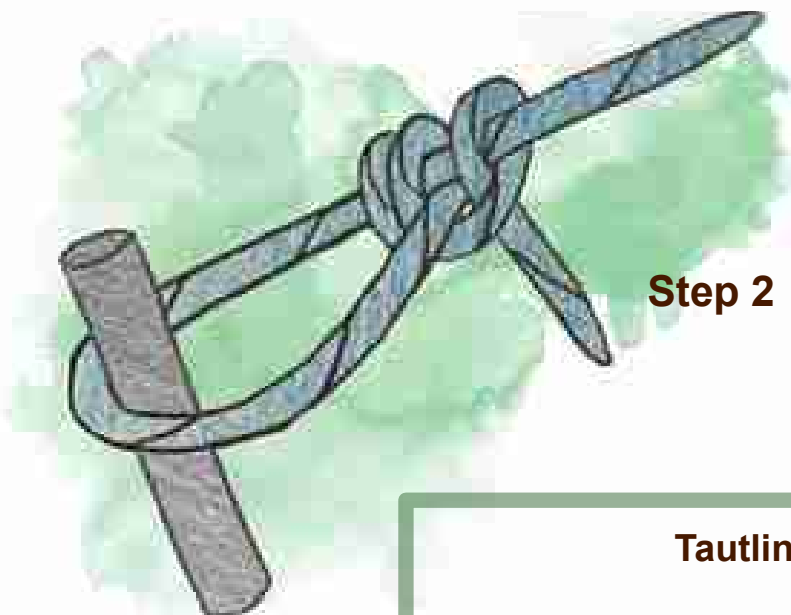
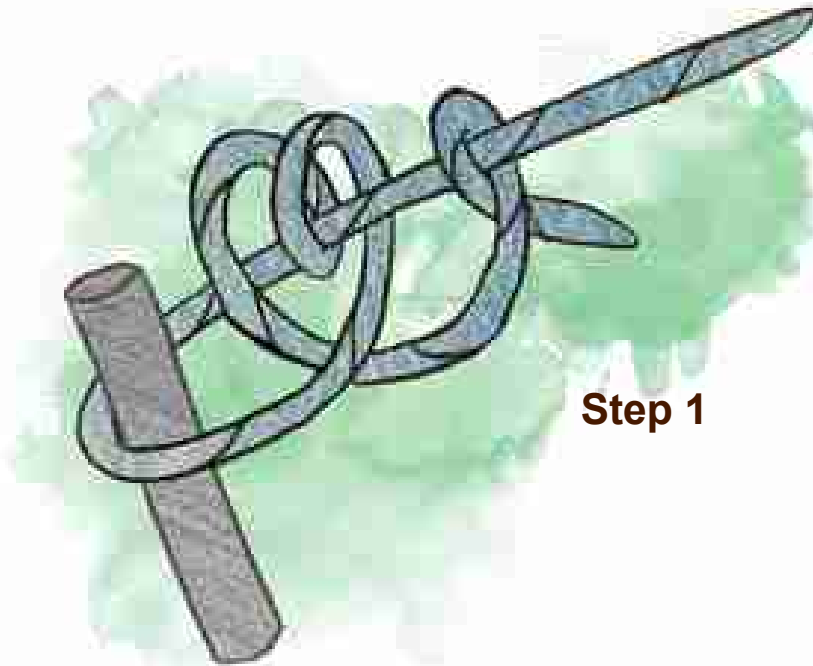
- Quick and easy to tie and untie
- Multipurpose decorative knot
- Should not be used to tie ropes together or in critical situations

Tautline Hitch

The Tautline Hitch is also known as the Rigger's Hitch or the Midshipman's Hitch. It is an adjustable knot used to secure ropes under tension.

The Tautline Hitch is also used in a variety of outdoor activities such as camping, tree climbing, and creating adjustable moorings in tidal areas.

This knot is less secure when tied with stiff or more modern “slippery,” synthetic ropes.



Tautline Hitch Quick Notes

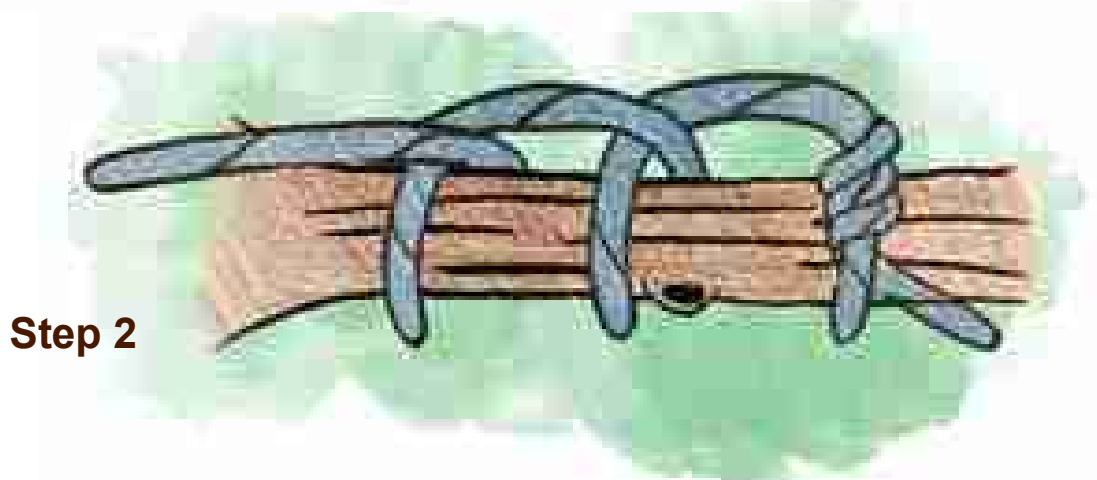
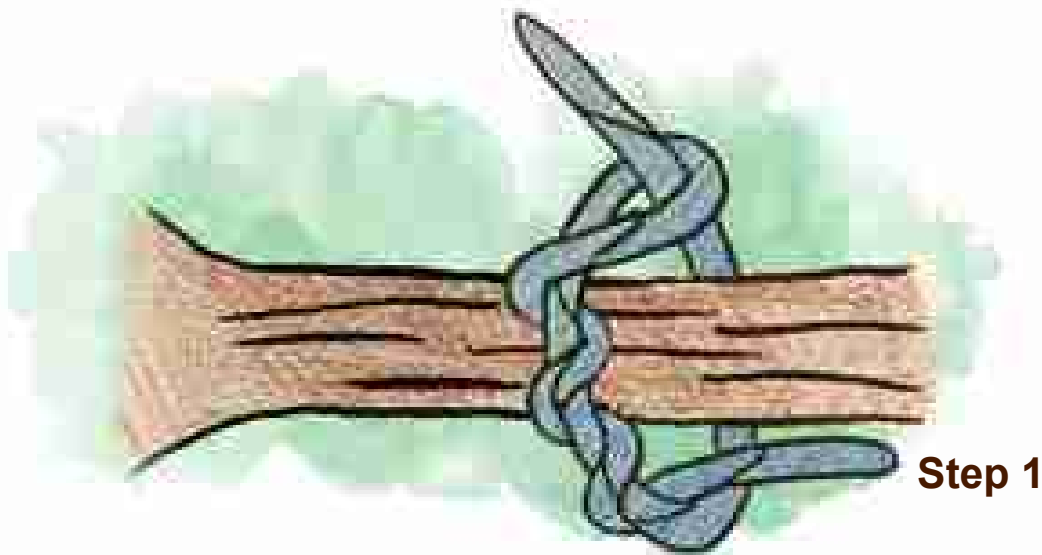
- An adjustable knot to secure ropes under tension
- Less secure when tied with smooth and “slippery” ropes

Timber Hitch

The Timber Hitch is an old knot that is commonly utilized to secure a rope to a cylindrical object, like a piece of timber.

This knot does not easily bind or jam, and can be untied easily even after being loaded.

The Timber Hitch is secure as long as tension is maintained, and commonly used by woodsmen and arborists.



Timber Hitch Quick Notes

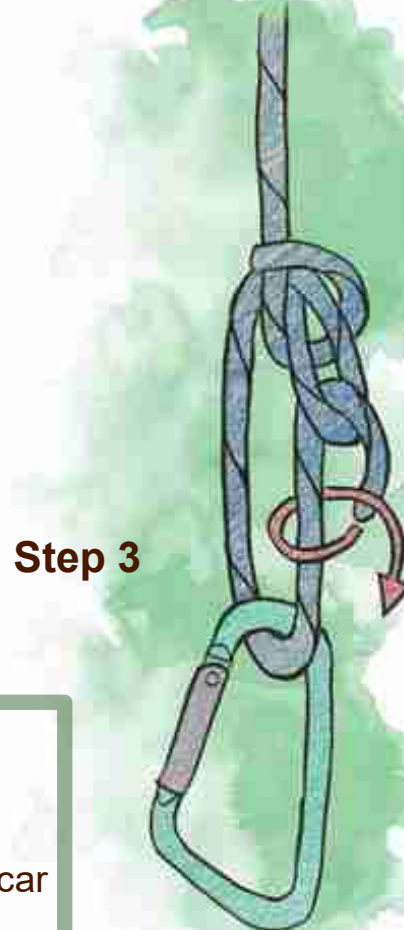
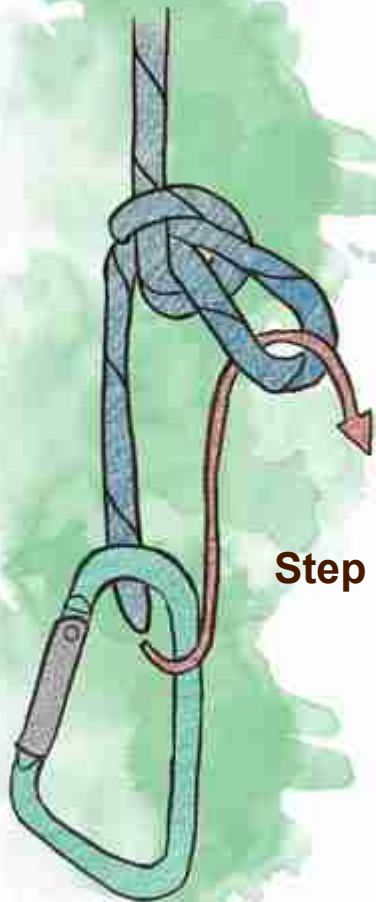
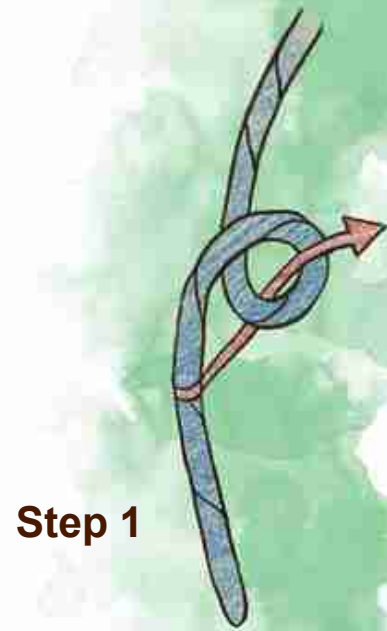
- Quick and easy to tie and untie, very secure under a load
- Used by woodsmen and arborists to secure a rope around timber

Trucker's Hitch

The Trucker's Hitch is a very strong and secure compound knot used to secure heavy loads.

The particular combination of knots that makes up the Trucker's Hitch allows for it to be pulled tightly, and it can be adjusted to the desired tension using the pulley effect created by the loop.

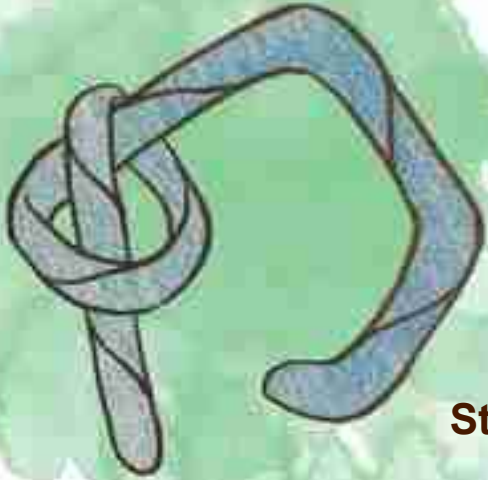
This knot is utilized by truckers to secure heavy loads. It also works well when securing gear to the roof of a car.



Trucker's Hitch Quick Notes

- Strong and secure compound knot
- Often used for securing loads on a truck, trailer or car

Water Knot

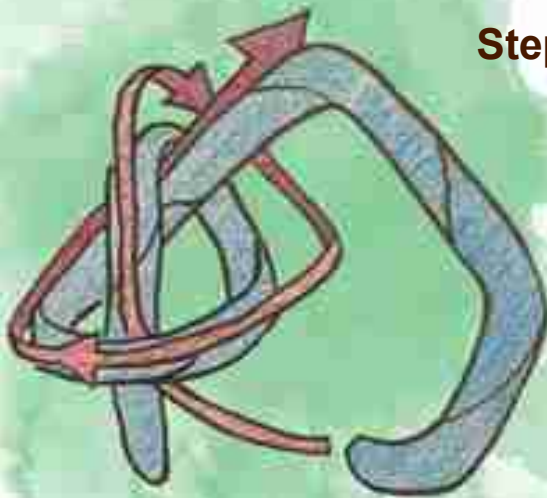


Step 1

The Water Knot, also known as the Ring Bend, Tape Knot or Grass Bend, is the best knot to use for tying together the ends of a flat webbing or strap.

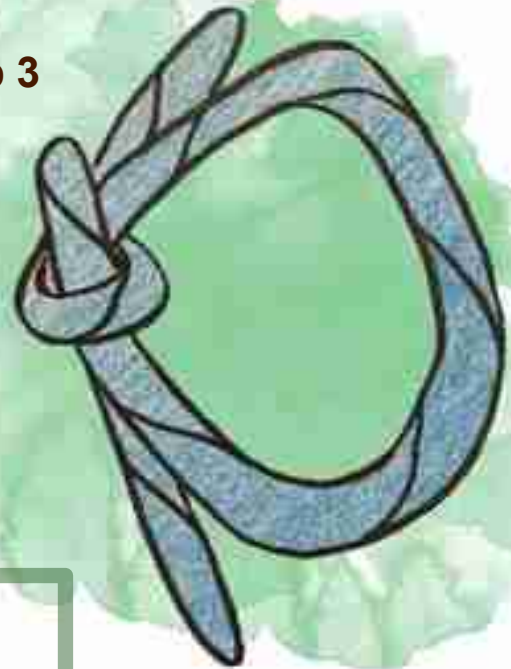
It is commonly used by climbers to tie webbing into loops, or for First Aid purposes, like tying a sling.

In critical circumstances, a “stopper knot,” like a Figure Eight Knot, can be used in the bitter ends to reduce the chance of slippage.



Step 2

Step 3



Water Knot Quick Notes

- Best knot for tying together the ends of flat webbing
- Use a “stopper knot” (Figure Eight Knot) in the ends for critical circumstances

**Copyright 2022 by DakotaGear ®
and Paracord 550 MilSpec™**

All rights reserved.

**No part of this publication may be
reproduced in any form or by any
means, including photocopying,
recording, or other electronic or
mechanical methods without the prior
written permission of
DakotaGear ®
or Paracord 550 MilSpec™**

**DakotaGear.com
Paracord550MilSpec.com**

**DakotaGear ® and
Paracord 550 MilSpec™
are U.S. Military Veteran
Owned and Operated
Companies.**

