

Scout Knots

Knots, splices and whippings

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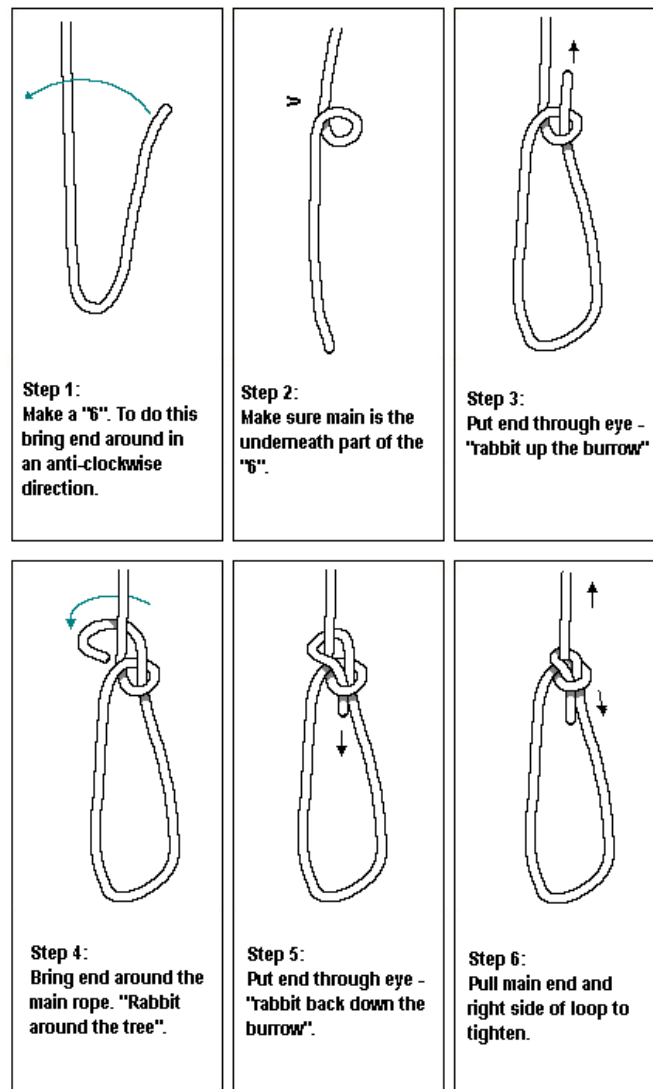
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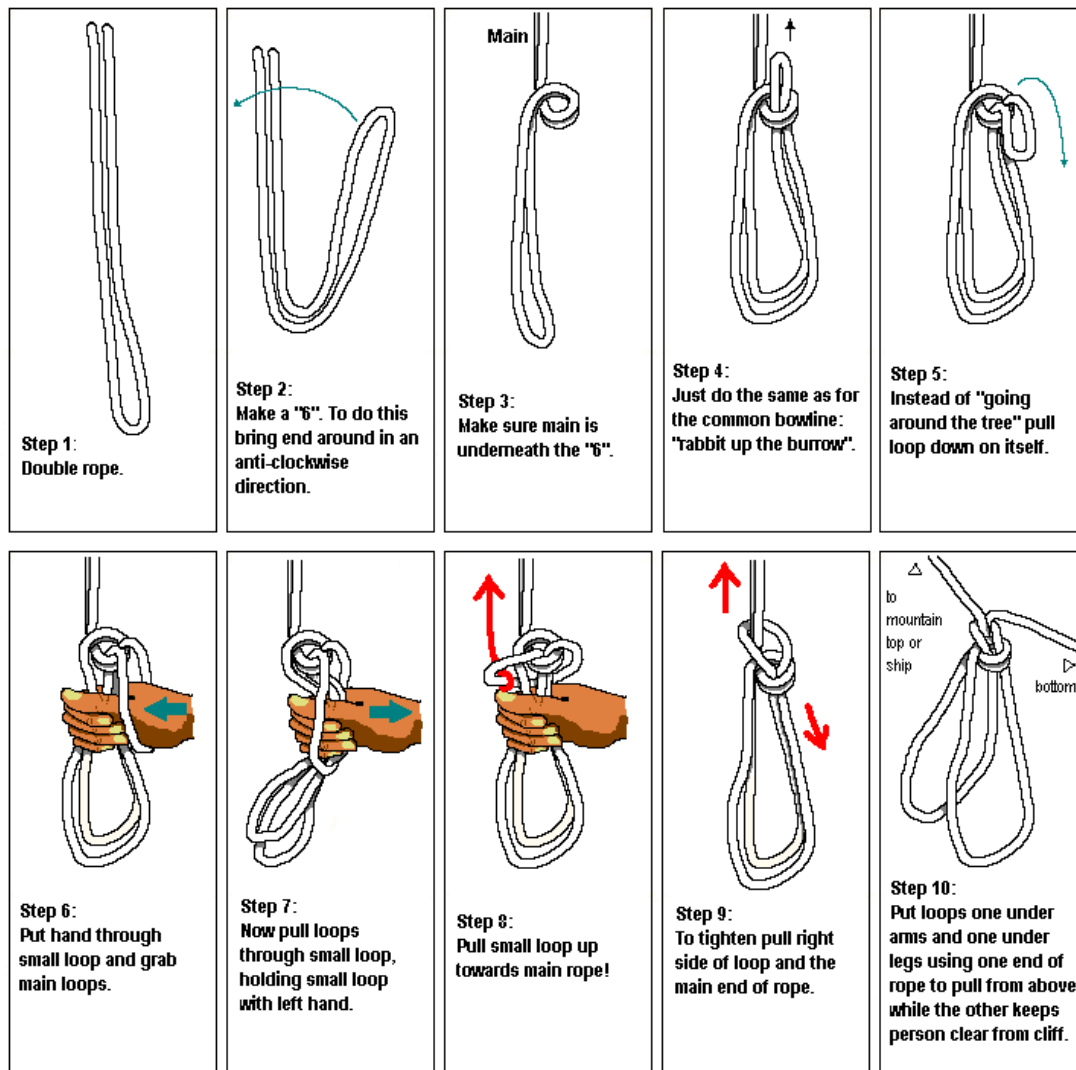
Bowline

This is a rescue knot. This is one of the most useful knots to know. Used for tying loop at the end of a rope. If you can tie this knot there is no knot you can't master.



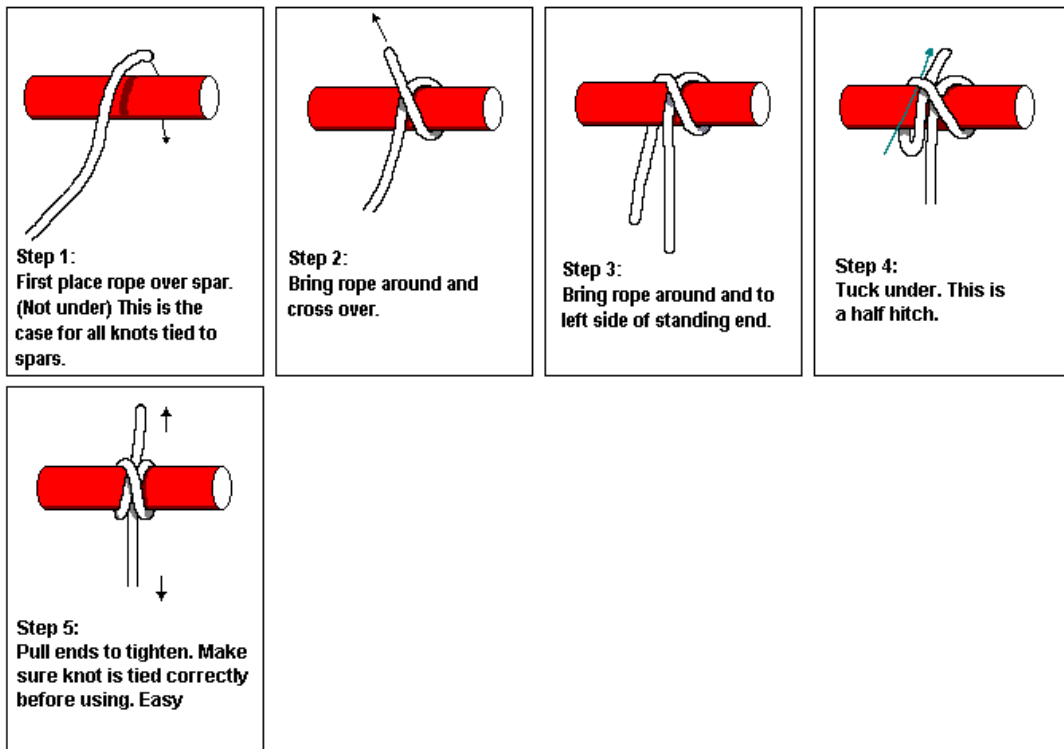
Bowline on the bight

This is a rescue knot. Probably the trickiest knot to get right. Great care must be taken when tightening this knot. Always make sure loops are the correct size to go under arms and legs.



Clove Hitch

This knot is usually used to start off a lashing. Except for this use it is necessary that there is an equal pull on each end of the hitch.



Double Sheet Bend

This knot is like the sheet bend except for it has an extra turn. Used for tying two ropes of unequal thickness together.

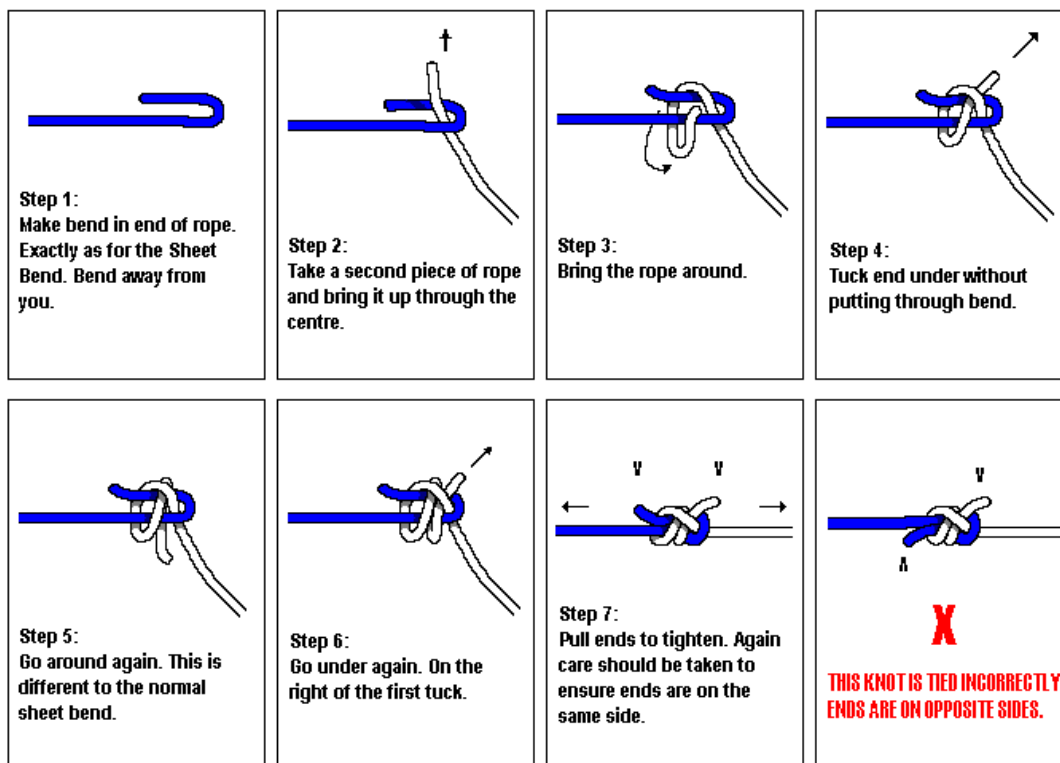
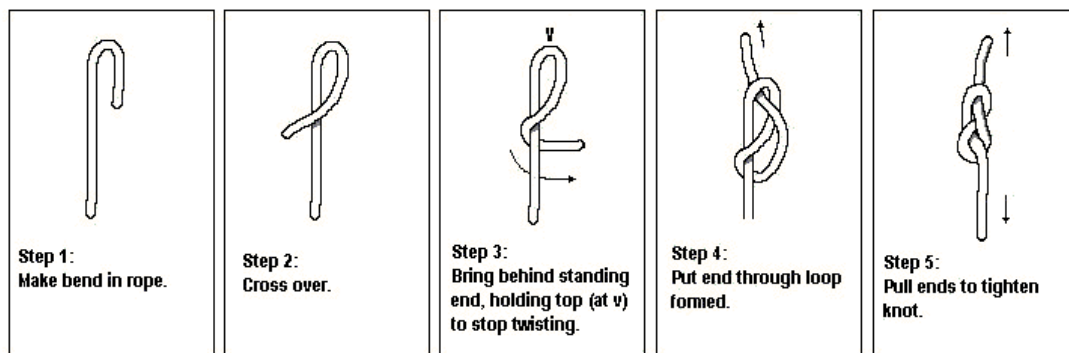


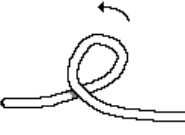
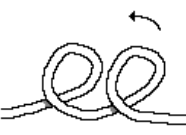
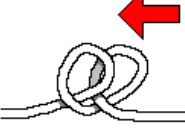
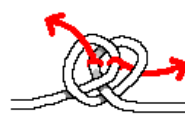

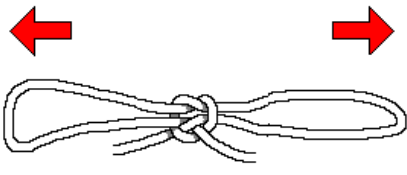
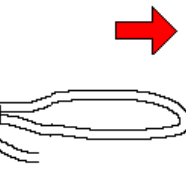
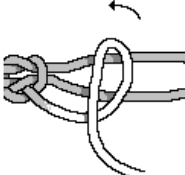
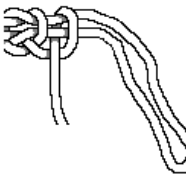
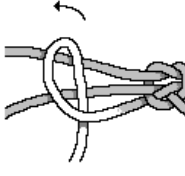
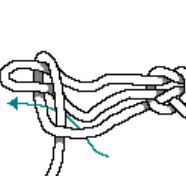
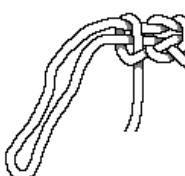
Figure of Eight Knot

The 2 most popular kinds of stopper knots are the figure of eight knot and the overhand knot. The figure of eight is the most useful in seamanship. This is demonstrated first. Another type of stopper knot is the stevedore. This will be treated separately as some confusion can sometimes occur with this knot. The figure of eight is used for tying at the end of the sheet (sail rope) to prevent the rope from pulling through the eye.

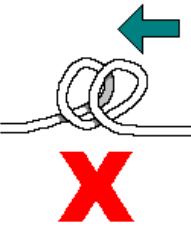

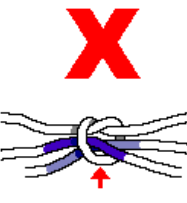


Fireman's Chair Knot

This is a rescue knot used to make a chair for a person in a rope. Care should be taken when tying this knot.

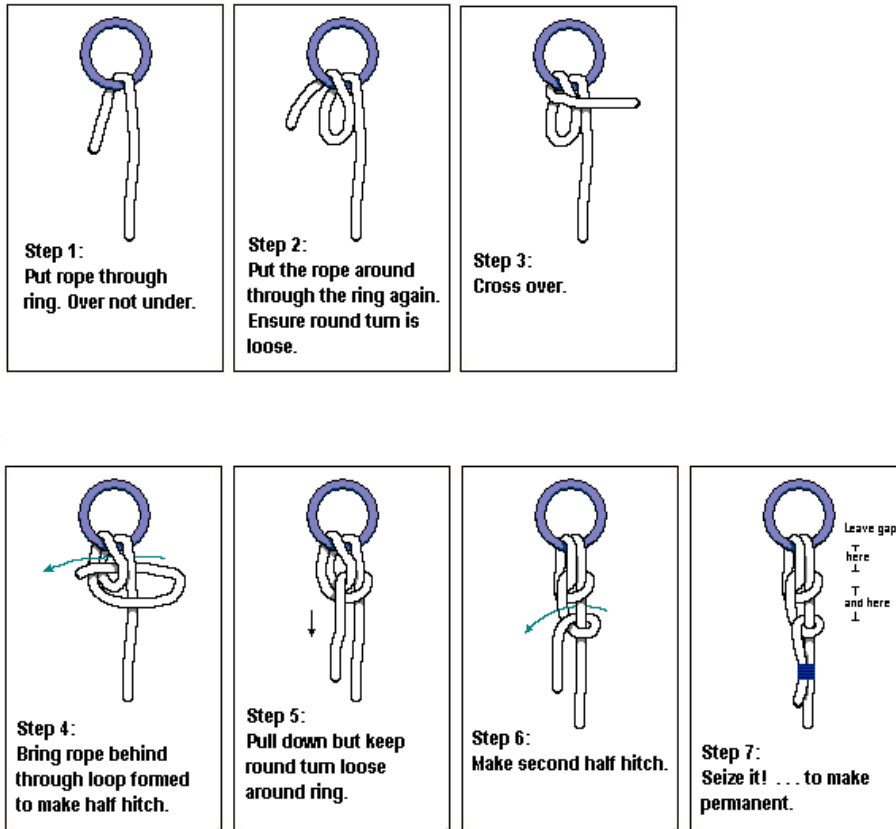
 <p>Step 1: Make half hitch. Place right over left. Loop is away from you.</p>	 <p>Step 2: Make a second half hitch. Again right over left.</p>	 <p>Step 3: Put right loop behind left loop.</p>	 <p>Step 4: Pull loop through as shown.</p>	 <p>Step 5: Pull each loop outwards.</p>
 <p>Step 6: Pull each loop until loop is large enough to fit a person. Make sure the centre knot tightens as you do this.</p>	 <p>Step 7: Make a half hitch. Right over left, exactly the same as the start.</p>	 <p>Step 8: Put loop through half hitch.</p>	 <p>Step 9: Bring half hitch up to centre knot and tighten.</p>	 <p>Step 10: Make another half hitch but this time on the left side. Again right over left.</p>
 <p>Step 10: Make another half hitch but this time on the left side. Again right over left.</p>	 <p>Step 11: Put loop through half hitch.</p>	 <p>Step 12: Bring half hitch up to centre of knot and tighten.</p>		

A word of caution:

 <p>Note: Not right on front of left loop. Refer to step 3.</p>	 <p>Note: Although the centre may look similar to the correct knot as shown above, this knot shown here is completely wrong and must not be accepted.</p>	 <p>Note: These ends don't cross over as in stage 6, therefore this is wrong way to tie this knot.</p>
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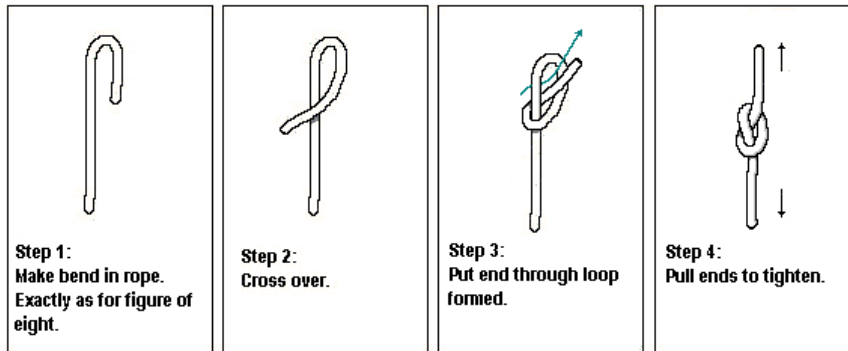
Fisherman's Bend

This is very similar to the round turn and two half hitches but is used for anchors. Also known as an Anchor Bend.



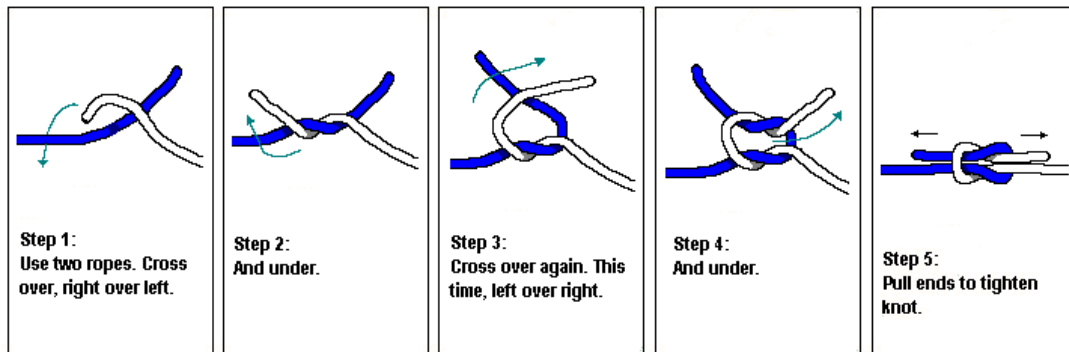
Overhand Knot

This is probably the simplest knot of all, and most people tie this knot, without realising it, to close a plastic bag. This stopper knot is used to stop end of rope going through eye.



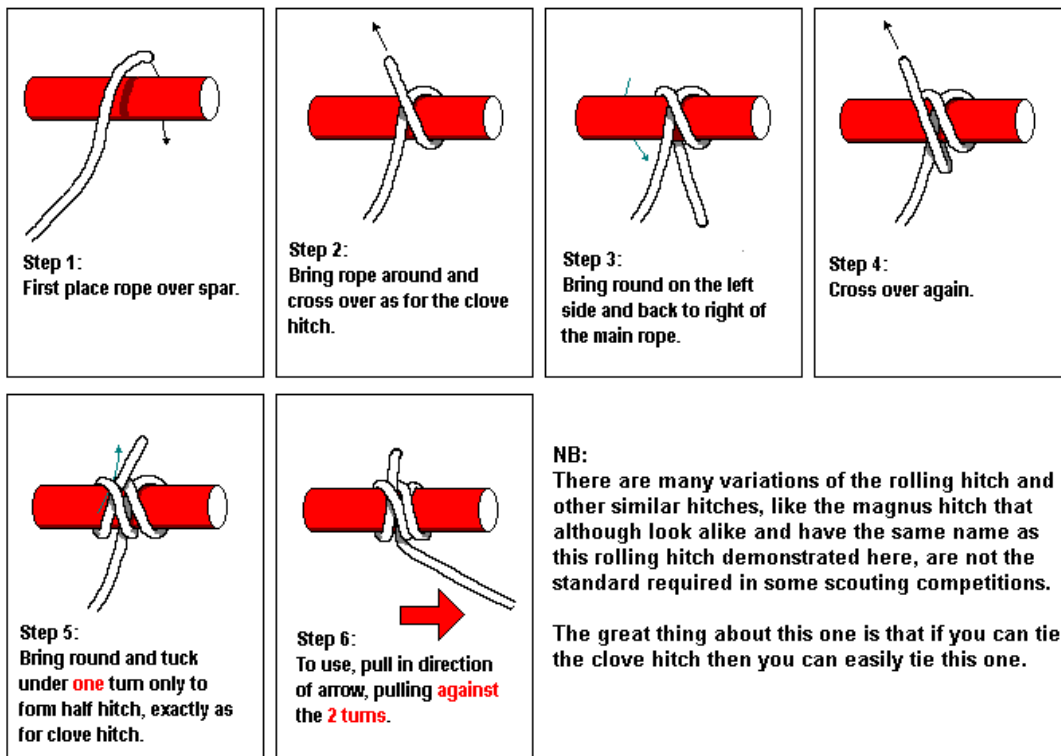
Reef Knot

This knot is used for tying two ropes together. Also used for tying the reefing points on a sail or tying a triangular bandage in first aid.



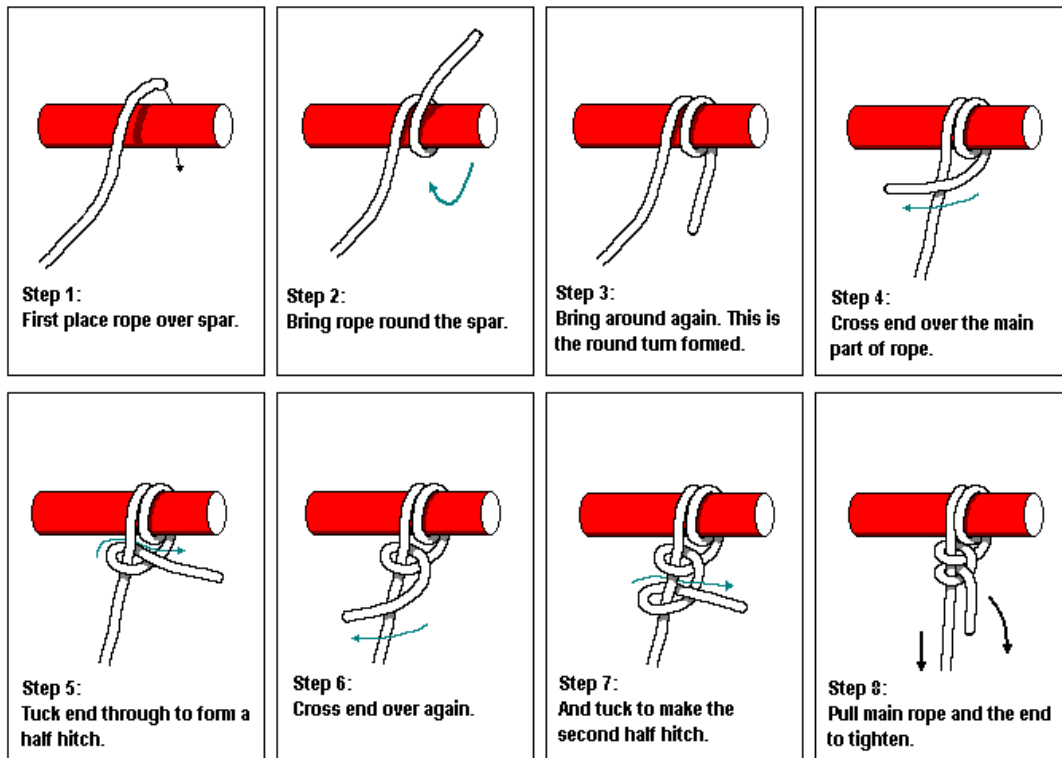
Rolling Hitch

Similar to the clove hitch except used when there is a strain at an angle on a round object such as a spar or thick rope.



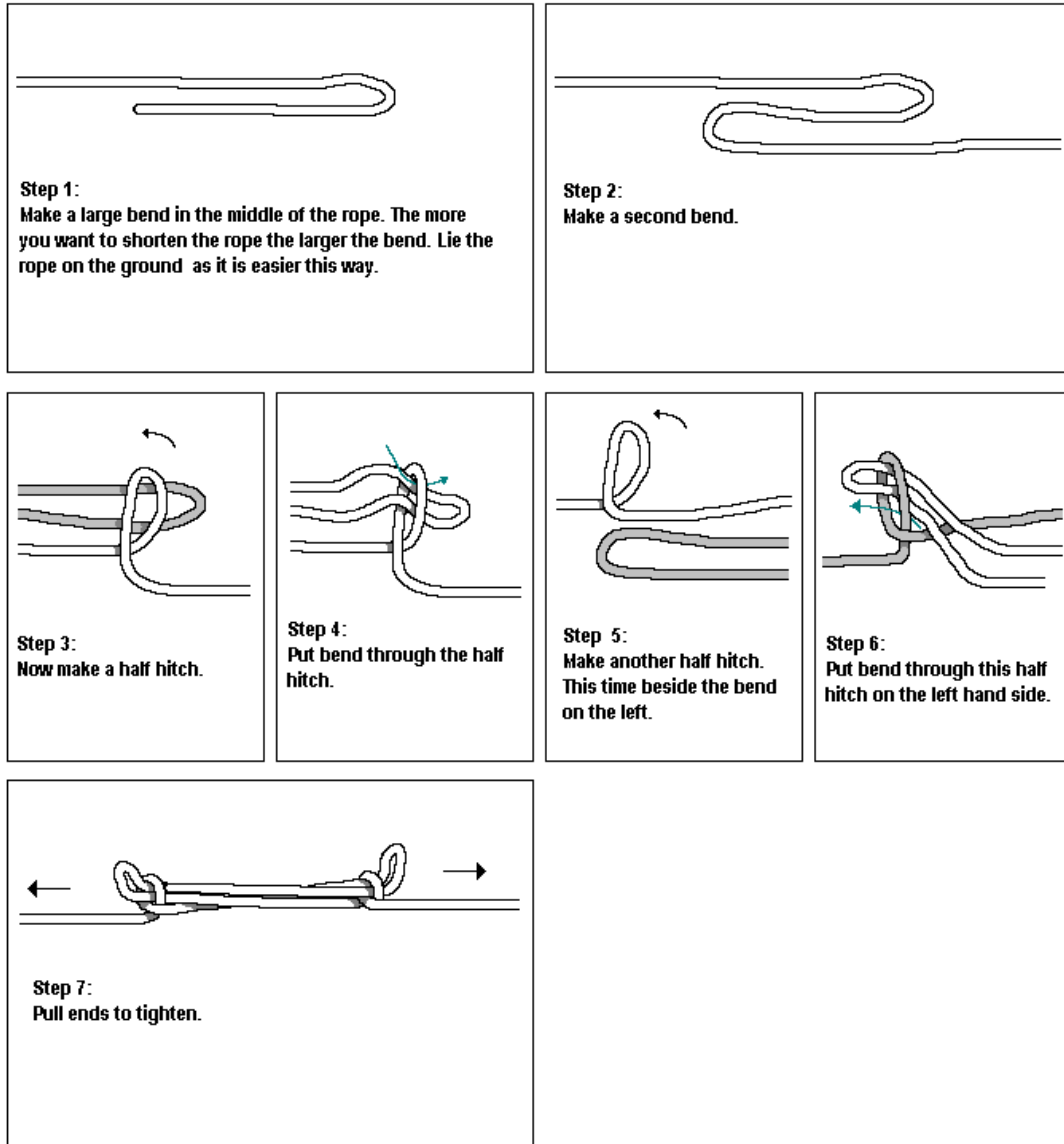
Round Turn and Two Half Hitches

This knot secures rope to spar or ring. It is a very useful knot.



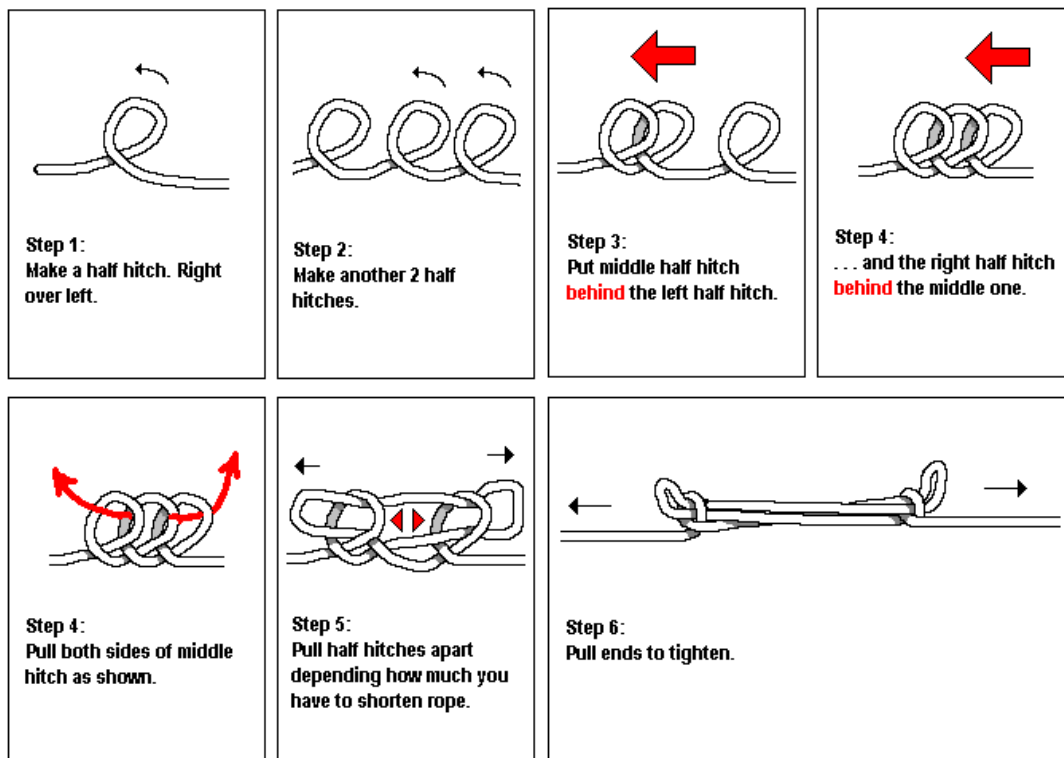
Sheepshank

This knot is used for shortening a rope.



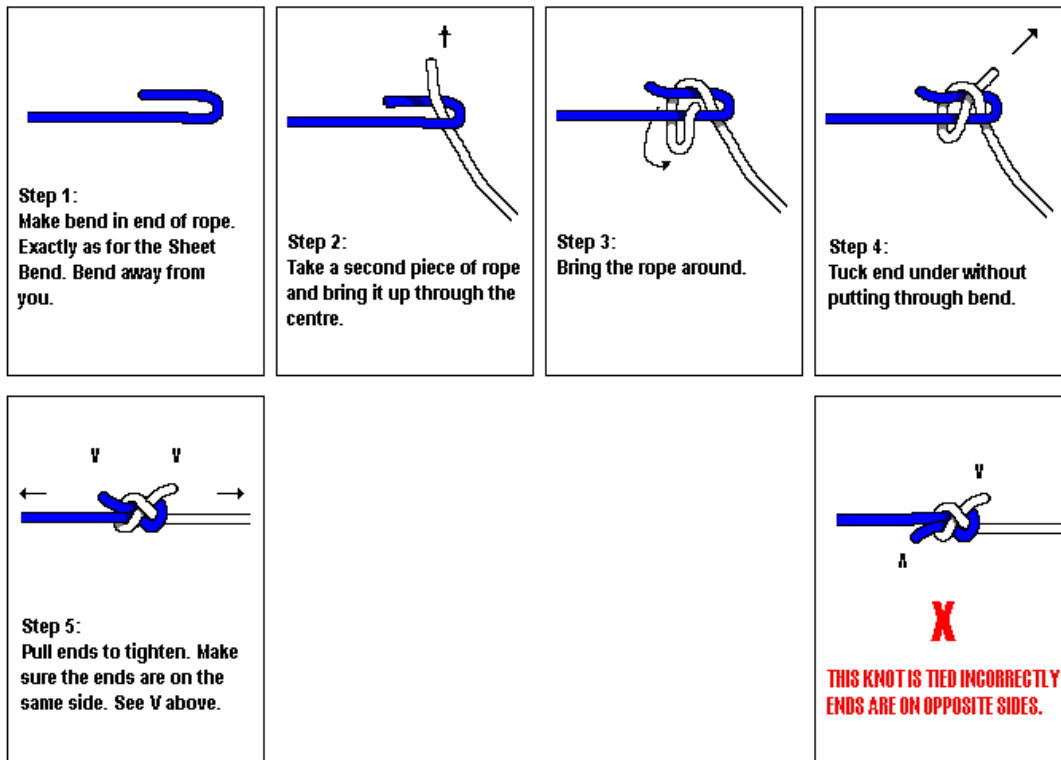
Sheepshank (fast version)

It is worth mentioning here that there another way and easier way of tying the sheepshank. More care is needed to ensure that it is tied correctly. It is not wise to attempt it in competitions as it is easy to make a mistake (unless you are very proficient at tying it). Again this knot is used for shortening a rope.



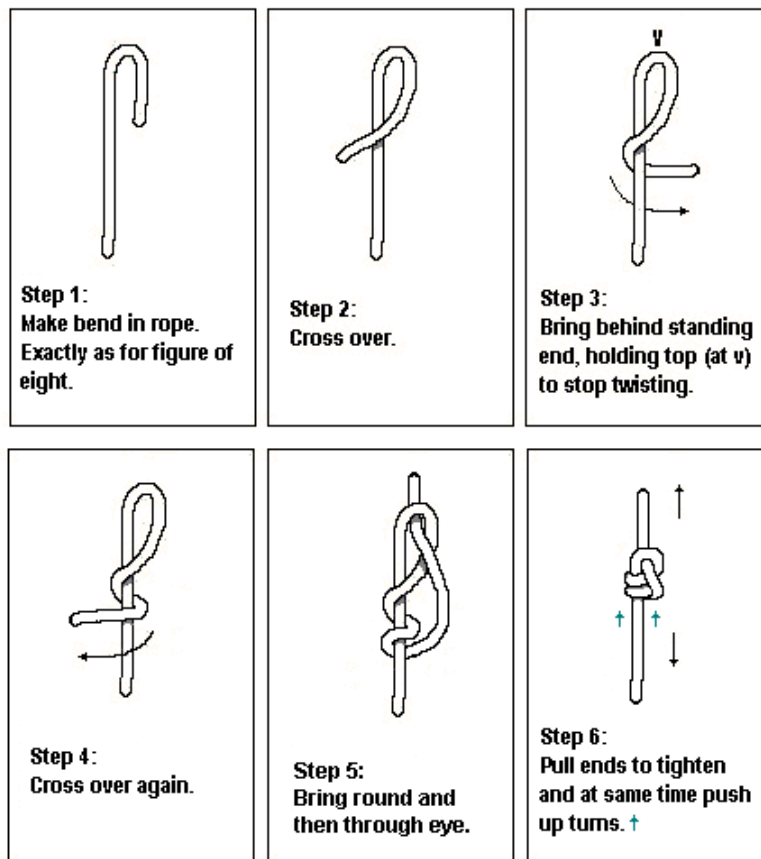
Sheet Bend

This knot is used for tying two ropes together. Has better strength than the reef knot.



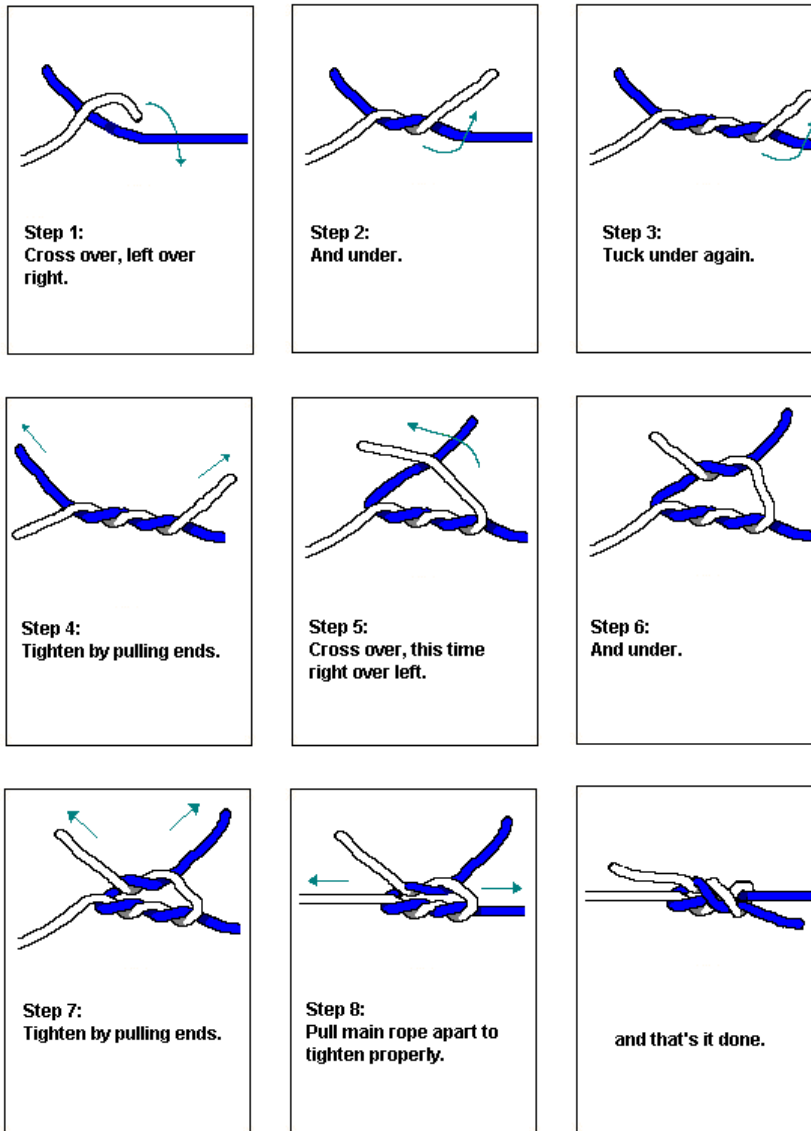
Stevedore Knot

This is just like the figure of eight knot but with an extra twist. It is not to be confused with the blood knot. The stevedore knot is a stopper knot.



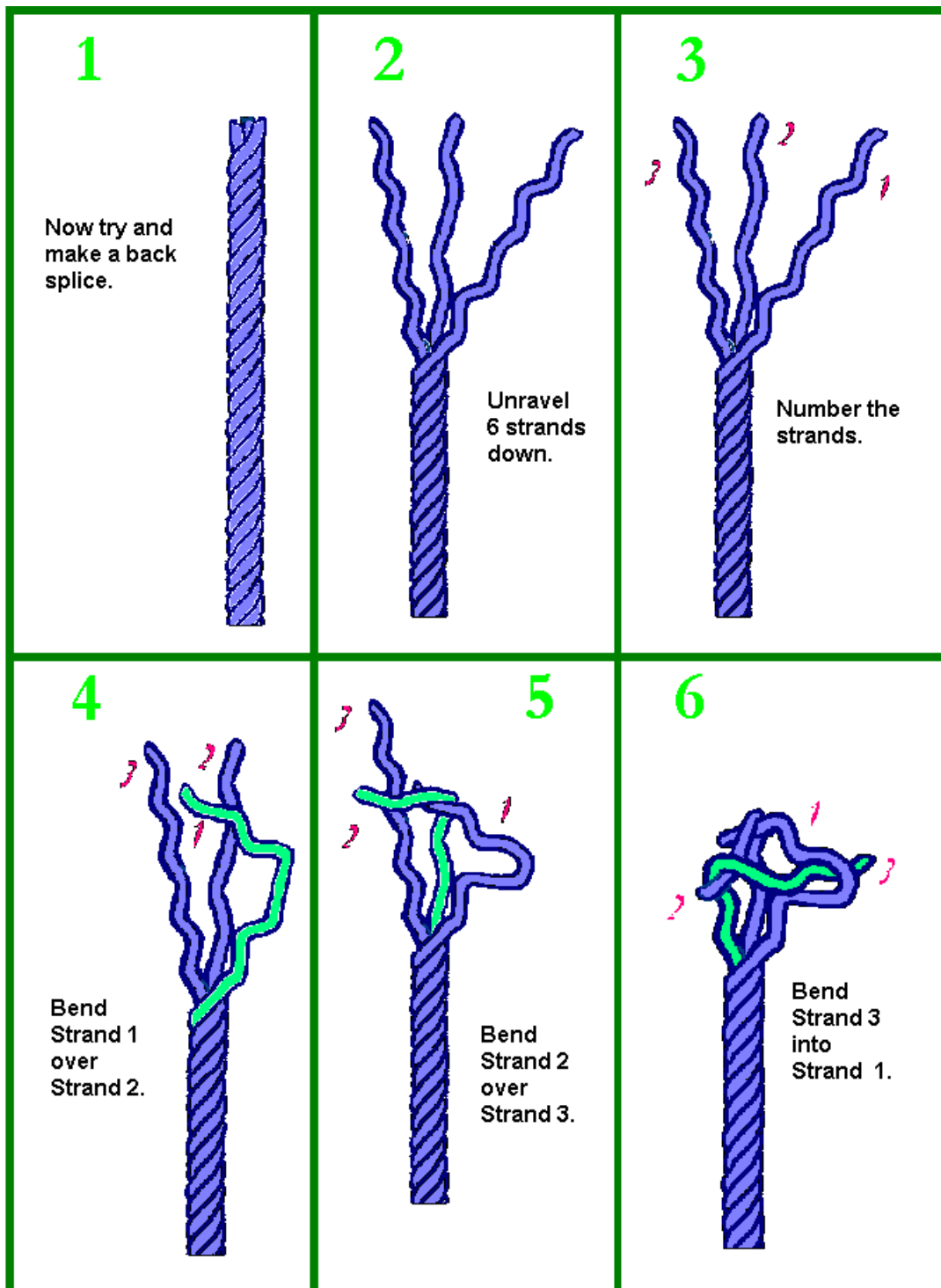
Surgeon's Knot

This knot is not really used in scouting. Some scouts use the knot to tie the ends of the whipping twine to finish the sailmaker's whipping although the reef knot is the preferred knot for this.



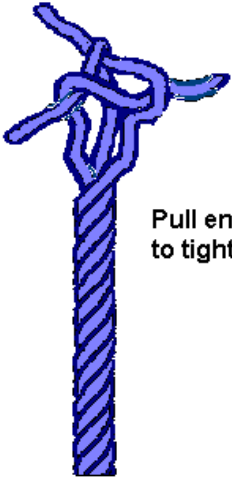
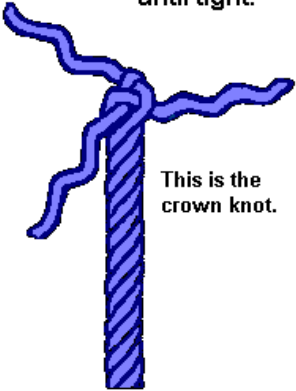




Back Splice

Step 1 of 2



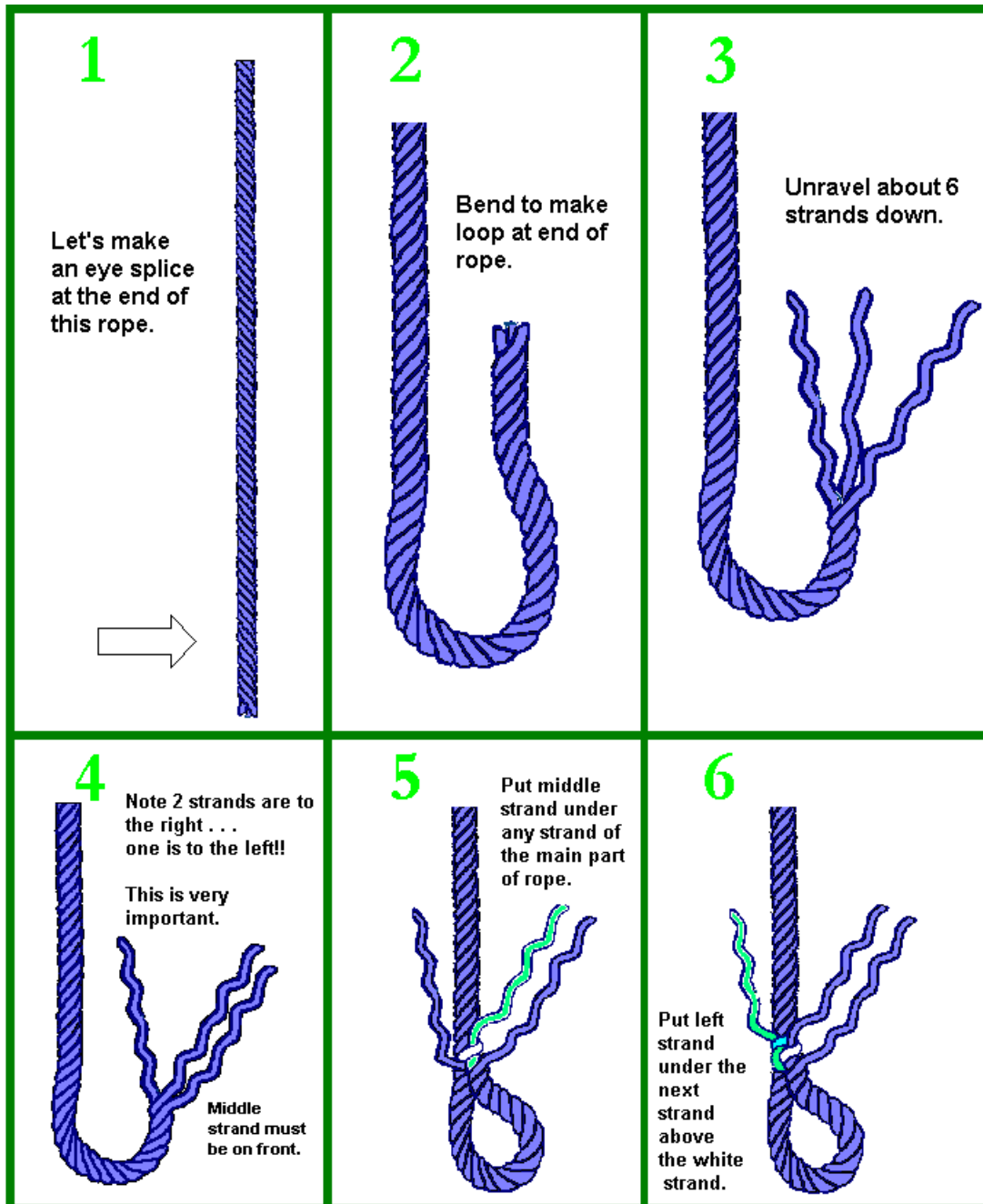
Back Splice

Step 2 of 2

<p>7</p>  <p>Pull ends to tighten.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Pull ends until tight.</p> <p>This is the crown knot.</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Now take one strand and go over and under.</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>Bring the other two strands down. Again over and under.</p>	<p>Bring the three strands down twice more and taper after the third over and under.</p>  <p>Cut off half of the strand and with the other half go over and under.</p> <p>Half strands here to taper.</p> <p>11</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Cut any long ends. Roll between hands. ... and that's it done.</p>

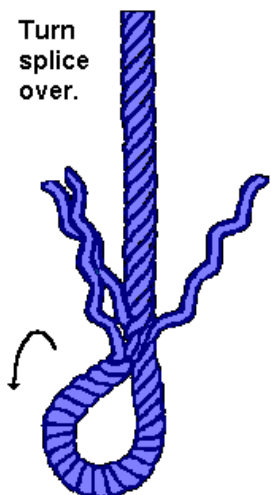
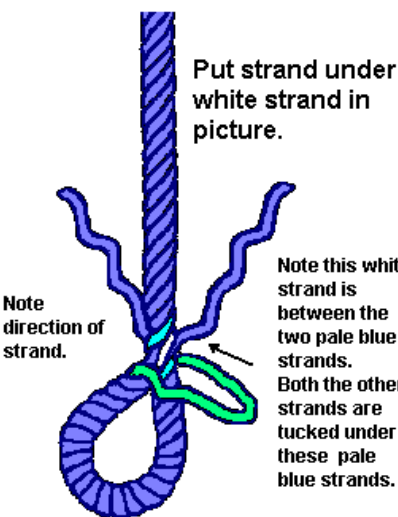
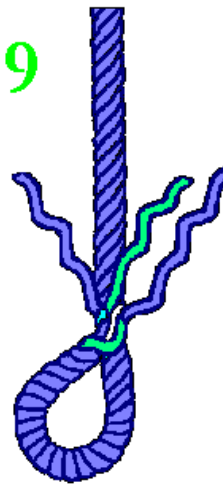
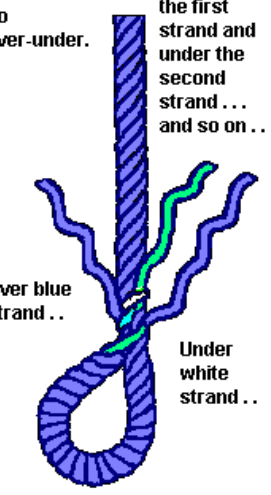
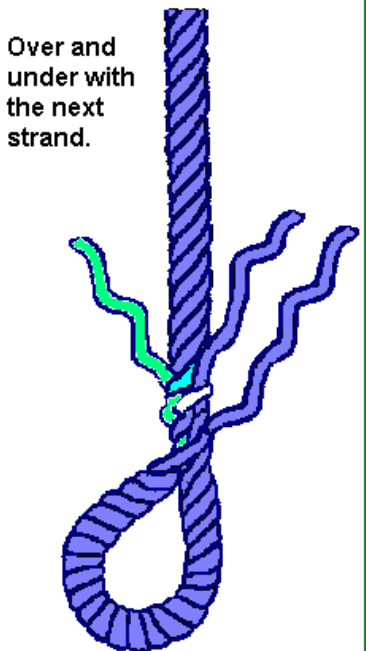
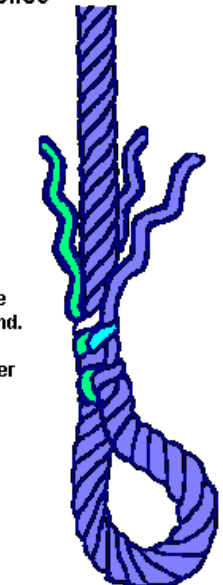
Eye Splice

Step 1 of 3




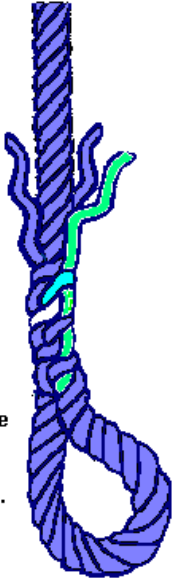
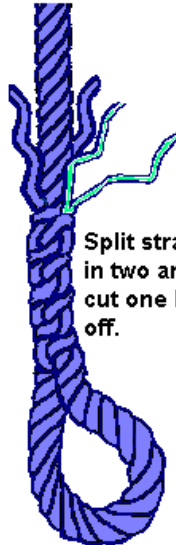
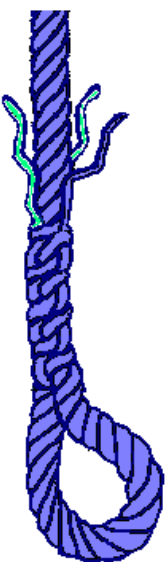
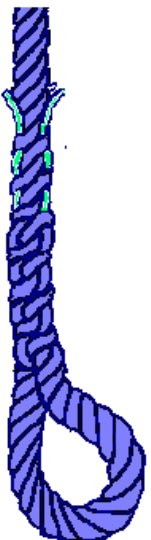
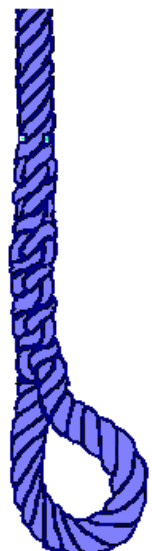
Eye Splice

Step 2 of 3

<p>7</p> <p>Turn splice over.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>This is the most difficult part of the splice knowing where to put this last strand.</p> <p>Put strand under white strand in picture.</p> <p>Note direction of strand.</p>  <p>Note this white strand is between the two pale blue strands. Both the other strands are tucked under these pale blue strands.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Tuck under white strand.</p> 
<p>Take this strand and go over-under.</p> <p>Over blue strand ..</p> <p>Under white strand ..</p> <p>that is over the first strand and under the second strand ... and so on ..</p> <p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Over and under with the next strand.</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Turn splice over.</p> <p>and tuck under the last strand.</p> <p>Again over - under.</p> 

Eye Splice

Step 3 of 3

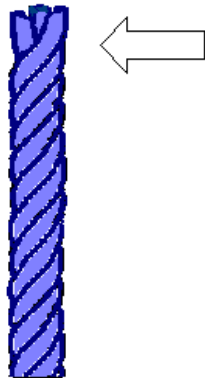
<p>13</p>  <p>Now bring this strand up again. Another over and under.</p> <p>Bring all three strands up like this.</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Now bring up the two other strands.</p> <p>Again over and under.</p> <p>Do the same for the last strand - not shown.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Do another tuck with the three strands and then begin to taper.</p> <p>Tapering gives a neat appearance.</p> <p>Split strand in two and cut one half off.</p>
<p>16</p>  <p>Split and cut the other two strands.</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Bring halved strands over and under twice more.</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Cut long ends ...</p> <p>Roll splice between hands.</p> <p>... and that's it finished.</p>

Common Whipping

Step 1 of 2

1

Now let's put a common whipping at the end of this rope.



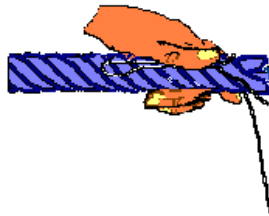
2

Make a loop from the whipping twine and put it on centre of rope.



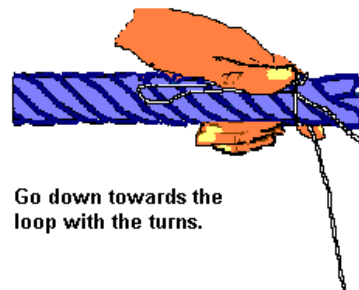
3

Use left hand to hold twine in position



4

Wrap the twine loosely around the rope for the first turn.



Go down towards the loop with the turns.

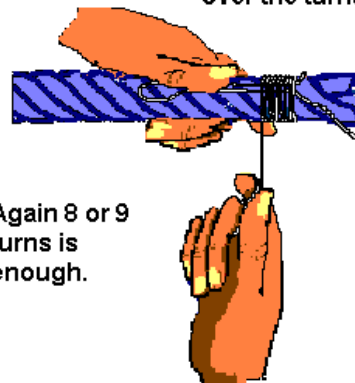
5

Get a good grip of the twine and pull as tight as you can for the second turn and all turns thereafter.



6

Keep turns tight and don't cross over the turns.

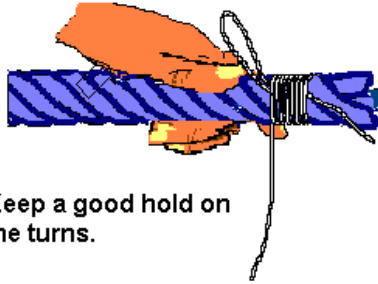


Again 8 or 9 turns is enough.

Common Whipping

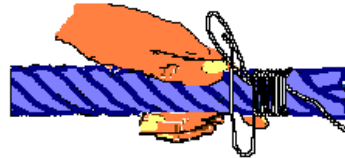
Step 2 of 2

7



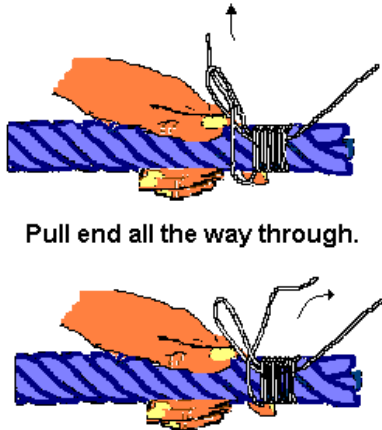
Keep a good hold on the turns.

8



Put end through loop.

9



Pull end all the way through.

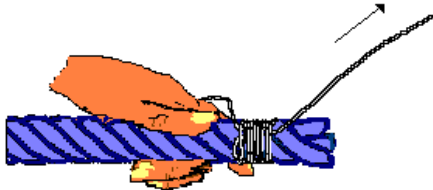
10

Pull twine at the top end to tighten loop.



11

Pull tight so that loop disappears under turns.



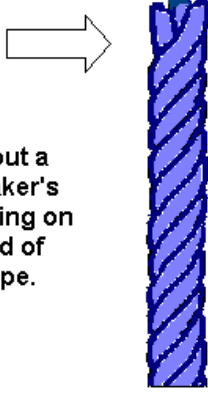

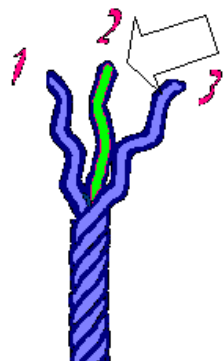
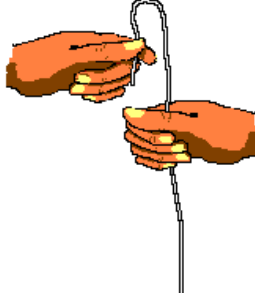

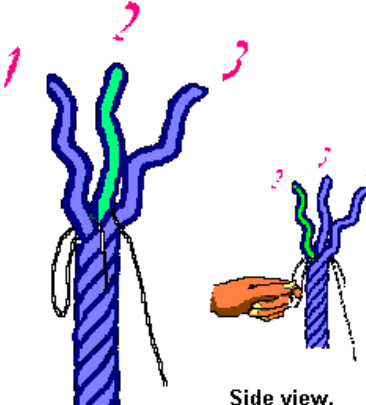
12

Cut any long ends and that's it finished.



Sailmaker's Whipping

Step 1 of 4

<p>1</p> <p>Let's put a sailmaker's whipping on the end of this rope.</p> 	<p>Unravel about 3 strands down.</p> 
<p>Number the strands 1, 2, 3. Make sure the middle strand (strand 2) is at the back.</p> 	<p>Make loop at the end of whipping twine.</p> 
<p>Put loop over middle strand.</p>  <p>5</p>	<p>Side view.</p>  <p>Pull loop down.</p> <p>6</p>

Sailmaker's Whipping

Step 2 of 4

7

Lay the strands back up the rope in an anti-clockwise direction while at the same time twisting the strand in a clockwise direction.

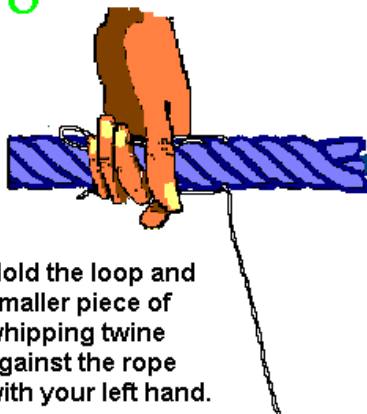
This may seem complicated but it is not.

The strands lay neatly back in their original positions.



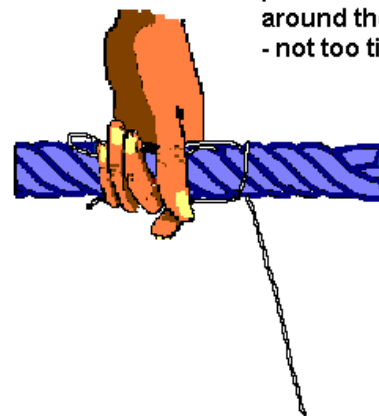
Should look like this.

8



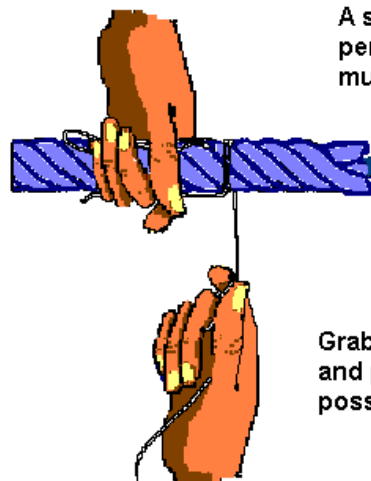
Hold the loop and smaller piece of whipping twine against the rope with your left hand.

9



Wrap the longer piece of twine around the rope - not too tight.

10



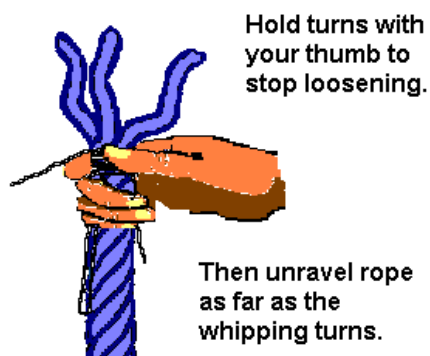
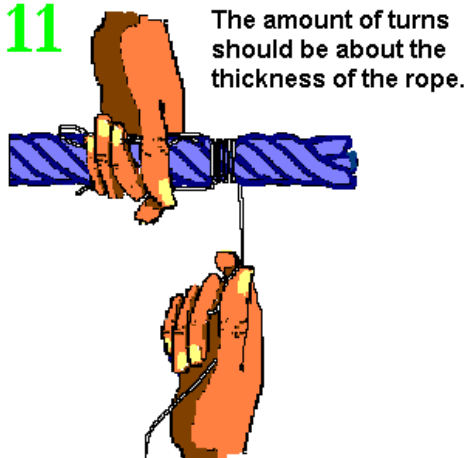
A sailmaker's whipping is to be permanent so the turns from here on must be tight.

Grab a good hold of the twine and pull tightly as hard as you possibly can to make the turns.

Sailmaker's Whipping

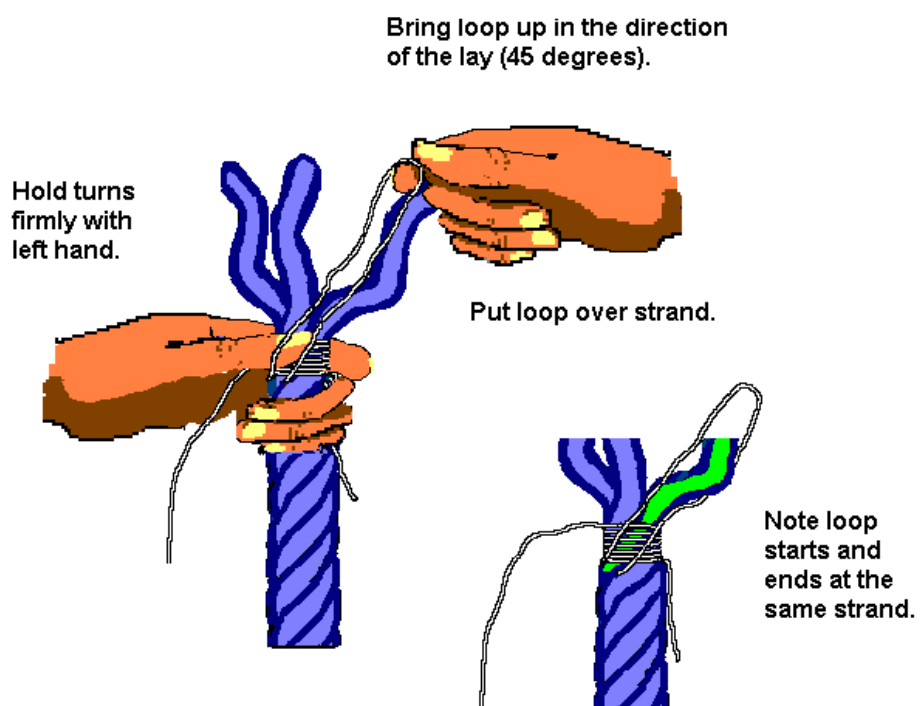
Step 3 of 4

11



12

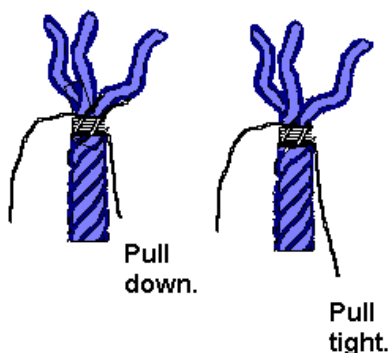
13



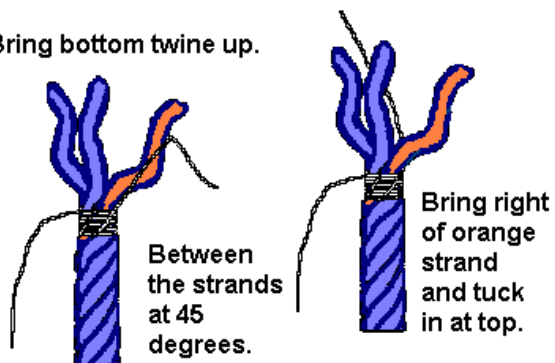
Sailmaker's Whipping

Step 4 of 4

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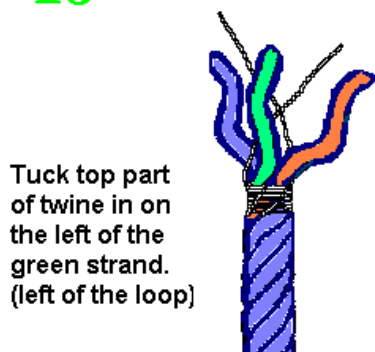


Bring bottom twine up.



15

16



17

Tie a reef knot or a surgeon's knot to finish.

Pull ends tightly before finishing with a reef knot.

Make sure it's tied tightly.

Right over left and under.

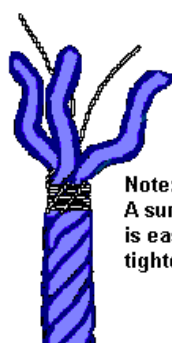


Left over right and under.

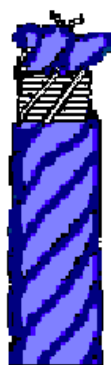


18

Tighten.



Note: A surgeon's knot is easier to tighten.



Cut long ends.

.. and it's a rap.