

Knots & Lashings

“Better to know a knot and not need it, than need a knot and not know it.”

A good knot must pass three tests:

1. It is easy to tie.
2. It stays tied.
3. It is easy to untie.

To make a rope or piece of rope do what you want it to do, like staying put, forming a loop, or joining to another rope, you use three ways of arranging it. All knots, bends, hitches, and lashings are combinations of bight, loop, and overhand knots.

Reef (Square) Knot

The Square Knot is used to join two equal sized ropes.

1. Take an end of the rope in each hand and lay the left end over the right end.
2. Then using your right hand, take the end from the left down behind the other rope and up to the front again.
3. Point the end inwards again, this time the right hand one over the other one, then take it down behind it and up to the front through the loop which has now been formed.

Reef (Square) Knot



Bowline

A Bowline makes a secure loop in the end of a rope. It does not slip or bind.

1. Form a loop a short distance from the end-allow for the size of the loop the loop and the knot itself.
2. Pass the end of the rope through the loop as though making a simple knot.
3. Pull the end through, then round the standing end, and then back through the loop to finish the bowline.

Bowline



Clove Hitch

The Clove Hitch is used to tie a line to a piling or post. This knot can be used to tie fenders to a railing. It is terrific to use when a temporary situation arises. It is not a knot with staying power.

1. Pass the working end over and under a rail
2. Run it across the standing part at the front
3. Continue around the rail again and bring the working end back to trap it under the diagonal.



Sheepshank

The Sheepshank is a knot which can be used to shorten a length of rope.

1. Pull a section of rope back and lay it alongside the rope, so that the rope forms a Z approximately 20 cm long.
2. Grasp the U-bend in one hand, with the other hand form a small loop in the remaining section and draw it over the U-bend so that the loop forms a half hitch and stays there if the free end of the rope is pulled taut.
3. Repeat at the other U-bend.



Carrick Bend:

The Carrick Bend is a knot used for joining two lines. It is particularly appropriate for very heavy rope or cable that is too large and stiff to easily be formed into other common bends.

1. Form a loop in one end with the working end passing through the standing end.
2. Pass the other end under the working end.
3. Tuck the standing end under the working end.
4. Thread the working end under itself and pull the standing ends to obtain the appearance under load.



Useful Websites:

www.animatedknots.com

www.realknots.com/knots/index.htm

Useful Books:

A Handbook of Knots and Knot Tying by Geoffrey Budworth

Knots: Step-by-Step Instructions for Tying More Than 50 knots By Peter Owen