

Knots to Know 101

“Knots” are broken up into 3 categories: Hitches, Bends and Knots.

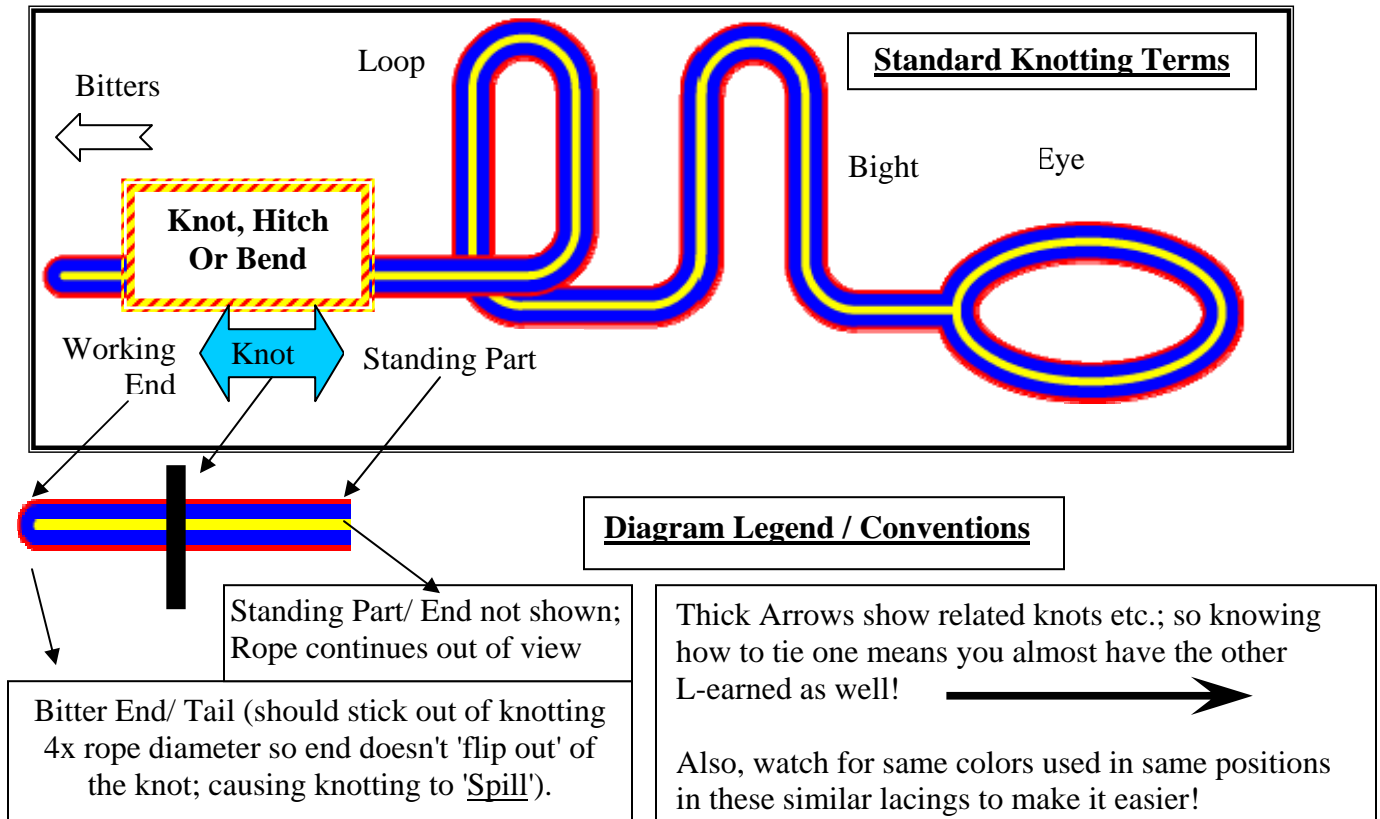
A rope tied to itself; is a Knot. We Bend 2 ropes together to join them/ tie them together. We Hitch a rope to a non-rope device/ tie to post, tree, truck etc. But, tying isn't all there is to it; we Must TDS & I; Tie, Dress, Set and Inspect; all correctly; to make sure a lacing is ready to go!

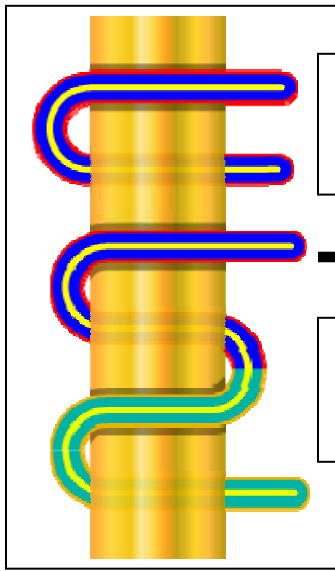
The (generally long) part of the rope you pull on before the Knot/ Hitch or Bend; is the Standing Part. Then comes the tied part of the rope in the Working End; the part at end of working end is its Bitter End or Bitters. A Loop is when line is bent to cross self; a Bight is when a 180 bend doesn't cross self. A Bight, where the Bitters usually exits a lacing; usually makes the knot, hitch or bend; a slipped knot etc. A loop made in end of line to connect to is an Eye.

We have used and depended on “Knots”; dating back to people first tools and clothes before belts and bolts!

Many knots should be backed up with a Stopper Knot or 2 Half Hitches etc. to really be secure. Especially in our slippery synthetics; old Manila rope wasn't as strong; but it wasn't as slippery either(so was more secure)! Strength and Security are 2 top considerations. The ‘tail’ after a knot; should always be at least 4x the rope diameter (2” in ½” diameter rope) to help keep the knot/ hitch/ bend from coming out; make it more secure. If lacing unties; it is said to Spill.

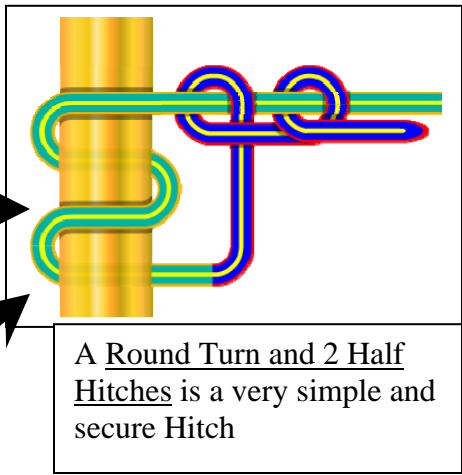
We don't want to bend a line too sharply; or around a corner etc.; for this cuts down on it's strength and could cause rope to break.





A Bight around anything is a Turn

2 Turns in a row is a much better Round Turn

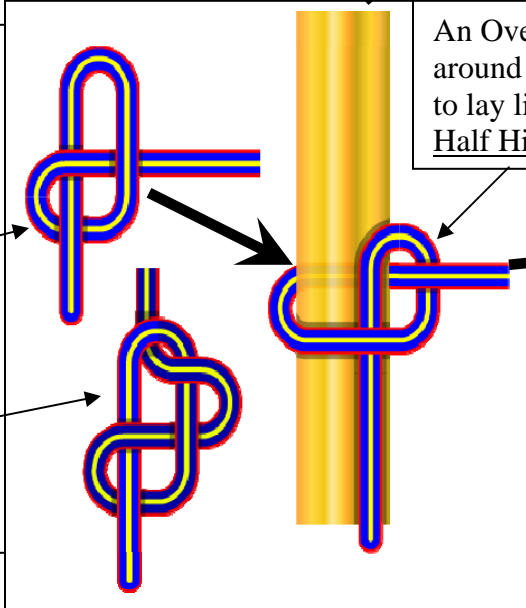


A Round Turn and 2 Half Hitches is a very simple and secure Hitch

Stopper Knots are used to add security to knots etc.

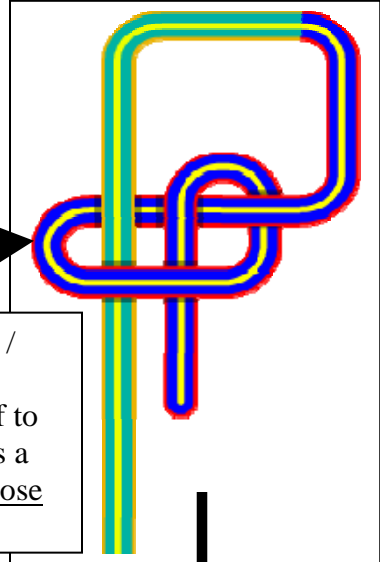
Overhand or Thumb Knot (Stoppers)

Figure 8 Stopper Knot

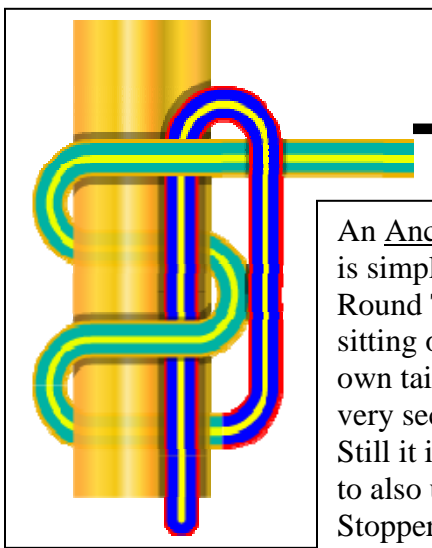


An Overhand Knot around something to lay like this is a Half Hitch

Half Hitch / Overhand around self to form eye is a Simple Noose

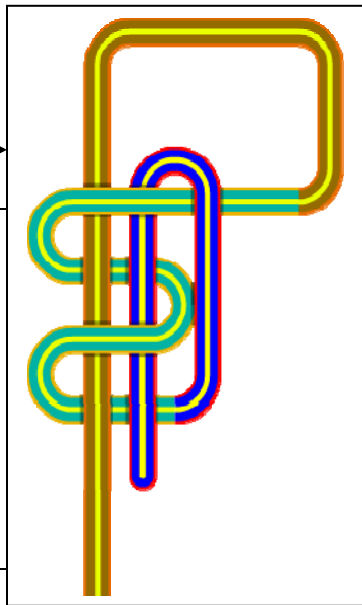


Almost Same; Learn 1 and get the other 'Free'!



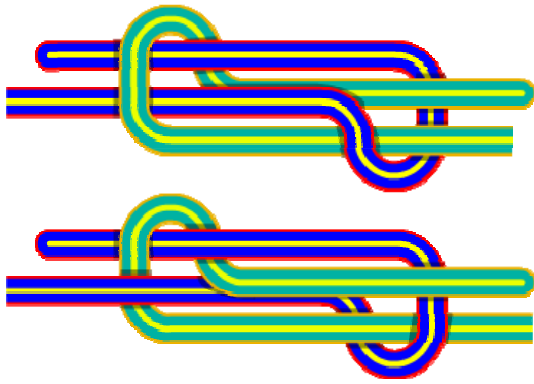
An Anchor Hitch is simply a Round Turn sitting on it's own tail; and is very secure. Still it is prudent to also use a Stopper Knot

A Double Noose is an Anchor Hitch to self to form Eye in end of line. Of course holds better than Simple Noose!



A Square or Reef Knot

A Granny Knot is a Square made wrong/ less reliable

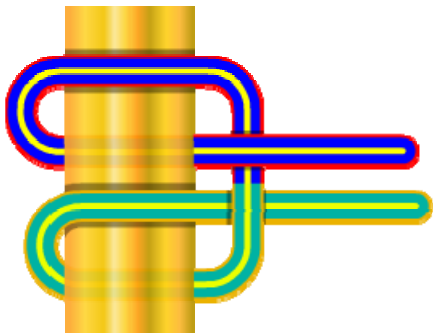


A Square or Reef is a knot made around a bundle etc.; and back to self.

The 2 colors are for demonstration only; this should not be used for joining 2 ropes; or it would be called a Bend!

Most people tie their shoes everyday with a Square (or Granny) slipped from both ends!

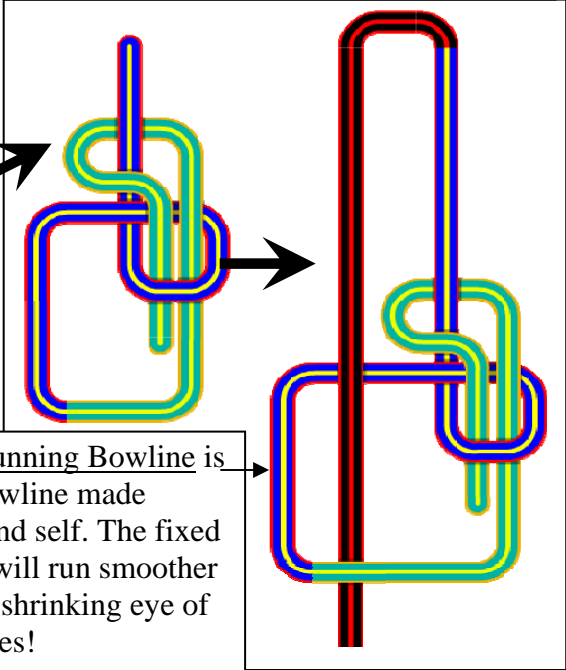
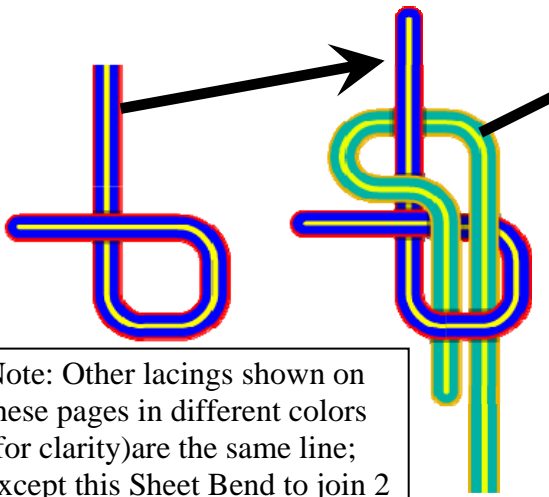
A Clove Hitch is simply 2 consecutive loops as shown!



Even though Anchor, Sheet, Bowline etc. are proper knot lacings; they should be backed up with an Overhand or Fig. 8 stopper of some sort!

Sheet Bend to join ropes:
 A) Make Loop in end of 1 Rope
 B) Take other rope and use old poem:
 "The rabbit runs up the hole, around the tree, and back down the hole"
 Note how both 'tails' / Bitter Ends on same side.
 If ropes are of different sizes, use smaller diameter as Blue Rope pictured.

A Bowline; "The King of Knots" is made the same way, only to self to form a 'fixed' (non-shrinking) eye in end of line.
 Notice the Sheet to join ropes is a Bend; but the same to self is a Bowline Knot!



Note: Other lacings shown on these pages in different colors (for clarity) are the same line; except this Sheet Bend to join 2 separate lines as shown.

A Running Bowline is a Bowline made around self. The fixed eye will run smoother than shrinking eye of nooses!

Be careful and practice; it really isn't hard to L-earn this ancient, fascinating and useful art!
 Many knot links at: http://www.mytreelessons.com/Pages/Knots_Links.htm