

Ordinarily, when you try to put a rope to work, you have to tie a knot in it. And if you know only a few basic knots, you can make your rope work much more practical and effective. If you take time to reason, you will realize that knots are used to join two or more ropes together or to shorten one rope or to hoist lumber or to lower objects -- to tow or to haul and pull and to tie a boat or a ship to a dock. By learning the most practical knots, you will be surprised what you can do with a rope.

It can be noted that there are several different knots which might be substituted for each other and would do the same job, but it is very important to know which knot is best before you decide on which one it's to be.

If you wanted to tie a ship to a dock, you might try one or two various knots -- you might use the bowline, if it were to be a permanent mooring. But if just for a temporary mooring, there are a few hitches that would answer the purpose and very quick to untie.

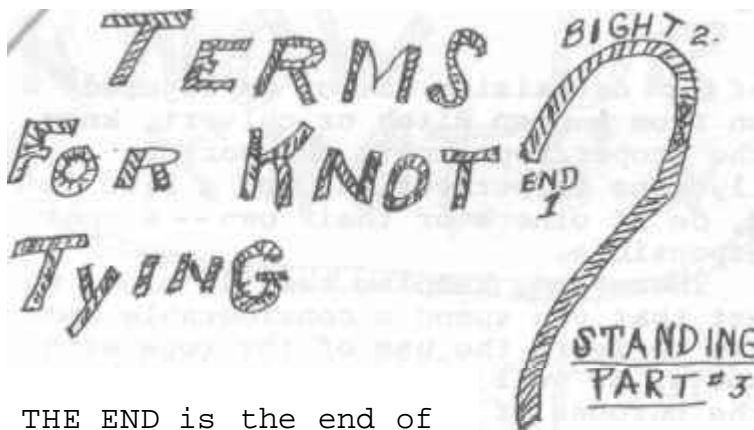
Oftentimes, in police and fire departments it is necessary to know a various number of knots so that if called upon to save a life and it necessitates the use of rope to lower a patient or a prisoner to the ground from a burning building or from

a roof top or raising him or an injured person from a deep ditch or culvert, knowing the proper rope knots the work is usually done to perfection, and a life is saved, be it others or their own -- a knot is responsible.

Therefore, keeping this in mind, we suggest that you spend a considerable amount of time to learn the use of the rope with the knots, as well as just tying the knot for the purpose of passing a test. Remember, a life may depend upon it and oddly enough -- that life may be your own!

This knot tying is rather important to the new camper, as well as the experienced camper--sailor -- rancher, and in so many instances, one or more particular knots is responsible for the comfort of so many of these various persons stated above.

Take the camper who upon arriving at a suitable campsite, pitches the tent, clears off the ground around it, and drives in the necessary stakes onto which are fastened the tent ropes -- the tent and ropes being fairly dry, are applied rather loosely so as to allow the tent to adjust itself. In the course of other camp chores, two or three of the camp ropes were found to be too long and would not properly be secured to the tent stake. But, like so many campers, it was let go until later. Night crept on and up come the wind and some rain. These several ropes that were too long did nothing to help keep the tent erect and soon the wind, tugging at what few ropes were secured, caused the tent to collapse. If we were to ask you what knot should have been used to shorten these ropes so that they would have been some benefit to the tent during the storm, what knot would you have applied? You are correct--a sheepshank!



1. THE END is the end of the rope with which you are working when you tie a knot.
2. THE STANDING PART is the inactive length of the rope.
3. THE BIGHT is the central part of the rope between the working end and the standing part.



AN OVERHAND LOOP is made by crossing the end over the standing part.

AN UNDERHAND LOOP is made by crossing the end under the standing part.

A TURN is taken by looping the rope around an object -- often another section of itself.

"OVER-AND-UNDER" SEQUENCE In tying a knot, whenever two sections of the rope cross each other, one must go over and the other, under. Be careful to follow this "over-and-under" arrangement exactly -- otherwise you get either an entirely different knot or no knot at all.

# KNOTS



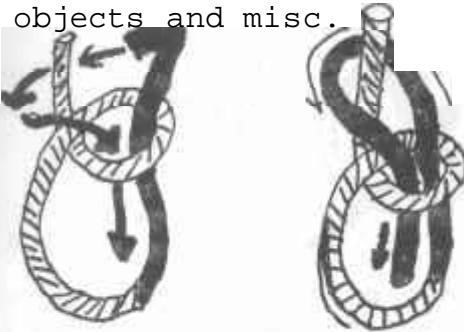
## square knot

Used at sea in securing sails - on shore as the universal package knot for parcels and bundles. Though often used, it is not too good of a knot for tying two ropes together since it unties easily when either free end is jerked.

## don't tie a granny



The granny knot shows one end over and one end under on both loops. This allows the knot to slip and is not considered as a safe knot for securing packages, objects and misc.



## bowline

Sometimes called the "king of knots". It is used for moorings, hitching, lifting, and joining. The bowline never jams or slips if properly tied. It can be tied in the hand or directly around the object.

## sheet bend

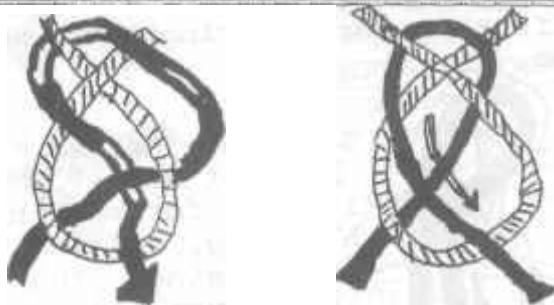
Use a bend  
to tie  
two ropes  
together!

Use the sheet  
bend to join  
light and  
medium ropes.



This is the common utility bend used aboard ships and unties easily without injuring rope fibres. Remember--that its construction is like that of a bowline, only instead of an end being tied to its own bight, one end is tied to the bight in the end of another rope!

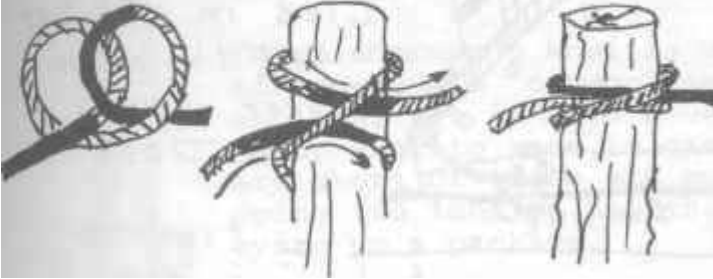
## carrick bend



Used for heavy  
ropes, hawsers  
and cables I

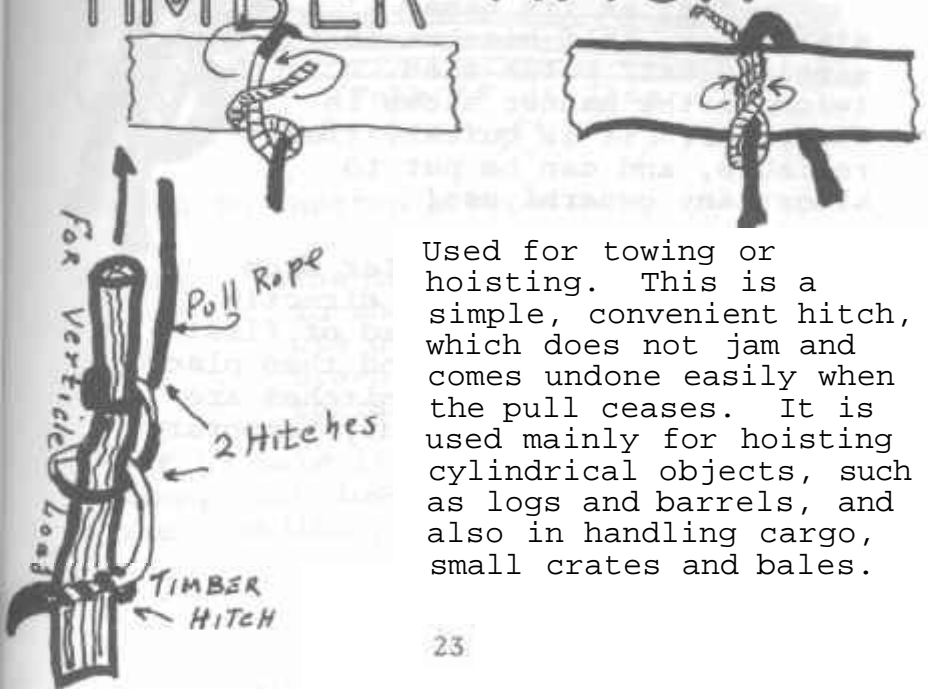
The carrick bend is one of the strongest of knots.<sup>1</sup> It cannot jam and unties easily. Under strain, it always draws up tight correctly, which is important because very heavy ropes usually cannot be fully tightened by hand. For maximum security, the ends always should be seized to the standing part.

# CLOVE HITCH

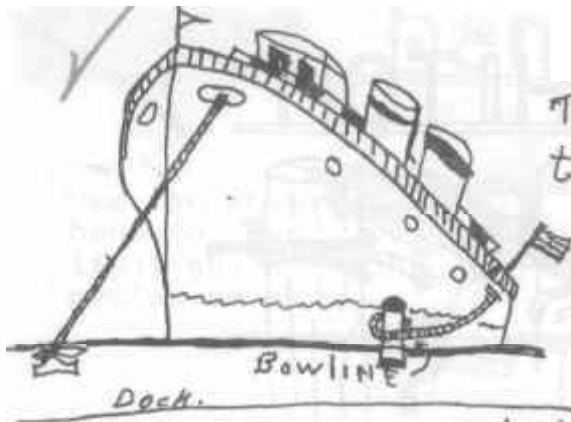


The clove hitch is a quick, simple method of fastening a rope around a post or a stake. It is sometimes called the "Builder's Hitch". Because of its extensive use in fastening, staging to upright posts, it can be tied in the middle or end of the rope. It has a tendency in itself to slip when used at the end of a rope, so the end should be half hitched to the standing part for greater security.

# TIMBER HITCH



Used for towing or hoisting. This is a simple, convenient hitch, which does not jam and comes undone easily when the pull ceases. It is used mainly for hoisting cylindrical objects, such as logs and barrels, and also in handling cargo, small crates and bales.

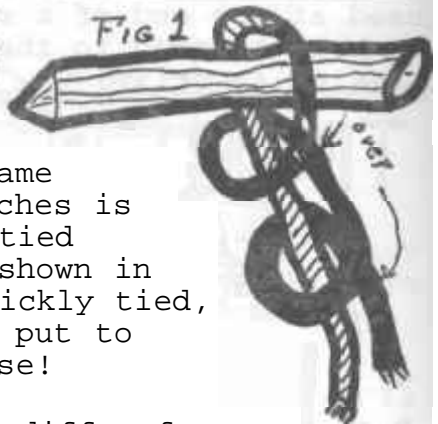


The bowline is tied in a Hawser and thrown over a post on DOCK.

or tied in a metal ring



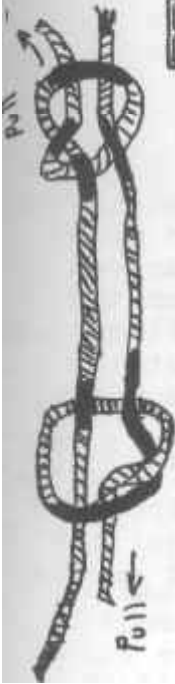
FIG 1



Just as its name states, two half hitches is simply a half hitch tied twice in the manner shown in figure #1. It is quickly tied, reliable, and can be put to almost any general use!

(Note: Most hitches differ from loop knots in being tied directly around an object. Instead of first being tied in the hand and then placed over and on the object, hitches are generally used as a speedy, temporary fastening.)

# FISHERMAN'S

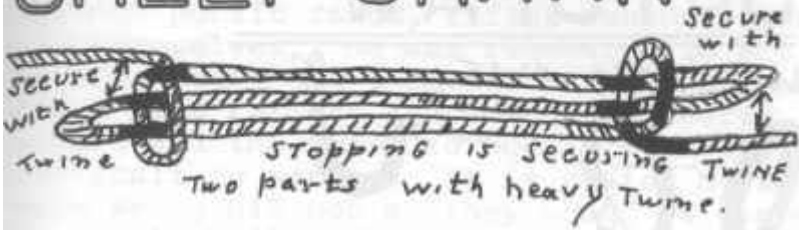


Joins fishlines,  
small rope and twine I

The fisherman's knot is very strong and in common use by anglers. It is also a very handy knot to know in case you are short of twine and must joining two lengths together for tying up a package.

When drawn tight, the two knots slide together and will not slip!

# SHEEP SHANK



Used to shorten a rope!

The sheepshank is intended to shorten a rope for temporary use only. Carefully tied and drawn up tight, it is fairly reliable under a steady pull.

But to make it secure for any length of time, both loops should be "stopped" to the standing parti

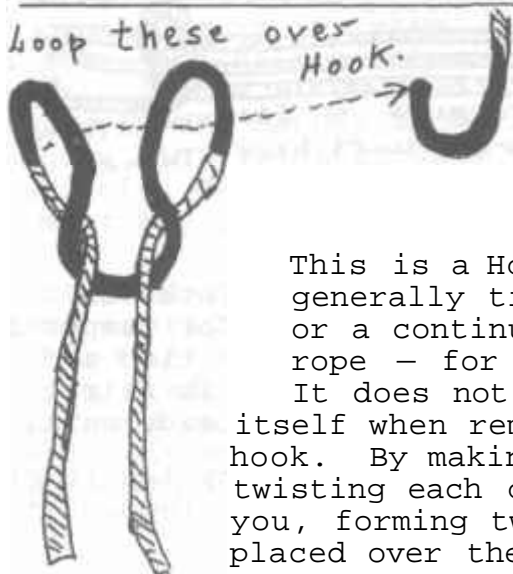
# PIPE HITCH



This knot is explained in its name. To withdraw or pull a driven pipe or pole from the ground is oftentimes very difficult without the use of this pipe hitch.

As the pipe or post is raised several feet, the knot is easily loosened and slid down near the bottom again for another pull.

# GAT SPAW



This is a Hook Hitch, generally tied in a sling or a continuous wreath of rope - for heavy hoisting. It does not jam and unties itself when removed from the hook. By making two bites, twisting each of them away from you, forming two loops and placed over the hook.