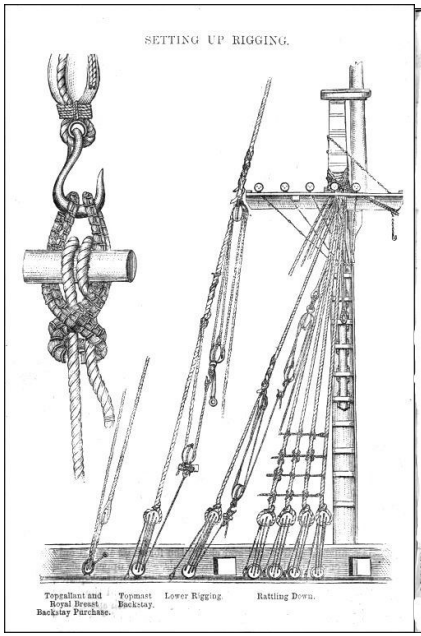
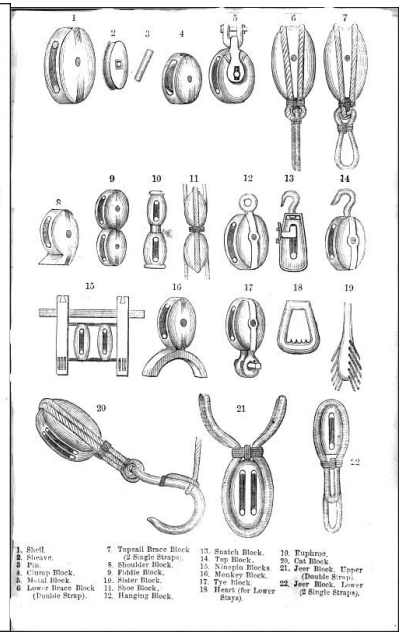
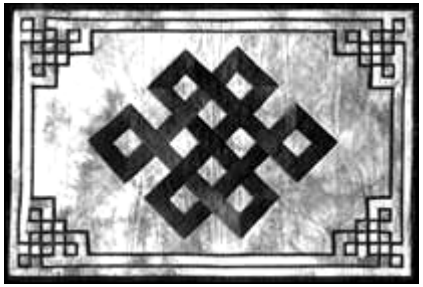
NAME

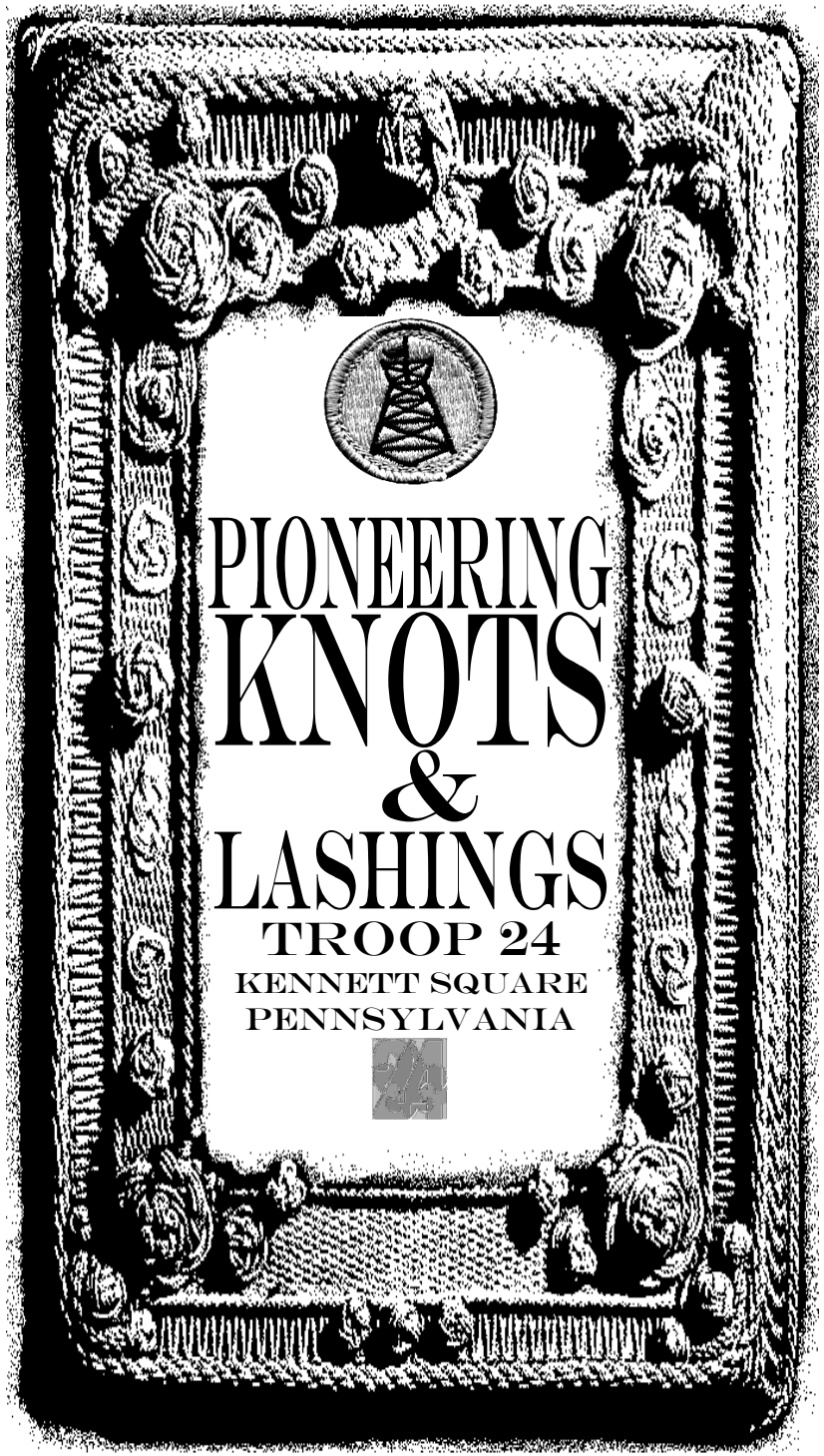
About This Booklet

This booklet has been assembled as a ready reference for Scouts working on the Pioneering Merit Badge that compliments the Scout handbook. Keep track of your progress on pages 4 and 5.









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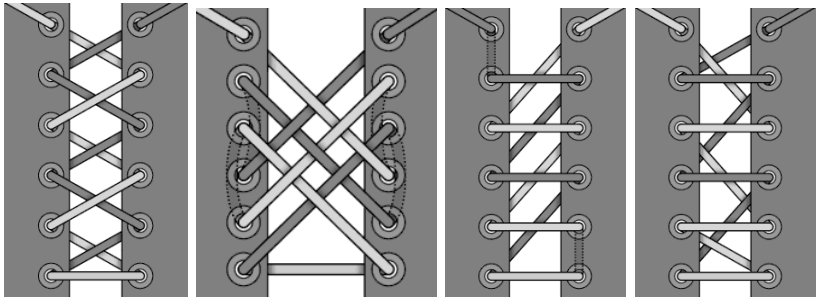
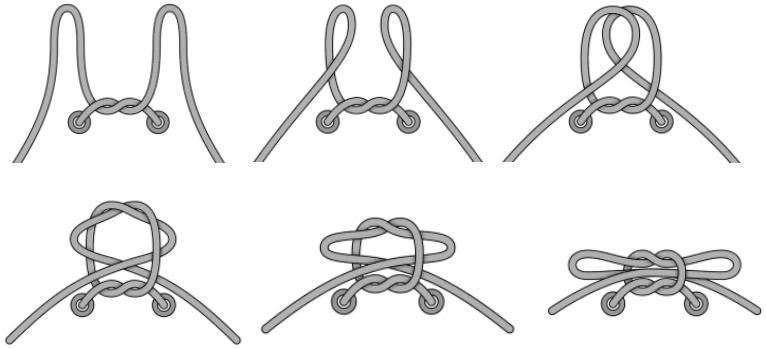
Shoe Lacings

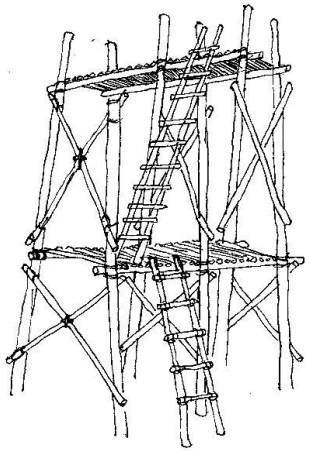


The 'IAN' Shoelace Knot

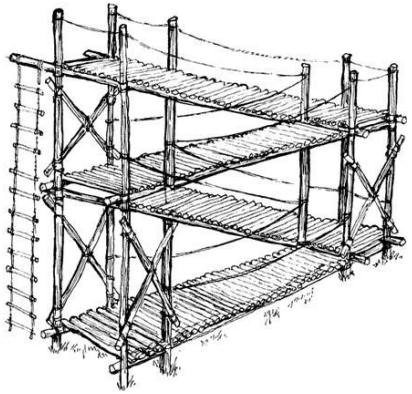


Escher Towers

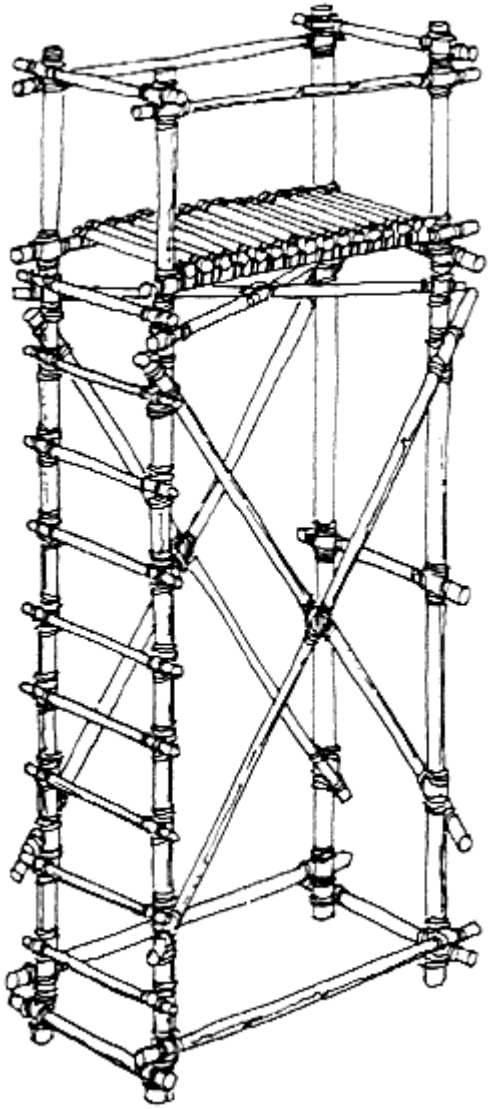
Signal Tower



Continuous Walkway Tower



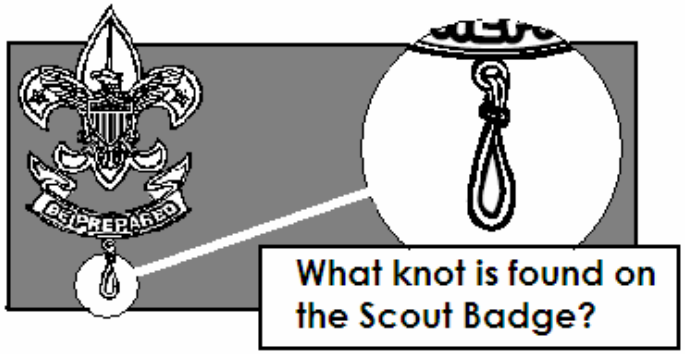
SIGNAL TOWER



The greatest blunders, like the thickest ropes, are often compounded of a multitude of strands. Take the rope apart, separate it into the small threads that compose it, and you can break them one by one. You think, "That is all there was!" But twist them all together and you have something tremendous.

VICTOR HUGO

Baden-Powell, founder of scouting movement oversees a pioneering project



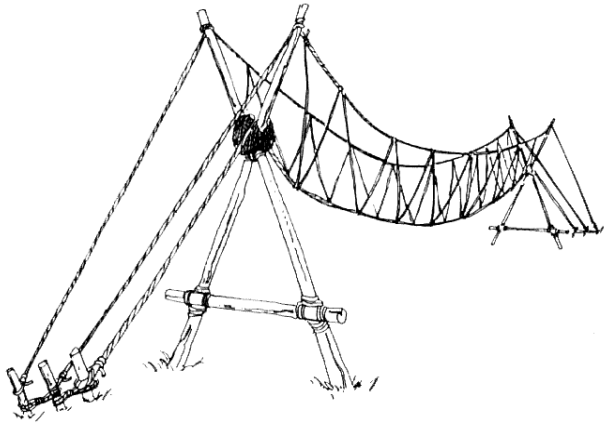
O time, thou must untangle this, not I.
It is too hard a knot for me to untie.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

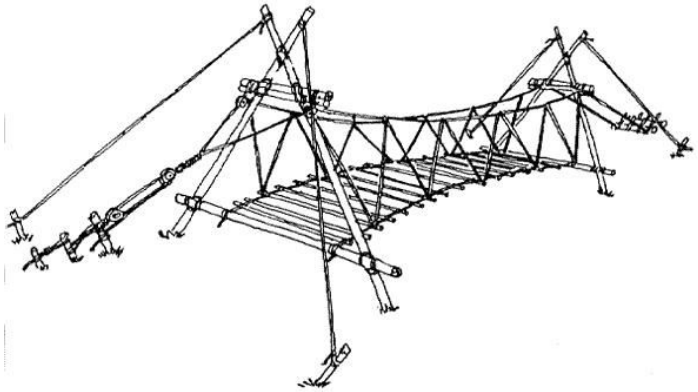
Pioneering Merit Badge Requirements

1. Show that you know first aid for injuries or illness that could occur while working on pioneering projects, including minor cuts and abrasions, bruises, rope burns, blisters, splinters, sprains, heat and cold reactions, dehydration, and insect bites or stings.
2. Do the following:
   a. Successfully complete Tenderfoot requirements 4a and 4b and First Class requirements 7a, 7b, and 7c. (These are the rope-related requirements.)
   b. Tie the following: square knot, bowline, sheepshank, sheet bend, and roundturn with two half hitches.
   c. Demonstrate the following: tripod and round lashings.
3. Explain why it is useful to be able to throw a rope, then demonstrate how to coil and throw a 40-foot length of 1/4- or 3/8-inch rope. Explain how to improve your throwing distance by adding weight to the end of your rope.
4. Explain the differences between synthetic ropes and natural-fiber ropes. Discuss which types of rope are suitable for pioneering work and why. Include the following in your discussion: breaking strength, safe working loads, and the care and storage of rope.
5. Explain the uses for the back splice, eye splice, and short splice. Using 1/4- or 3/8-inch three-stranded rope, demonstrate how to form each splice.
6. Using a rope-making device or machine, make a rope at least 6 feet long consisting of three strands, each having three yarns.
7. Build a scale model of a signal tower or a monkey bridge. Correctly anchor the model using either the 1-1-1 anchoring system or the log and stake anchoring method. Describe the design of your project and explain how the anchoring system works.
8. Demonstrate the use of rope tackle to lift a weight of 25 pounds and pulling a log at least 6 inches in diameter and 6 feet long with the tackle. Use the tackle to put tension on a line. Explain the advantages and limitations of using a rope tackle. In your explanation, describe the potential damage that friction can do to a rope.
9. By yourself, build an A-trestle OR X-trestle OR H-trestle using square and diagonal lashings. Explain the application of the trestle you build. Demonstrate how to tie two spars together using a shear lashing.
10. With a group of Scouts, OR on your own, select a pioneering project. With your counselor's guidance, create a rough sketch of the project. Make a list of the ropes and spars needed, then build the project. (Note: This requirement may be done at summer camp, at district or council events, or on a troop camp outing.)

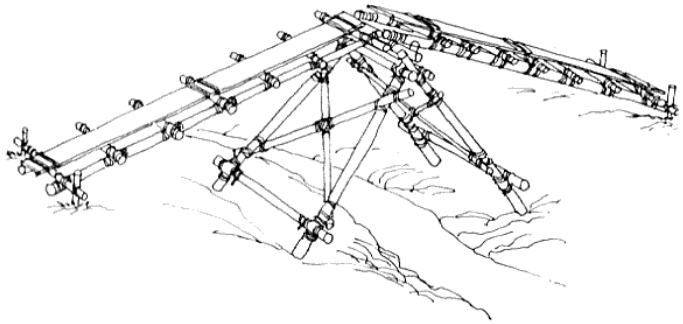
BRIDGES



Monkey Bridge

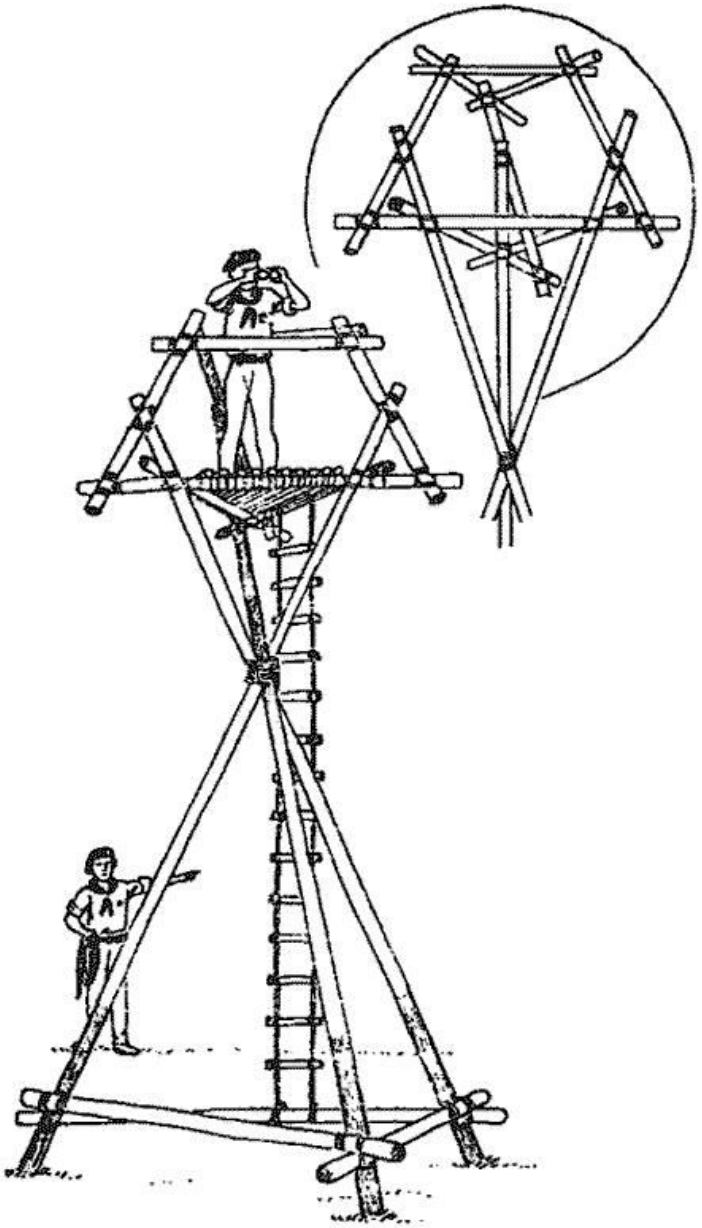


Suspension Bridge



Double Lock Bridge

BRYNBACH TOWER



Pioneering Knot List

	Knot or Lashing	Rank/ Handbook Page	Notes
	Square Knot	Scout Rank P. 8	Basic Knots For Pioneering MB
	Clove Hitch	1st Class 7B – P. 139	
	Timber Hitch	1st Class 7B – P. 138	
	Bowline	1st Class 8A – P. 149	
	Sheet Bend	1st Class 8A – P. 160	
	Sheep Shank		
	Round Turn & 2 Half Hitches		
	Whip & Fuse Rope	Tenderfoot Rank 4A – P. 34	
	Two Half Hitches	Tenderfoot Rank 4B – P. 36	
	Taut-Line Hitch	Tenderfoot Rank 4B – P. 36	
	Square Lashing	1st Class 8A – P. 141	
	Shear Lashing	1st Class 8A – P. 142	
	Diagonal Lashing	1st Class 8A – P. 143	

Pioneering MB Additional Knots			
	Double Sheet Bend		Honda
	Carrick Bend		Prussic
	Rolling Hitch		Cat's Paw
	Pipe Hitch		Rope Tackle
	Barrel Hitch		Fisherman's Knot
	Constrictor		WC Shear Lashing
	Bowline on a Bight		Butterfly Knot
	Water Knot		Masthead Knot

Rope Care and Safety

SELECT BEST ROPE FOR THE JOB. Choose the right material, size and strength.

STORE ROPE PROPERLY. Rope should be dry, untied, properly coiled after use.

KEEP ROPE CLEAN. Dragging rope on the ground or floor causes abrasive dirt to weaken the rope fibers.

KINKS CAUSE ROPE FAILURE. Kinks cause damage. Straighten them by twisting, not pulling.

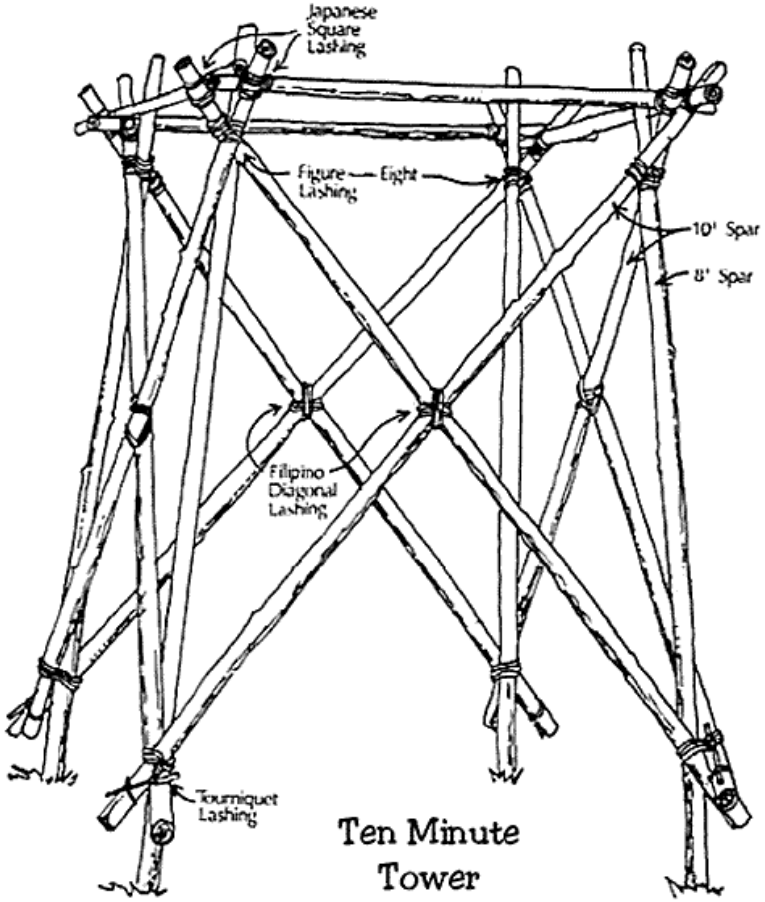
AVOID SUDDEN STRAINS. Jerks may break a rope normally strong enough to handle the load safety. A steady, even pull assures full strength from rope.

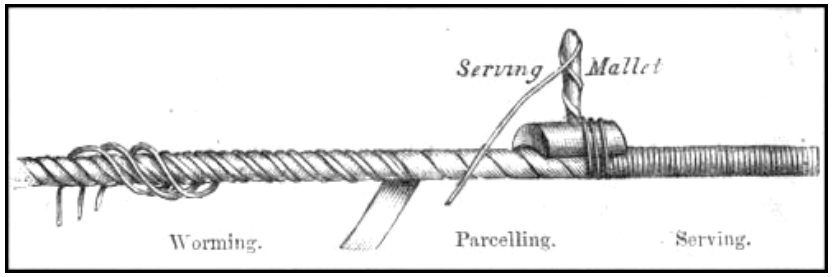
DOUBLE CHECK all poles, ropes, knots, lashings, anchors etc. before using any pioneering structure.

NEVER NEVER NEVER

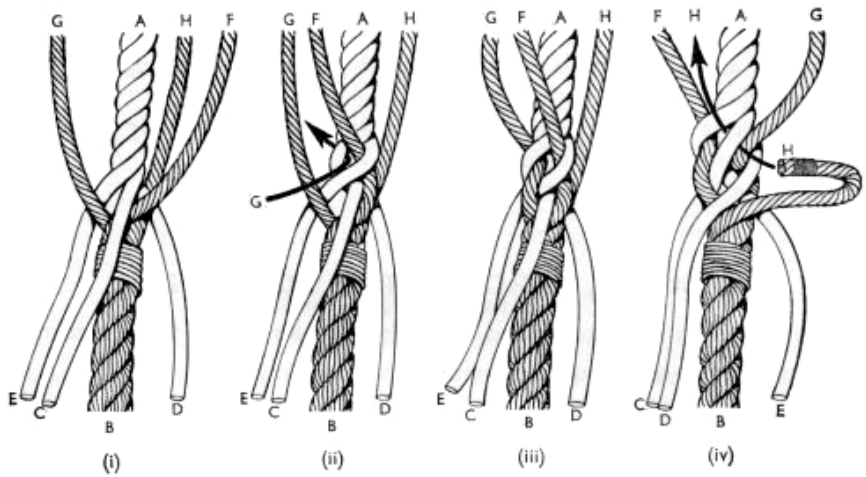
- Wrap rope around any part of the body except for demonstrating or using proper knots.
- Trust your weight to a rope of unknown strength or condition
- Use a rope as a whip

TEN MINUTE TOWER





SHORT SPLICE

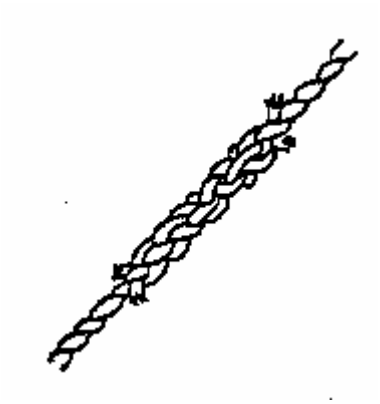


(I) Unlay the lay of both ropes for several times the rope diameter. A temporary whipping one will prevent unraveling. Marry the strands together alternating one from each end.

(II) Tuck F under E and G under D

(III) First two tucks completed

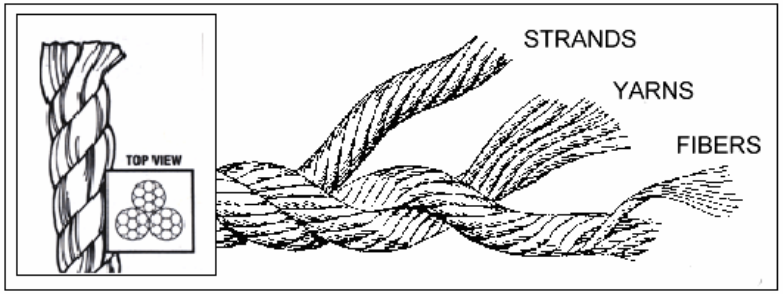
(IV) Rotate the splice 180 degrees and tuck H under C. This completes the first set of tucks.



Continue tucking F,G and H over one lay and under the next. Remove the temporary whipping and tuck C, D and E over one strand and under the next . Tuck each lay three times

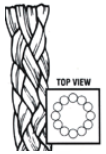
Rope Materials, Characteristics and Use

Laid Rope



Laid rope is made up of fibers twisted into yarns that are twisted into strands and laid into a rope.

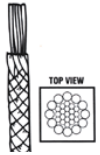
Braided Or Woven Rope



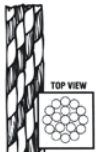
Twelve-Strand Braided Ropes: 12 strands are braided over and under each other in a maypole fashion to create a hollow, tubular structure.

Plaited Ropes: Eight strand plaited rope formed by intertwining four pairs of strands in a maypole fashion with two pairs moving clockwise and two pairs moving counter-clockwise.

Double Braided Ropes: Two ropes in one, a braided core is over-braided with a cover braid, hence the terms braid on braid and 2 in 1 braid.



Hollow & Diamond Braids: A hollow, tubular structure braided in a maypole fashion to produce a plain braid pattern with and without a core

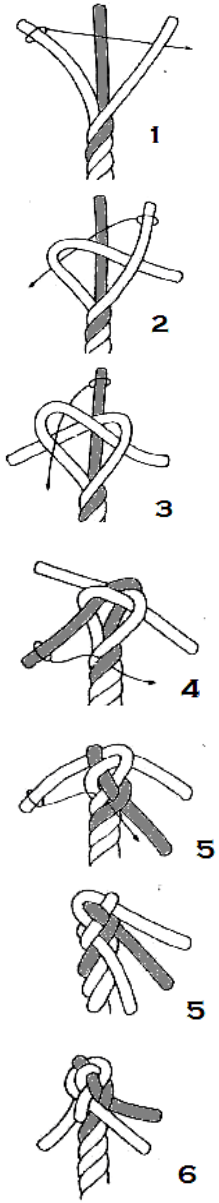


Solid Braids: The strands are intertwined by braiding in a circular pattern to form a solid tubular structure.

Natural Fibers	Cost	Stretch	Sunlight Resistance	Rot Resistance	Workability	Strength	Durability	Pioneering Uses			
								Knotting	Lashing	Tackle	Anchor - Footrope
Manila	$$	+	G	G	E	G	G	X	X	X	X
Sisal	$	++	G	P	G	F	F	X	X		
Cotton	$		G	P	G	F	G				
Synthetic Fibers											
Polypropylene	$$	+	P	E	F	G	G				X
Polyethylene	$	+	F	E							
Polyester	$$$	-	E	E	G		E	X	X	X	X
Nylon	$$$	++	G	E	E	E	E	X	X	X	

Manila Perhaps the best overall rope. It has a good size to strength ratio, does not stretch too much and handles well when tying knots and lashings. While it can withstand frequent wetting and drying it must be stored dry to avoid mildew and rot.
Sisal Has a poor size to strength ratio, does not handle well and wears our quickly. While it is less expensive than manila it's limited use and durability make it a second choice for pioneering.
Cotton Braided or twisted cotton is outclassed in strength and durability by just about all other ropes. It is suitable for clotheslines and hammocks but not for pioneering or camping.
Polypropylene Has an excellent strength to size ratio, handles well but weakens with long exposure to sunlight.
Nylon The stretch factor in nylon rope makes it difficult to work with when lashing. An excellent size to strength ratio and durability make it a good rope for general use.
Polyester Most braided climbing ropes are polyester. It handles well, has an excellent weight to strength ratio and limited stretch factor. It is much more expensive than manila or nylon ropes and has limited use in pioneering.
Polyethylene The least expensive of the synthetic fiber ropes. It's stiffness and poor handling qualities make it undesirable for pioneering.
Binder Twine Loosely twisted jute fibers treated with oil. It serves as a lightweight cord for throw-away uses such as lashing small diameter poles or staves for camp gadgets. Binder twine is used to demonstrate rope making and can serve as a reasonably good fire starter

BACK SPLICE



1. Unlay the rope 5 or 6 turns

2-3 Form crown knot as shown. From above it should look like this:

4. Tuck one lay over the adjoining end and under itself.

5. Tuck the next strand over and under

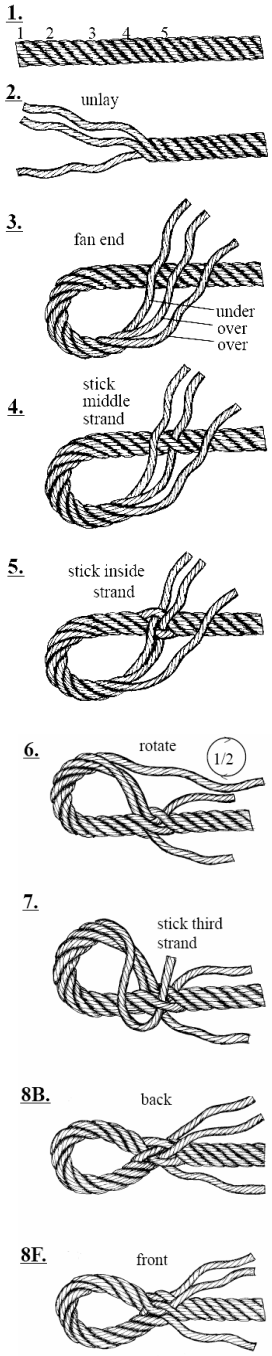
6 Tuck the remaining strand over and under.

To finish the back splice continue tucking each lay over and under several times.

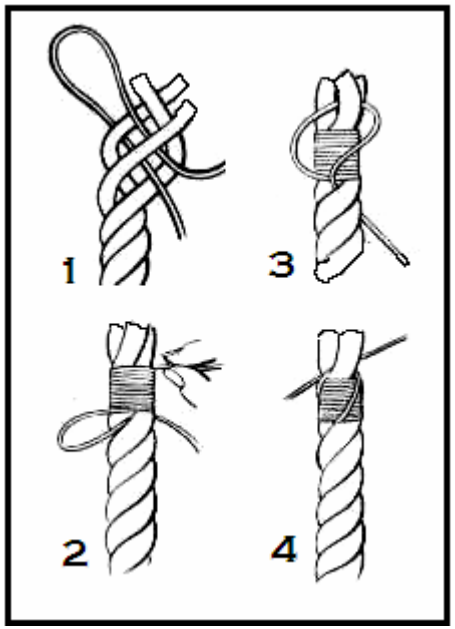
The finished splice

EYE SPLICE

(1)&(2) Count back and unlay 5 rounds of the lay of the rope.
3) Fan the unlaid end of the rope and place it over the standing part of the rope. The strand to the inside of the eye must look like it is coming out from under the other two strands and the other two strands must be fanned in such a way that they do not cross each other.
(4) While holding the inside strand in place, stick the middle strand under one of the strands of the standing end of the rope.
(5) Pass the inside strand over the standing end strand and stick it under the next standing end strand. **N0TE:** The second strand goes in where the first strand came out. **(6)** Turn the splice over.
(7) Stick the third strand under the remaining strand of the standing end. **NOTE:** The third strand is stuck in where the second strand came out and comes out where the first strand went in. **[NOTE]** When the third strand is stuck it appears to go backward but when it is examined closely you will see that it is stuck in the same direction as the other two strands.
(8B) & (8F) Complete the splice by working the strands snug and adding 3 to 5 50unds of tucks. **NOTE:** When the strands are folded back over the eye, you will notice that there is one strand going in and one strand coming out between each of the strands of the standing end



Sail Maker's Whipping



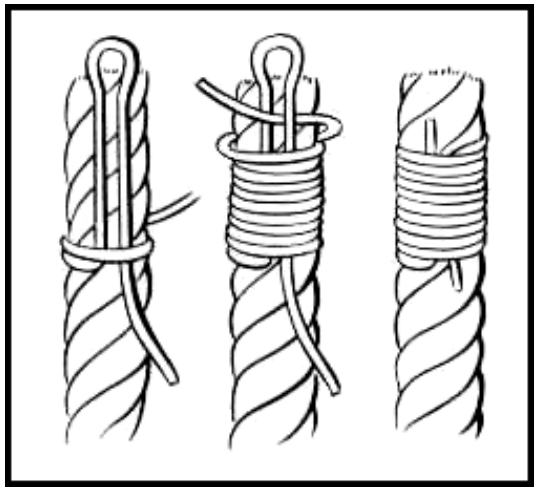
1. Begin by unlaying (untwisting) the rope two inches. Make a bite in a 3-foot length of whipping thread and place it around one of the strands.

2. Re-lay the rope. Wind the whipping thread tightly around the rope end for a sufficient number of turns.

3. Carry the bight originally formed back over the end of the same strand around which it was laid.

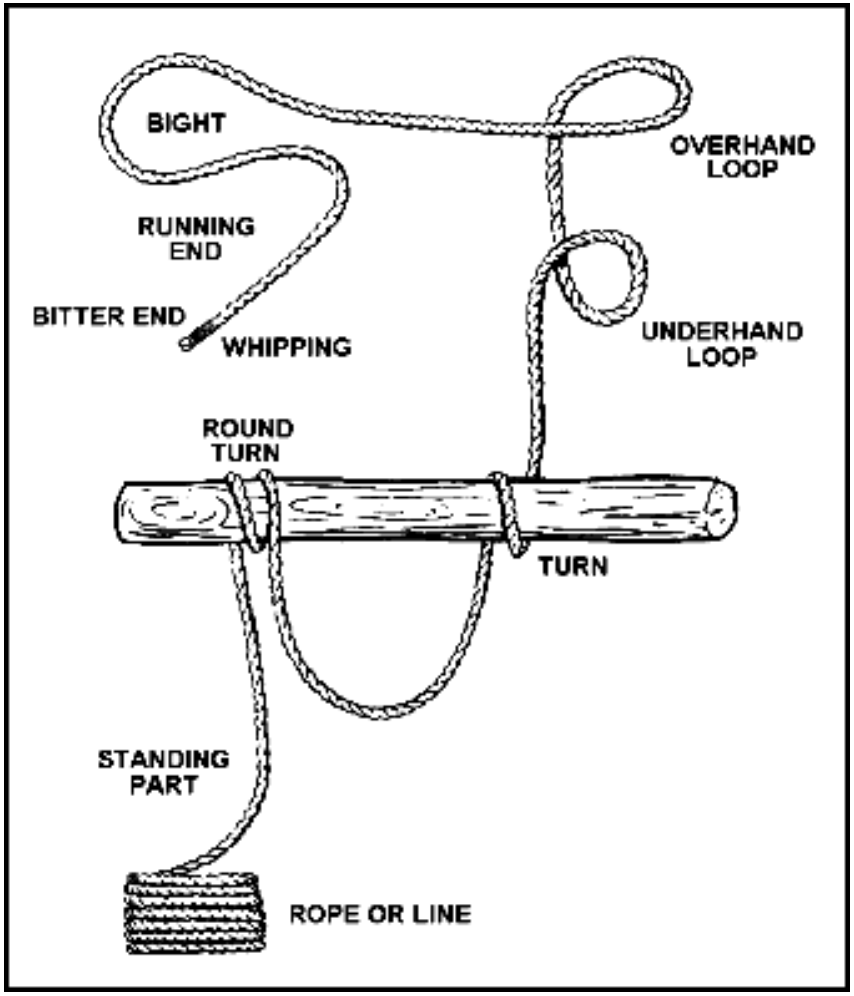
4.Pull ends tight and tie them with a square knot between the rope ends. Trim ends of whipping thread.

English Whipping



Form a loop in whipping thread and lay it along the end. Wrap the whipping thread tightly around the rope. When the whipping is as wide as the rope is thick, slip the end through the loop, pull hard, and trim whipping thread.

Knot Tying Terms



What Kind of Knot is it?

Bend- joins two ropes together

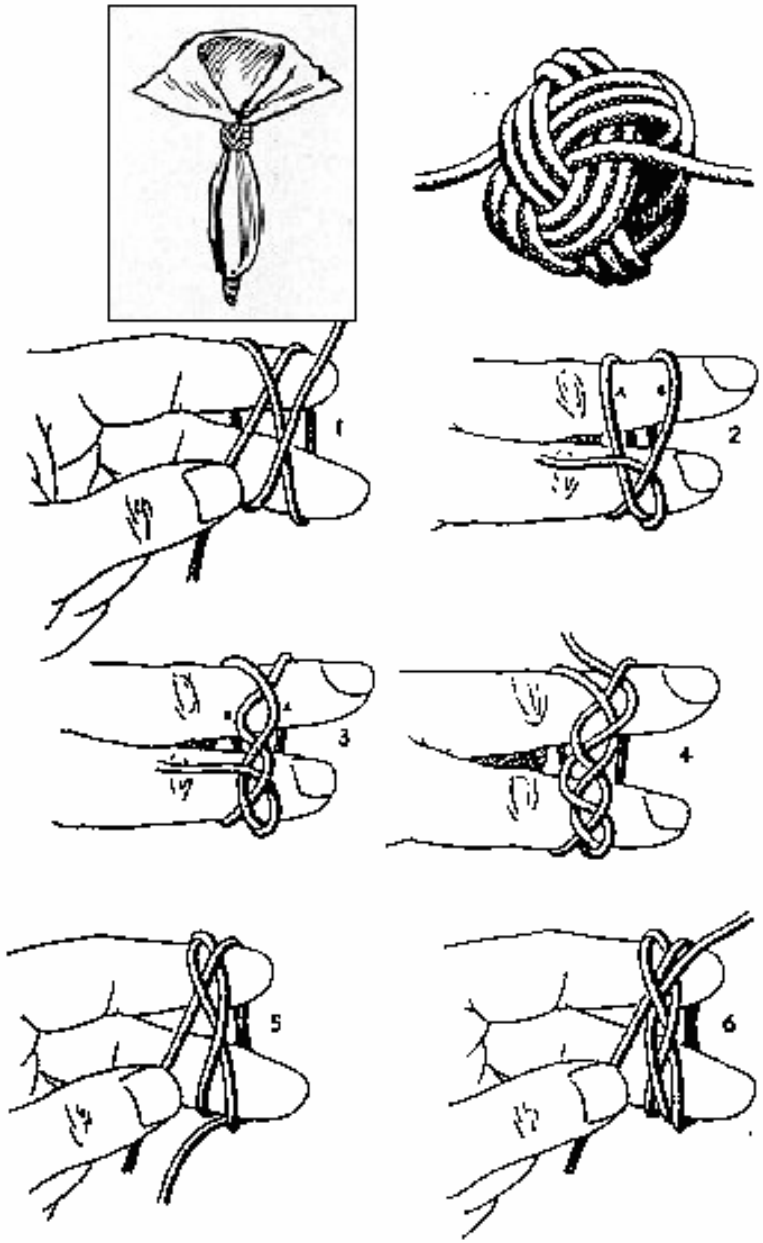
Hitch – ties rope to a post, stake etc.

Stopper – usually on the end of a rope to prevent it being pulled through an opening

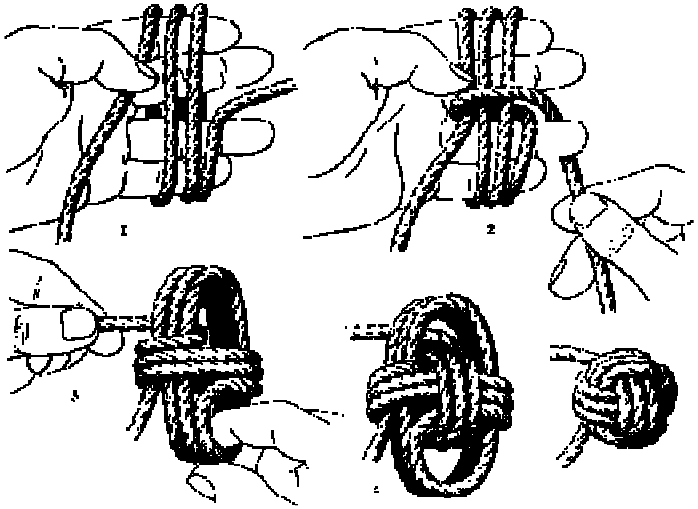
Loop – forms a single or multiple loop.

Lashing –binds objects together with multiple turns.

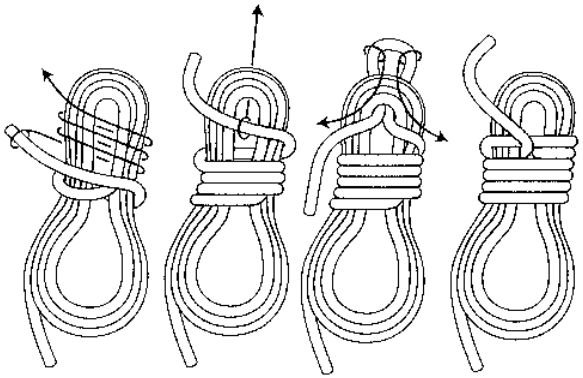
TURKS HEAD NECKERCHIEF SLIDE



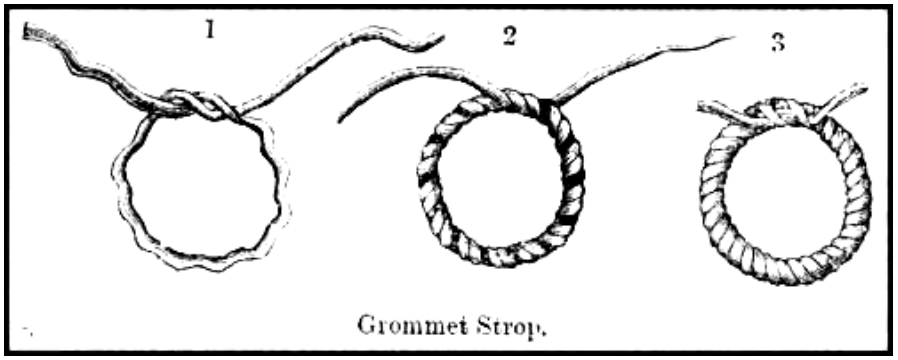
MONKEY'S FIST



COILING ROPE



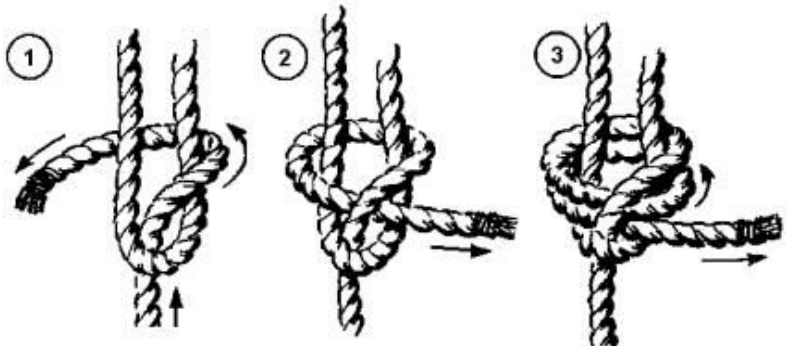
GROMMET



KNOTS

BENDS

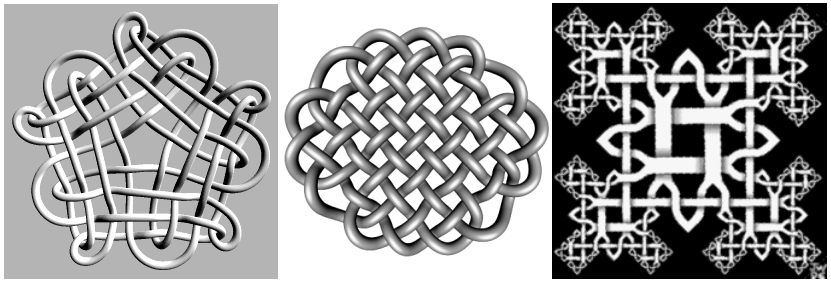
Double Sheet Bend



Used to join two ropes of different diameter.

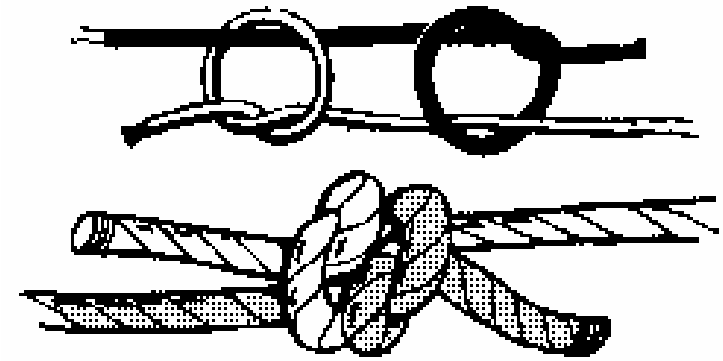
Carrick Bend

The first and almost always best way to join the ends of two ropes.



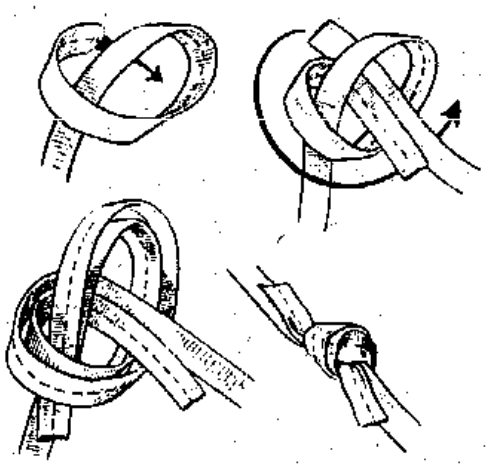
Computer generated knots

Fisherman's Knot



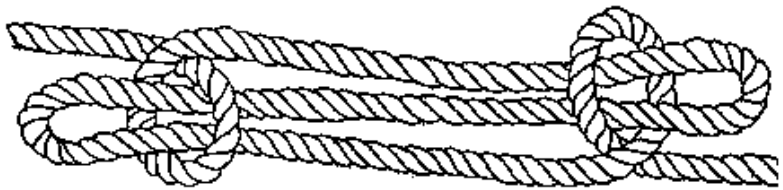
The Fisherman's knot is used to tie two ropes of equal thickness together. It is used by fishermen to join fishing line, and is very effective with small diameter strings and twines.

Water Knot



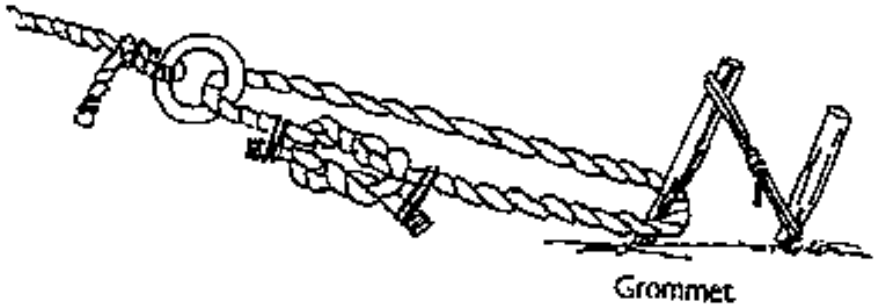
Shown here tied with webbing the water knot can be tied in rope as well. Use wherever a strong non-jamming knot is called for to join the ends of ropes.

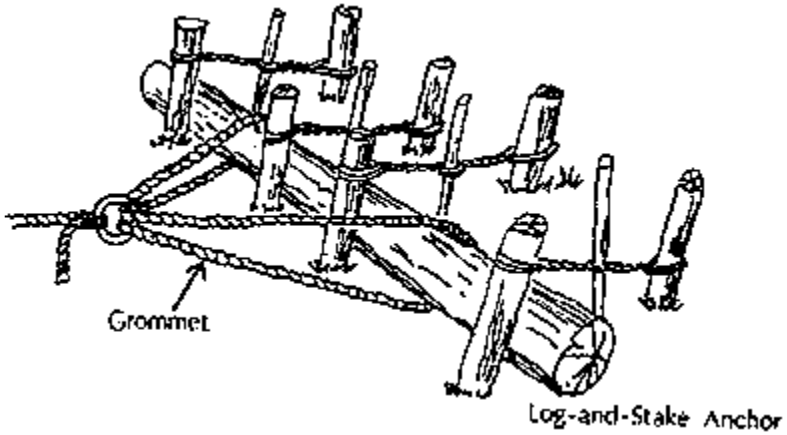
Sheepshank

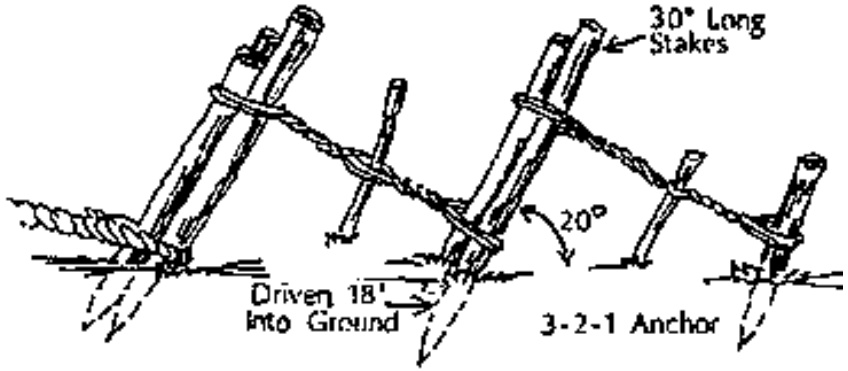


Used to shorten rope under tension.

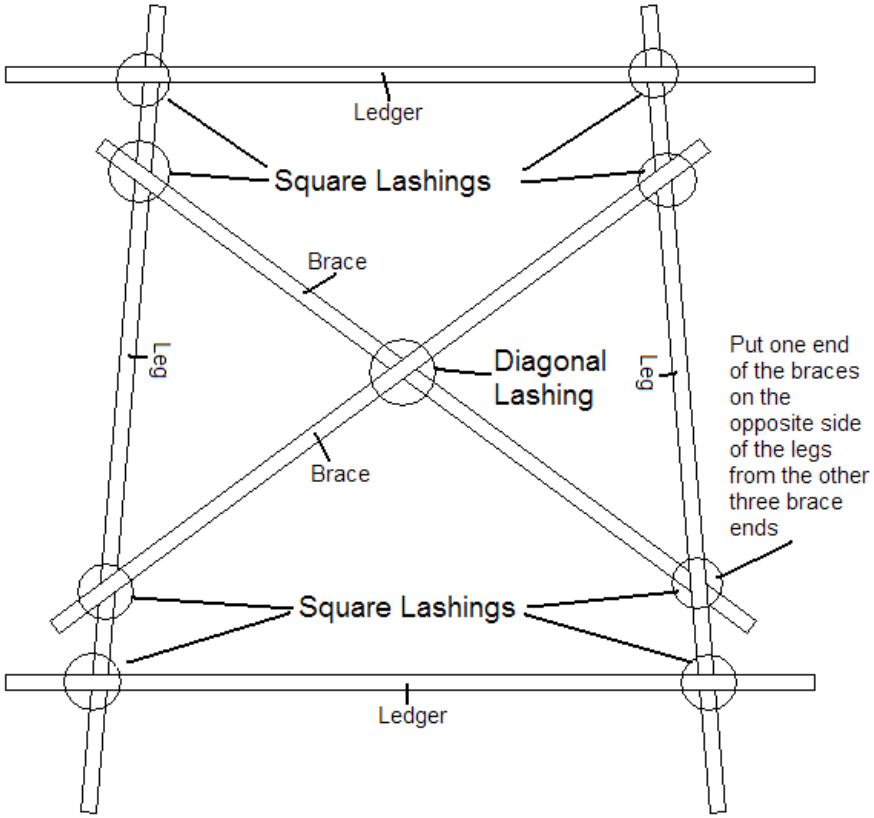
PIONEERING ANCHORS







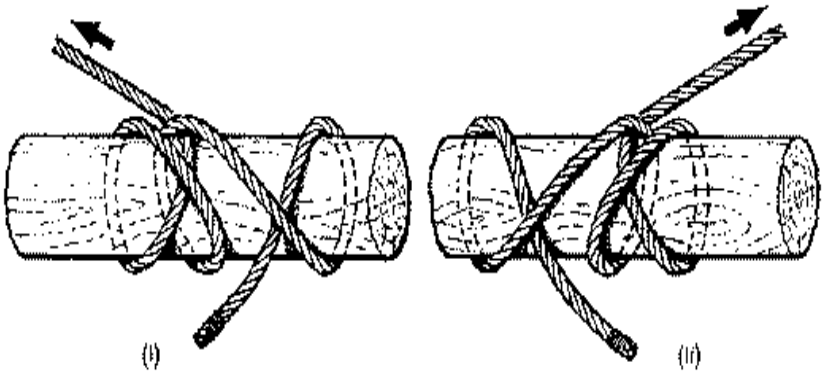
TRESTLE



The trestle demonstrates pioneering construction techniques. Begin by lashing the ledgers to the legs and add the braces. The center diagonal lashing should be tied last. Bracing diagonally give the structure adding great strength and rigidity. This technique is called triangulation. Note that one end of the brace is opposite the other four ends to add locking tension to the brace.

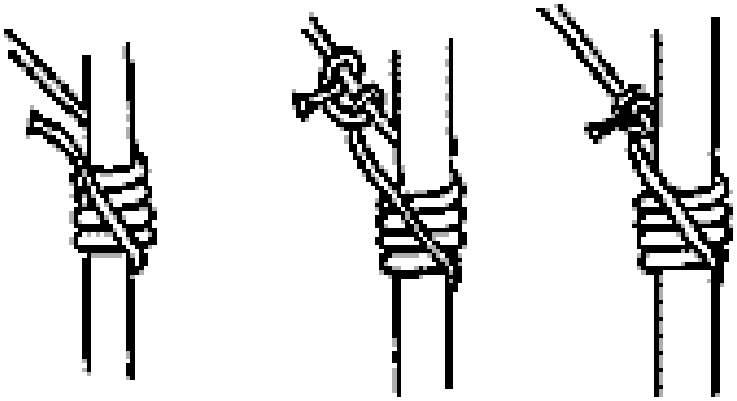
HITCHES

Rolling Hitch



If you look at this hitch closely you see that it is really a clove hitch that ends with a turn. Best tied so that the load pulls against the hitch as shown.

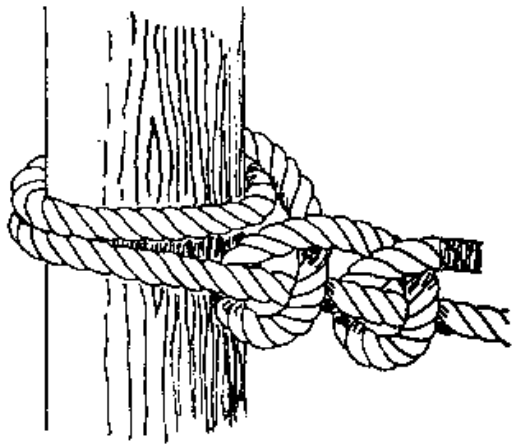
Pipe Hitch



This hitch will not slip on pipes, poles or other round objects.

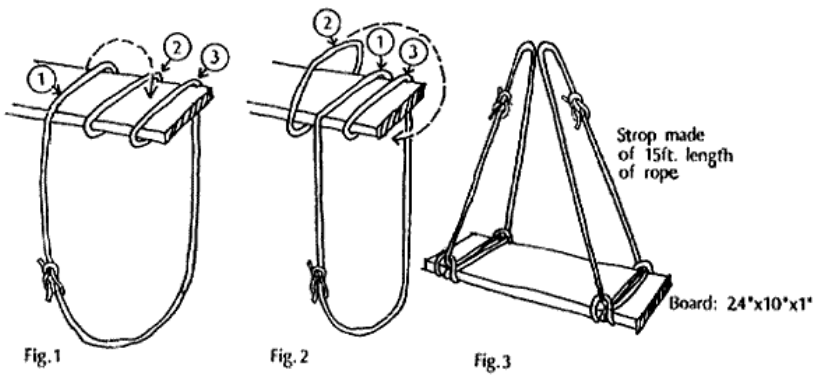
CELTIC KNOTWORK

Round Turn & Two Half Hitches



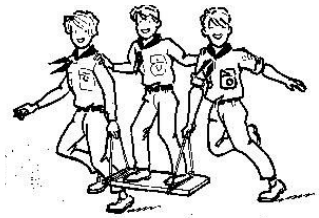
Provides a strong, non jamming hitch. The additional turn is added before the two half hitches are tied.

Scaffold Hitch

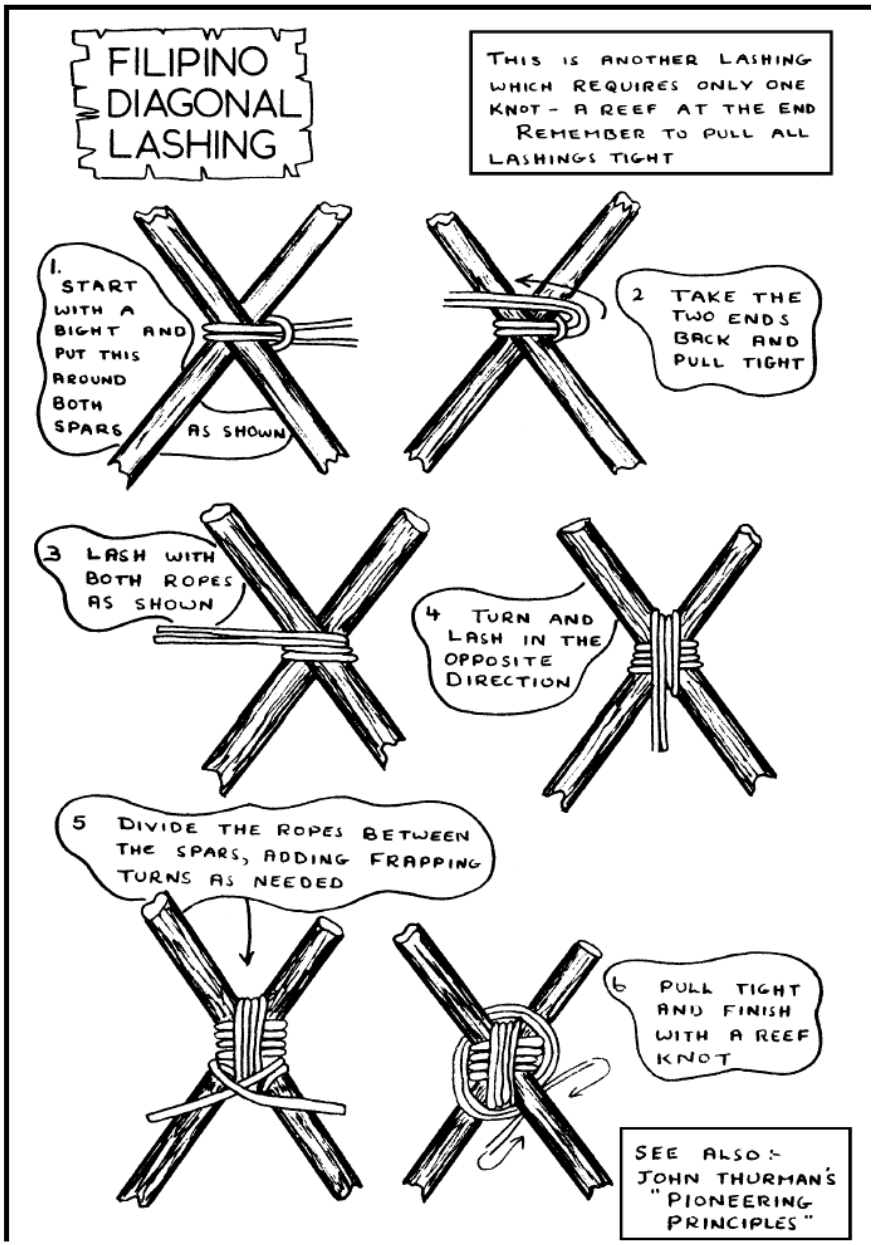


Scaffold Hitch

The scaffold hitch is made with two loops or strops to form a bosun's chair. The chair can be used for overhead tramways or a work platform.



Filipino Diagonal Lashing



Japanese Square Lashing

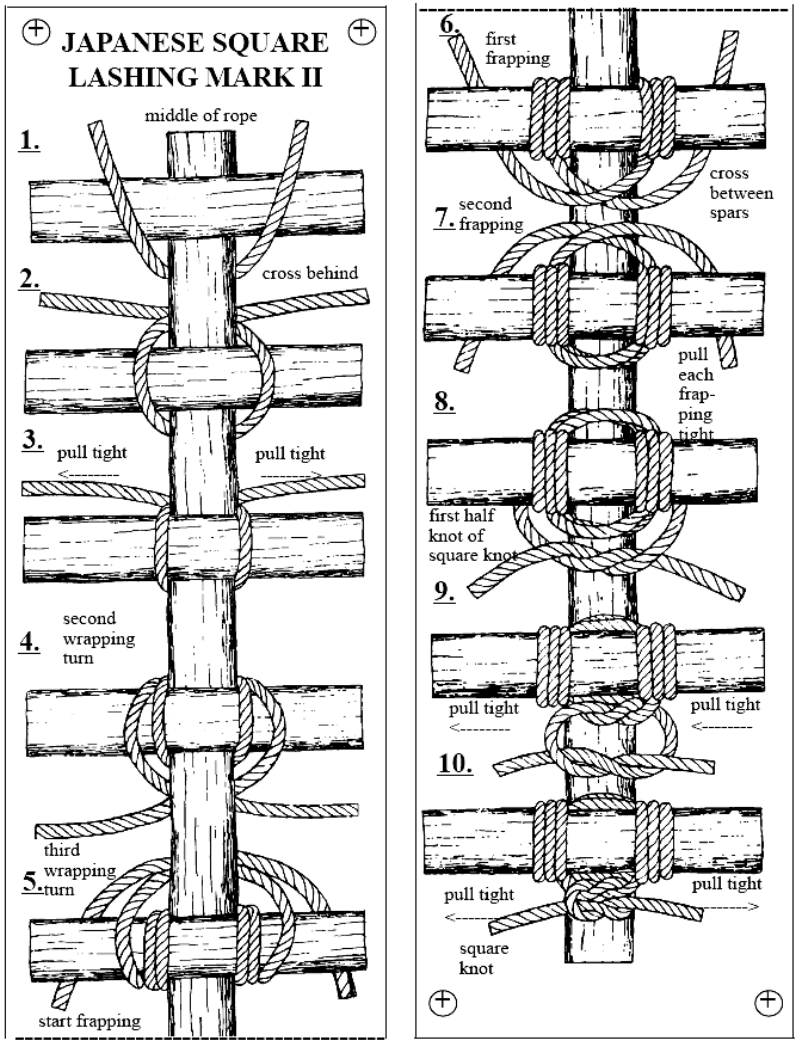
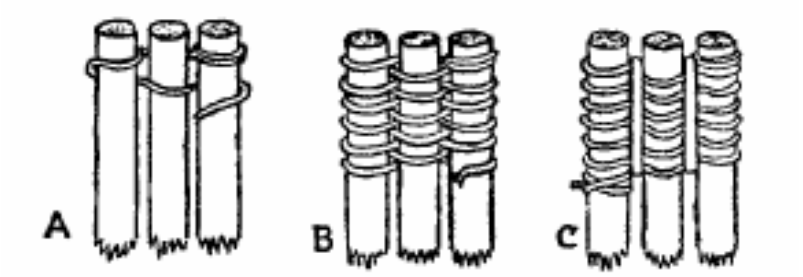
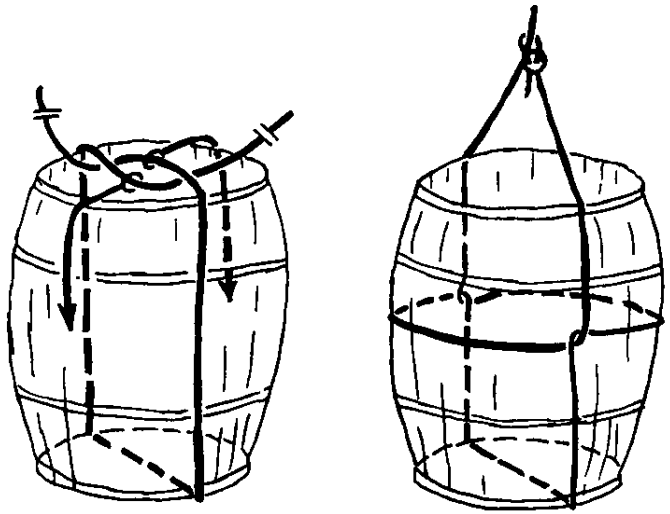


Figure of Eight Lashing

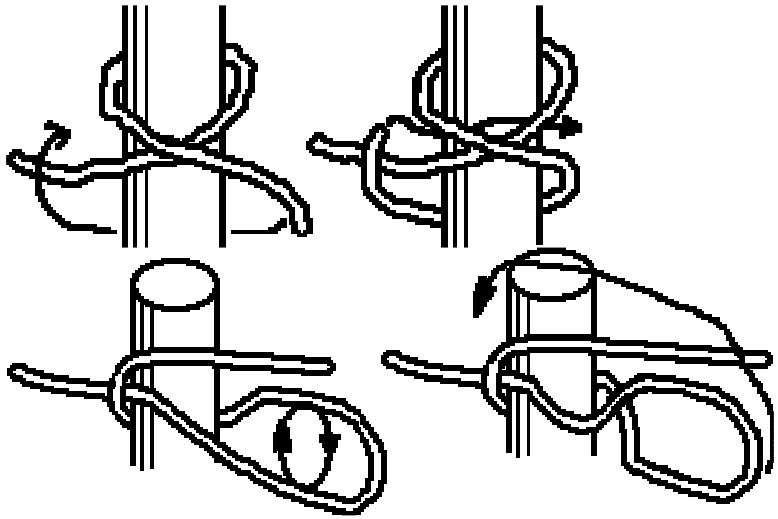


Barrel Hitch



Provides a lifting sling for barrels or buckets. Two hitches will help stabilize the load.

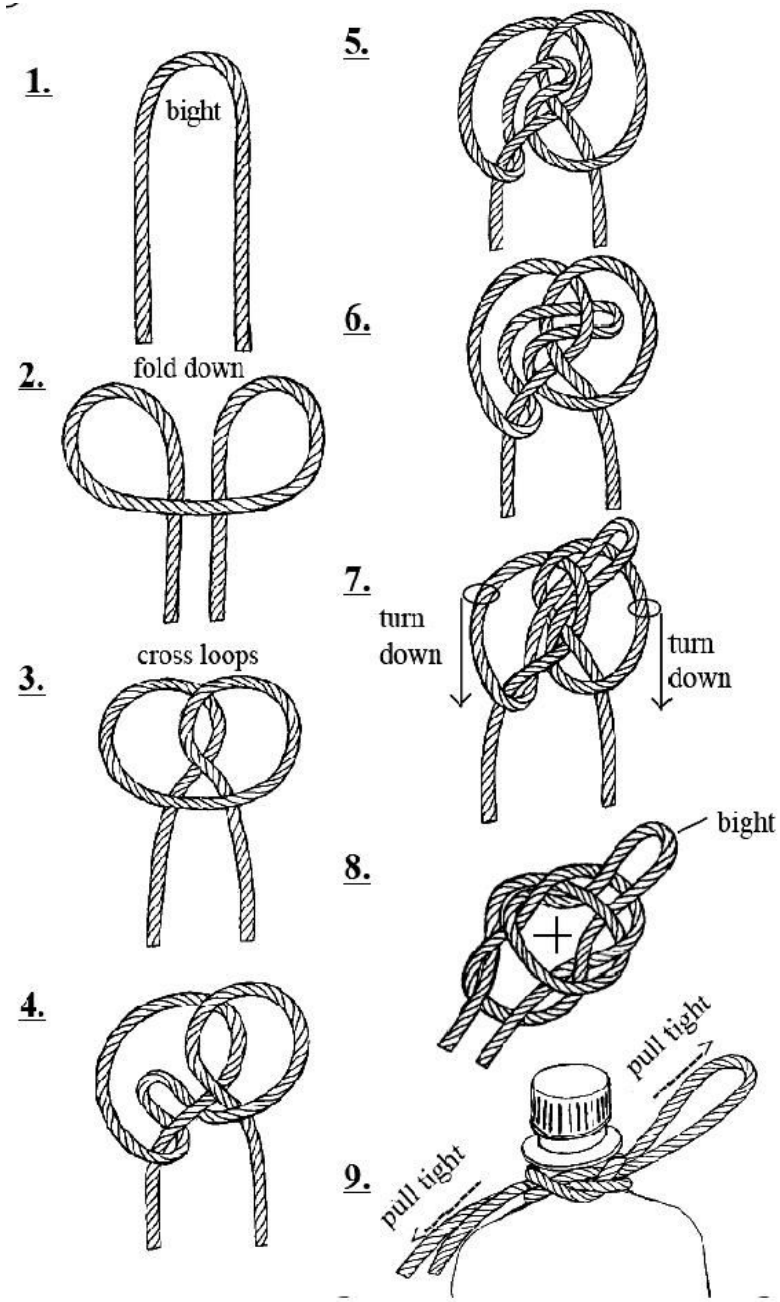
Constrictor



The constrictor knot is important as temporary whipping and as permanent binding. Never use it if you need to untie it. When you cannot place the knot around the object after the knot is formed, you have to tie it round the object. This may be difficult if you did not leave enough room to put the end through.

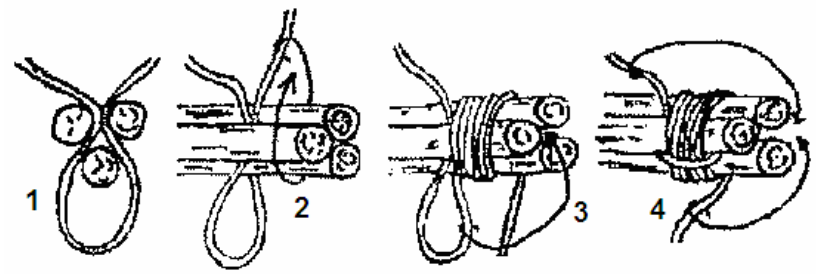
LOOP KNOTS

Jug Knot



LASHINGS

Gin Tripod Lashing



A quick, strong lashing for lightweight tripods.

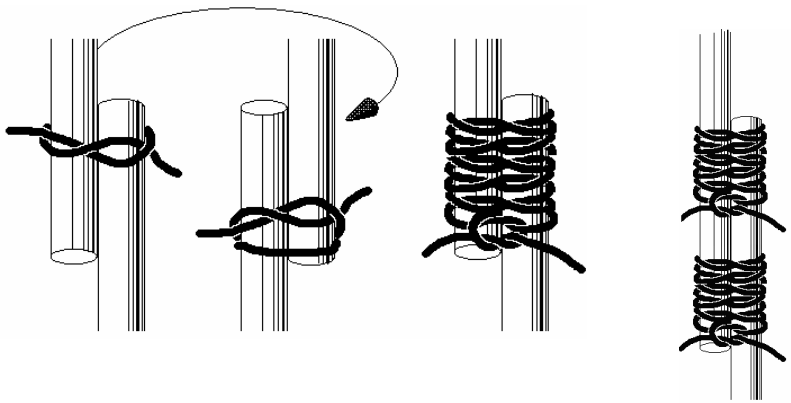
1. Make a loop over one of the poles with the ends leading between the other two.

2. Lead the long end of the rope above the loop and wrap it around all three poles about five or six times. Put the loop over the wraps and over top of same pole.

3. Pull the loop tight with the short end of the rope. Lead the short end over the wraps in the between two poles opposite the loop.

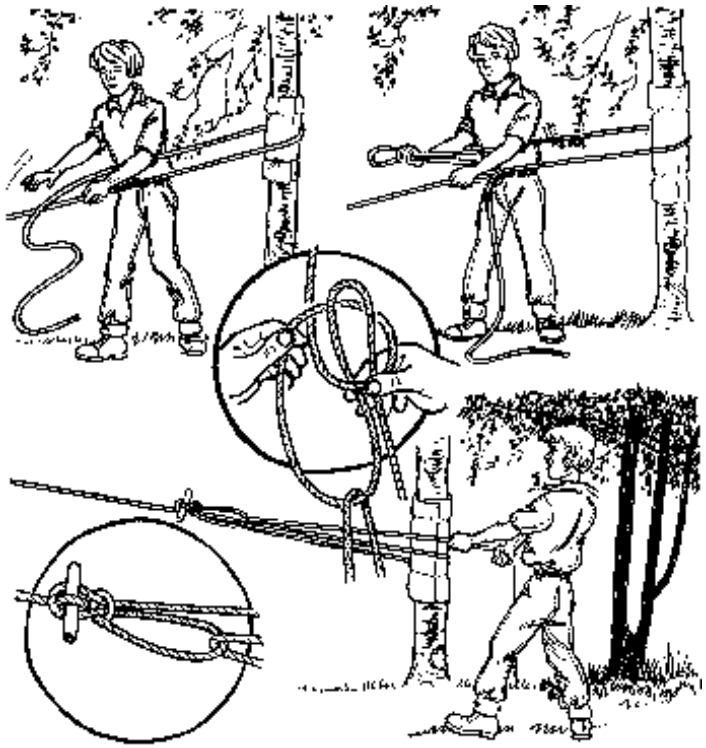
4. Tie the ends of the rope together with a square knot between the ends of the poles.

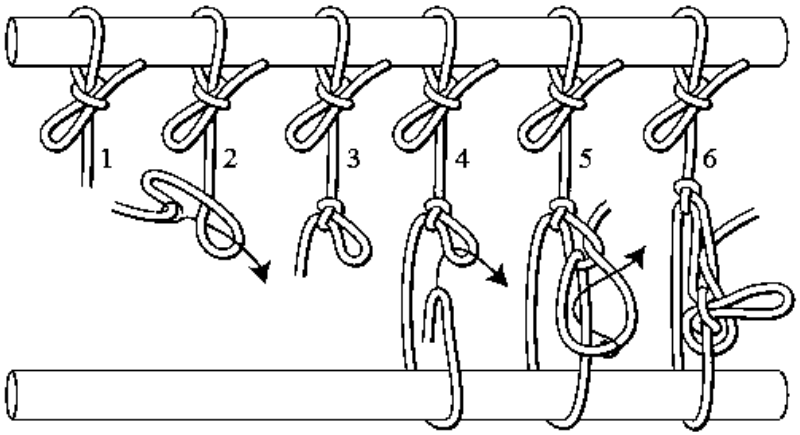
West Country Shear Lashing



This lashing is a series of overhand knots made on alternating sides and finished with a Square Knot. Two lashings make a strong shear joint between two poles.

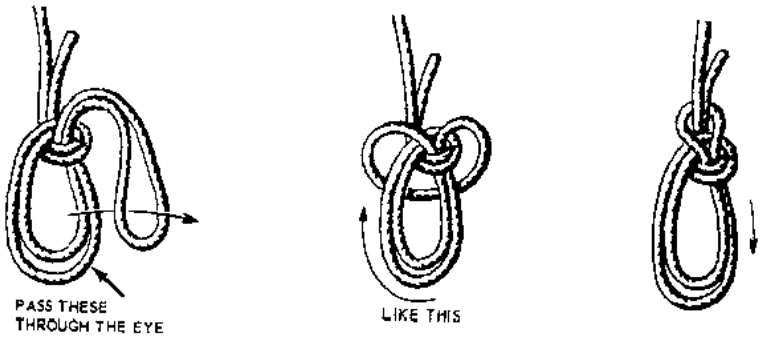
Rope Tackle





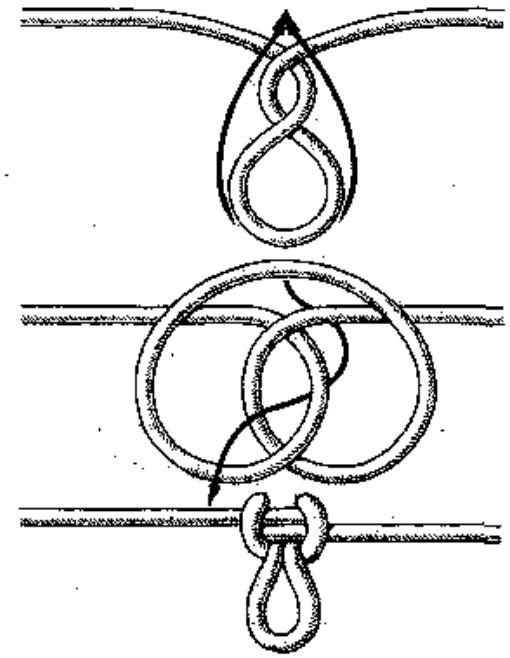
The rope tackle is used to tighten lines or lift loads. It is a simple, effective alternative to pulleys. The toggle or stick shown in the drawing prevents the loop from jamming.

Bowline on a Bight



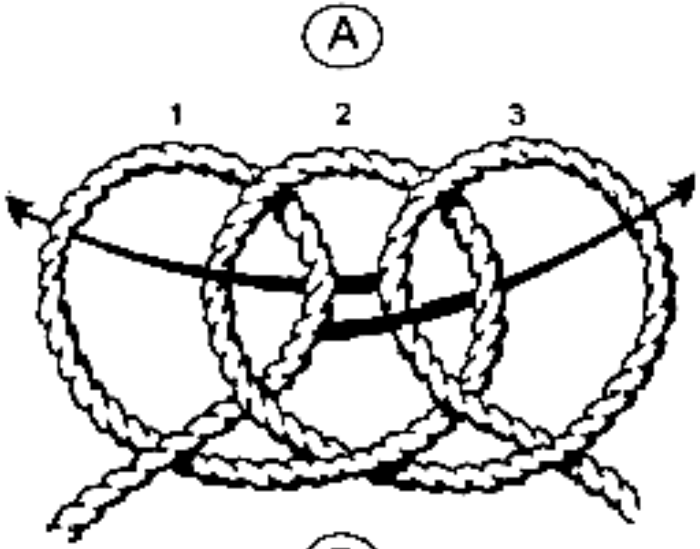
Forms two fixed loops and can be tied without access to the ends of the rope

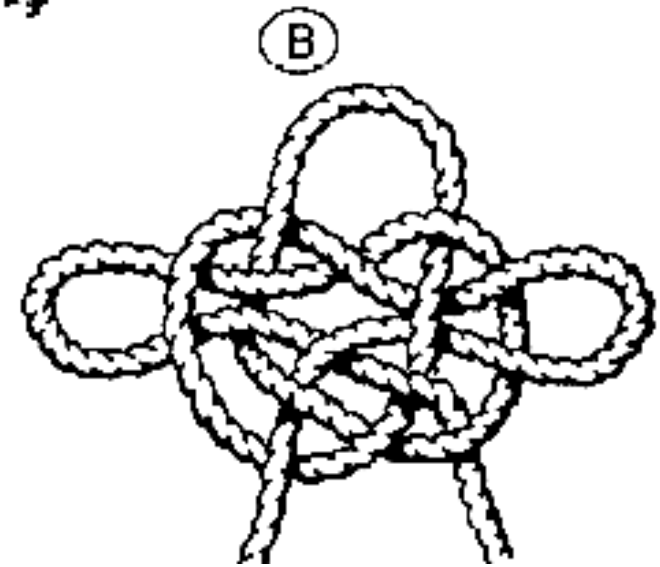
Butterfly Knot



Forms a fixed loop without access to the ends of the rope

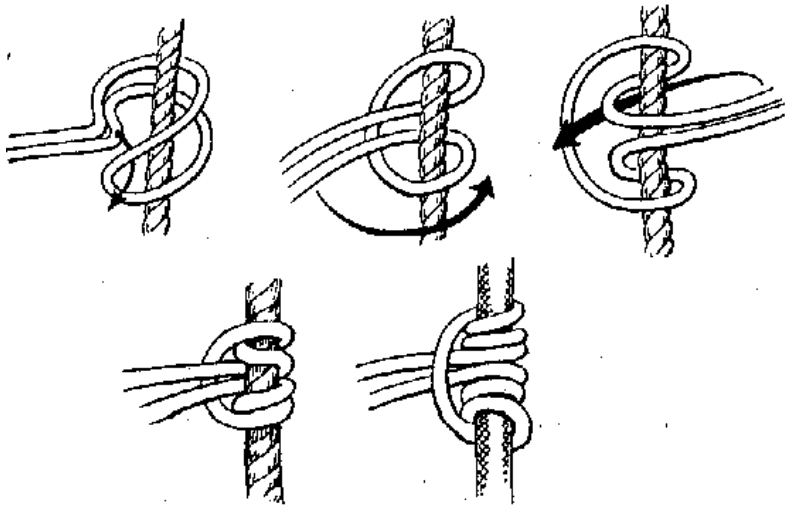
Masthead Knot





Placed on the top of a pole or mast this knot forms loops for guy lines to support the pole.

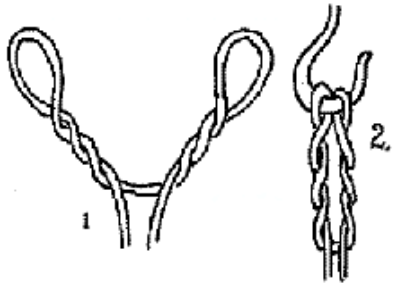
Prussic Knot



Forms a movable knot on another rope. Note that it can be doubled to gain more purchase on a smooth rope

Cat's Paw

Secures a line to a hook for lifting loads.



Honda Knot

Forms a running loop or lasso.