

# Back Braiding Class, & A Few Basic Knots

On May 2011 at the monthly meeting, these were the handouts we used in our knot class. Some of them are hard to follow but if you think them through I have confidence that anyone can tie them. Always remember that it takes a little time to learn how to tie a knot, and then you have to practice it. The back braiding is a

little harder but once you get started you will see how to weave it. Again this will takes a lot of practice. Use these pictures for reference and if you have any questions you can get a hold of me, I'd be more than happy to help you out! If you show up at our meeting, or at one of the events our unit puts, If I'm there, feel free to ask any questions on packing, and hopefully I'll have some answers for



you. We also would like to get your input on what you would like to see, or learn that we could put on a class for that subject.

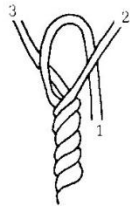
Jonathan was showing Roland a few pointers on back braiding in the first picture. And Terry was showing our soon to be new members, Mike and his wife, a crown knot in. It looked to me like everyone was having fun and at the same time learned a few things. I think the hands-on teaching works out best for





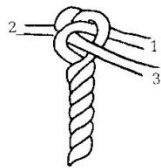
tying knots, that way you can see it, feel it, and ask questions about it, while you're working with it.

First tie a crown knot.



a.

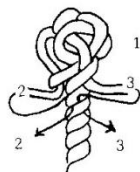
Unravel about 3 to 4 inches. Fold center strand (1) down to form loop.



c.

Tighten crown knot by tugging each end in turn. Go around several times to keep the knot even.

Now weave the splice.



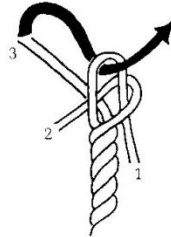
e.

The result of d. Strand 1 disappears in back.

Repeat at least two more times with all three strands (arrows).

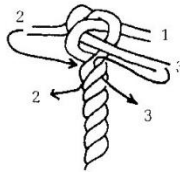
Roll between your palms to tighten. You can clip loose ends for appearance, but leaving them protruding can give you a better grip on the end of a lead rope.

BACK SPLICE



b.

Wrap 2 around loop formed by 1. 2 should pass over 3. Pass 3 through the loop formed by 1.

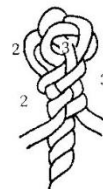


d.

Choose any strand to begin weaving.

Lace it over the strand below, under the strand below that, then out. The arrows show this for strands 2 and 3

Do this for all three strands. If you become confused, notice that a strand goes in between the twists where the strand to the left comes out. (3 goes under where 2 comes out.)



f.

Back splice woven through 2 cycles. One more will complete it.

*Back-Splice*



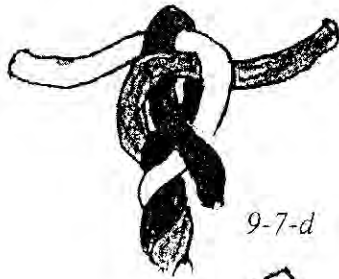
9-7-a



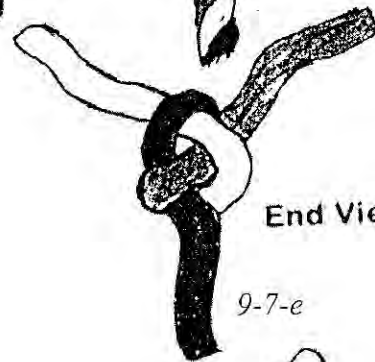
9-7-b



9-7-c



9-7-d

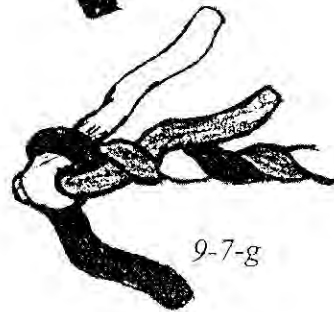


End View

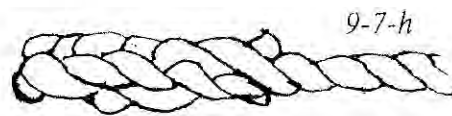
9-7-e



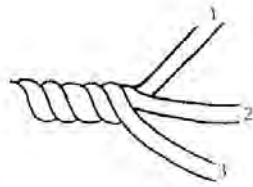
9-7-f



9-7-g

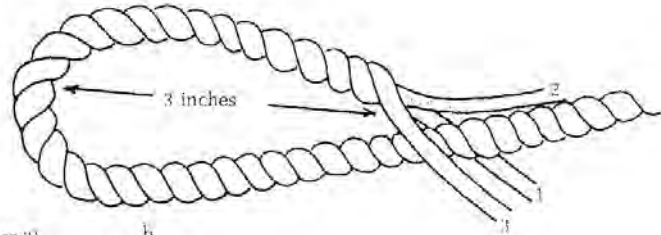


9-7-h



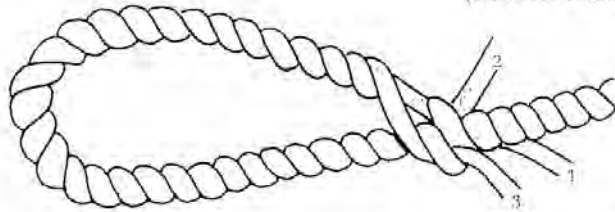
a.

Unravel three to four inches. One strand (in this case 2) will appear as the center strand.



b.

Fold over to form an eye. Three to three and a half inches (the width of four fingers) is a good size.



c.

Insert the center strand (2) under any twist of the rope.

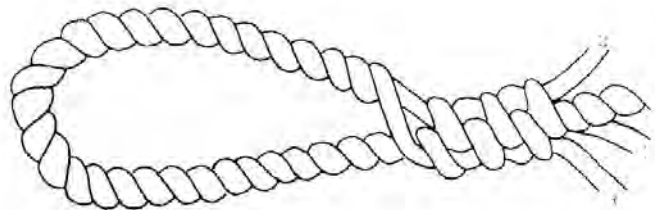
Turn splice  $\frac{1}{2}$  turn so strand 3 is on top and thread it under a twist so that it emerges between the two twists between which 2 was inserted.

(Not shown) Turn splice  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn more so that strand 1 is on top. It should be inserted between the twists where strand 2 emerges and should emerge between the twists where strand 3 goes in. This is the trickiest step. If you get it right the splice will appear symmetrical with all three strands pointing away from the loop and with each emerging between different twists.

d.

From c, it is a simple matter to keep working strands alternately over and under the twists below (exactly like the back splice) until step c. has been repeated at least three times.

Roll the splice under your boot and trim the remaining ends.



**Eye-Splice:** The eye-splice is the best way to prepare a rope so you can make a loop in the rope. Follow this sequence to make an eye-splice:

1. Unbraid the three strands of rope four or five inches from the end. Pinch the rope at the bottom of the unbraided strands so they do not continue to unravel. Fold the loop back over itself a distance of about four inches to make a loop, figure 9-8, a. The strands are color coded black, shaded, and white in this illustration.

2. Start with the shaded strand in the middle and toward you, now place the strand over the rope with the middle (shaded) strand on top, the black strand is to the left side and white strand is to the right side.

3. Take the middle strand (shaded) and go under any strand in the rope, figure 9-8, b.

4. Roll the loop 1/3 turn away from you and take the next strand (black) over the strand lying next to it and under the next strand, going in where the last (shaded) strand came out, figure 9-8, c.

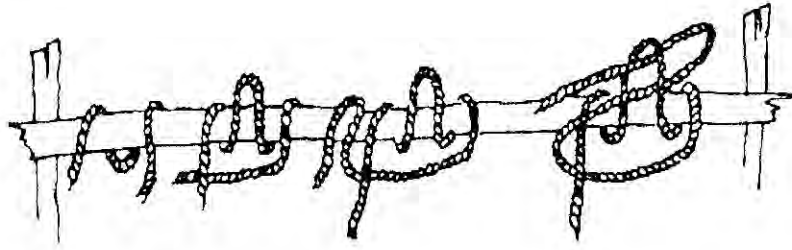
5. Rotate the loop 1/3 turn again, at this point I like to pass the third (white) strand back through the loop and turn the loop over, figure 9-8, d. This makes a "natural lay" for the white strand to go over the strand lying next to it and under the next strand, going in where the last strand (black) came out, figure 9-8, e.

6. Repeat back splice steps 5 & 6, two or three times, and the eye-splice is complete.

I realize these splices are not easy to follow but practice will make perfect. It's like riding a bike, once you get it, you likely won't ever forget it. If you have trouble getting it, ask someone who knows how to assist you. It is well worth knowing how to back-splice and eye-splice.

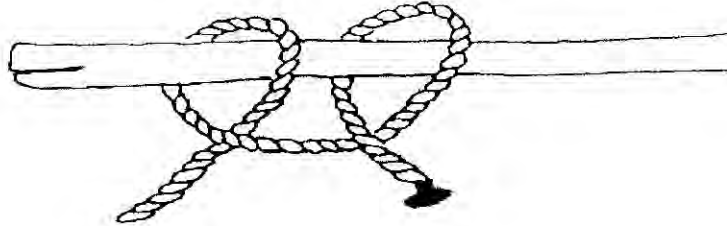
## GENERAL PURPOSE KNOTS

### Raid

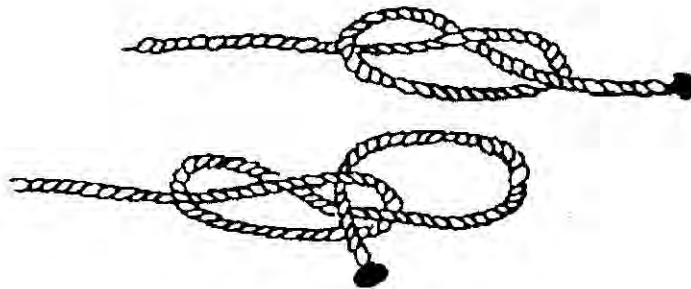


This is the old bank robbers' "get-away-fast" knot. Try it!

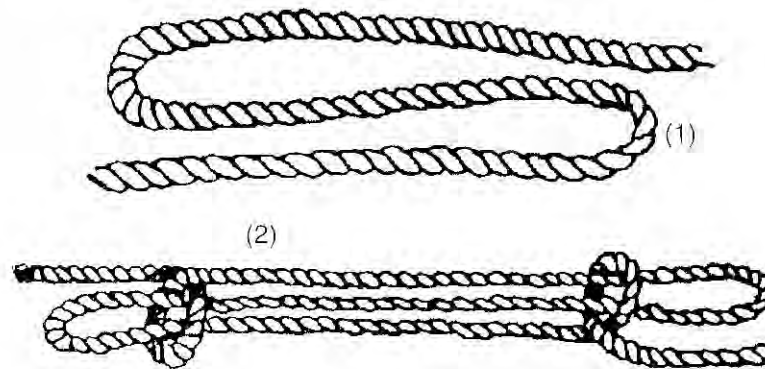
### Clove Hitch (two half hitches)



### Honda (must have the end knot to prevent from slipping through)



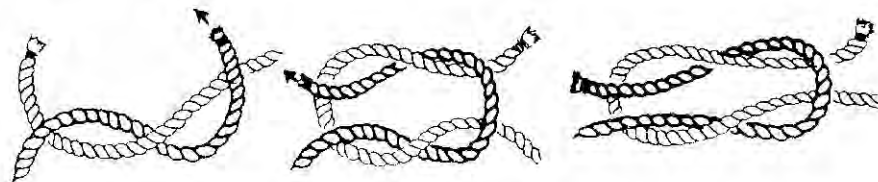
## Sheepshank



The sheepshank is used to shorten a rope.

To tie: Form an "S" loop as shown in the top diagram. Then with one free end, make a half hitch and slip it over one of the loops. Tighten; repeat procedure with the other loop.

## Square Knot



The square knot is used to tie two ropes together and is referred to as the universal package knot.

To tie: Pass the left end over and under the right end. Curve what is now the left end towards the right. Cross what is now the right end over and under the left end. Draw up tight.

Don't tie the weak granny knot. Remember that the square knot presents two ends lying under one loop and over the opposite loop — while the granny presents one end under and one over on both loops.

# A Highwayman's Hitch

Uses: Hold livestock, mooring, temporary tie.

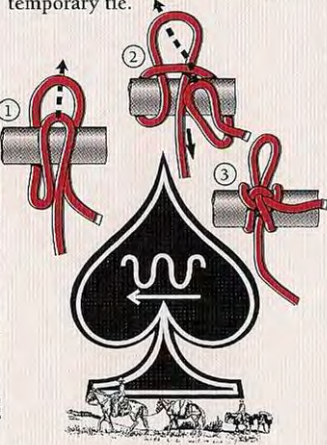


Legend calls it Robber's Knot for get-away on horse back.



Known as Painter's Knot or Draw Hitch. See Mooring Hitch.

Highwayman's Hitch



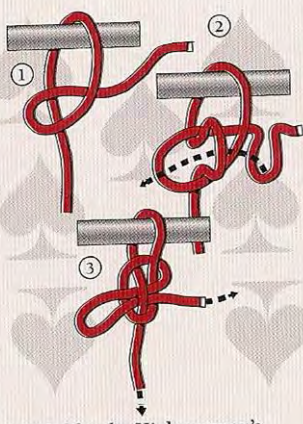
hard to reach rope.

# 7 Mooring Hitch

Uses: Mooring boat or hold livestock.



This is not the slippery half hitch. Good stock trailer tie.



Easy to tie, pull to release, untie safely knot holding a ladder.

Much like the Highwayman's Hitch but is tied on itself.

Mooring Hitch



# 8 Sheet Bend

Uses: Join similar size ropes & line to leader, hang a flag.



Can be slipped. Double Sheet Bend adds security.



Loose ends should come out same side for security.



Holds under high load, stronger than Square Knot.

Sheet Bend



# 9 Bowline

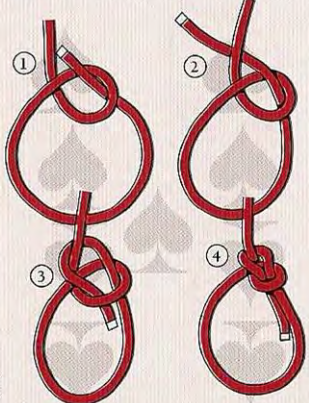
Uses: Climbing, join rope, tie up stock, hoisting, loop.



Keep working end inside loop. See other Bowline versions.



May work loose in Bungy cord but is a knot to know.



Easy to make and untie, does not jam. Use on ring or rail.

Bowline

