

BSA Troop 119 Knot Board

The Use and Advantage or Disadvantage of each Knot

Flemish Flake:

A coil of rope or hose used when saving space on the deck of a boat.
Line will twist when run out.

Figure Eight Flake:

A way to lay rope or hose that will not twist when run out.
This flake uses more space on the deck of a boat.

Bight and Turn:

Basic components of all knots.

Overhand:

The simplest knot to tie. It is used to prevent the end of a rope from unraveling or as a simple stopper knot. It is susceptible to slipping when used as a stopper knot.

Figure Eight:

Used as a stopper knot to prevent a rope from running out of a retaining device.
Not as susceptible to slipping as the Overhand Knot.

Granny:

A binding knot that should not be used. It is inferior to the Reef or Square Knot.

Square:

A binding knot used to join two ends of a single line around an object.
Also used to join two lines of equal diameter together.
Not secure as a bend. Spills (changes form) easily if a free end is pulled outward.
Also known as the Reef Knot or Joining Knot by Boy Scouts.

Thief's:

A binding knot that spills easily. Rumored to be used by sailors to tie a bag closed where it can later be checked for tampering.

Crown:

Used to start a Back Splice and some specialty knots such as an Acorn Basket.

Back Splice:

Used to prevent the end of a rope from unraveling and as a stopper knot.

Sheet Bend:

A binding knot used to join a sheet to a line or two ropes of different diameters together.
The sheet or larger diameter rope forms the bight portion of the knot.

Double Sheet Bend:

A more secure version of the Sheet Bend.

Buntline Hitch:

Used to attach a line to a ring or other object. Also known as a Studding-Sail Tack Bend.

Studding-Sail Halyard Bend:

Used to attach a line to a Top Sail Halyard. More secure than a Fisherman's Bend.

Fisherman's Bend:

Used to attach a line to a ring or other object.

Single Carrick Bend:

Used to join two heavy ropes or cables together.

Double Carrick Bend:

Used to join two heavy ropes or cables together. It will not jam after carrying a large load. Also used as a decorative knot.

Short Splice:

Used to join the ends of two lines together. The join is greater in diameter than the line.

Half Hitch:

By itself it slips easily and cannot hold anything.
Often used with a Timber Hitch to drag a log.

Two Half Hitches:

A binding knot used to tie a line to a post.

Round Turn & 2 Half Hitches:

Used to tie a line to a post or heavy line (rope bridge). It is unlikely to slip down the post.

Taut-line Hitch:

Used as an adjustable loop knot for lines under tension. It is easily adjusted to maintain tension. An alternate form of this knot is the Midshipman's Knot.

Clove Hitch:

Used to secure a line to a post. The strain in the line should only be applied at a right angle to the post. This hitch is often used to start a lashing. It is liable to slip with only one end loaded. Resembles 2 Half Hitches only applied around a post rather than the line itself.

Timber Hitch:

Used to attach a single length of rope to a piece of wood such as a log. It can be used in conjunction with a Half Hitch to drag a log.

Rolling Hitch:

Used to attach a rope to a rod or pole. Resists lengthwise movement in one direction of pull.
Resembles a Taut Line Hitch only applied around a rod or pole rather than the line itself.

Eye Splice:

A splice where the working end is spliced into the working part forming an eye or loop.

Bowline:

Used to make a temporary eye (loop) in a line. Will not slip and is easily undone.
Used as a rescue knot. Also known as the Safety Knot by Boy Scouts.

Tugboat Bowline:

A form of a Bowline that is quickly made. It will not slip and is easily undone.
It can be used on a boat cleat when securing the boat to a pier.

Running Bowline:

A line passed through the eye of a Bowline to create a loop that can be tightened later.

Bowline on a Bight:

Used to provide a toe hold in the middle of a rope.
It can be used to make an emergency boatswain's chair.

Cat's Paw:

Used to attach a rope to a hook.
Holds the middle of a rope whose ends are tied to a log or beam for lifting.

Blackwall Hitch:

A simple half hitch over a hook. It will hold only when under a constant strain.

Double Blackwall Hitch:

A more secure version of the Blackwall Hitch. Holds only under a constant strain.

Trucker's Hitch:

A self binding adjustable knot used for securing loads on a truck or trailer.

Sheep Shank:

Used to shorten a rope or take up slack.
Secure under tension. It falls apart when not under tension.

Fisherman's Knot:

Used to tie fishing line together. It is less likely to jam a fishing rod than many other bends.

Bowstring Knot:

Used to form an eye (loop) to fasten a string to the end of a bow. It will not slip and is difficult to untie.

Double Figure Eight:

Used to fasten a rope to a climbing harness. It is a secure knot that will not slip or come undone.

Lineman's Loop:

Used to form a loop along a line or to isolate a worn part of a line. It is superior to the Sheep Shank when used to shorten a rope. It will not slip. Also known as a Butterfly Loop.

Masthead:

Used to rig a temporary mast or rig a gin pole.

Monkey's Fist:

Tied at the end of a rope to serve as a weight making it easier to throw a line.

Turk's Head:

A decorative knot that can be used as a Boy Scout neckerchief slide or a wrap on a handle.