

Figure-of-Eight

The Figure-of-Eight knot is probably the most useful of all climbing knots. It is easy to tie, easy to undo after a load has been applied, and puts the least stress on the rope when tied tight. It can be tied anywhere in the rope, but if it's near the end, it should be secured with a stopper knot to prevent the knot from un-doing itself.

There are generally two methods used to tie a figure of eight knot. The first method is used when a piece of equipment is clipped into the loop, the second when the knot is used to tie into something, for example, a climbing harness.

Figure-of-Eight loop

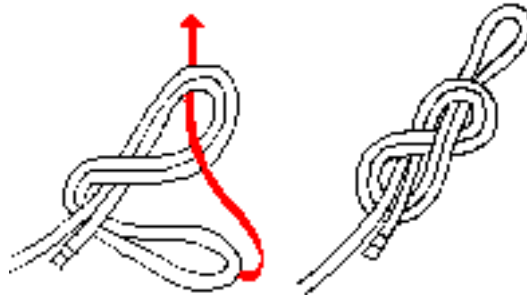
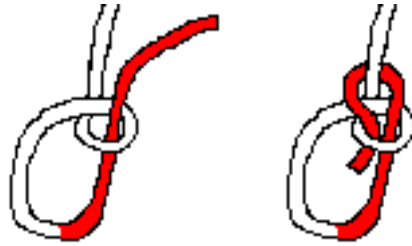


Figure-of-Eight re-threaded



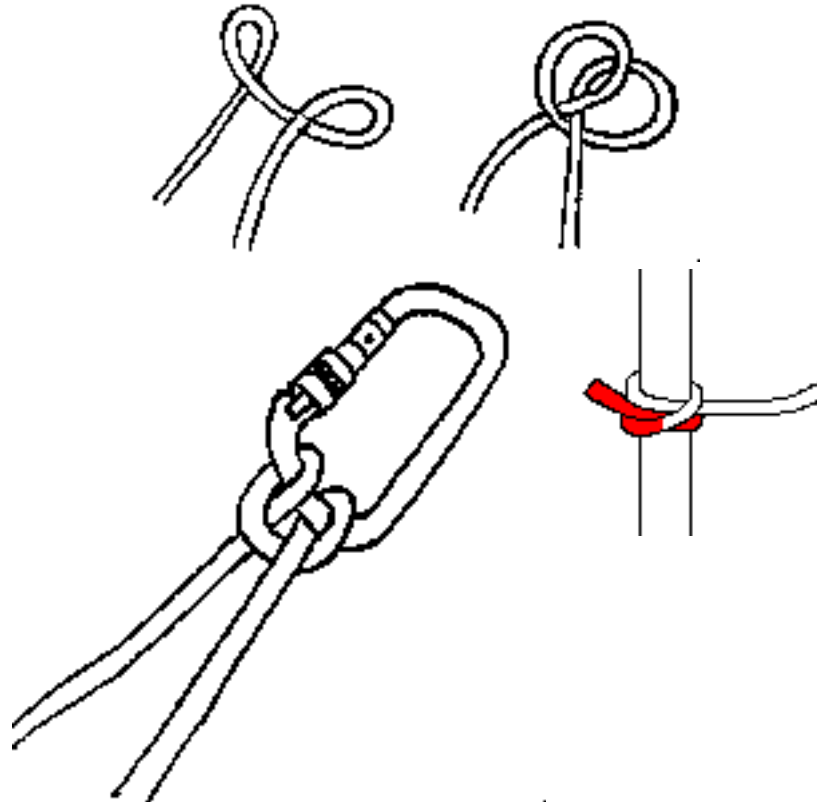
The above re-threaded method is usually used to tie into a harness, and is just a case of making a figure-of-eight on the single rope, looping through the harness, and following the knot back through itself.

Bowline



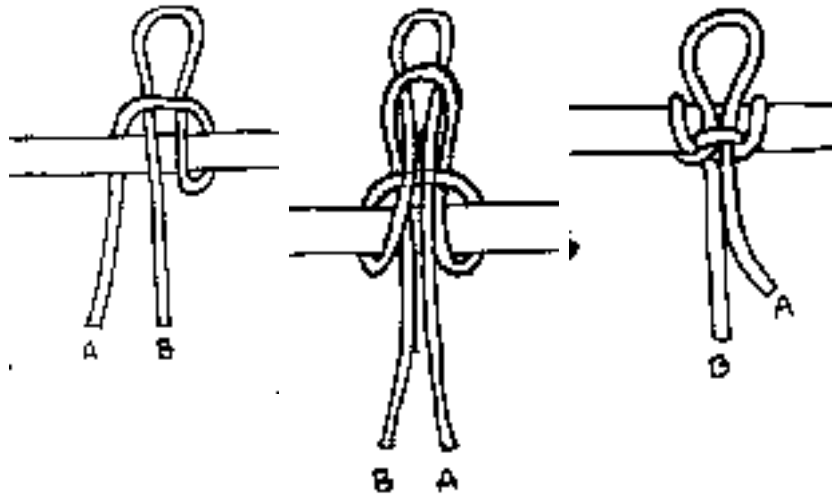
The bowline is easy to adjust and untie. Beware, though, that if tied incorrectly in can be unsafe. You should really tie a stopper knot in the loop with the loose end to prevent it from pulling through.

Clove Hitch



The clove hitch is easily adjusted when place, but is not a particularly strong knot. If one side of the knot is to be loaded, place the diagonal underneath. If both sides are to be loaded, place the diagonal at the top. Tighten before loading, as it may run if loaded when loose.

Highwayman's Hitch



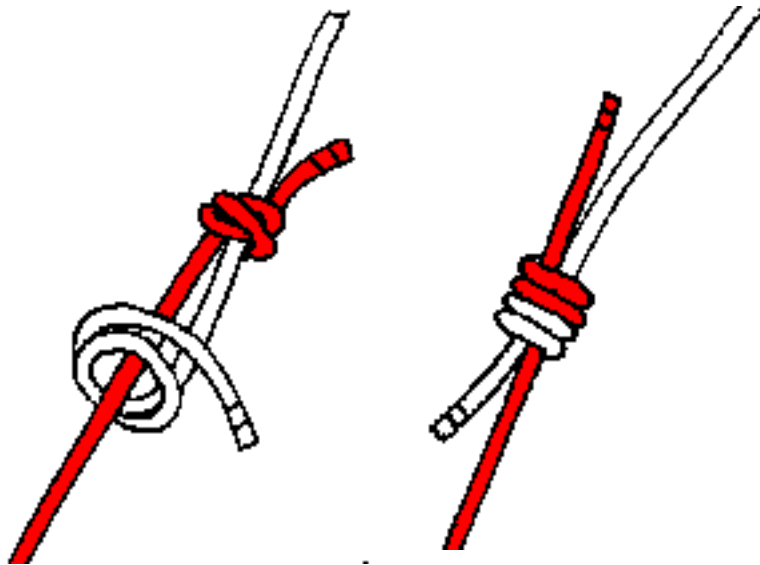
This knot can bear one's weight on one strand of the rope and can be untied by just pulling on the other strand. End 'B' is the load-bearing end. NOT RECOMMENDED for climbing, but excellent for robbing stagecoaches, when you want to get away quick with your rope.

Fisherman's Knot



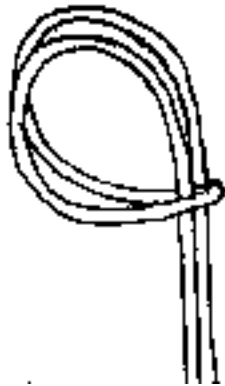
Probably the simplest knot for joining two ends of rope. Consists of two overhand knots.

Double Fisherman's Knot



Better than the Fisherman's Knot, this uses two double overhand knots. Good knot, as it can be difficult to untie. Check regularly for the loose ends getting shorter, and if so, re-tie. Tighten with body weight.

Lark's Foot



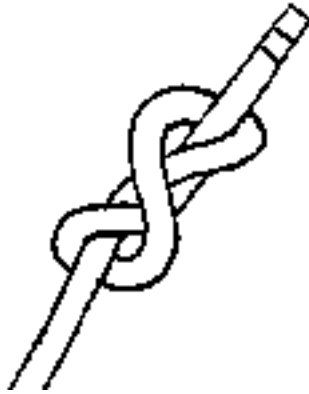
Quick knot, but weak. Best avoided.

Overhand Knot



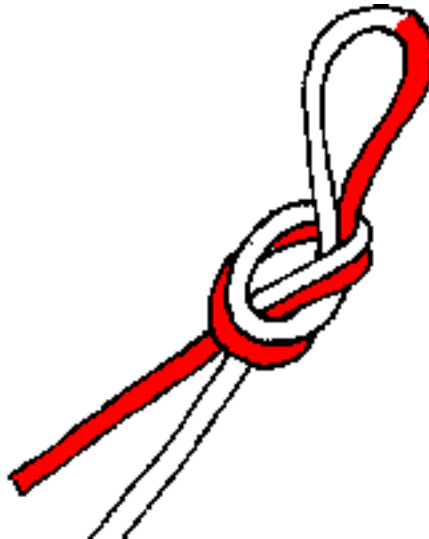
Probably the simplest knot in existence. Usually used as a stopper knot, but a double overhand is preferable.

Double Overhand Knot



Better as a stopper knot than the Overhand, as it is less likely to pull through.

Overhand Loop



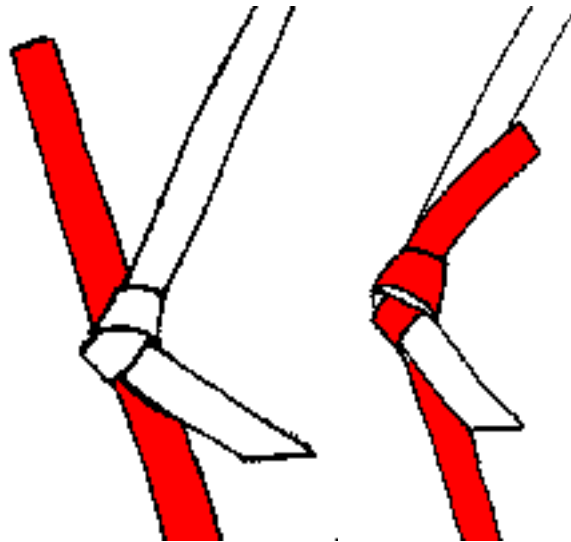
This is the simplest way to create a closed loop in the middle of a rope. Difficult to untie after loading.

Sheet Bend



Occasionally used to join the ends of ropes, may be adjusted easily, but can also come undone easily.

Tape Knot

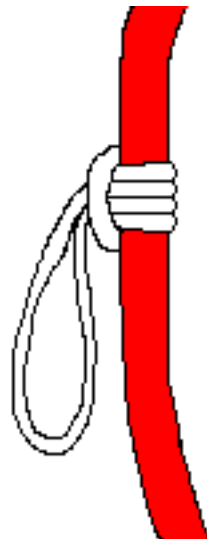


Usually used for joining the ends of tapes or slings. Can work loose sometimes, so check regularly, and re-tie if the ends are getting shorter. Tighten with body weight before use.

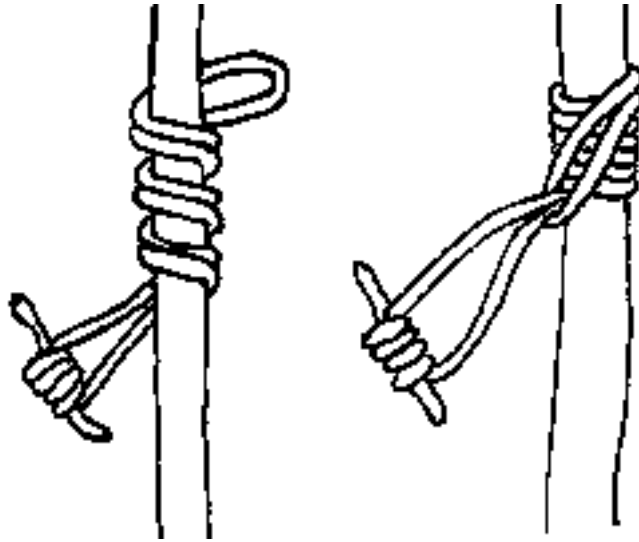
Ascending Knots

Five ascending knots are shown in all, each have their advantages and disadvantages. Try them all out, and see which you prefer.

Prusik Loop

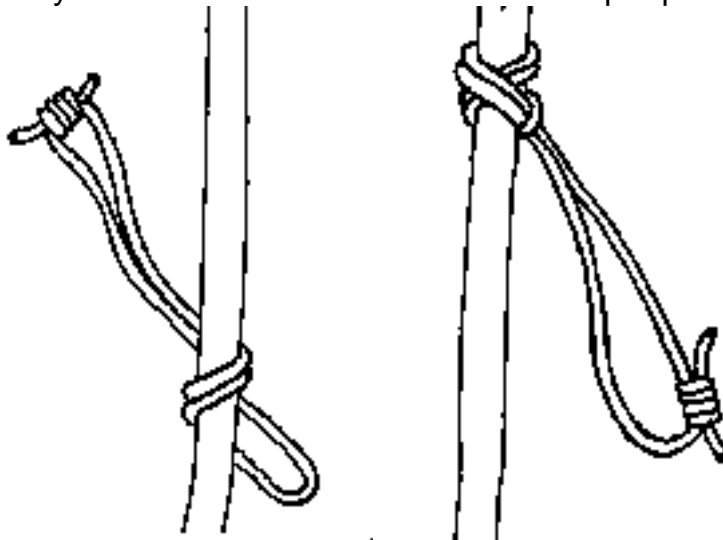


The Kleimheist

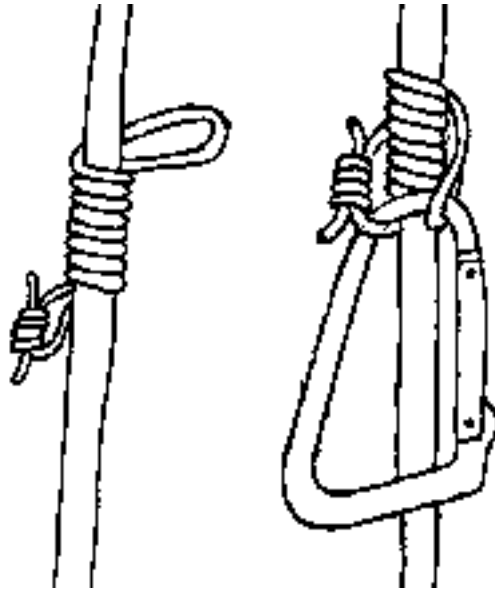


The Hedden Knot, also known as Kreuzklem

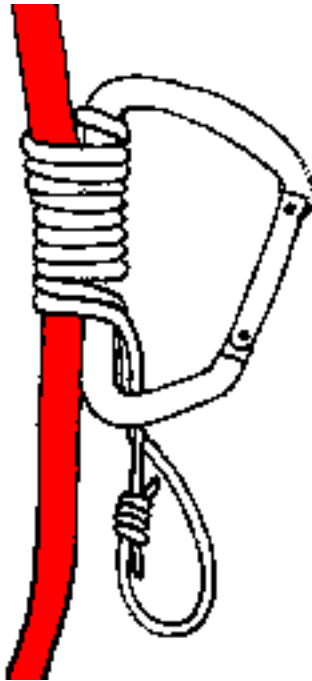
First published in 1960 in Summit Magazine. In 1964, the name Kreuzklem was attached to it by someone in the German mountain troops who was shown it by an officer serving in the US Air Force. The Kreuzklem name (cross-clamp) was applied because the original inventor (Chet Hedden) got lost somewhere along the way when it was shown to different people in Europe.



The French Prusik



The Bachmann



Last update on 30th July 1996.

