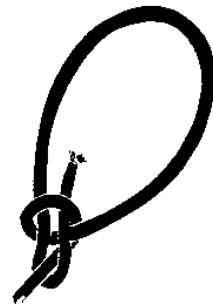


## Knots

Most situations on and around a boat can be handled with three knots and one hitch: bowline, figure-eight, square knot, and clove hitch. Other useful knots and hitches are the reef knot, sheet bend, mooring hitch, and round turn with two half hitches.

**Bowline.** The "king of knots" is the most useful for all-around purposes. It is generally tied in the hand. Make an overhand loop with the end held toward you, leaving plenty of line to throw over the *bollard* or post you want to tie to. Pass the end up through the loop around the standing part, and down through the loop again. Pull on the end and standing part to set up the knot. The workhorse of knots, the bowline can also be used for attaching halyards or sheets to the mainsail or jib sail and is also useful in rescue efforts.

**Figure-Eight Knot.** To make this "stopper" knot, pass the running end of the line under and over the standing part and then through the loop that is formed. It should look like the numeral 8. Draw it up and you have an easy-to-untie stopper for the end of a sheet or halyard, and it won't slip through the blocks or fairlead loops. When snugged, the end of the line projects at a right angle to the standing part. This is a simple knot to tie.



Bowline

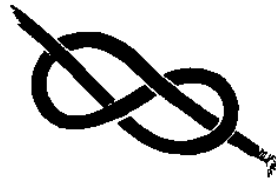
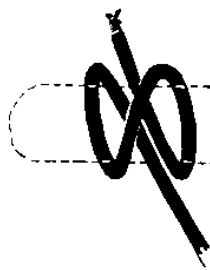
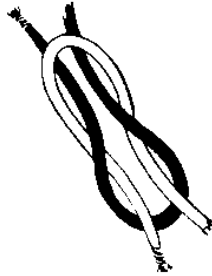


Figure-Eight Knot



Clove Hitch



Square Knot



Reef Knot



Mooring Hitch

**Clove Hitch.** This knot can also be dropped over a bollard, post, or piling. It is simply a loop with a reverse loop laid on top of it. An easy way to tie it is to grasp the line in two places, then twist your left hand clockwise and your right hand counterclockwise, making two loops side by side. Throw them over the post or bollard and pull tight.

**Square Knot.** Familiar to every Boy Scout, the square knot is essentially one overhand knot tied on top of another, making two interlocking loops or *big/lits*. It should be used for joining the two ends of a piece of rope or tying two ropes of equal size.

**Reef Knot (Slippery Square Knot).** Although generally considered the same as the square knot, the reef knot is often tied by sailors with one end pulled through as a loop, like one side of a shoelace knot. This makes it possible to untie the knot quickly by giving a quick tug on the end, which saves a lot of work when rope is wet and you want to get a reefed sail out in a hurry.

**Mooring Hitch.** Sometimes called a *hitching tie*, this knot is used to tie horses to a post or rail and boats to a mooring. It is handy, holds very well, and is easy to untie. Start out as though tying a slip knot, but instead of making