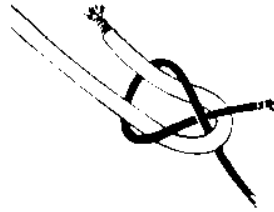


an overhand knot, pull a loop under the standing part. A quick jerk on the end frees the knot. Warning: It will "worry out" unless tension is maintained on the line, or unless the running end is dropped through the loop and secured. Best not to use it if your boat is left unattended.

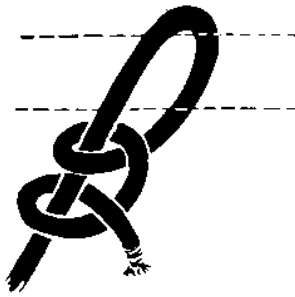
**Sheet Bend.** This is the best knot for tying ropes together, especially for joining lines of different diameters. It starts out looking like a square knot, but instead of ending up as two interlocking loops, the end of the thinner rope is passed under its own standing part and over the loop of the thicker rope. When this is pulled tight, it is virtually slip-proof.

**Two Half Hitches.** This is perhaps the easiest and quickest knot in the sailor's locker. It is just two overhand loops tied in the running end of the rope around the standing part. It tightens like a slip knot but is easier to untie. This useful knot also compares favorably with the clove hitch.

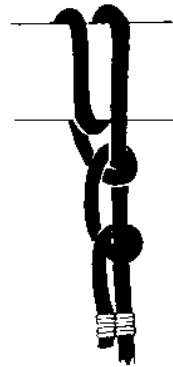
**Round Turn with Two Half Hitches.** This is a substitute for the clove hitch when mooring small boats. Pass the end of the line around the post twice and tie the two overhand knots to the standing part. This knot refuses to slip around on the post; it is easier to tie to objects that are closed on both ends, like railings or timbers.



Sheet Bend



Two Half Hitches



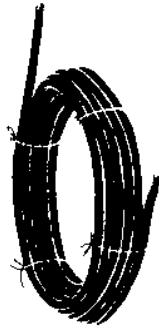
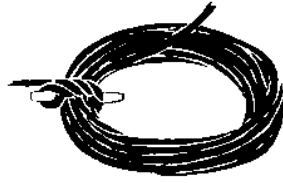
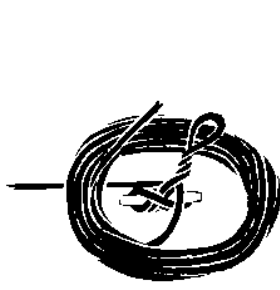
Round Turn with Two Half Hitches

## Storing and Handling Line

### Coiling Rope

Coil halyards evenly in a clockwise direction (with the lay of the line) and hang them from their cleats by a loop formed in this manner: Hold the coil in the left hand, reach through it with the right, and grasp the halyard at a point below the cleat where the line begins to form its first coil. Then take enough slack in that part to permit it to be passed through and around the top of the coil twice (to prevent the coil from slipping) with enough left to hook over the cleat.

When you're ready to lower a sail, make sure that the halyard is cleared for running. Remove it from the cleat and lay it in a clear space on deck so that, when the turns are cast off the cleat, the line will run out from the top of the coil. Unhook the halyard loop from the cleat and then "capsize" the coil, which means turning it over as you lay it on deck. Otherwise, when the halyard is cast off the cleat and the sail begins to come down, the halyard could become snarled and jam in the sheave.



### Faking Down a Rope

**Faking down** a rope is a method of coiling rope so that each *take*, or flat coil, overlaps the preceding one and is free for running out rapidly. This method helps prevent fouling when playing out the rope.

