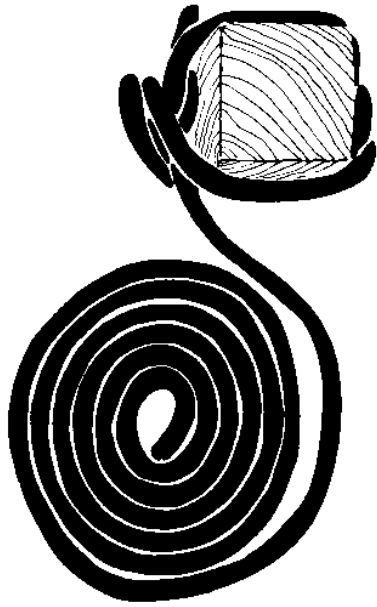


Flemishing Down a Rope

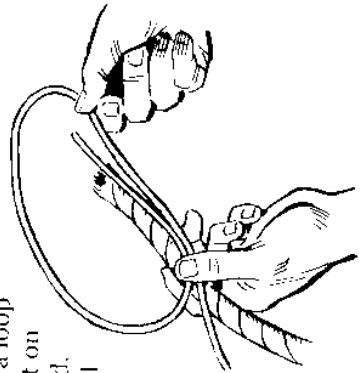
Coiling a line flat on deck in concentric circles with the free end at the center will produce a *flemished line*. The line will not blow or wash off easily.



Whipping

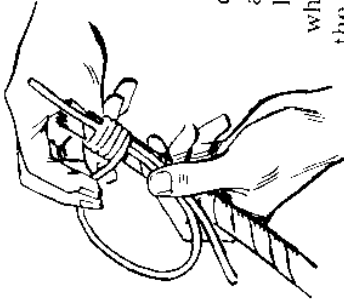
Whipping is the sailor's way of preventing rope ends from unraveling. The lazy person wraps black tape around the ends, much as you would bandage a fingertip. But the supply of tape could run out some day; it is better to learn to whip the traditional way.

Using waxed line, Dacron whipping cord, or any strong cord or twine, make a loop with the end of the cord and lay it on the rope at the end to be whipped. Then wind the cord tightly around the loop and the line for a distance at least equal to the rope's diameter. When you're close to the end of the cord, pass the free end through the loop. Then pull the running end of the loop until the loop is drawn back out of sight under the coils of the whipping.

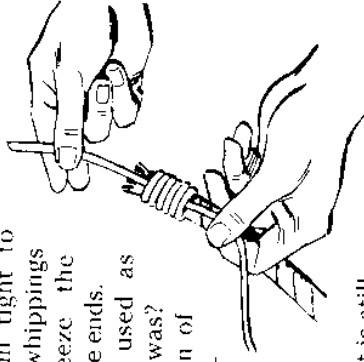


This locks the whipping in place. The last step is to cut off the ends.

Here's an even simpler and faster way to whip: Take the whipping cord and make a large circle, with the ends pointing left and right. Place it alongside the rope to be whipped. Starting with the circle of cord closest to the end of the line, wrap the cord around the line for a distance equal to the line's diameter. Pull both ends until the extra whipping cord slides under the wraps. Pull tight to snug the whippings and squeeze the line. Trim loose ends.



Is whipping used as much as it formerly was? No, because with the introduction of synthetic rope, a new method of protecting rope ends arose: All you had to do was to apply a match or hot iron to the end of a synthetic rope, and the exposed fibers would melt together into a stump. It is still a good idea, though, to whip the melted ends of line that must pass through blocks. A good whipping further compresses the ends and makes it easier to feed them smoothly through.



Heaving and Belaying

A sailboat is coming up to a pier. A sailor at the bow heaves a line toward a person on the pier. The line arches across the water as if in slow motion. Then—*bull's-eye!* The person ashore has the line and brings the boat alongside. Easy? No, but it isn't all that hard either, if you know how—and practice.

Make a coil of heaving line as you would a halyard coil. As you approach the pier, split the coil, holding half in each hand. With the heaving arm loosely at your side, swing it back and forth once or twice to get momentum. Then, at shoulder height on a forward swing,