

BOWLINE

Tie a Secure Loop in the end of a Line

The Bowline is called "The King of Knots". This is because the Bowline can be made to do most anything (sometimes not very elegant) that needs to be done on a boat. The Bowline makes a loop that will hold its size in the end of a line. The Bowline should be practiced until it is second nature and can be tied while upside down while hanging over the rail of a heeling boat.

Use the Bowline when a loop is need to tie to a cleat or go over a piling, tie a sheet to the clew of a sail, tie a fender or most any time a loop is need in the end of a line.

Two methods are shown for tying a Bowline. The first is the "Regular" or "Brute Force" and the "Spilled-Hitch" methods.

The "Regular" method is the classic method of tying the Bowline. Some use a rhyme about a rabbit and a fox with a tree.

- 1) Throw an overhand loop over the standing part of the line forming the desired size of the eye.
- 2) Pass the bitter end (A) up through the loop and forming the eye.
- 3) Bring the bitter end (A) up and pass it under and around the standing part of the line passing the bitter end back down through the loop along side the first part of the bitter end.

Slowly work the slack out of the line to form the finished Bowline.

The Spilled-Hitch is a good method to use to tie a sheet to the clew of a sail or any time that a Bowline is tied around or through an object.

- 4) Throw a bite of the line over the object that the Bowline is to be tied around. Make a half hitch with the bitter end (B) over the standing part of the line.
- 5) Pull the bitter end (B) down to transfer the half hitch to the standing part of the line. This will straighten out the bitter end. This is the same as figure 2 in the Regular method.
- 6) Pass the bitter end under and around the standing part of the line.
- 7) Bring the bitter end (B) up passing the bitter end back down through the loop along side the first part of the bitter end.

Slowly work the slack out of the line to form the finished Bowline.

Hints and notes:

Make the overhand loop part of the knot smaller than the eye (lower loop) – this makes it easier to visualize the proper construction of the knot.

The two parts of the line that pass through the loop should be parallel and alongside each other.

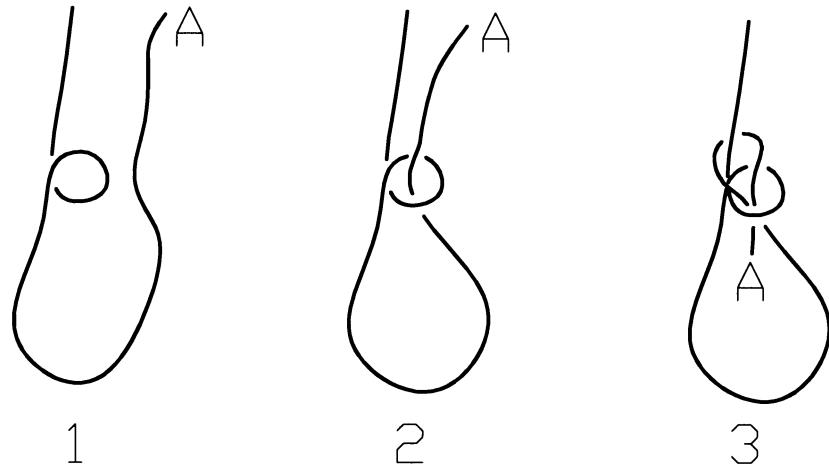
Slowly work the line into the knot when tightening up the knot. Do not just attempt to rapidly take the slack out of the knot. Getting into a hurry to finish the Bowline many times results in a knot that is a jumble but had the line formed correctly during the threading.

The Bowline can be tied left or right handed right side or upside down. If the line through the loop are opposite the knot will untie itself – loop upon this as a safety feature.

The bitter end should pass to the center of the eye.

Bowline

"Regular or "Brute Force" Bowline



"Spilled-Hitch" Bowline

