

Basic Knots Guide

by [zorro3355](#) on April 29, 2008

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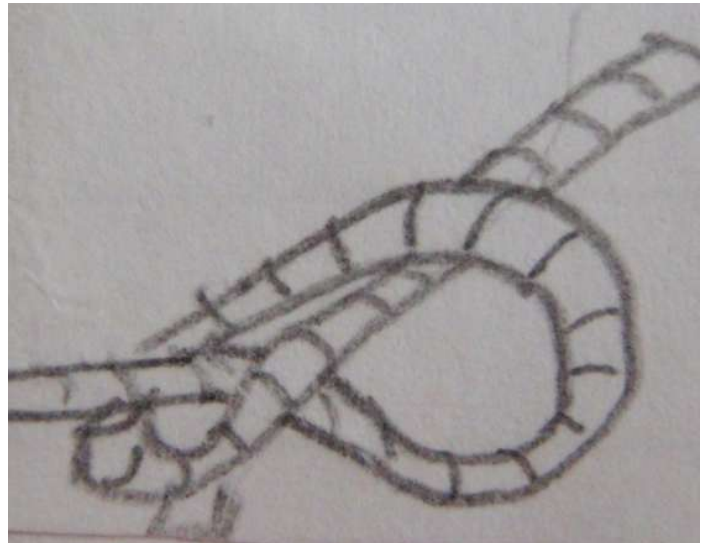
intro: Basic Knots Guide

I'm a scout and knots is one of the most important things in scouting. i decided to make a guide on knots which i hope that it could help you somehow.



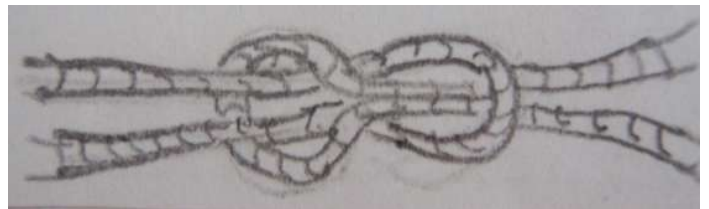
step 1: Thumb knot

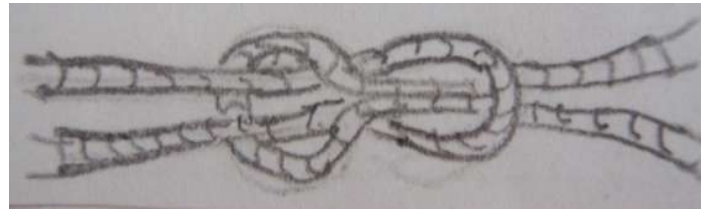
The most simple knot. Used as a stopper and prevent ropes from fraying .



step 2: Reef Knot

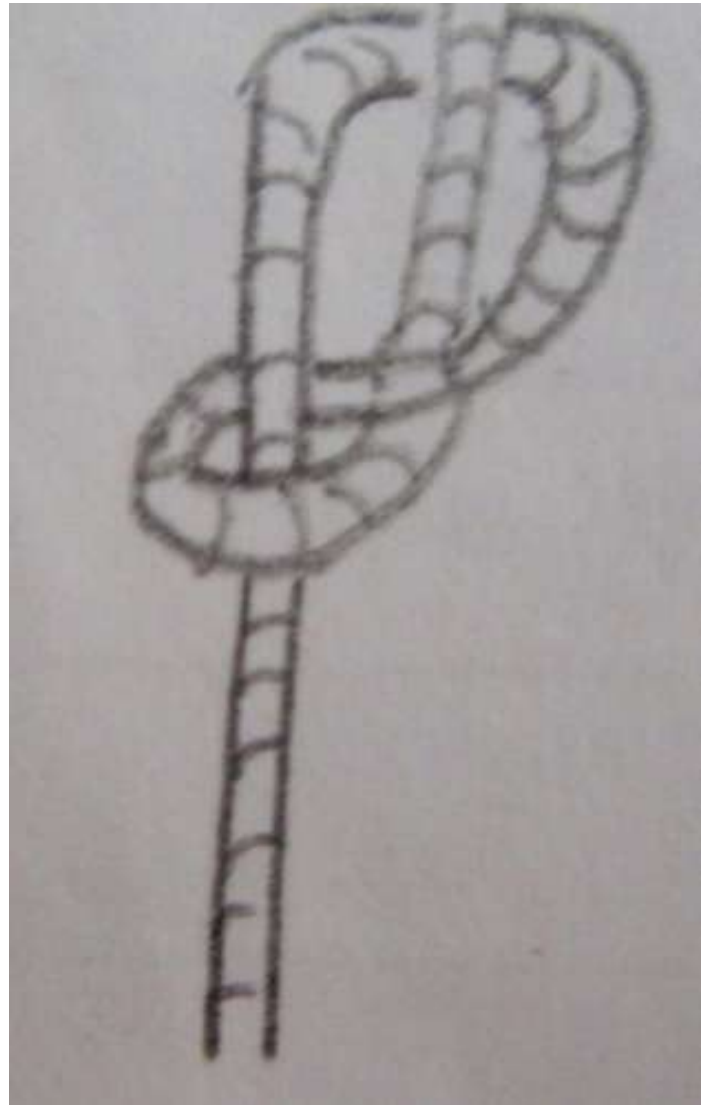
Used to tie two ropes of equal thickness together. It is pretty easy to tie and untie but under tension, it may be difficult to untie. It is also not suitable for smooth ropes. (eg. nylon ropes)





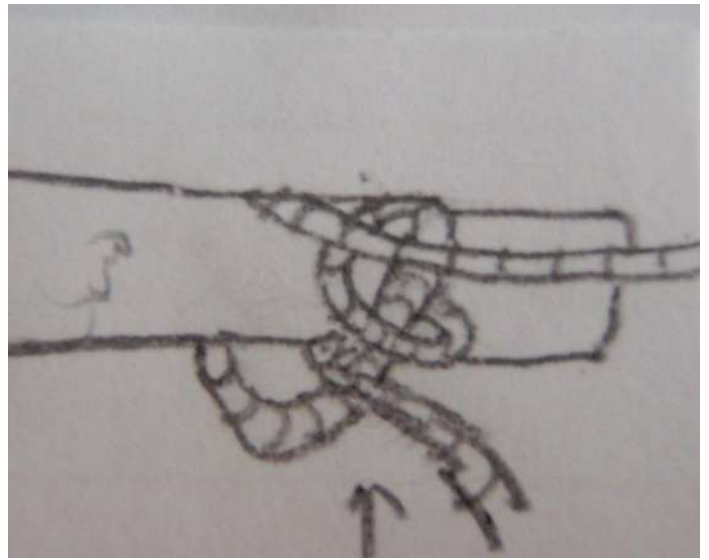
step 3: Figure of eight

used as a stopper, prevent ropes from fraying and its more secure than tumb knot. it's is also used to tie Caribinas to ropes and is often used in rock climbing.



step 4: Timber hitch

used for pulling logs.



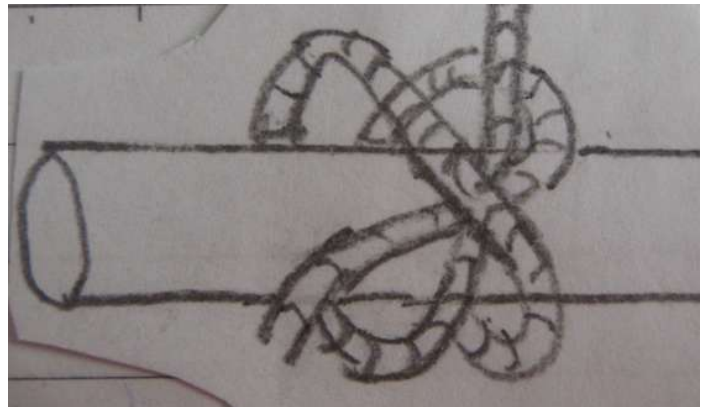
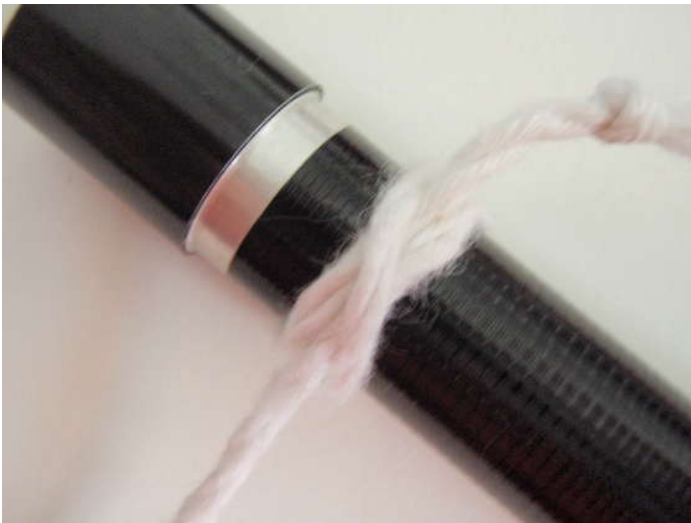
step 5: clove hitch

Used to tie a rope onto a pole or log.

The pole must be round.

The pole must be thicker than the rope itself.

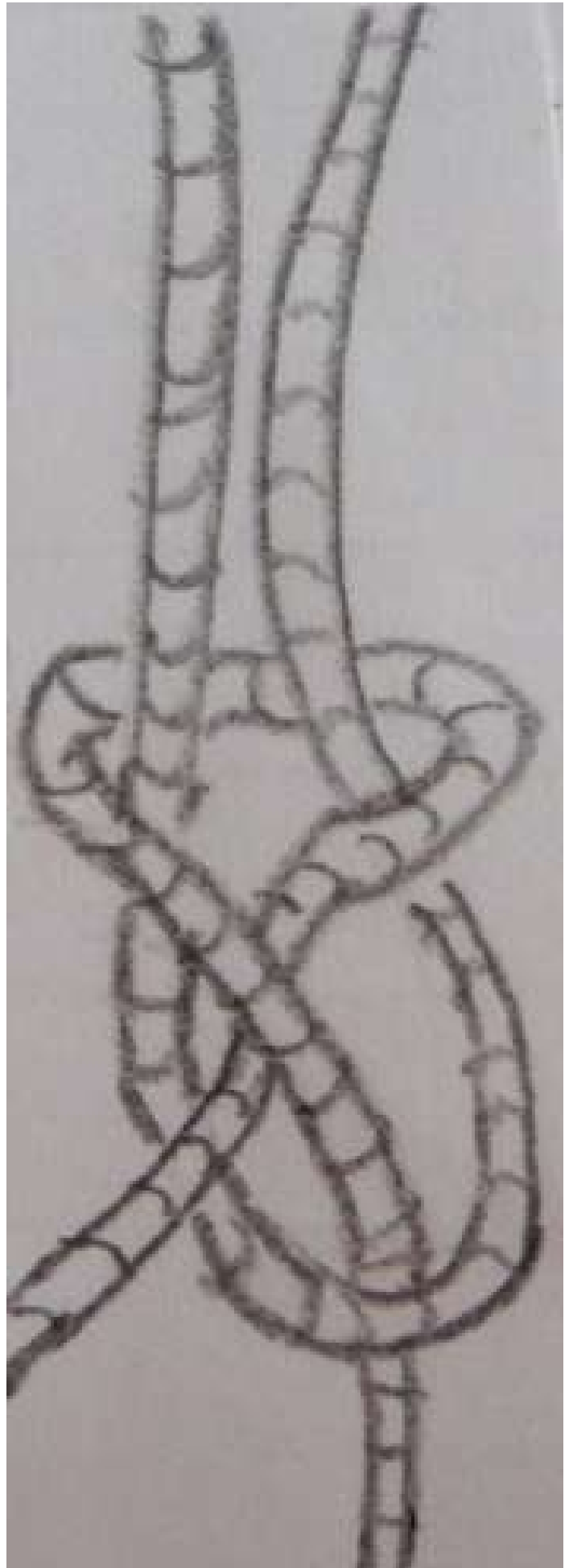
(greatly used during pioneering)



step 6: sheet band

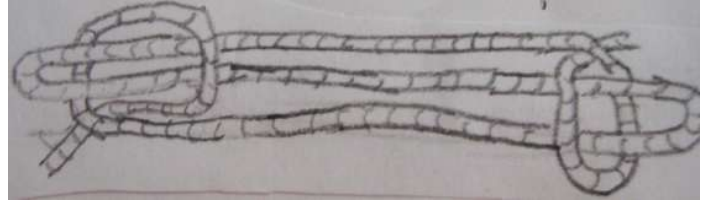
used to tie ropes of different thickness together. (works on same thickness of ropes too.)





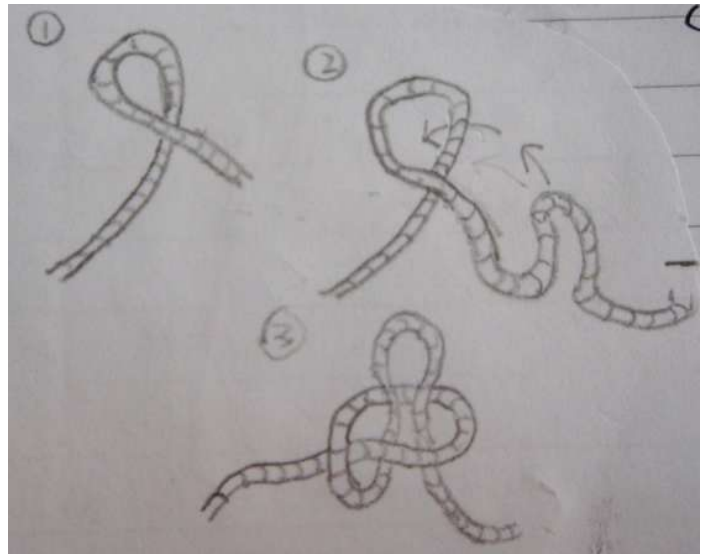
step 7: sheep shank

To shorten Ropes
To prevent middle fraying.



step 8: Slip knot

Whipping
Used as a grip for pulling things.(when tied on a stick or small pole)(marlin spike hitch)



step 9: Knots

I know its very brief but Hope you enjoy it and find it useful.

I may be making A "basic knot guide 2.0" if i could find some free time.

oh ya btw,if there is anything wrong with my spelling or instruction,please let me know,i'm very weak at my english....
peace=)



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Comments

18 comments [Add Comment](#)



Carlos Marmo says:

Because much few people still give to attention the so basic things. Without these bases, does not have as to have development in this art. In my Country, it is called Macramé.

Oct 31, 2008. 3:46 AM [REPLY](#)

Thanks

P.S. It pardons me for my precarious English



Carlos Marmo says:

Wonderful Work!

Congratulations!

Oct 30, 2008. 2:03 AM [REPLY](#)



zorro3355 says:

thanks...but wat's the congratz for?

Oct 31, 2008. 2:45 AM [REPLY](#)



tron1o7 says:

Hey man, I see your a scout too. I am star rank, and i enjoy knot tying and the best in my patrol and i just stumbled onto your guide and relized you got the name of one of the knots wrong. The first knot is not called a thumb knot, its called a overhand knot. Ofther than that nice instructable even though it didnt help me it could sure help some of my patrol members... happy knoting!

Sep 14, 2008. 10:26 AM [REPLY](#)



zorro3355 says:

cool....but most knot have a few name...for example,the reef knot is also called a scout knot and things like that...thx for enjoying it

Sep 15, 2008. 2:11 AM [REPLY](#)



dchall8 says:

Yes, all that, all that, and five more comments.

Apr 29, 2008. 2:35 PM [REPLY](#)

1. If you can find rope that is braided instead of twisted, your pictures will be easier to follow. Use 3/8 or larger rope. Find the macro button on your camera. Also if you have a background color different from the rope color it will be easier to see what you are doing.
2. If you can find two ropes of different colors your sheep shank knot will be easier to follow.
3. Spell check. I'm not sure what I'm reading.
4. As a sailor I am looking for your instructions on the bowline. I use three knots on my boat: the bowline, Figure 8, and the half hitch (often a slipped half hitch). If anyone ever ties an overhand or a reef knot on my boat, we stop what we're doing and have a little chat about ropes and knots. They waste far too

much time for whatever minimal value you get from them.

5. Knots are very hard to make Instructables for. Thanks for trying. With a little tuning up this could be the definitive Instructable on knots.



stasterisk says:
Could you make an instructable on knots?

Jul 6, 2008. 8:27 AM [REPLY](#)



qwerty says:
If your a sailor and only use three knots I really hope you don't do it professionally.

Jul 1, 2008. 1:24 PM [REPLY](#)



smithy813 says:
if your a sailor, get yourself the *encyclopedia of knots* or something. half his names arn't right (it's an over hand, not a thumb knot" and the only was to untie a reef knot used to tie ropes together is with a knife (or a good marline spike IF your lucky). the reef knot (square knot) should only be used for REEFING, or closing a bag. NOT as a bend (thats tying ropes together.) for that, i suggest a simple Simon over or under. i'll probably get an instructable on this out there soon.

May 8, 2008. 6:15 PM [REPLY](#)

I'm not only a blacksmith.



YummyPancakes says:
it's an over hand, not a thumb knot
I always knew it as a square knot.

May 16, 2008. 5:32 AM [REPLY](#)



qwerty says:
I'm also a scout and I'd like to clear this up for everybody. There is such a thing as a marlins spike knot. It is similar to a slip-knot it's more useful. It is used by tying it around a short handle of some sort on a piece of rope that is being pulled. A person can then just pull on the handle and not (haha it's a pun) hurt their hands with rope burn. When done the handle can be pulled out of the knot and the knot just magically disappears.

Jul 1, 2008. 1:28 PM [REPLY](#)



xboxteen01 says:
nice. Eagle Scout?

Apr 29, 2008. 5:36 AM [REPLY](#)



Toxictom says:
All of these knots are a Tenderfoot requirement; or at least they were 35 years ago.

Apr 29, 2008. 2:28 PM [REPLY](#)



xboxteen01 says:
lol yeap they still are, and hopefully they will continue to be for another 35 years. i know scout just did or is celebrating their centennial soon.

Apr 29, 2008. 4:25 PM [REPLY](#)



TabLeft says:
The important thing is getting the knots right so good work. However Kozz is right, nearly all of them are mislabeled.

Apr 29, 2008. 11:36 AM [REPLY](#)

And as for # 8 a Marlin spike is a tool for tightening,loosening, and braiding knots(if you don't have one i recommend you get one, I love mine). whipping is the process of finishing a knots free end so it doesn't unravel, and the knot you have pictured for it is just a basic slip knot.

They are all very useful knots so good work, but you might wanna talk to your scout master about the names he is giving you for these knots.

But keep up the good work and thanks for the instructable.



Kozz says:
Very good! Some brief comments and suggestions:
#1. aka "Overhand knot"
#2. I think you meant "Reef Knot" (aka square knot)
#4. For the beginner, it can be easy to mistakenly twist in the wrong direction (like a multi-turn overhand knot). The thing to remember is that the free end doubles back and wraps on itself.
#6. aka "Sheet Bend"
#7. aka "Sheep Shank"
I must admit to never knowing about #8, what you're calling a Marlin Spike. I've tied these when needing something like an overhand knot but with the advantage of easily being undone. Which parts of the knot are under tension? Just the free ends, or also the bight? Can you explain further when you might use it?

Apr 29, 2008. 6:25 AM [REPLY](#)

Nice work!



Kiteman says:
All that, plus:

Apr 29, 2008. 11:28 AM [REPLY](#)

A marlin spike isn't a knot - it's the pointed tool used to knot and splice ropes. What you have drawn is a simple slip-knot - an over-hand knot with a draw loop; the working end has not been pulled all the way through.



LinuxH4x0r says:
Nice job, very useful

Apr 29, 2008. 5:38 AM [REPLY](#)
