

# Knot Tying

Knot tying was an important skill to know as a sailor. Ropes were used to raise and lower sails, to tie things to the boat to keep them from floating and to keep the tiller from moving. Different types of knots were important depending on the task a sailor wanted to accomplish. Practice tying some of these knots. You might find they come in handy on land too!



**Overhand Knot** - used as a stopped knot to prevent things from moving or to prevent rope from unraveling.

Materials: One piece of rope



STEP 1: Form a loop and pass the end through it.

STEP 2: Tighten the knot.

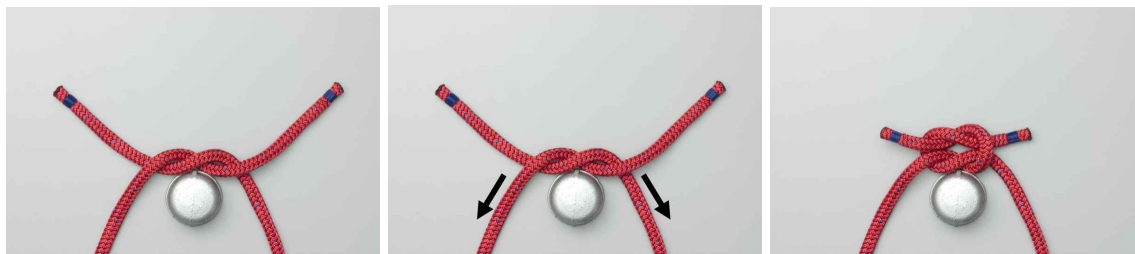


**Half Knot** - a binding knot; should not be used for heavy loads as it can slip

Materials: Two pieces of rope

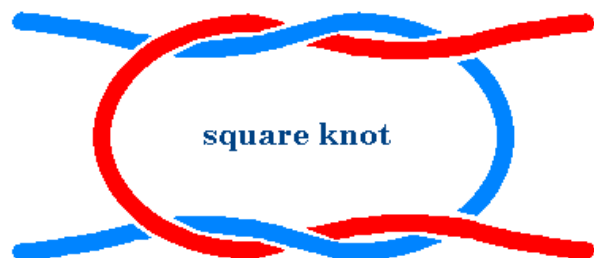


Cross the two ends over each other. Cross one end over and then under the other to create the half knot.



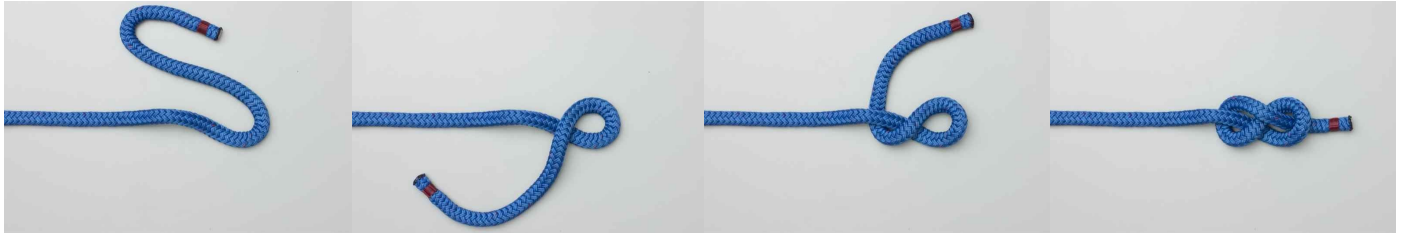
Repeat the process and tie another knot.

Take note of whether your first knot was the right rope over the left or vice versa. If you do it the same way again, it ties a Granny Knot and if you do the opposite way it will tie a Square Knot.



**Figure 8 Knot** - A stopper knot that doesn't bind so it can come apart easily

Materials: A single piece of rope



Step 1: Pass the tail over itself to form a loop. Step 2: Continue under and around the standing end. Step 4: Complete the knot by passing the tail down through the loop.