

OCCASIONALLY OUTDOORS • FIELD REFERENCE GUIDE

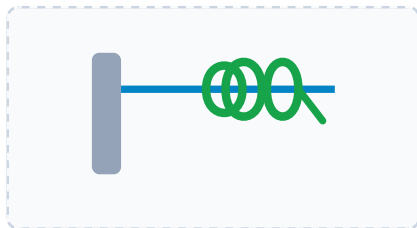
ESSENTIAL WILDERNESS KNOTS

Step-by-step rigging, tarp, and camp knot reference for outdoor reliability.

#1 TAUT-LINE HITCH

TARP & TENT GUY LINES

Best Used For: Creating an adjustable friction loop that slides under tension to keep guylines taut.



Pro Tip: Slide the hitch away from the anchor to tighten guy line tension during heavy wind or rain.

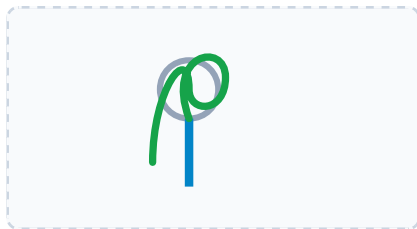
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Pass the working end of the rope around the anchor peg or tree.
2. Wrap the working end around the standing line **twice** inside the loop, moving towards the anchor.
3. Bring the working end outside the loop and wrap it once around the standing line **above** the first wraps.
4. Tuck the working end through the loop created in step 3 to form a hitch.
5. Cinch tight and slide the knot to adjust line tension.

#2 BOWLINE KNOT

FIXED LOOP & BEAR BAGS

Best Used For: Forming a reliable, secure fixed loop at the end of a rope that won't slip or jam under heavy weight.



Mnemonic: "The rabbit comes out of the hole, goes around the tree, and back down the hole."

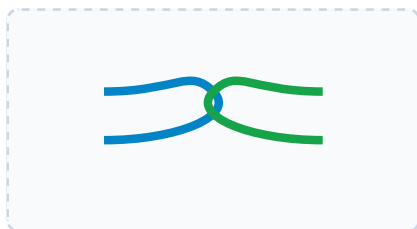
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Form a small overhand loop ("the rabbit hole") near the end of the rope.
2. Pass the working end ("the rabbit") UP through the bottom of the loop.
3. Guide the working end around behind the standing line ("the tree").
4. Pass the working end back DOWN through the small loop.
5. Hold the loop and tail, then pull the standing line firmly to set the knot.

#3 SQUARE KNOT (REEF KNOT)

BUNDLING & FIRST AID

Best Used For: Joining two ropes of equal diameter, securing bandage ties, or bundling firewood and gear.



Rule: "Left over Right and tuck, then Right over Left and tuck." Never use for critical load-bearing safety.

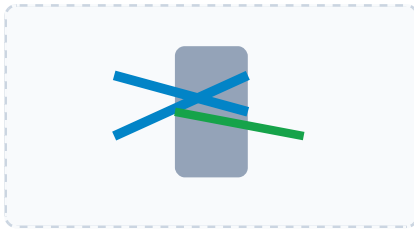
STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Hold one rope end in each hand. Cross the left end OVER the right end.
2. Tuck the left end under the right line and pull through.
3. Cross the new right end OVER the new left end.
4. Tuck the right end through the loop you just formed.
5. Pull all four ends evenly to dress into a clean, symmetrical square knot.

#4 CLOVE HITCH

BINDING POSTS & TARPS

Best Used For: Quickly anchoring a rope to a timber, post, or tree trunk; starting or ending pioneer lashings.



Pro Tip: Add half-hitches to the working tail if the line will be subject to rotating or slackening tension.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap the working end of the rope around the post or branch.
2. Cross the rope over itself to form an "X" on the post.
3. Pass the working end around the post a second time below the first turn.
4. Tuck the working end under the second wrap, directly beneath the center of the "X".
5. Pull both ends firmly in opposite directions to set the hitch.

#5 FIGURE-EIGHT LOOP

HEAVY LOADS & ANCHORS

Best Used For: Creating an exceptionally strong, non-slip loop in the end of a line that remains easy to untie after heavy load.



Pro Tip: Preferred by climbers and rescue teams because it retains more rope strength than standard loop knots.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Double the rope to create a bight (a U-shaped fold) near the end.
2. Pass the double line over itself to form a single loop.
3. Wrap the working bight around behind the standing double line.
4. Pass the bight down through the front of the top loop (forming the "8").
5. Dress the knot by straightening parallel strands and pulling all four lines tight.