

Whipping and Fusing Rope

As you use rope, the ends can become frayed. To make the ends more durable, you can whip them if the rope is made of natural fibers like sisal, or fuse them if they are made out of synthetic material like nylon.

Whipping Rope

Cut off the part of the rope that is already unraveled. Cut a piece of strong string, dental floss, or thin twine at least 8 to 10 inches long. Make a bight, or loop, and place it on one end of the rope.

Wrap the string tightly around the rope several times. When the whipping is as wide as the rope is thick, slip the end through the loop. Then pull both string ends hard, and cut them off.



Fusing Rope

Rope and cord made from plastic or nylon will melt when exposed to high heat. Cut away the frayed part of the rope. Then, working in a well-ventilated area, hold each end a few inches above a lighted match or candle to melt and fuse the strands together. Melted rope is hot and sticky, so don't touch the end until it is completely cool.



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Taut-Line Hitch

A taut-line hitch is similar to two half hitches, but it creates a loop that doesn't slide. Use it to attach the guy line on your tent or dining fly to a stake in the ground. You can easily adjust it to tighten the rope. (Taut is another word for tight.)

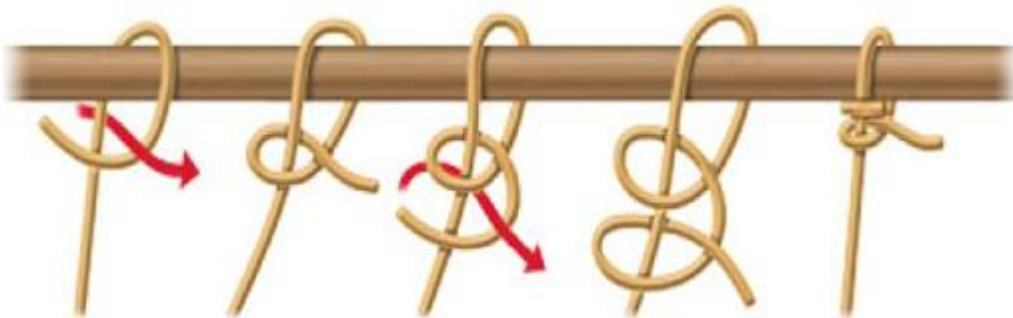
- 1) Pass the end of the rope around the tent stake.
- 2) Bring the end under and over the standing part of the line to form a loop, then twice through the loop.
- 3) Again bring the rope end under, over, and through a loop, but this time farther up the standing part.
- 4) Work any slack out of the knot.
- 5) Slide the hitch to tighten or loosen the rope.



Two Half Hitches

A hitch is a knot that ties a rope to something. Use two half hitches when you want to tie a rope (called a guy line) to a tent or dining fly. The knot will slide down easily to secure the rope.

- 1) Pass the end of the rope through the grommet or around the post.
- 2) Bring the end over and under the body of the rope (known as the standing part), then back through the loop that has formed. This makes a half hitch.
- 3) Take the end around the standing part a second time, and tie another half hitch.
- 4) Pull the knot snug.



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Square Knot

The square knot has many uses, from securing packages and the sails of ships to tying the ends of bandages. It is called a joining knot because it joins together two ropes and because it is the knot you learn when you become a Scout in a Troop. You may also recognize it as part of the World Crest badge that you already wear on your uniform.

- 1) Hold a rope end in each hand.
- 2) Pass the right end over and under the rope in your left hand.
- 3) Pass the rope end now in your left hand over and under the one now in your right hand.
- 4) Pull the knot snug.

Remember “right over left, left over right.” If you go right over left and then right over left again, you’ll end up with a granny knot, which is not very secure.

See the image to the right.



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