

# ROPES & KNOTS



## Lesson 1 Joining Two Lines

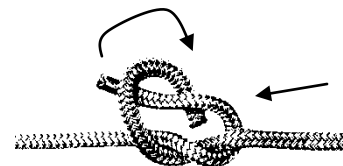
For many tasks at home or out in the field you need to know some useful knots. A good knot is one that is quick to tie and easy to untie, no matter how hard it has to work! Learning different ones will prepare you with the right knot for any job.

Let's start with one of the most basic ones, called a **Square Knot** in camping or a **Reef Knot** in boating:

Twist the two ends together like this



Do it again so it looks like this next picture



Be sure the lines run alongside each other (side by side.) Pull it tight



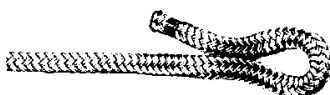
Loosen knot by pushing pairs towards each other.

Did you know that every time you tie your shoes you use a type of **Square Knot** called a “bowtie knot” or “shoelace knot”. You just add one change to make it easier to un-tie. See if you can tell what that is. That's right - you make loops before tying the second part of the knot. Comes loose easily when needed to!

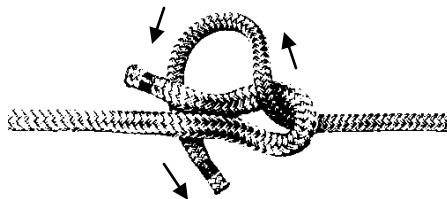


What if the two lines you want to join are of different ‘sizes’ (one is more rounder, thicker, than the other?) A better knot would be the **Sheet Bend Knot**.

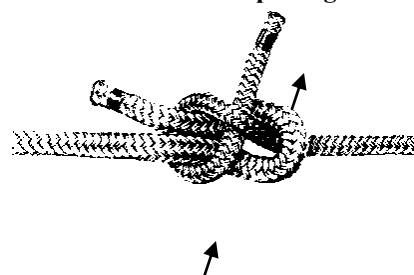
Begin with the thicker line and make a loop.



Bring the end of the lighter line up through the loop and around the back



Finish by passing smaller line under itself and pull tight



Remember: The **Square Knot** is for two lines of about equal diameter (size) and the **Sheet Bend Knot** for two lines of different size.



Before Next Time: Practice your knots at home so you can show your chief what you can do with rope next time (hint: use one of your shoelaces to practice with!)