

Terms & Techniques

Anyone who ties a knot is described in knotting circles as a **tyer** (not **tier**) since the former is unambiguous while the latter has a different meaning when written.

SIMPLE TERMS

The end actively involved in the tying process is referred to as the **working end** or sometimes – by anglers – as the **tag end**; the inactive remainder is known as the **standing part** and **standing end**. Doubling a line so that two parts are brought close together creates a **bight**. If this is done to locate the exact centre of the bit of stuff in hand, then one is said to **middle** it. Once the two adjacent parts cross, a bight turns into a loop; a further twist creates a couple of **elbows**, while the process of turning a bight or loop into an improvised eye by wrapping the end several times around the standing part is referred to as **dogging**. Any loop that is pulled

NOTE

Several categories of knots in this book have been illustrated in thicker cordage than would ordinarily be used to tie them. For instance, the whippings and fishermen's knots would actually be tied in very fine twines and monofilaments. This has been done to make the tying process clearer. The characteristically barrel-shaped knots for use in angling monofilaments do not always tighten as easily in larger cordage – but they can, with a little more time and care, be shaped and tightened to make useful general purpose holdfasts.

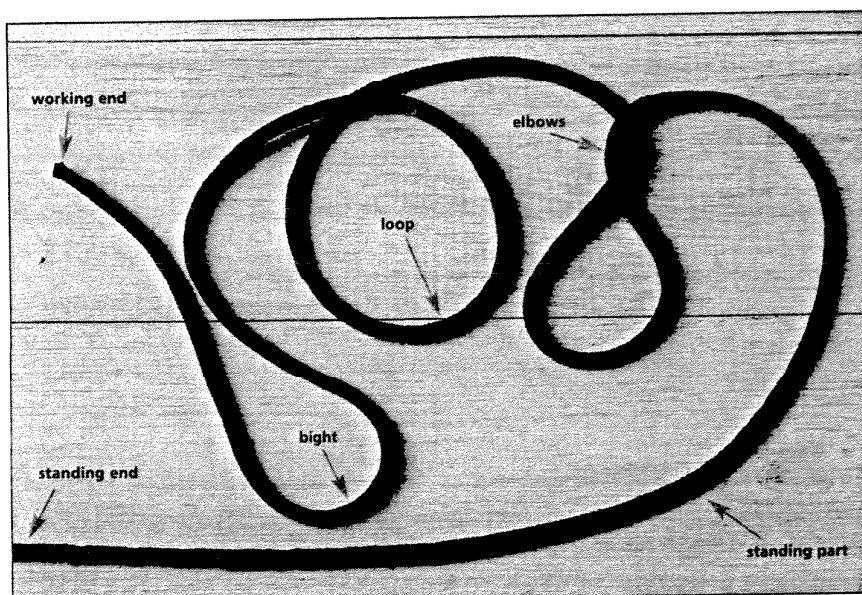
so small that it deforms and damages a rope becomes a **kink**.

The word **rope** is generally defined as meaning any plaited, braided or laid (in strands) product over 10 mm ($\frac{5}{16}$ in) in diameter, although there are exceptions (for example, some

climbing ropes are 9 mm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ in diameter). Anything much smaller is referred to as **cord**, **string**, **twine** or **thread**. Rope and cord are collectively called **cordage** but, more commonly, **stuff**. A rope or cord dedicated to a particular job becomes a **line** (tow line, washing line, lifeline, throwing or heaving line), or acquires an even more specific label (lanyard, lashing or lasso). A lightweight throwing or heaving line that is used to haul a heavier line across an intervening space is known as a **messenger**. The terms **plait** and **braid** are virtually interchangeable. There are, however, some who say that braids are flat while plaits have a three-dimensional cross-section.

Ropeworkers often “take a **turn**” in order to check a load by means of the friction it applies. Wrapping the working end an extra amount to bring it alongside the standing part, so as to tie it off, produces a **round turn**.

Converting a single-ply knot to two, three (or more) ply involves following the original lead of the knot around with the working end. The place within a knot where the collective friction of its parts is concentrated is known as the **nip**. The tuck that finally secures a knot, preventing it from collapsing or unravelling, is the **locking tuck**. A simple loop is an **overhand loop** when the working end lies on top of the standing part, becoming an **underhand loop** if the working end goes beneath the standing part.



Overhand

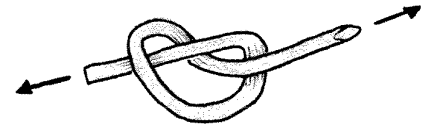
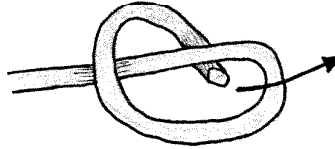
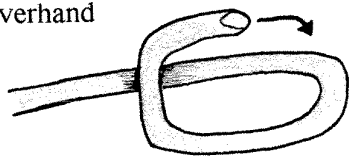


Figure Eight

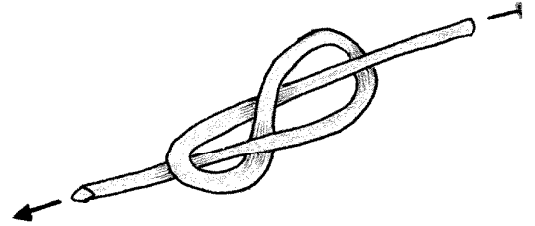
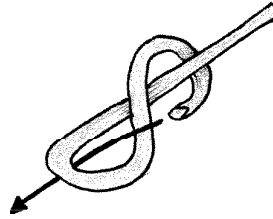
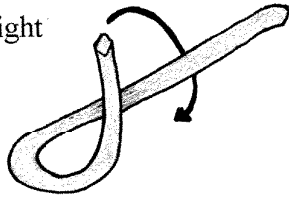
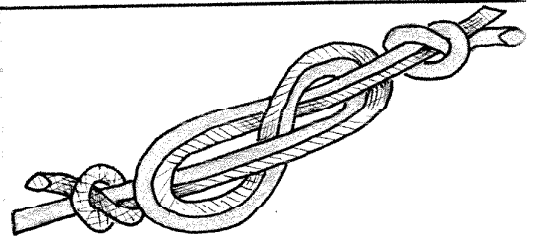
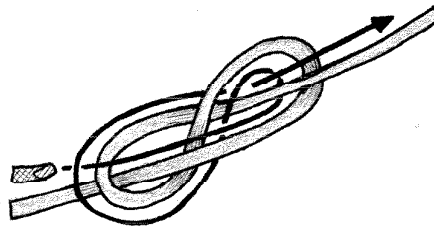
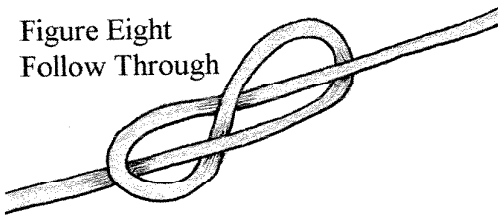
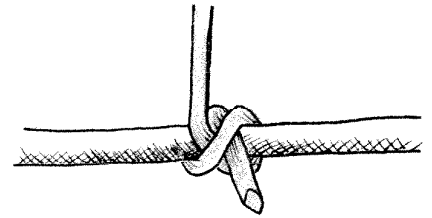
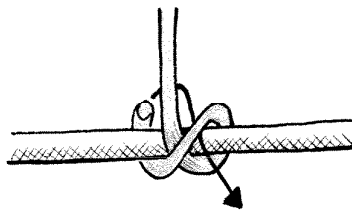
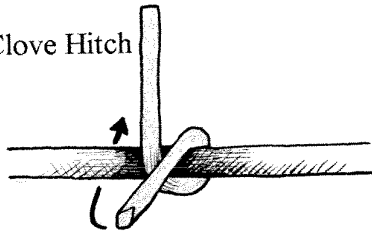


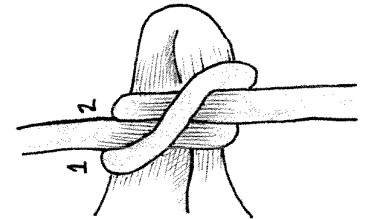
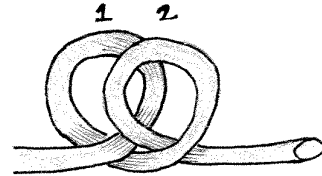
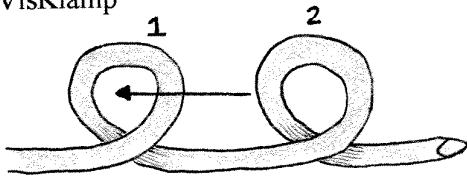
Figure Eight Follow Through



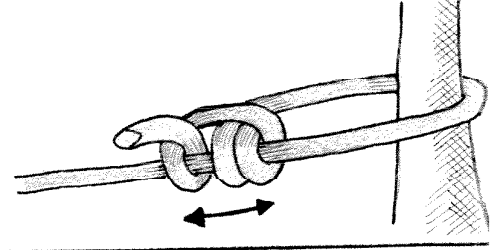
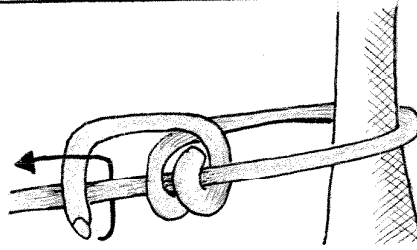
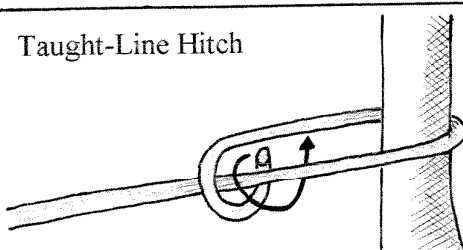
Clove Hitch



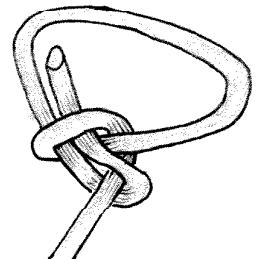
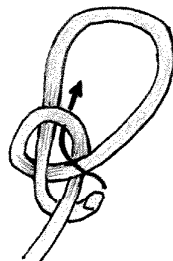
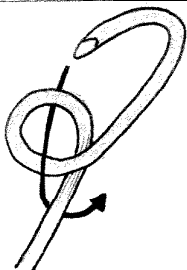
VisKlamp



Taught-Line Hitch



Bowline



Trucker's Hitch

(Quick-release, single pulley)

Figure 12-10

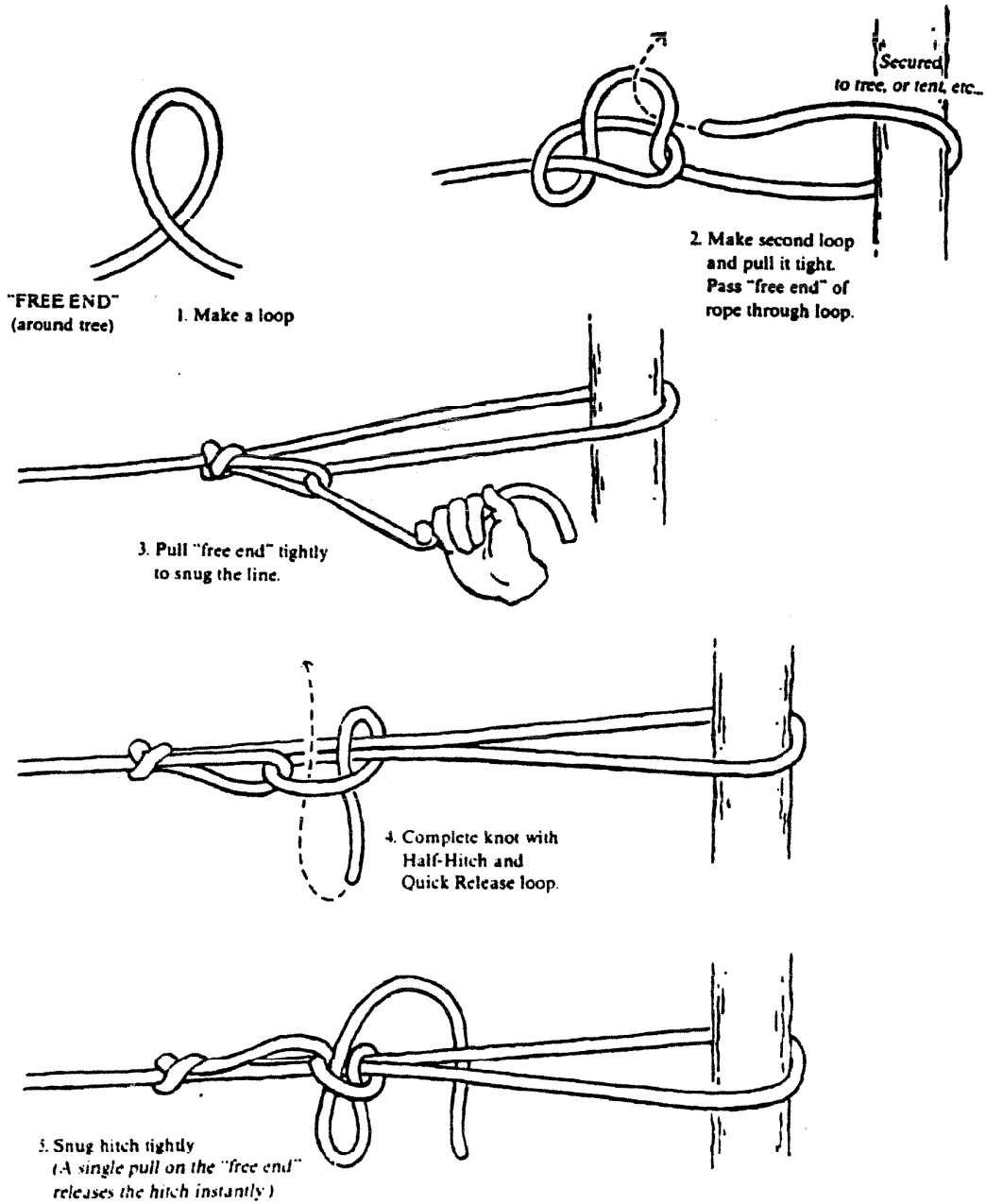


Figure 12-10

The power cinch (there is no recognized name for this widely-used hitch) is useful whenever you need a combination knot and pulley. I use it for tying canoes on cars, tightening clotheslines, rigging rain tarps, and to guy tents.

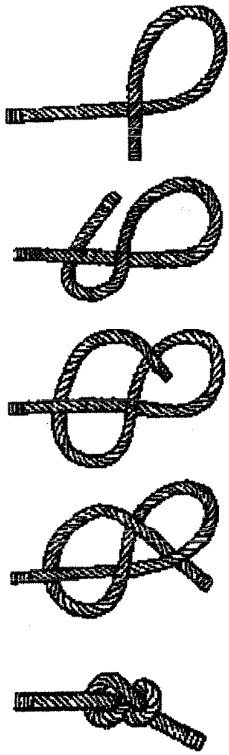
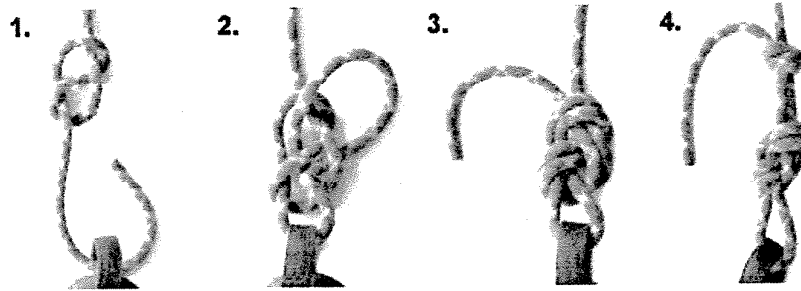
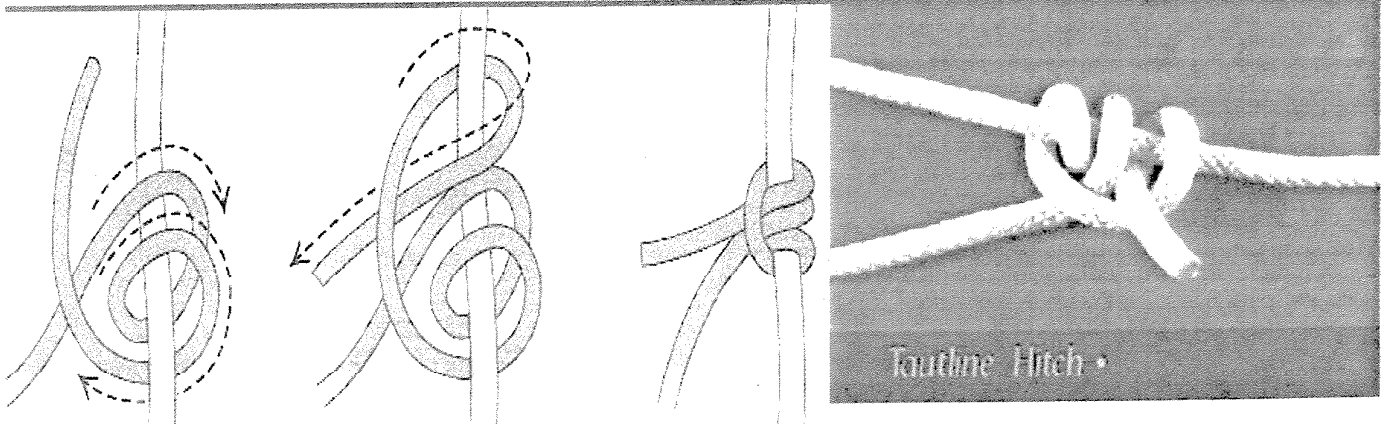


Figure Eight Follow Through

- i. Start with an arm's length of rope from the working end; bring the working end around the standing end creating a loop; continue to bring the working end around the standing end and up through the loop created. (Figure 8)
- ii. Working End feeds through pack and then figure eight is retraced starting from the pack end and working towards the standing end
- iii. Knot is tied correctly if five sets of parallel ropes can be counted



Tautline Hitch

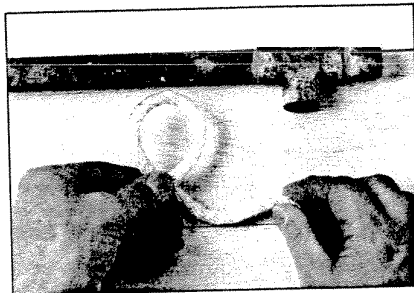


- 1) Wrap the working end around the standing end creating four complete wraps
- 2) From bottom wrap bring the working end over itself and other wraps, and back around the standing end creating three more wraps; cinch knot down
- 3) Works better with thinner ropes

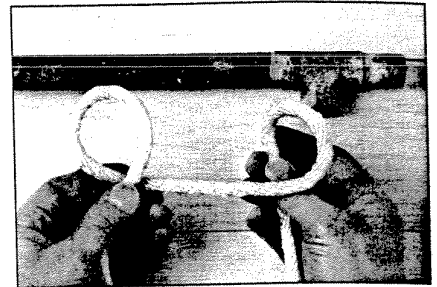
Clove Hitch, Tied in a Bight



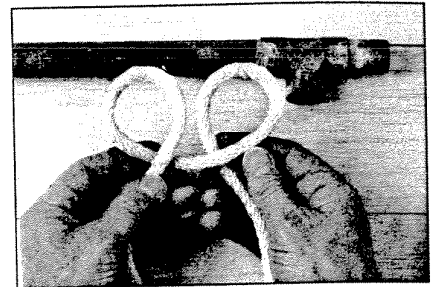
The ease with which this knot can be tied makes it a popular one, but it comes adrift if pulled and jerked about. Then again, it can also jam, so consider adding a drawloop. Use it to suspend objects by means of lanyards or to secure a light boat to a bollard. Ashore, this knot was once known as a builder's knot.



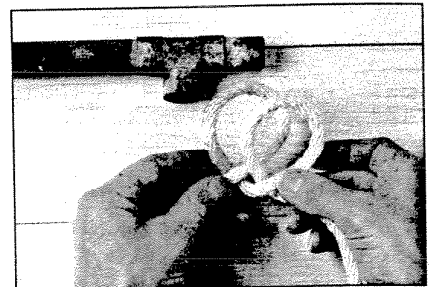
1 Make an overhand loop at any convenient point in the line.



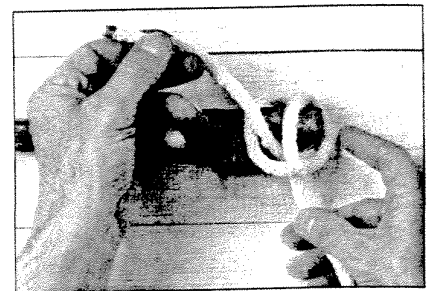
2 Add an underhand loop further along the line, so that the pair consists of two opposing halves.



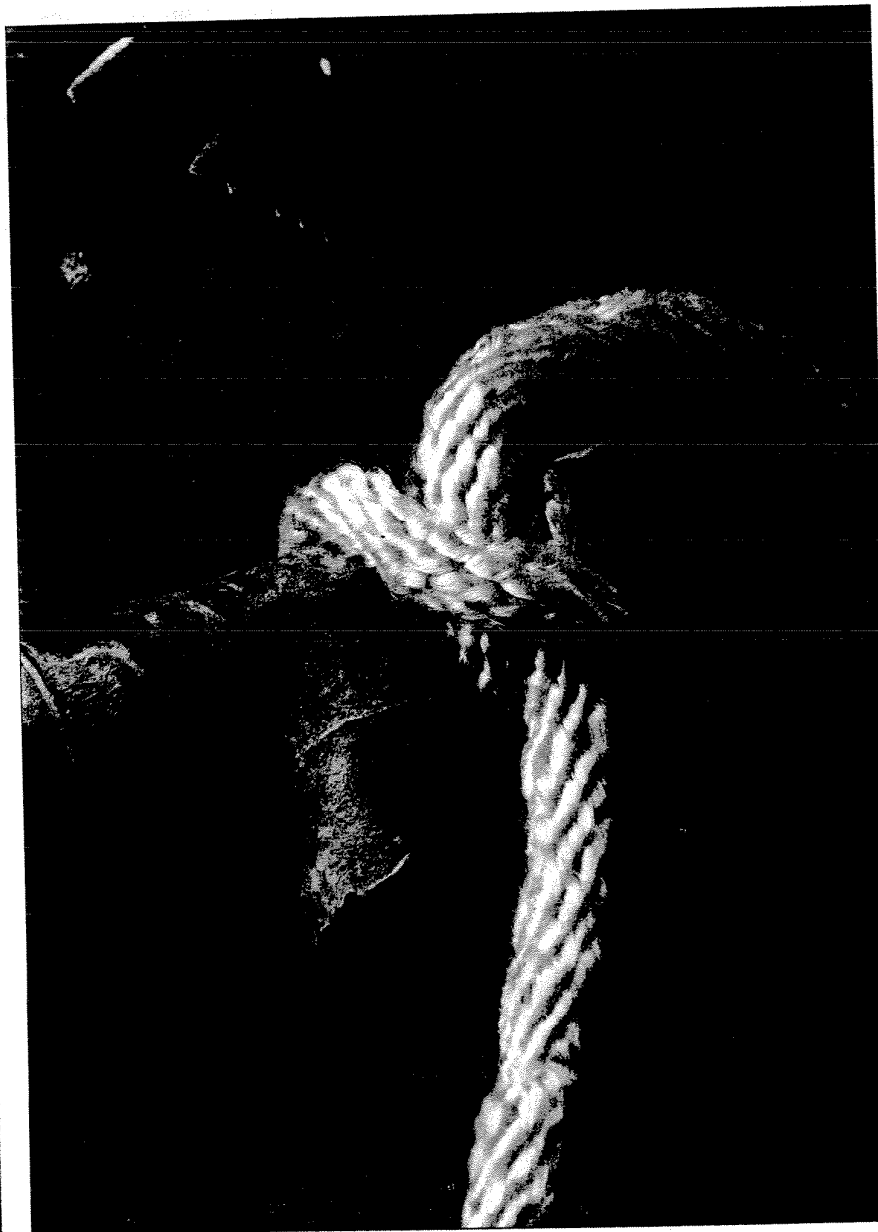
3 Arrange the two loops so that they are the same size and close together.



4 Rotate the two loops a little in opposite directions, in order to overlap them.



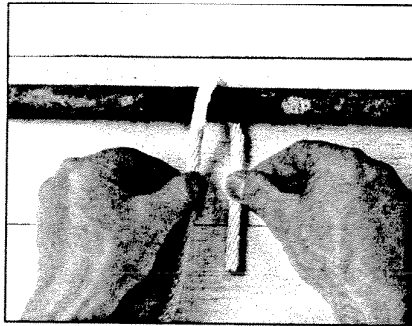
5 Insert the rail, spar, rope or other foundation through both loops and pull either or both ends to tighten the resulting hitch.



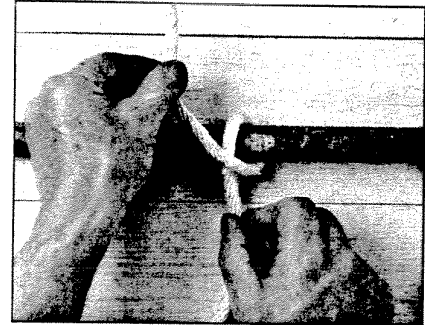


Clove Hitch, Tied with a Working End

When this knot can be neither dropped over a bollard or stanchion nor slipped on to the end of a rail, or it is to be fastened to a ring, it must be tied this way.

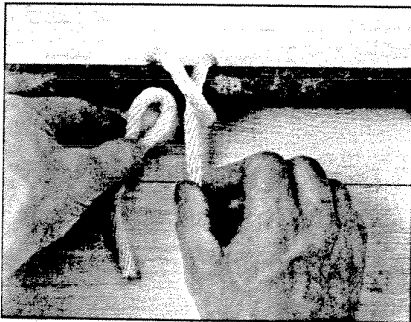


1 Pass the working end around the anchorage point from front to back.



2 Bring the end forward and diagonally up across the front of the standing part (in this instance from right to left).

3 Take the working end down the back of the anchorage, so as to trap the standing part.



4 Then tuck the end up beneath the diagonal (forming what looks like a letter N, or its mirror-image).



5 Use a drawloop if an easy quick-release is required. Pull the standing part to tighten the knot.

