

center for microbial oceanography: research and education

C•more **SCIENCE KiTS**

STUDENT WORKBOOK

Nautical Knots & Maritime Careers



Figure 8



Cleat Hitch



Bowline



Slippery Hitch



Sheep Shank



Clove Hitch

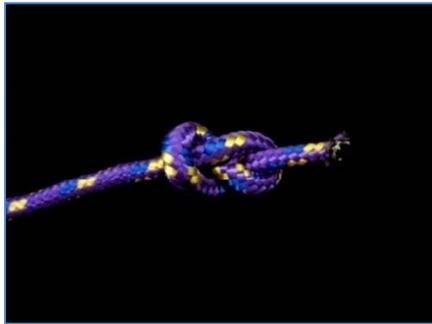


Monkey's Fist

Instructions

1. Read the career profiles to find out who uses these knots, and why.
2. Use your practice block and the step-by-step instructions in this workbook to learn how to tie these knots. Use the knot board for reference, and to check that you tied your knot correctly.
 - To tie the **Clove Hitch**, you'll need a post. Since there isn't a post on the practice board, you'll need to find a post in your classroom (a chair leg etc.). Pretend you're on a sailing canoe and need to tie up the mast.
 - You can practice tying the **Monkey's Fist** with the piece of white line that your teacher gave you, but do not tighten the knot on this piece of line! This is a permanent knot! Also, the line may be too short to finish the knot. If you would like to make a **Monkey's Fist** to take home, ask your teacher for an extra piece of line.
 - Once you've learned how to tie all of the knots, tie a **Bowline** around your waist using the colored rope. This is used as a safety measure in case a sailor falls overboard. You can also use the colored rope to tie the **Figure 8** knot to secure the secchi disk. If you tied the knot correctly, then the knot should come out easily.

Index of Knots



← Figure 8



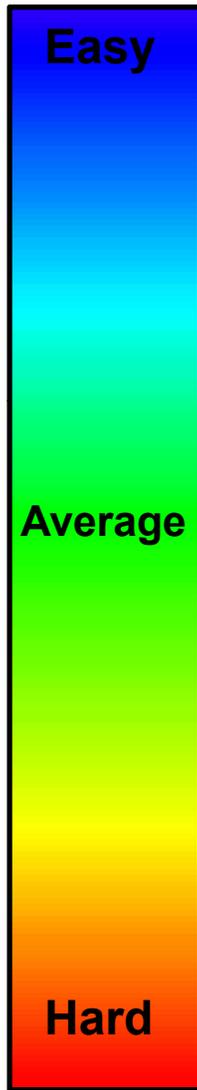
← Bowline



← Clove Hitch



← Monkey's Fist



→ Cleat Hitch



→ Slippery Hitch



→ Sheep Shank



A great stop knot!

Figure 8

Easy to take apart!



1. Make a loop at one end of the line.



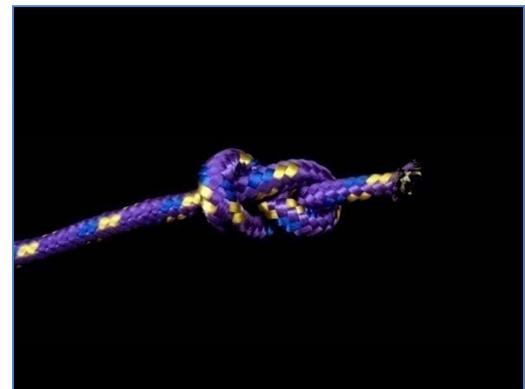
2. Make sure you have at least a few inches of rope at the end following the loop.



3. Wrap the short end over the main line.



4-5. Pull the end *under and through* the loop.



6. Tighten the knot by pulling on both ends.



Left: A Figure 8 knot is used on the bottom of the secchi disk to secure the disk to the rope.

Right: Heather lowers the secchi disk into the water.



Name: Heather Spalding

Knot: Figure 8

Career: Phycologist (a person who studies algae – I study seaweed!)

Education: College (4 years), **Masters** (2 years), **PhD** (5 years)

Use of knot in career: I tie a Figure 8 knot at the bottom of my secchi disc. A secchi (pronounced SEK-ee) disc is a black and white reflector attached to a rope. I slowly lower the secchi disc down through the water, and the depth at which it disappears (where I can't see it anymore) is called the "secchi depth". If the water is dirty (or turbid), then the secchi depth is shallow. If the water is clear, then the secchi depth is deep. The secchi depth is handy for comparing water clarity at different locations. And I REALLY don't want to lose my secchi disc in the ocean, so I tie a figure 8 knot to make sure it stays attached to my rope.



A phycologist at work! Heather is measuring photosynthesis in a *Halimeda* (green alga) meadow at 100 feet near Maui.

Perfect for securing a BOAT!

Cleat Hitch



1. Wrap the line around the base of the cleat.



2. Cross the line over the middle of the cleat. Loop it underneath the opposite horn.



3. Bring the line back, crossing the line over the middle of the cleat and looping it underneath the other horn to form a figure-eight over the cleat.



4. Complete at least two figure-eight patterns.



5. To secure, pull the end of the line through the middle of the cleat *under* the line below it.



6. Pull the end of the line tight.



Right: Blossom with fellow crew members of the Alingano Maisu and the Hokule'a performing a dance upon safely arriving in the Marshall Islands after using polynesian navigational techniques to sail 2,200 miles from Hawai'i.



Photo courtesy of Gary Kubota & Honolulu Star-Bulletin

Name: Blossom Pualani Lincoln

Knot: Cleat Hitch

Career: Polynesian Voyager and Teacher

Education: College (4 years), **Masters** (2 years)

Use of knot in career: I am a crewmember of the Makali'i, which is a 54 foot double-hulled Polynesian voyaging canoe, as well as a teacher of Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I incorporate ancient Hawaiian traditions and navigational techniques into ocean voyaging to educate future generations and the community about our Polynesian ancestors. The use of knots in sailing is extremely important. I use the cleat hitch to secure lines on the mast of our canoes, but it is also used to tie up a boat at a dock.

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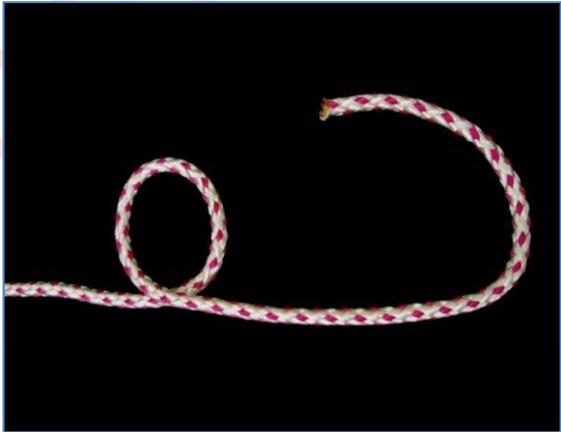


Launching of the canoe! This is a traditional style voyaging canoe that students in her Ho'okele Hawaiian Studies class at UH helped build during Spring 2009. 7

A fixed loop in the end of the rope, easy to make and remove.

Bowline

Pronounced like "BO – lyn".



1. Make a loop toward the end of the rope.



2. Pull the end through the loop from underneath.



2. Pull the rope *under* the main line.



3. Pull the end *through* the small loop from *above* the main line.



4. Tighten the knot while making the loop the size you need.



Name: Karin Björkman

Knot: Bowline

Career: Microbial Oceanographer (a person who studies microbes!)

Education: College (4 years), **Masters** (2 years), **PhD** (5 years)

Use of knot in career: I am scientist with the Hawai'i Ocean Time-series, and I study microorganisms in the open ocean. I go on research cruises to collect my samples. The bowline is one of the most functional knots – I use this knot everyday when I am at sea. I use it to safely secure my sampling equipment, such as a **CTD** (Conductivity, Temperature, Depth recorder), to the ship. There are bottles mounted on the CTD that allow me to collect water samples at any depth in the ocean. To study the microbial biomass at each depth, I measure the amount of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) in each water sample. This method works well because all living organisms contain ATP, which is used to transport chemical energy within cells. From my research, I have found that most living microbial organisms can be found in the upper 200 meters (660 feet) of the ocean.



Left: Bringing a CTD water sampler back on deck.



Right: Karin processes samples in the shipboard laboratory.



Safety first! Karin and a fellow scientist try on their survival suits during a safety drill at sea.

Great for storing things!

Slippery Hitch

This knot can be tied quickly and released easily.



1. Make a loop at one end.



2. Pinch some of the line to the left of the loop.



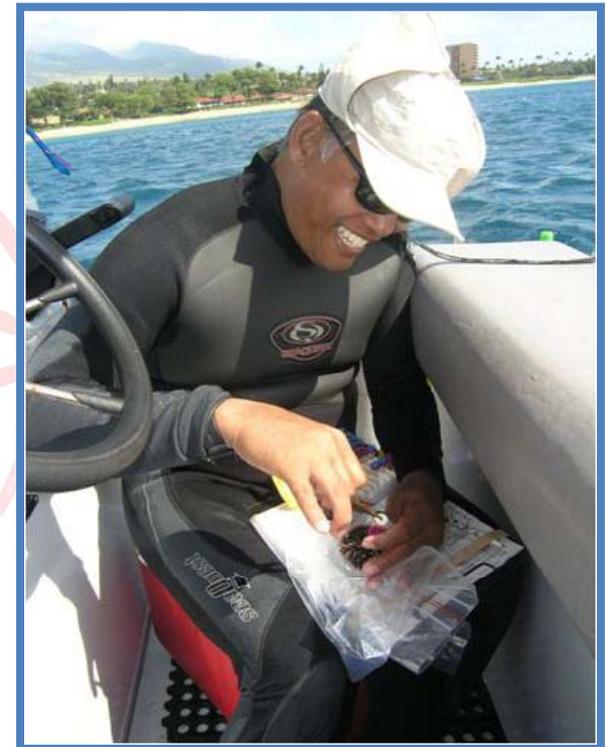
3. Pull this line *under and through* your loop.



4. Tighten the knot by pulling both the shorter end and the loop.
Done!



5. To quickly undo the knot, pull on the two ends of the line.



Name: Skippy Hau

Knot: Slippery Hitch

Career: Aquatic Biologist (24 years with the Dept. of Aquatic Resources)

Education: College (4.5 years)

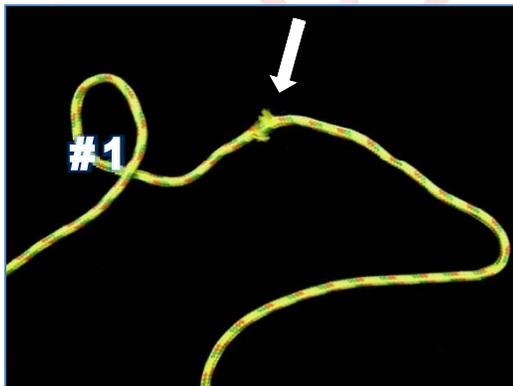
Use of knot in career: I use the slippery hitch for tying down supplies and gear in back of the truck or on the boat. I used to try using it for a bow or stern line, but for some strange reason, it takes longer because some people try to untie the knot instead of pulling the two ends of the line. It helps when people are experienced with basic knots to make things run smoother.

Skippy monitors coral reefs in the Hawaiian islands. In these photos, he is studying a Hawaiian sea urchin. 11

Got a frayed line? Use this to strengthen the spot!

Sheep Shank

Shorten or add loops to a line!



1. Make a loop to the left of the fray, with the left line on top.



2. Make 2 loops to the right of loop #1 with the left line on top. The weakened line should go in the center loop.



3. Stack your loops: #1 on bottom, #2 in center, and #3 on top.



4. Pull the right side of the center loop (#2) through loop #3 and the left side of loop #2 through loop #1.



5. Tighten the knot by pulling both ends. Your weakened line is now suspended in the center and you have 2 additional loops in your line!



Above: Colin fixing equipment on the sub.



Right: Preparing the sub for recovery onto the support ship.

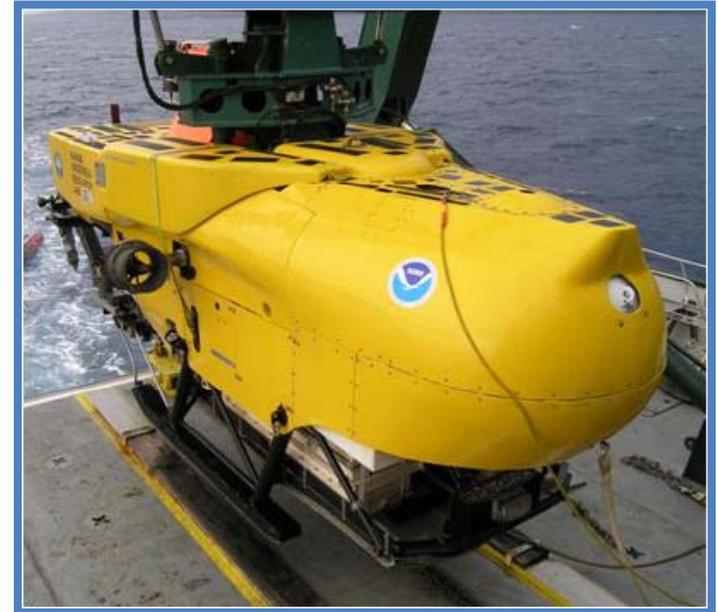
Name: Colin Wollerman

Knot: Sheep Shank

Career: Submersible Support Technician (SST)

Education: Electrician Apprenticeship (3 years)
& Technical Training

Use of knot in career: I maintain and repair deep diving Human Occupied Vehicles (HOVs). When we recover items lost on the bottom of the seafloor, it involves a lot of “rigging”. The submersible (“sub”) locates the item and brings it to the surface. If the item is too large for the sub to hold during recovery of the sub onto the support ship, the SST will go onto the sub while it is at the surface and “rig” the item to a buoy with a lifting point that the ship can lift with a crane. The sheep shank is used to adjust the length of the rigging line so items can be lifted out of the water quickly and safely. Longer lines could tangle and create a dangerous situation.



Scientists with the Hawai'i Underwater Research Lab (HURL) can dive to 2000 meters in this sub. The sub takes 3 people and can stay down for 6-10 hours!

An essential knot for voyaging!

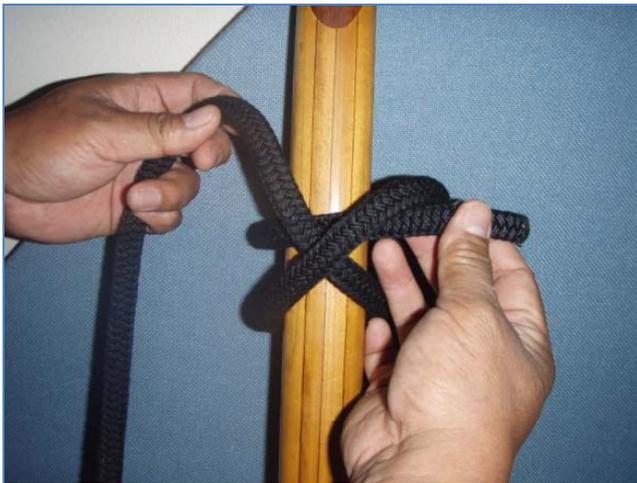
Clove Hitch



1. Wrap the rope around the post with the left side on the bottom.



2. Make a second turn around the post .



3. Bring the second turn around and pull the end underneath the top turn.



4. Pull on both ends of the rope to tighten.



Right: Uncle Desmon relaxing while sailing on board the Makali'i.



A captain at work! Uncle Desmon taking a school group for a sail in Hilo Bay.

Name: Desmon Haumea

Knot: Clove Hitch

Career: Crewmember, Captain and Teacher

Education: College (4 years)

Use of knot in career: The Clove Hitch is used to attach the mast to the center post on a boat. The Clove Hitch is simple to tie, won't slip, yet it is easy to remove. This is one of the many knots I use each day when out at sea.

An added weight for throwing your line ashore.

Monkey's Fist

This one you get to take home!

Ask your teacher for extra line to make this knot.



1. Wrap the rope from front to back 3 times around your fingers.



2. Curve the tail of your final turn to the right side, around the back of the rope, through your fingers and to the front.



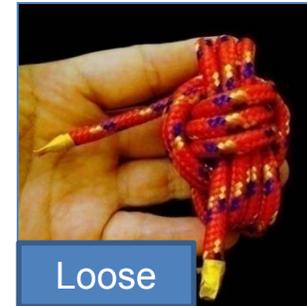
3. Wrap the rope 3 times in this "right to left" direction.



4. Pull the end back through the top of the wraps and go through the bottom gap in a "top to bottom" direction.



5. Complete 3 spirals in this direction. There should be 3 pieces of line visible from all sides.



Loose



Tight

6. Tighten each turn of the line in the order it was made until the entire knot is tight. This part can take awhile, so be patient and stick with it!



Right: The *Kilo Moana* (Hawaiian for Oceanographer) is a 186 foot twin hull Research Vessel (R/V). She travels all over the Pacific Ocean, but her home port is Honolulu.



Name: Chuck Otto

Knot: Monkey's Fist

Career: Able Seaman (a person who works onboard a ship)

Education: Technical School (or on the job training; 4 years)

Use of knot in career: The Monkey's Fist is a fun knot that has a practical side. A small line with a Monkey's Fist tied at the end is thrown ashore to help tie the ship to the dock. If the ship is really big, it needs a large rope to keep it secure on the dock. Instead of throwing a large line ashore, the small rope with the Monkey's Fist is attached to the large rope and thrown ashore first.



The perks of working at sea – watching a beautiful sunrise over Diamond Head!