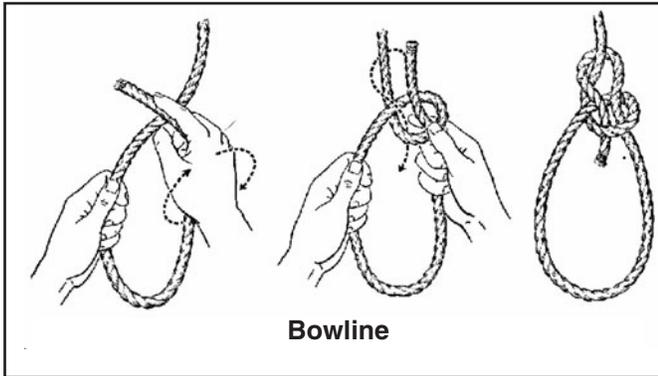


Knots To You

By Dick Arnold, AF8X

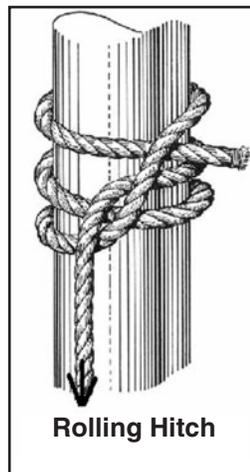
A working knowledge of a few simple knots is not only handy, but in some instances, it is a necessity to ensure safety when engaged in antenna or tower work. As a construction electrician, I had to learn a bit about rigging for tying tools onto hand-lines and tying lifts. I have also found my knot-tying ability useful on many occasions outside of my occupation.

There are virtually thousands of knots; some have practical uses while some are purely ornamental. The knots discussed here are fairly easy to learn and simple to tie, and if you only learn these four, they will serve you well in almost any situation requiring secure attachment by ropes.



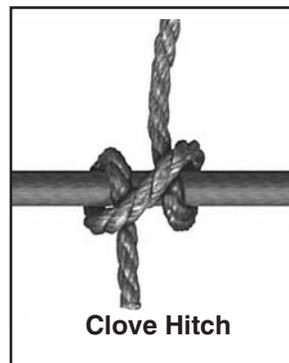
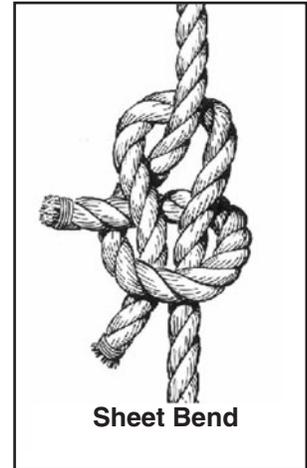
The first, and what I feel is the most important and useful, is the **bowline**. The bowline is most useful where a loop that will not slip or tighten is needed, but is also easy to untie. Sailors use this knot to make loops to secure their boats to pilings or cleats. As a ham I always use this knot to attach antenna insulators to supporting lines. I have never in 25 years have had one come undone. A lot of people learn to tie the bowline by remembering the rhyme, "The rabbit comes up out of the hole, goes around the tree and back down the hole." However, the knot is simple enough to tie without having the need to remember a verse too.

The second knot is the **rolling hitch**. The rolling hitch is used to attach a line to a spar, pipe, or



other similar shaped objects. The pull is lengthwise as shown by the arrow in the picture. I have used this hitch many times during my working days to hoist conduits to the top of scaffolding or a building. I have also used it on my sailboat to take a temporary strain on a sheet to transfer it to a different winch.

The third knot or bend is the **sheet bend**. The sheet bend is used to bend two ropes together. I know we have all experienced the need to lengthen an existing too-short line. Let me caution you here; this is the proper way to bend two lines together, especially when there will be any amount of strain on them. I have often seen individuals tying two lines together using a square knot. This is a huge mistake. The square knot will capsize when given a jerk on one end, possibly dumping the load. The square knot is still nice for tying up packages though.



Number four is the **clove hitch**. I often use the clove hitch temporarily to tie-off lines. This is handy, fast and can be done with one hand, but don't use it for lifting duty as round objects tend to roll and become unattached causing a hazard to those below.

These four knots can be learned in a very short time, I suggest taking a short length of line and practice tying each knot while watching TV or some other sedentary activity. Soon you will be able to impress your friends with your knot knowledge. While working in Canada one year I was asked, "How come all you Yankees know how to tie so many knots?" If someone is that easily impressed, isn't it worth learning a few knots?