

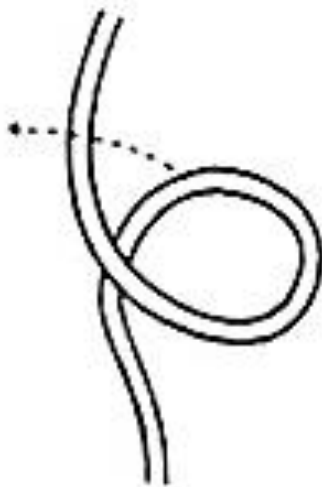
Fieldcraft Skills

The Essential Knots

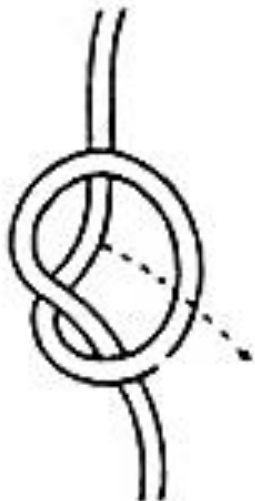


The Marlinspike Hitch

The marlinspike hitch is a quick hitch that can be used for many applications in the field ranging from hanging gear up off of the ground to fashioning a ladder. The marlinspike hitch is simple to tie and equally simple to untie, and one of the most useful knots to know when spending time in the field.



Start by forming an eyelet from the standing end (long end) of the cordage by bringing the running end (shorter end) under the standing end.



Then slide the eyelet over the front of the standing end of the cordage covering the standing end, and allowing for the standing segment of cordage to be passed forward thru the eyelet.

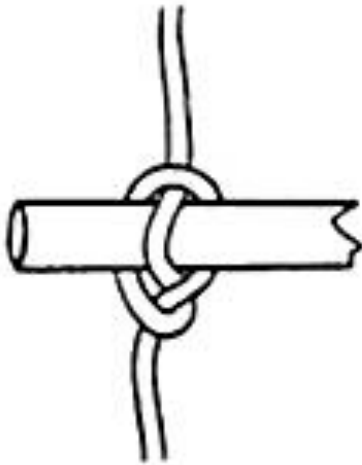
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Grab the standing end of the cordage and pull a small bight thru the center of the eyelet.

This forms the segment which the marlinspike (or other implement) is inserted. Don't pull the knot tight until the implement is inserted.



Insert the marlinspike (or other implement), and tighten the knot by pulling the standing end of the cordage and dressing the knot.

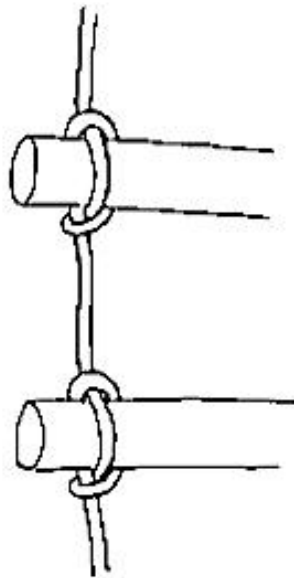
When tied correctly, the loop will not slip as long as tension is applied in the downward direction.

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The downward tension on the knot keeps the lower loop of the knot fixed and prevents slipping; once the tension is released, the marlinspike (or other implement) can easily be removed, and the knot will simply slip out.



Used in a series, the marlinspike hitch can be used to fashion a ladder with simple timbers cut to length and inserted at even intervals along the rope.