Knots – Marlinspike Links

Compiled by Charles Kenyon, Hoofer Sailing Club, Madison, Wisconsin

The hyperlinks in this document are active even though not underlined. The Table of Contents contains hyperlinks. This document is a supplement for the Marlinspike Seamanship A – Lines and Knots lesson. This pdf also contains bookmarks. This is definitely a work in progress; note the link at the end for updates. I suggest that you periodically get an update.

I strongly recommend downloading the Ashley Book of Knots and the Samson Ropes Rope User’s Manual – listed in the Table of Contents below.

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Introduction

This list was originally written as a supplement to the Marlinspike Seamanship A (Knots and Lines) lesson at the Hoofer Sailing Club in Madison, Wisconsin. If there are any erroneous links, please notify me, Charles Kenyon, by email.

This list has “grown like Topsy.” The first part “Knots, Bends and Hitches” contains various links on the knots taught in the lesson. The remainder is miscellaneous links, some are organized by source. A recent addition is the section on splices and soft shackles. Those are the subject of the Marlinspike B and C lessons.

Again, I strongly urge you to download both the *Ashley Book of Knots* and the Samson Ropes *Rope User's Manual* (links at the end).

More will be added, I’m sure.

For the beginner:

Focus on the basic knots, bends and hitches. Learn one way to tie the knot and practice that method until it becomes a part of your muscle memory. The Marlinspike A lesson teaches how to tie these knots, but you will not remember them without practicing them. If you forget them, you can lose a hard-earned rating on one or more of our boats if an instructor sees that you do not know what you need to know.

Do not worry about fancy or fast; worry about getting the knot tied right. Worry about being able to tie the knot when it is cold and raining or dark.

Practice

Practice

Practice

Grab a piece of line or rope (or even a shoestring) and practice.

Practice while you are watching TV.

Practice while you are riding the bus.

Practice between classes.

Practice, practice, practice.

All About Rope

This is the best page on different kinds of rope that I’ve found:

https://sites.google.com/site/catalaocml/home/sistemas-apoio-navegacao/ropes
Knots, Bends and Hitches

Excellent Video on Seven Essential Knots
This is a video that covers seven of the knots we reviewed in Marlinspike A. A minor flaw is that he gets the terms wrong. The standing end is the part that is not used in tying the knot. The working end is the part that you use to tie the knot. There is no “loose end.” Nevertheless, a great demonstration. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3X8drKsd5E

Overhand Knot – do NOT tie a single overhand knot in a sailing line upon pain of flogging!

| 3 ways to tie an overhand knot | http://www.wikihow.com/Tie-an-Overhand-Knot |

Figure 8 Knot

| How to Tie a Figure 8 Knot | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CnYmY_B938 |
| See also Ashley Stopper Knot | http://www.animatedknots.com/ashleystopper/index.php |
| The Most Useful Figure-8 Knots |

Reef Knot – Square Knot

| Square Knot Should not be used to tie two different lines together despite picture! See Sheet Bend. | |
| Square Knot | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKatRJYv2EA |
| The Square Knot | http://addbalance.com/Sail/Knots/Square%20Knot.pdf |

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Ashley Book of Knots – Warning about using the Reef Knot as a Bend.
“One of the best but most-misused knots is the REEF or SQUARE KNOT. Employed as a binding knot to reef or furl sails or to tie up parcels, it is invaluable. But employed as a bend (to tie two rope ends together), the REEF KNOT is probably responsible for more deaths and injuries than have been caused by the failure of all other knots combined.”

The Ashley Book of Knots, p. 18.
Bowline Knot

Grog’s Animated Knots – Bowline video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXRnPES0Qec

Slip Knot Method of Tying the Bowline Knot https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmwKBA3XMR0

Easiest and Quickest Bowline Ever (The Sailor Method) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48U0u6H8h3g

Learn one of the above first until you can do it without looking, then go on to elaborations:

How to Tie a Proper Bowline Knot
Some terminology is off but very good demonstrations of various methods https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozskWzDM-F4

How to Tie a Piling Bowline Knot in 10 sec. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DetspxEunyg

Triple Bowline – useful for rescue https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3M99yydkkg

Bowline on a Bight – 2 min https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmwvrZYTmv4

The Riddle of the Bowline https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Biqhlyu1ixVl

One-Handed Bowline – Lifesaving Knot https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H85cMlYwvXa


One-Handed Bowline Around the Waist https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEsPbgznl74

One-Handed Bowline https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lo4gzw2mXEQ

What you never knew about the bowline https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbhMI-dvP4M

Five (useful) Bowline Variations https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhzPGQoq30g0

Bowline tied in different orientations https://www.dropbox.com/s/0czvzxrooi1upy1/Bowline%20Views.pdf?dl=0

Fastest Ways to Tie a Bowline http://www.asiteaboutnothing.net/cr_bowline-methods.html

Round Turn and Two Half-Hitches

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQhgLaGs9gg

Captain Grady: Tying to a Piling https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GG0r3QqBB4
## Sheet Bend (Becket Bend)

*Use instead of ‘square knot or reef’ knot whenever tying two different lines together. Carrick Bend is even better!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double Becket Bend</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJiCQVHnzgs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJiCQVHnzgs</a></td>
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### Carrick Bend – Asymmetrical for strength

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knot Tying: The Carrick Bend</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3-esJmjQlo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3-esJmjQlo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Left/Right Variations</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5j1XGSrNGE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5j1XGSrNGE</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Tie a Pretzel Knot (aka Carrick Bend) for Hemp Jewelry</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6nGKJd51IE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6nGKJd51IE</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrick Bend - Power Squadron</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theensign.org/uspcompass/compassarchive/compassv5n4/v5n4_mm_carrickbend.htm">http://www.theensign.org/uspcompass/compassarchive/compassv5n4/v5n4_mm_carrickbend.htm</a></td>
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## Clove Hitch

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Tie a Clove Hitch</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrK1IT0BitZA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrK1IT0BitZA</a> &quot;Do not use to tie up a boat, though! - use a Round Turn and Two Half-Hitches instead&quot;</td>
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*14 June 2018 - Version 18.21*  
*Pdf links may not work from DropBox – download if problems*
Taut Line Hitch – Three Variations
Midshipman’s Hitch (Images from Wikipedia)

Rolling Hitch

Diagonal Bind – Taut-line hitch – ABOK #1729 – rolling hitch

Both Magnus and Rolling hitch work. I just prefer the midshipman’s hitch instead.

How to tie the Rolling Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bslXP-CUs4U

How to tie a Taut-line hitch – Scouts
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4rbBHlp1QXo

Midshipman’s Hitch

Diagonal Bind with a twist! ABOK #1855

Less likely to slip than the Rolling Hitch.

Midshipman’s Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SiMoqbxxOo

Midshipman’s Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVuhVTsBq84

Midshipman’s Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZGx1EKvwg0

Taut Line Hitch (climbing)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqYRPtfBxHW8

How to Tie a Taut Line Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naHlk-AQ34

Midshipman’s Hitch on a Spar
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_an39xhzhs

Magnus Hitch – Not Recommended

Perpendicular Bind – Magnus Hitch ABOK #1736

How to Tie a Taut Line Knot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv2GhpeXav8

How to Tie a Taut Link Hitch Knot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jkN3K5G8eE
### Taut Line Hitch

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG-xZFUVR-M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG-xZFUVR-M)

### How to Tie a Ridgeline Tarp Knot

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3ftb_X_zzQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3ftb_X_zzQ)

### Using a Taut Line Hitch to Free a Jammed Winch

- These videos talk of using a rolling hitch. They work equally well with a Midshipman’s Hitch.

### Using a Rolling Hitch to Free a Jammed Winch

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qptVtLVLJqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qptVtLVLJqY)

### Sailing Basics - How to Remove a Jammed Genoa Sheet

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7BjZGQx3pU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7BjZGQx3pU)

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### Cleat Hitch (Clove Hitch on a Cleat)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Tie a Cleat Hitch</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMwXjckgiOs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMwXjckgiOs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ASA) Cleat Hitch</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmiYjoUX4lw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmiYjoUX4lw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Sailing Knots – Cleat Hitch – <em>shown with round turn</em></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nq_Byj3jUdo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nq_Byj3jUdo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to tie a Cleat Hitch, a full break-down with troubleshooting</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7XGT1cQImQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7XGT1cQImQ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Perfect Cleat Hitch – Maryland School of Sailing</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaF9Iln0Inw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaF9Iln0Inw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note, this video uses the term “round turn” incorrectly. Watch what he does, not what he says he is doing and it is great.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How to Properly Tie a Dockline to a Cleat - Beneteau</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bsWpRE0inA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bsWpRE0inA</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nice idea on what to do with extra line!</td>
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### Monkey’s Fist

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to Tie a Monkey’s Fist Knot</td>
<td><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXdHcH3FRcM">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXdHcH3FRcM</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a 1” Monkey’s Fist with Survival Paracord</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cGt_QQ2Qgo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cGt_QQ2Qgo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Tie a Monkey’s Fist (paracord)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31zkBObg-3g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31zkBObg-3g</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monkey’s Fist</td>
<td>How to Tie (NetKnots)</td>
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### Highwayman’s Hitch – Mooring Hitch

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II2HAFcgs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II2HAFcgs)
### Trucker’s Hitch – Carts on Badger Sloops – if not using cleats

![Drawing of Trucker's Hitch](https://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/truckers-hitch)

Drawing from netknots.com

### Other Links

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Animated Knots</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFFmED03obE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFFmED03obE</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Kenyon page</td>
<td><a href="https://www.dropbox.com/s/tzw6gh5scd29qar/Highwayman%27s%20Hitch.pdf?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/s/tzw6gh5scd29qar/Highwayman%27s%20Hitch.pdf?dl=0</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(compare with)</strong> High Post Hitch</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxdt-b-opIs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxdt-b-opIs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wikipedia Article</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trucker%E2%80%99s_hitch">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trucker%E2%80%99s_hitch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH – slip knot</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsdd9VQOVw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsdd9VQOVw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH using Alpine Butterfly</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nm3nnM4CL1w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nm3nnM4CL1w</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH using Farmer's Loop w/ carabiners</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpGW6hQ1vPo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpGW6hQ1vPo</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH three different ways</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgFyqFZK54">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgFyqFZK54</a></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Grog's) Animated Knots</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.animatedknots.com">www.animatedknots.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knots, Bends &amp; Hitches (Army, 1973)</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkYbCBIBAbQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkYbCBIBAbQ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Make a Noble Heart Bar Bracelet</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/TyingItAllTogether">https://www.youtube.com/user/TyingItAllTogether</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>World’s Largest Monkey’s Fist</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://youtu.be/DBHt14YmJdM">http://youtu.be/DBHt14YmJdM</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life is Like Sailing – How to Coil a Line</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2333Ff8GJDwS">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2333Ff8GJDwS</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Six Knots You Need to Know</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZZPYPuonvQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZZPYPuonvQ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Useful Knots and Hitches</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.boatsafe.com/marlinespike/knots.htm">http://www.boatsafe.com/marlinespike/knots.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How Its Made - Rope</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=11&amp;v=UyDHBNix6hA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=11&amp;v=UyDHBNix6hA</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shoelace Knots</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/knots.htm">http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/knots.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hitches</strong> including Clove Hitch, Constrictor Knot, Round Turn and Two Half-Hitches, Fisherman’s Bend (Anchor Bend), Cow Hitch, Sheepshank, Marlinspike Hitch, Rolling Hitch on a Pole/Rope,</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR4trlZ3jGI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vR4trlZ3jGI</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Binding Knots</strong> including Reef Knot, Thief Knot, Packer’s Knot</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cxVOBEg2Pc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cxVOBEg2Pc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 Essential Sailing Knots – How to Tie Them and When to Use Them –</strong> Constrictor Knot, Rolling Hitch to free a winch, Zeppelin Bend, Round Turn and Two Half-Hitches, Cleat Hitch</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI0GO86KmsQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI0GO86KmsQ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 Most Useful Sailing Knots</strong> Figure-8, Rolling Hitch, Bowline, Sheetbend and Double Sheetbend, Clove Hitch, Reef Knot, Round Turn &amp; Two Half-Hitches, Anchor Bend</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRrVyz9eVtU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRrVyz9eVtU</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stopper Knots</strong> including Overhand Knot, Slipped Overhand Knot, Figure 8, Stevadore’s Knot,</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o88qEqiLjk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o88qEqiLjk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rope and Knot Terms</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4FLBog6OHw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4FLBog6OHw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loops</strong> including Bowline</td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gEQP1rENf4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gEQP1rENf4</a></td>
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### Notes on Ropes – Boy Scouts

- **The High Post Hitch**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxdt-b-opIs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxdt-b-opIs)
- **A Few Good Knots by Forbes Pettigrew (Used as a handout in Marlinspike A)**: [http://www.pioneeringprojects.org/resources/ebooks/A-Few-Good-Knots.pdf](http://www.pioneeringprojects.org/resources/ebooks/A-Few-Good-Knots.pdf)

### Hoofer Sailing Club Videos

- **Slip Knot Method of Tying Bowline Knot**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmwKBA3XMR0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmwKBA3XMR0)

### RYA – Competent (keelboat) Crew

- 13. Knots *(Cleat Hitch is not what we use)*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TLMqo_8DZA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TLMqo_8DZA)

### ASA Video Tips

- **Tidy Lines**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XKs7cTkgTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XKs7cTkgTk)
- **Winches**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqzhmbC8BX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqzhmbC8BX0)
- **Spring Lines**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5XXCmMSkd8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5XXCmMSkd8)
- **Cleat Hitch**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmiYjoUX4lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmiYjoUX4lw)
- **Rolling Hitch**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcK15qwhSiQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcK15qwhSiQ)
- **Bowline**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9EsQ4G-VaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9EsQ4G-VaY)
- **Coiling a Line**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1IeinSxL8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1IeinSxL8E)

### Captain John’s Skipper Tips

- **How to Dock Your Boat with a Forward Bow Spring Line**: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhA_m3x4x8c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhA_m3x4x8c)
- **Using a Lark’s Head Knot to Attach Jib**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fk4nT3Clbk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fk4nT3Clbk)
How to Undock Using the Aft Bow Springline
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_Y5G1ke6n8

Elevator Technique for Bringing MOB aboard
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9tY6YU3Kdg

How to tie a Rolling Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bslXP-CUs4U

Do you know these Docking Line Names?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAu98cGB7po

Tie an Anchor Hitch
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRNtJeA9P4w

Tie a clove hitch when you have access to an end
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrKTT0BtZAc

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Splices and Soft Shackles

| Samson Ropes Splicing Instructions | http://www.samsonrope.com/Pages/SpliceInstructions.aspx |
| Marlow Ropes Splicing Instructions | https://www.marlowropes.com/splicing-instructions |
| Yale Cordage Splicing Instructions | http://www.yalecordage.com/splicing-and-instructions |

The Ashley Book of Knots
https://ia801906.us.archive.org/11/items/TheAshleyBookOfKnots/the%20ashley%20book%20of%20knots.pdf – note front material like the cover and table of contents are at the end of the pdf

Excellent Resource
Line Selection Guide – by intended use on a sailboat – Samson Ropes

Miscellaneous
How to free a riding turn (on a winch)
http://www.yachtingmonthly.com/sailing-skills/free-riding-turn-2-35132

Demonstration of midshipman's hitch to free jammed winch (at 6:25)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TLMqo_8DZA

Sailing Glossary:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/ggw55a6hqemnt2f/Glossary%20of%20Sailing%20Terms.pdf?dl=0

Knot Break Strength vs. Rope Break Strength
http://caves.org/section/vertical/nh/50/knotrope-hold.html

https://user.xmission.com/~tmoyer/testing/High_Strength_Cord.pdf

Boat Line Definitions http://denverrope.com/definitions.htm

International Guild of Knot Tyers http://www.igkt.net/


Great Knots You Probably Don’t Need to Know
http://www.asiteaboutnothing.net/cr_knots-other.html

Carrick Bend https://www.dropbox.com/s/yg617a8erl64rxp/The%20Carrick%20Bend.pdf?dl=0

Sheetbend https://www.dropbox.com/s/4mx2r0zxvfg79jf/The%20Sheetbend.pdf

Square knot https://www.dropbox.com/s/ffdomqixc7knlm7/Square%20Knot.pdf
Updates and changes – This is Version 17.20

I expect to be modifying this extensively. It is intended to be used in pdf format so that the links are active. However, I show the full links without underlining so that they are easier to read. This pdf has extensive bookmarks corresponding to the table of contents.

This version dated 14 June 2018. Here is a link to the latest version.
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