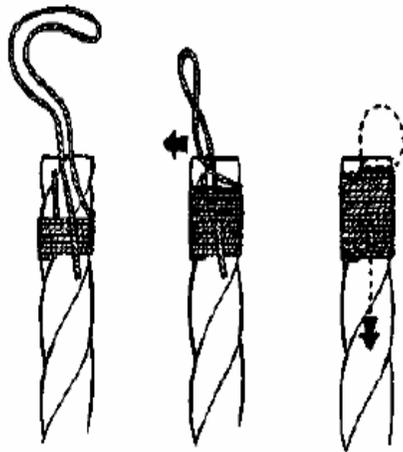




## Seamanship — Whipping a Rope

The end of a manila rope has a tendency to fray or unravel. This poses a great many problems on board a sailing ship where one's safety depended upon the serviceability of those ropes. Whipping a rope prevents this fraying or unraveling.

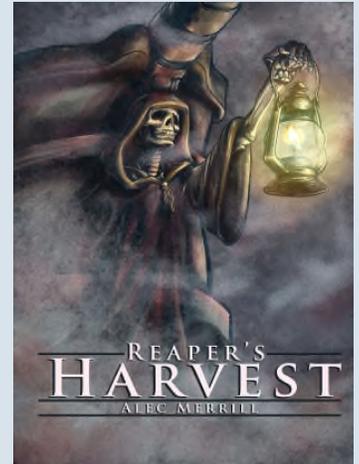
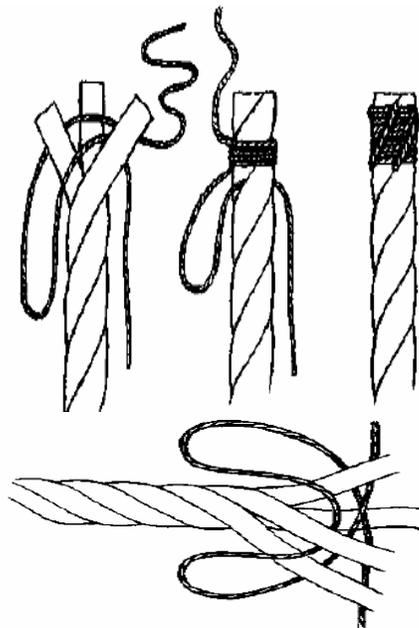
Whipping is a process of binding the end of the rope with thread or twine (depending upon the size of the rope). It is always preferable to use waterproofed thread or twine. There are a number of types of whippings, but they all have common traits. All of the binding must be tight and it must start away from the end of the rope and work toward it.



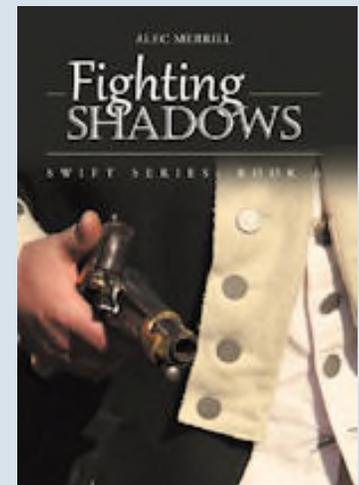
**Common Whipping:** Lay the end of the twine along the rope (both ends facing the same direction). Bind the twine around the rope in the opposite direction to the rope twist. Keep the binding turns close together until 5-6 turns away from the end of the rope. Place the end of the twine on top of the bindings pointed down the rope. Hold it in place with your thumb. Use the slack from the twine to run 5 tight turns over the top of the twine end. Hold the binding with the opposite thumb, grab the end and carefully pull the twine to draw all slack under the bindings. Once tight, cut the end of the twine, so that no end is visible.

**Sailmaker's Whipping:** The whipping looks and wears better than a common whipping. Take the rope and un-lay the rope for about 2 inches. With the rope strands pointing up, drop a loose loop of twine over one strand and bring the twine ends back between the other 2, making one end longer than the other. Hold the loop and ends with the left hand while re-laying the rope with the right hand. Bind the long end of the twine against the lay of the rope (opposite to the twist). Use as many turns as needed. Pass the loop over the top of the strands it already encircles and haul on the short end to tighten. Pass the short end up the only hollow between the strands. Reef knot the short and long ends so the reef knot is over the binding.

A four strand rope requires two loops as opposed to one.



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