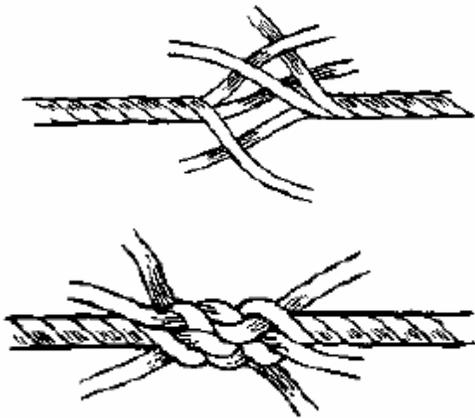




2018-07

Seamanship — Long and Short Splice

When two ropes must be joined together, a sailor usually makes a short or long splice. Whether the rope will have to run through a block or pulley system determines which splice type to use. A short splice is bulky, causing it to bind in a block. Thus if the rope must run through a block, only a long splice will suffice.



Short Splice: This easy splice requires the unravelling of the two rope ends to a distance of at least twice their circumference. Place the 2 ends together so that each strand lays between a strand of the opposite rope. Tuck the strands of the right rope over the strands of the left rope and under the next strand. Repeat this a second time. Cut off the stop on the fork and tuck the strands of the left rope twice into the right rope. Stretch the splice by pulling and twisting it to test.

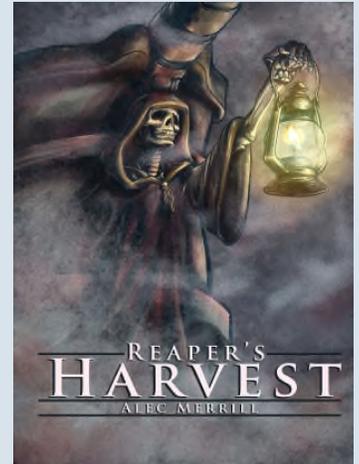
Either whip the ends or cut them off and take a few of the underneath yarns from each strand to fill up the lay of the rope. Marl them down to the rope with thin twine and serve over the splice.

Long Splice: Un-lay the two rope ends to 10 times their circumference. Place the two ends together like a short splice. Un-lay one strand of the left rope for a distance and fill the gap by twisting in the strand on the right rope opposite it. Reverse the process. Un-lay one strand of the right rope for a distance and fill the gap by twisting in the strand on the left rope opposite it.

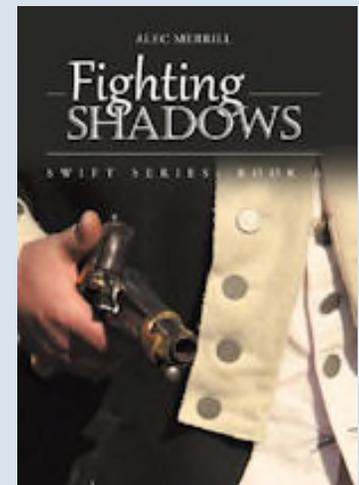


Leave the to remaining strands (one on each rope) as they are. Finish off in one of these ways Half knot each pair of opposing strands, taper the ends and tuck in the same as for a short splice. OR tuck the tapered ends as in a short splice but against the lay so that each end goes continually around the same strand. OR tuck the tapered ends as in a short splice, but before tucking the ends, halve each one and tuck each half around a different strand so that it is encircled by its "twin".

As you can see there are different methods of doing the same task. Each ship had it's own - it just depended on your training.



Download your **FREE** copy of
Reaper's Harvest at
www.alecmerrill.com



Alec's new book now available
Fighting Shadows
www.alecmerrill.com