



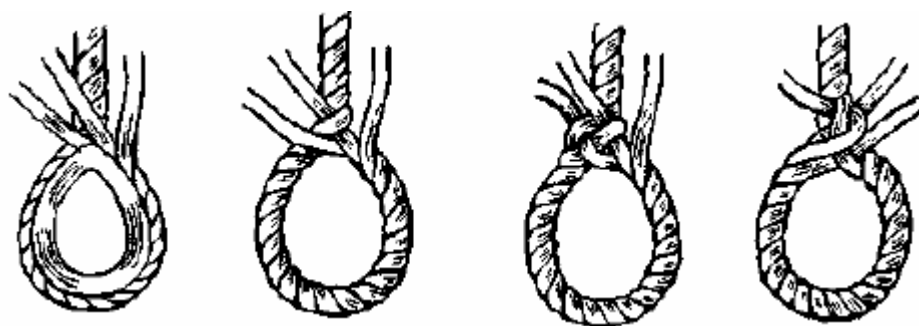
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Seamanship ~ Eye Splices

An eye splice is a loop, usually at the end of a rope, but sometimes in the middle. It may be hard (a metal stiffener called a thimble is inserted) or soft (no thimble).



To make an eye splice with a thimble un-lay the rope for a distance 3 times its circumference. Bend the still laid-up end around the thimble to make an eye with the fork of the strands just reaching the standing part. The middle and left-hand un-laid strands will rest on top of it. Lightly stop the thimble to the crown of the eye. Tuck the middle un-laid strand from right to left under the strand on which it rests. Tuck the left-hand un-laid strand from right to left over the strand under which the first tuck was made and under the next one. Turn the rope over to the left so that the right-hand un-laid strand is now on top of it. Tuck this strand from right to left under the only strand under which a tuck has not been made. Tuck each un-laid strand again, over strand and under one.



To finish off the splice: Divide the yarns of each strand into two and whip together each pair of adjacent halves from neighbouring strands (all three pairs). OR Scrape or cut off lengthwise half of each strand and tuck again, and then halve and tuck once more. These 'half tucks' taper the splice to a neat finish.

To make a simple soft eye use the same process as above, but omit the thimble.

To make an eye splice with four-stranded rope use the same process as above, but tuck the left-hand strand under the same strand as the middle one.



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