

### Trucker's Hitch



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Form a bight in the standing end and use it to tie a Directional Figure 8 Knot. Pass the tail round the hook below and through the Directional Figure 8 Loop, and pull tight. Complete the knot with two Half Hitches below the loop. In theater the trucker's hitch is used to tie down a load or tighten a line.

### Water Knot



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### Water Knot

Tie a loose overhand knot in the end of the strap. Thread the other strap in the reverse direction following the exact path of the first overhand knot. Pull the knot tight. In theater we use this knot in a number of ways. It can be used on rope or strap and is often used to create a sling or a basket. It can also be used to secure a sandbag to a line.

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### Care and Cleaning of Rope

Rope is all too often left in a tangle on the ground which is far from the safest way to store it and usually makes it hard to use. Rope should be kept neatly coiled, off the ground, and stored appropriately so that it can be used free of tangles without delay.

### Coiling Unattached Rope



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Start making a coil in your hand. Each alternate strand is inverted. Continue making loops alternating over and under. Wrap the end around the coil several times. Pass a bight through the coil. Spread the bight out and bring it back down over the coil. Pull tight.

Illustrations and instructions for all knots  
can be found at  
[www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com)



UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA  
LINCOLN

HIXSON-LIED COLLEGE OF  
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

JOHNNY CARSON SCHOOL  
OF THEATRE AND FILM

*Let's Get Knotty*

by Bryce Allen  
Technical Director

This is a workshop demonstration on knots and knot tying for the practical theater technician. It is important for theater technicians to know how to tie a variety of knots and to know when to use each knot.

Included in this pamphlet are some of the most common knots used in technical theater. The descriptions and images of these knots can be found at [www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com).



### Clove Hitch

Pass the end of the rope around the pole. Continue over the standing end and around the pole a second time. Thread the end under itself and pull tight to form the clove hitch. We use this knot in theater to fasten the end of a rope to a pipe, batten, or other object. Close with two half hitches.



### Bowline

Form a small loop leaving enough rope for the desired loop size. Pass the end of the rope through the loop as though making an over-hand knot. Continue around the standing end and then back through the small loop. In theater we use this to create a unmovable loop at the end of a rope.



### Inline Figure 8 Loop

Make a loop in the rope. Pass the loop behind the standing end. Continue around and through the opening beside the tail. In theater we use this knot to create an unmovable loop or attachment point in the middle of a rope.



### Half Hitch

Form a loop around the object. Pass the end around the standing end and through the loop. Tighten into a Half Hitch which is designed to take a load (Arrow) on the standing end. In theater this is used as a closing knot to secure the loose end of the rope after tying other knots. It can also be used to secure the end of a rope to an object by tying two or more half hitches.



### Shoelace Bow

Wrap one end round the other to tie a Half Knot. Pull tight. Form a loop with one end. Then form a loop with the other and wrap it around the first loop to complete the bow. Tighten and make the loops and ends all roughly the same length. In theater we use this knot to tie soft goods on to battens. **DO NOT DOUBLE KNOT!**



### Sheet Bend

Form a bight in the thicker rope (blue) and hold it in one hand. Pass the thinner rope (red) through the bight and behind the (blue) tail and standing ends in that order. Finally, tuck the smaller rope under itself to finish the knot. In theater we use this knot to tie two ends of a rope together.