

How to Make an Adjustable Rope Halter and Tie Useful Knots

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The Rope Halter

Rope halters are needed on all dairy farms. They are practical, serviceable, and inexpensive. By following the instructions and illustrations, you can make a rope halter easily.

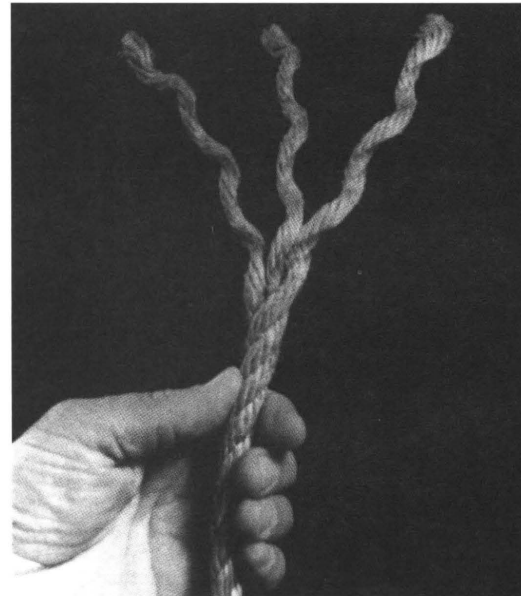
You'll need about 13 feet of a three-strand rope to make an adjustable halter for a cow or heifer. Use 3/8-inch rope for calves and small heifers and 7/16-inch or 1/2-inch rope for large heifers and cows.

The Nosepiece Loop

1. The nosepiece loop should look like this.



2. Untwist rope about 6 inches.



3. Unfold the untwisted end over the first finger of your left hand about 4 inches past the untwisted part. This should give you a loop slightly larger than the diameter of the rope. Have both the untwisted and long rope facing to your right as shown in the picture.



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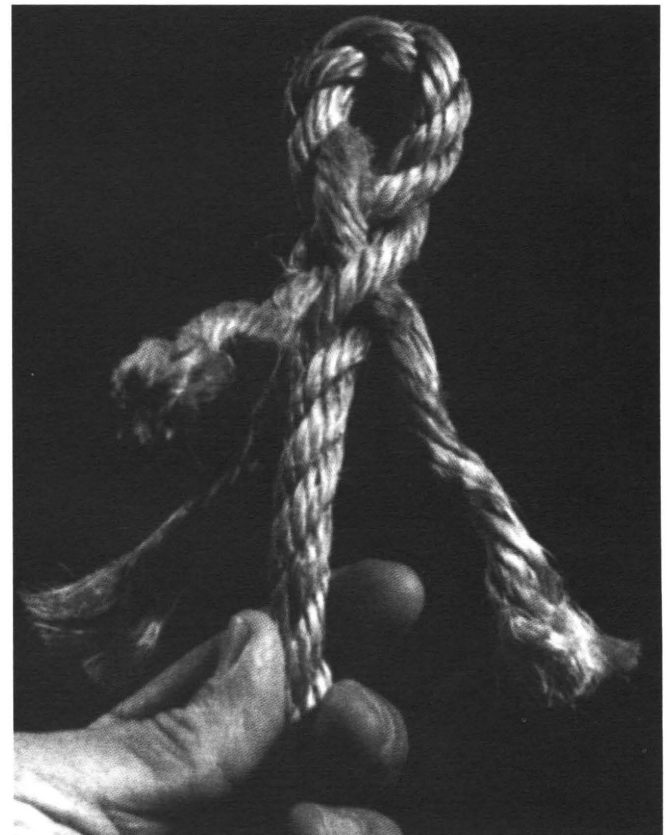
4. Raise the strand on top of the long rope by twisting clockwise with your right hand.

With your left thumb, press the center strand of untwisted rope under the raised strand away from yourself.



6. **Turn loop over** and raise the remaining unused strand on the long rope. It is the one on the bottom. Use your left thumb to press the untwisted strand under it from the **bottom side** and away from yourself.

5. Raise the strand to the **left** of where untwisted strand came out. Use your left thumb to press the **top** untwisted strand under it and away from yourself.



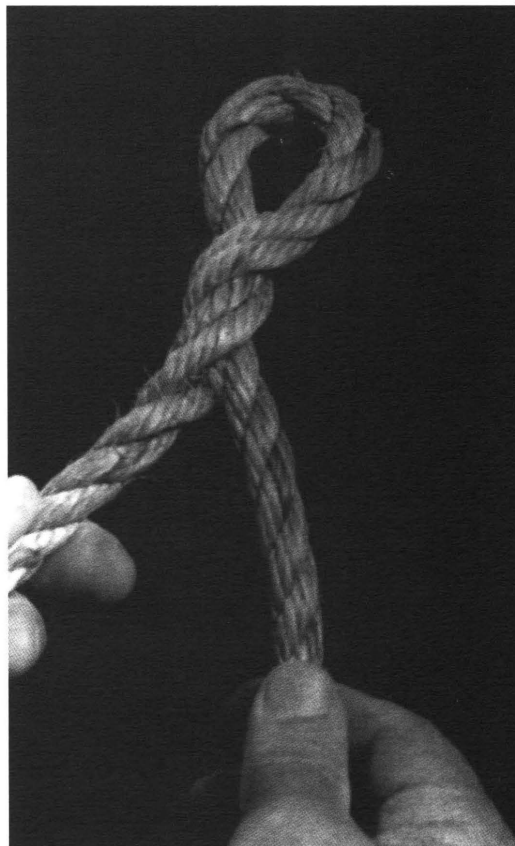
7. Pull all three untwisted pieces tight. (If you have done it correctly, the three untwisted pieces come out on equal sides of the rope. Two untwisted pieces should never pass under the same strand.) Braid the remainder of the untwisted rope into the twisted rope by going over one strand and under the next. Pull each untwisted strand tight after putting it under a strand. Cut off the short ends so the braid is smooth.

The Halter Loop

1. Measure rope 16 inches from end of loop. Raise two strands at this point and pass nosepiece loop under them away from yourself. Push it through far enough to make a loop about twice the size of the rope.



2. Raise two strands on top of short rope close to loop. Pass long rope under the two strands away from yourself.



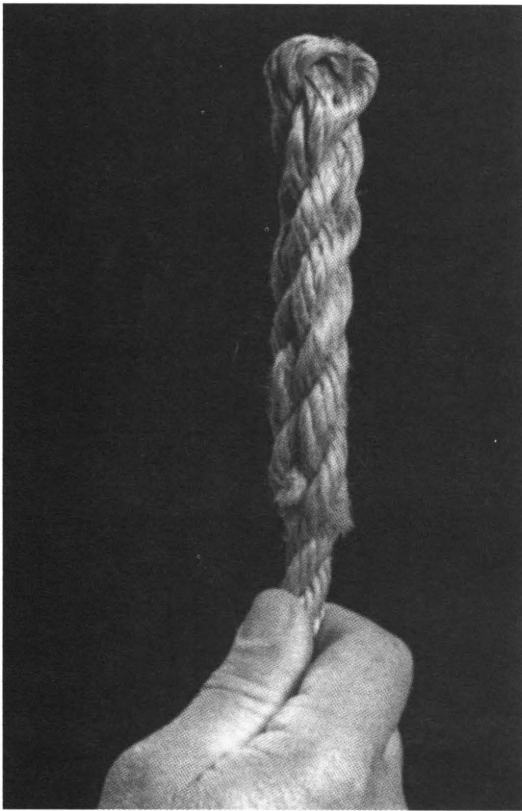
3. After pulling the loop tight it should look like this.



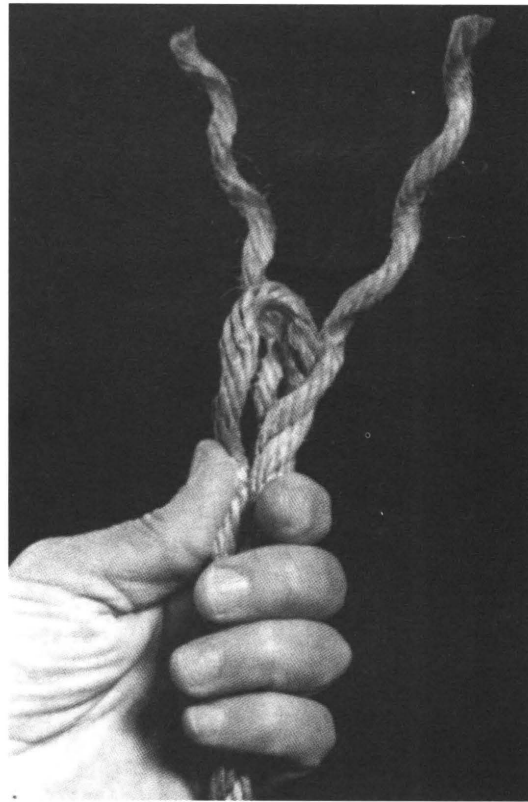
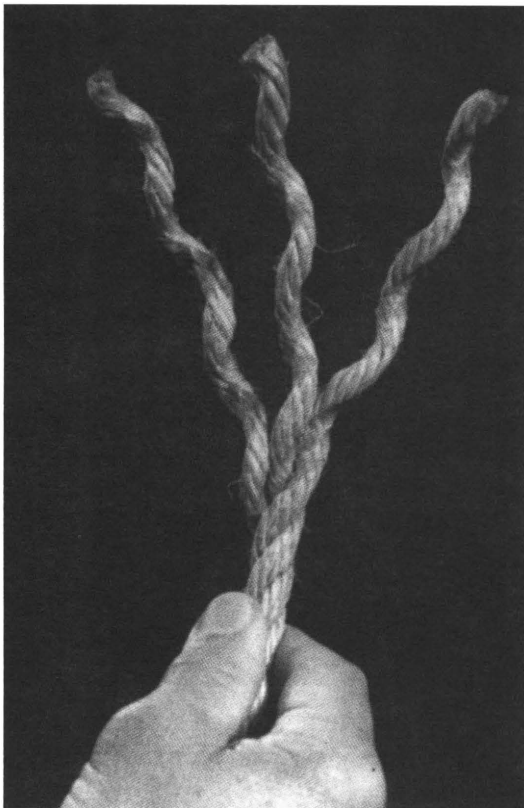
4. Pass long rope through nosepiece loop and through second loop to form the halter.

The Crown Knot

1. The finished crown knot at the end of the long rope should look like this.



2. Unravel the strands of the end of the long rope for about 6 inches, ending with the **center strand** on the side away from you.

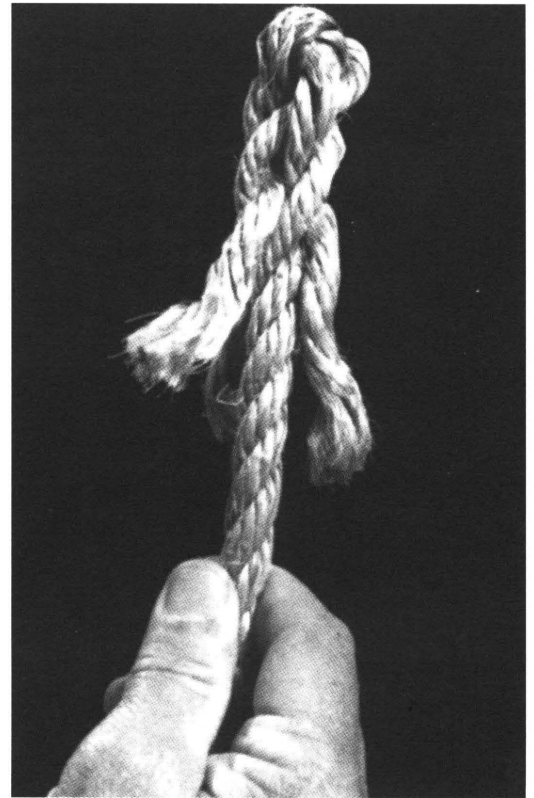


3. Fold the center strand over toward you and hold the loop with your left thumb.



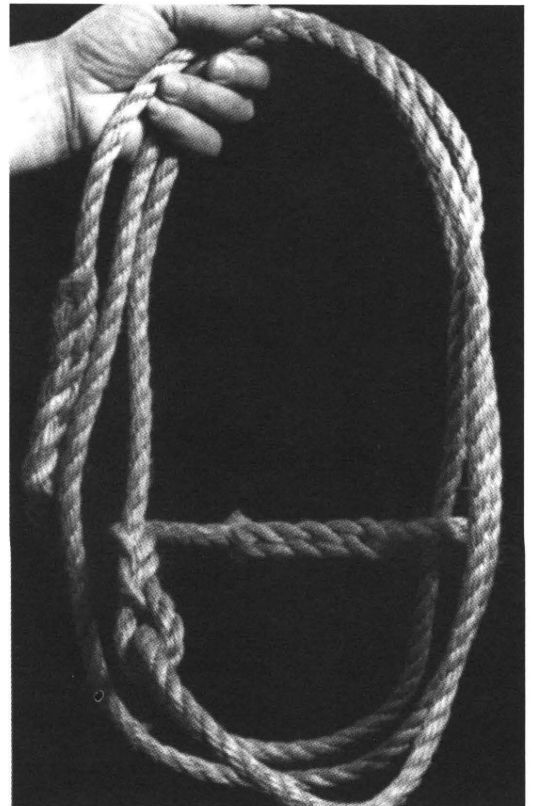
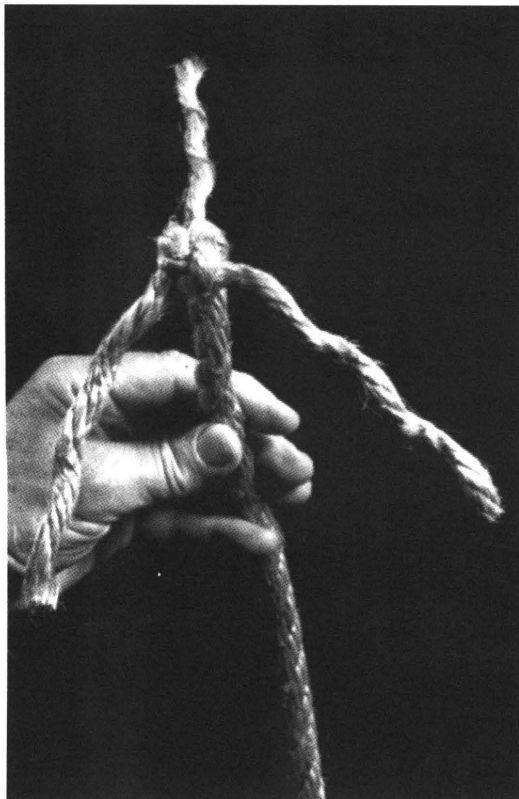
4. With your right hand, fold the left strand over the center strand and hold with your left thumb.

5. With your right hand, pull the right strand down and hold it under the loose end of the left strand. Then pass the end of the right strand through the eye of the first strand.



7. Continue braiding the strands by going over the next strand and under the strand next to that. Continue splicing until all of the ends are used up. Cut off the short ends.

6. Pull all strands tight at one time to form the crown knot.



8. A completed halter.

The Slip Knot

The slip knot is an important knot when tying up cattle. It can be tied quickly, makes a secure tie, but can be untied quickly if the animal gets in trouble.

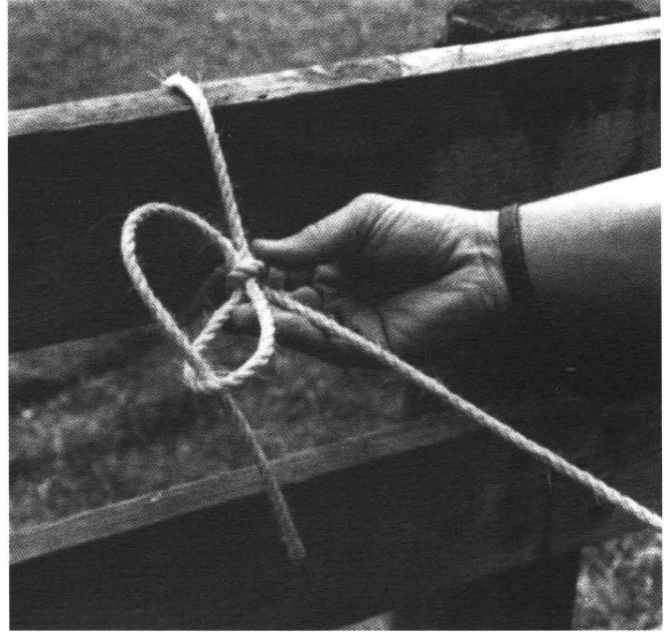


1. Pass the rope over the rail and hold both the short and long end in your left hand. Form a loop with the short end, then pass it over the long end.

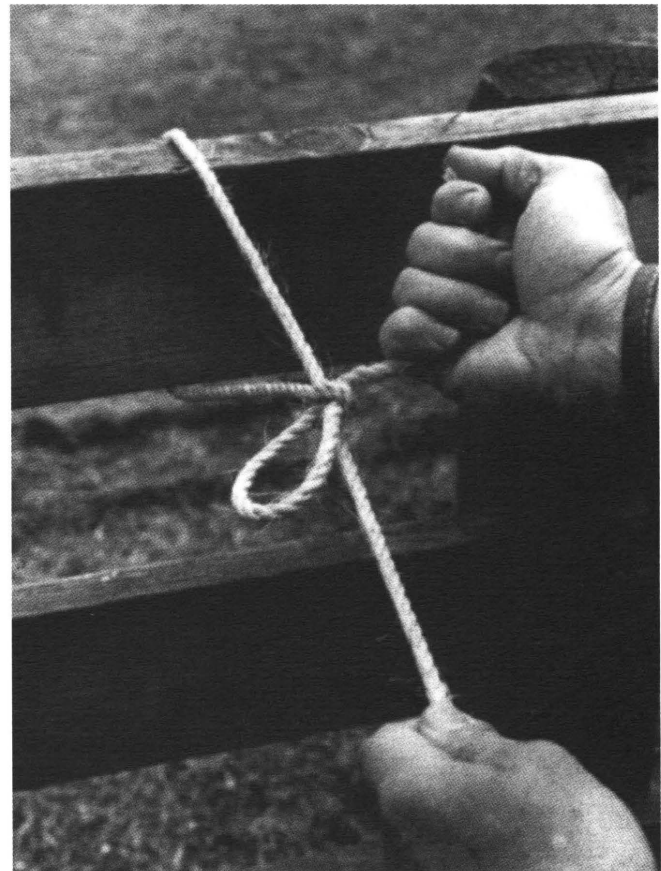


2. Pass the loop in your right hand through the bottom side of the loop that you will make automatically. Pull the knot tight.

3. Slip the knot against the rail and pass the short end through the loop as a safety measure.

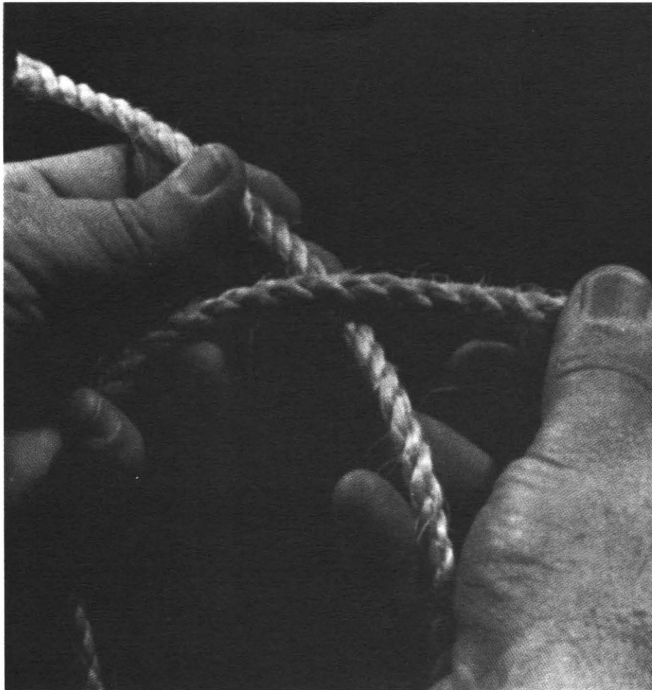


4. To untie quickly, take the short end out of the loop and pull.

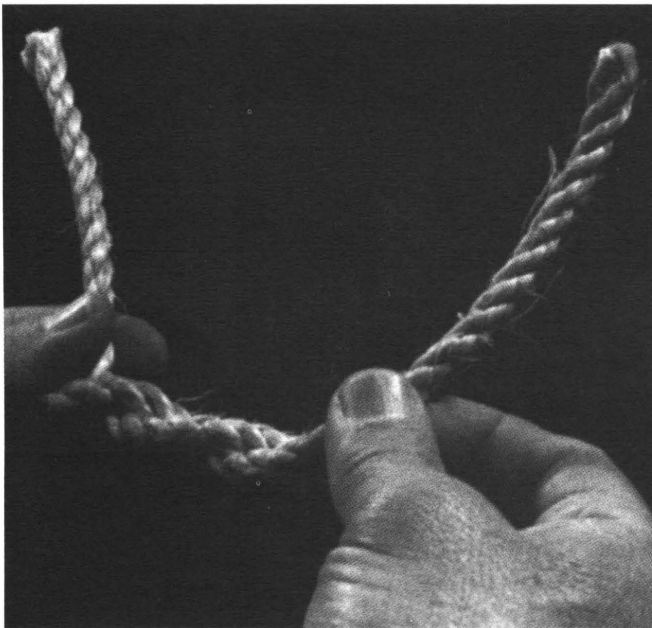


The Square Knot

Dairy farmers also have an occasional need to tie two ropes together so that they will hold. A square knot can be tied quickly, will hold, and can be untied fairly easily.



1. Cross the ropes with the left one lying on top.

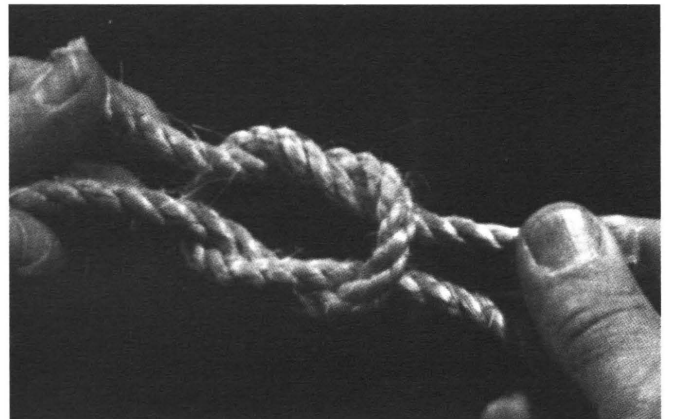


2. Twist the rope on top to the right.

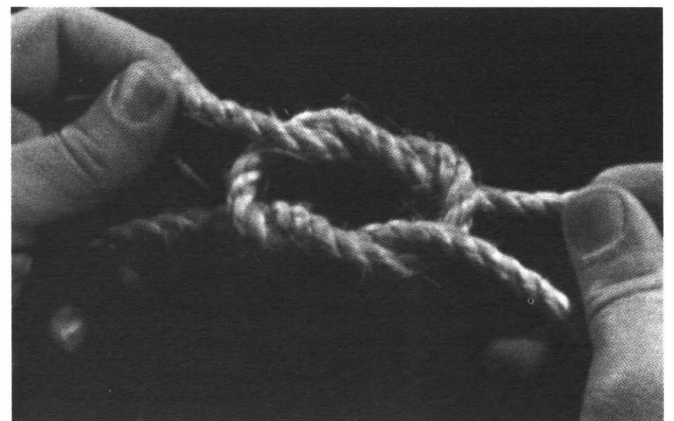
3. Then twist the short ends together— the rope in your right hand should go over the other end.



4. If you have tied it correctly, it will look like this before you tighten it up. Note that the ropes lie parallel on each end of the knot.



5. If your knot turns out like this, you have tied a granny knot. The ropes do not lie parallel on each end of the knot. It will not hold.

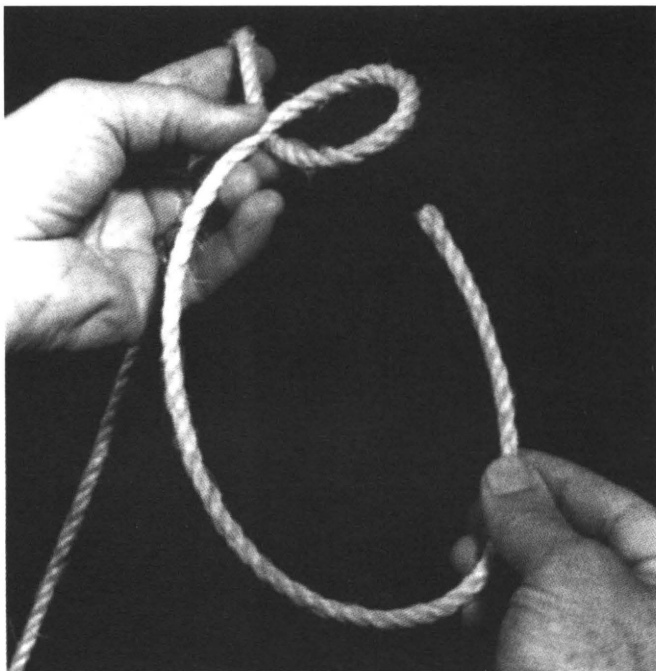


The Bowline

When handling livestock you will occasionally have need for a loop that will not slip. The bowline is a perfect choice, and, if practiced a few times, it is not difficult to tie.

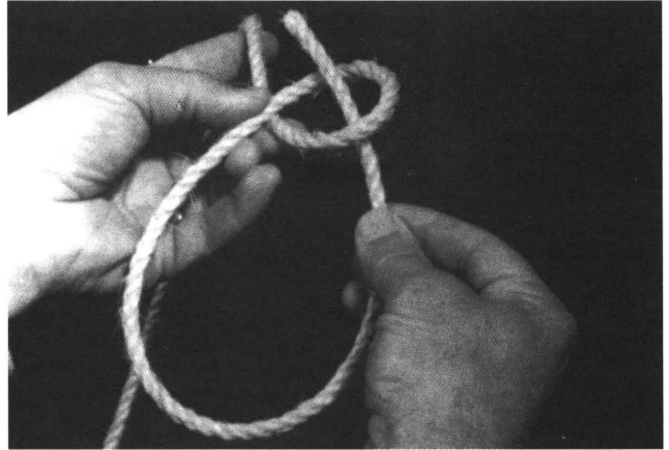


1. The finished bowline.



2. Form a loop about 10 inches from the end of the rope. The short end must lie on top of the long rope.

3. Pass the short end up through the loop from the bottom side,



4. around the long rope from the bottom, and



5. back through the loop. Pull it tight.

