

## The Amateur in You, Part 1

*What have you been pondering?*



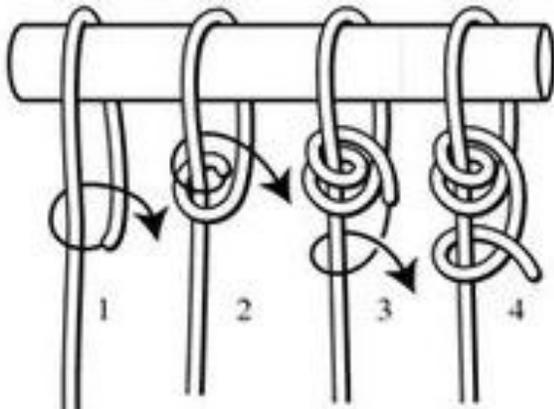
### Field Day knots

Whether it's for Field Day, a Special Event Station, or some other antenna setup, there always seems to be a need to quickly tie a temporary but secure knot. But many of us have never been involved with Scouts at all, let alone have cracked the [Scout Handbook](#) recently, so remembering your knots might be difficult, with little to draw upon.

Yes, I'm a Scouter, and I have been for a long time, and I remember many of my knots because I have to constantly teach them. Here are a few that I tend to use on tarps, flags, antennas, and other equipment, especially because they're workable for rope, paracord, twine, string, and even linen.

#### Taut-line hitch

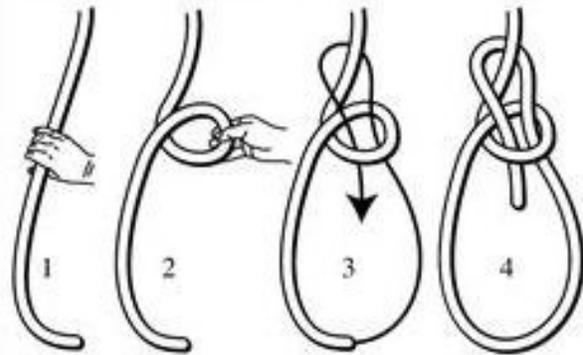
When I need to secure a rope tightly to a fixture, I use a taut-line hitch, which is a slip-on-demand knot, meaning it can slip when I need it to, but remain in place when I don't.



You can see me use a taut-line hitch on most of my antenna paracord that's just long enough to reach the stake, and a little more. This allows me to manipulate the end of the rope through the several loops required by this knot.

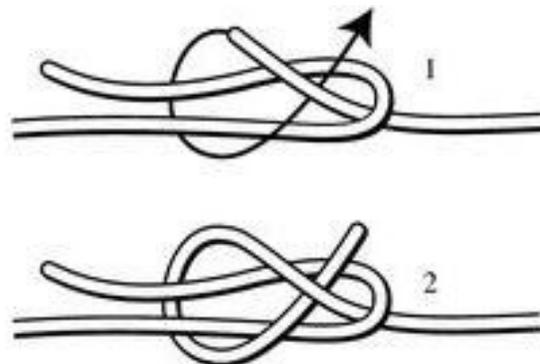
#### Bowline

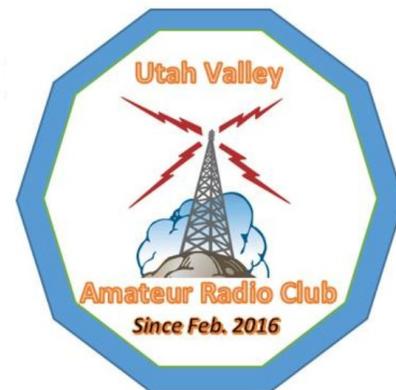
The bowline is a strong, no-slip knot. I use it to attach something to a tree, and I don't want the knot to get lost deep near the trunk. I also use it to carry people if I need to, because it won't pinch the person.



#### Sheet bend

I use a sheet bend when I need to tie together two different ropes, especially if they're different thicknesses. Many times I've had to improvise a rope extension by connecting it to an old extension cord, a large truck rope, or even a scarf, and a sheet bend was just the solution for those times.





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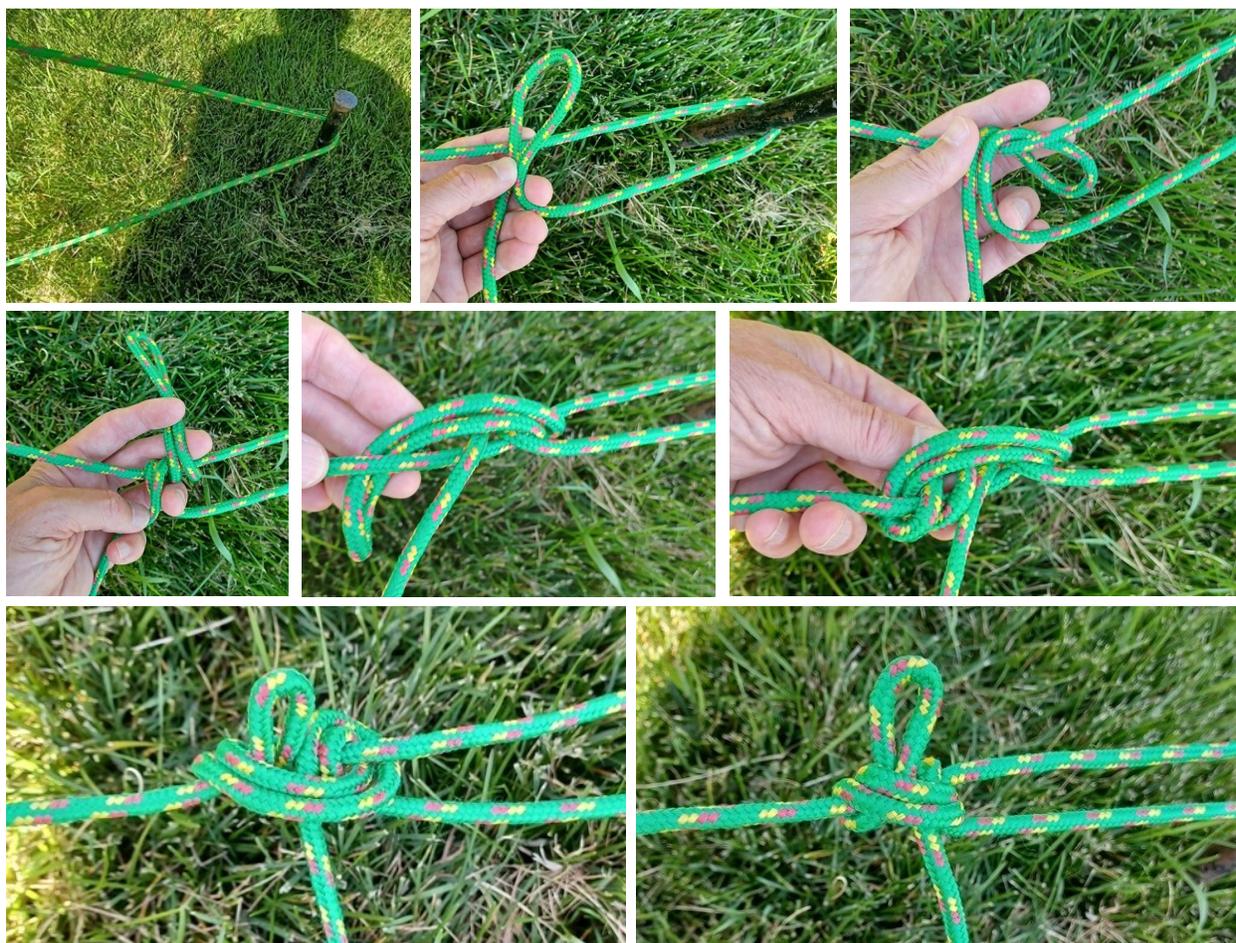
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### Double two half-hitches

When I need to secure a rope tightly, I tend to use a taut-line-hitch, as I had mentioned. But if I'm using a 50-foot rope, and I tie one end to my antenna mast, and the other end around a stake 23 feet away, I'll have 27 feet of loose rope that's too inconvenient to thread through each of the three loops of a taut-line hitch, and I don't want to cut it short.

My solution is to tie the rope to itself somewhere in the middle of the tight section, using a loop in the loose section to form a double two half-hitches. I call it "double" because I make it from two ropes instead of one, as follows:



There are other good knots I use, such as the square knot, timber hitch, and sheep shank, but these are the ones I use most when I need to get an antenna up quickly. Do you know of an easy, useful knot that the rest of us can benefit from? We'd love to hear about it!

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