

Shoelace knot

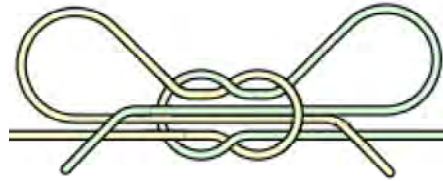
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The **shoelace knot**, or **bow knot**, is commonly used for tying shoelaces and bow ties.

The shoelace knot is a doubly slipped reef knot formed by joining the ends of whatever is being tied with a half hitch, folding each of the exposed ends into a loop (bight) and joining the loops with a second half hitch. The size of the loops and the length of the exposed ends are adjusted when the knot is tied. It has the stability of the reef knot but is significantly easier to untie, simply by pulling the ends away from the center of the knot.

The loops are sometimes referred to as "bunny ears", especially when the knot is taught to children.

Shoelace knot



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| Names | Shoelace knot, Bow |
| Category | Binding |
| Category | Loop |
| #2 | |
| Related | Reef knot |
| Releasing | Non-jamming |
| Typical use | Tying shoelaces, bow ties, decorative bows |
| ABoK | #1212, #2403, #2404 |

Contents

- 1 Techniques
 - 1.1 More secure shoe-tying knots
 - 1.2 A less secure shoe-tying knot
- 2 See also

- 3 References
- 4 External links

Techniques

There are several ways to tie a shoelace knot; each starts with the tying of a half hitch, and requires attention or some habitual mechanism for arriving at a knot that is an elaboration of the reef (or square) knot rather than of the granny (or lubber's) knot. One approach is to start by taking, in each hand, the end of the lace that emerges from the uppermost eyelet on that hand's side of the shoe; then passing the *dominant* hand's end *under* the other end, from front toward back, and dropping each lace on the opposite side from where it started; and in the finishing step again grasping the lace on each side with the hand on that side (perhaps taking time to note that because each end crossed over the shoe before, the laces have switched hands—or vice versa, the hands have switched laces) and again passing the *dominant* hand's end *under* the other end, from front toward back.

- The simplest approach to describe is to also form a loop by bending each lace end back toward the closest part of the same lace, then join the two loops in another half hitch, in the second passing-back-under described before these bullet points.
- Another common procedure (especially for bow ties)^[1] is to form a loop at one of the ends of the initial half-hitch, and circle it with the other end, which is simultaneously folded into a second loop that is then pushed through the knot.
- The quickest approach is said to be one involving making one loop between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, and pulling each loop through the other; speed probably requires acquisition of muscle memory via repetition that is guided by a sequence of images.^[2]

More secure shoe-tying knots

A variation of the procedure involves looping the top part of the knot twice instead of once, resulting in a finished bow of almost identical appearance but with the laces wrapped twice around the middle. This Double Slip Knot holds the shoelaces more securely tied while still allowing them to be untied with a (slightly firmer) pull on the loose end(s).^[3] One variation, the subject of a U.S. patent, begins with a surgeon knot and has an upper double slip knot on top of that.^[4] Lace locking can be added for addition security.^[5]

A less secure shoe-tying knot

Tying two consecutive right-over-left half knots (or two consecutive left-over-right half knots) produces, instead of a square-knot-like bow-knot, a much less secure version corresponding to the granny (or duffer's) knot.^[6] This version will also produce asymmetrical slips; one pointing down the other up.

See also

- Shoelaces
- Bow tie
- Reef knot

References

1. "How to Tie a Bow Tie (<http://www.wikihow.com/Tie-a-Bow-Tie>)" Retrieved 24 July 2014.
2. Tying shoelaces (<http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/ianknot.htm>)
3. Knot 1219 on page 221 in Ashley, Clifford Warren (1944). *The Ashley Book of Knots*. ISBN 978-0-385-04025-9.
4. "Shoelace tying system". Free Patents Online. 1999. Retrieved 2010-06-11.
5. Lock Lacing (<http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/locklacing.htm>)
6. Ashley, Clifford W. (1944). *The Ashley Book of Knots*. Doubleday. p. 75. ISBN 0-385-04025-3.

External links

- How to tie a shoelace (<http://www.animatedknots.com/shoelace/>) at Animated Knots.

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Categories: Binding knots | Loop knots | Non-jamming knots

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