

# Basic Knots - Part 2

by Tom Russo

## Introduction

In the last thrilling chapter I presented the basic overhand, double overhand and figure 8 knots. In this part we'll combine those simple knots to join two ropes together, make loops in lines, and attach ropes to posts or other ropes.

## The Double Overhand Bend

This bend is one you'll encounter often. It is used to join the ends of a prussic loop, for example. To join two ropes with a double overhand bend, tie an double overhand knot in one line (line "A") around the standing part of the other line (line "B"):



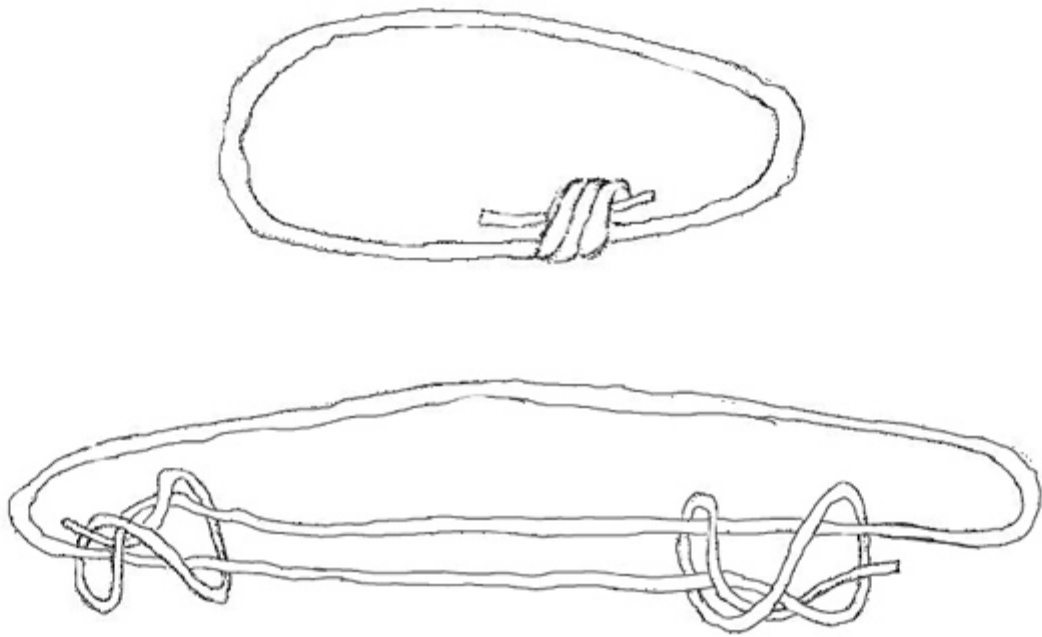
Now tie an overhand knot in the line "B" around the standing part of line "A":



Dress up each knot and pull on both standing parts. When you're done the two "X"s should mesh together, and on the other side the four loops will look like a barrel:



The double overhand bend is also known as a "double fisherman's knot." Some people appear to be in the habit of abbreviating its name to "fisherman's knot," but this usage is not standard except among climbers, and should be avoided. Although it is a bend, it is not correct to call this knot a "fisherman's bend" because unfortunately the nomenclature of knots is rooted in maritime use, and the name "fisherman's bend" is already used for another knot which is not even a bend, but rather a hitch used for attaching a rope to an anchor ring. You will probably never encounter it.



Prussic Knot or Double Overhand Knot