

Sheepshank

Shorten a rope from the middle - no ends needed, both still fast.

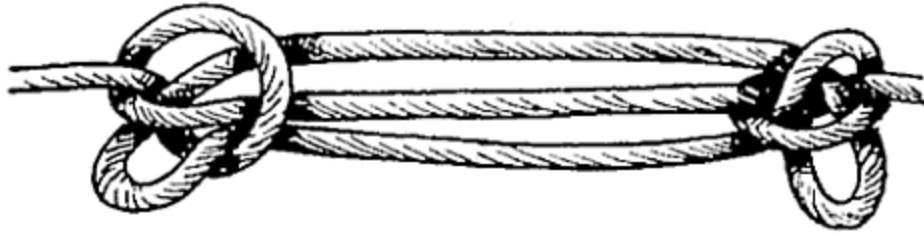


FIG. 78.—Sheepshank.

From A. Hyatt Verrill's Knots, Splices and Rope Work (1917) · public domain

"Fold the slack into an S, hitch each bend, and the rope rides shorter."

1

Lay out the slack

Gather the extra rope into an S-shape (three parallel parts) where you want to take up the length.

2

Hitch the first end

Make a simple running (overhand) loop in the standing part and push the near bend of the fold through it, then draw it taut (Fig. 78 - the most secure form).

3

Hitch the other end

Repeat at the far end: make a loop and pass the other bend through it, locking both folds.

4

Or seize it

A quicker version (Fig. 79) just hooks half-hitches over each bend - that one needs the bends seized with twine (Fig. 80) to be safe, since it spills if the strain comes off.

5

Toggle for quick-release

For a shortening you can cast off in an instant, slip a toggle through each bend (Fig. 83) - jerk the toggles out and the rope runs free.