

Slipped Square Knot

What a square knot does on mismatched ropes - it quietly slips and lets go.



FIG. 14.—Slipped square knot.

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

"Two ropes of different girth, and your square knot heads for the exit."

1

Tie a true square knot

Join the two ropes with a normal square knot: left over right, right over left.

2

Mismatch the ropes

Use a thick rope and a thin one - this is where the trouble starts.

3

Add strain

Pull steadily. The fatter rope straightens and the knot deforms as shown.

4

Watch it slip

The thin end works loose and the knot capsizes - proof you need the seized version next.