

Tomfool Knot

The famous double-loop 'handcuff' knot that baffled escape artists - cheeky but secure.

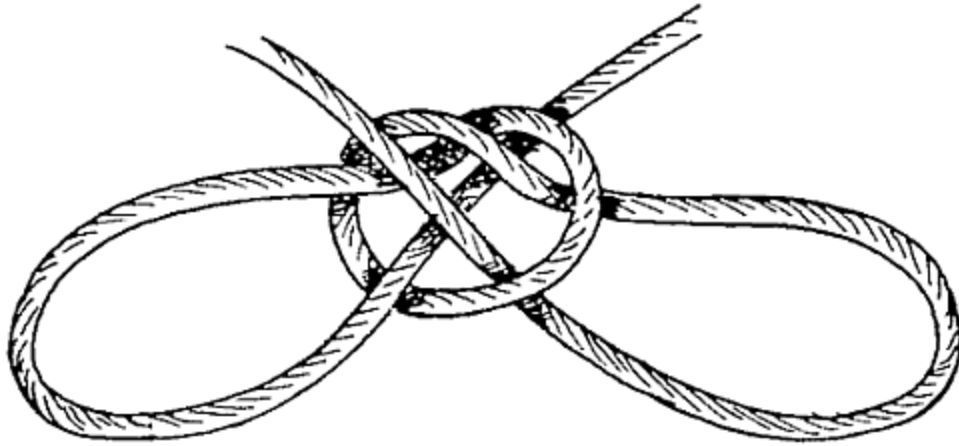


FIG. 66.—Tomfool knot.

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

"A running knot, threaded back - two loops that lock the wrists in their track."

1

Start a running knot

Make a simple loose overhand (running) knot, the same start as the loop knot in Fig. 62.

2

Pass the firm end through

Take the standing end and pass it through the open overhand knot to create a second loop alongside the first.

3

Form the double bow

Adjust until you have two equal loops, side by side like a bow.

4

Lock it down

Slip wrists into the loops, draw them taut, and tie the loose ends firmly around the central part - a secure pair of handcuffs.