

Marlinespike Terminology

Back splice:	Splicing a line (typically 3-strand) back on itself to prevent unraveling. Like the short splice, the back splice has a cross section of 6 strands and may not be able to be pulled through a block.
Belay:	To make fast a rope by tying it around a cleat, belaying pin, bollard, etc. Often used by seamen in the sense of arresting, stopping or canceling; e.g. "Belay the last order".
Bight:	The part of the rope between the end and the standing part. A loop formed by folding the rope back on itself.
Bitter end:	The free end of a line.
Block-Sheave-Tackle:	Sheave ("shiv") is the pulley turning on an axle or pin. Blocks contain or house one or more sheaves and are portable. Tackle is the combination of one or more blocks and lines to lift something or gain mechanical advantage.
Coil or Sea Coil:	Rope made into a neat series of loops or circles, usually for storing. The Sea Coil has the bitter end wound several times around the loops then secured with a loop pushed through the middle of the coil and then brought over the top.
Crossing Turn:	A circle of rope made by crossing the rope over itself.
Eye splice:	Weaving the individual strands at the bitter end of 3-strand rope back into the bight of the rope thereby forming a loop or eye. Double braid eye splicing involves the weaving of the inner core and sheath back into the bight. The Eye Splice is stronger than any knot in forming a loop in a line.
Eye:	A loop made in the end of a rope either by knotting, seizing or splicing.
Faking:	Laying a line on deck in a series figure eights so the line will run free without tangling.
Flaking:	Laying out line on deck in parallel rows. Don't confuse with faking.
Flemish:	To make a Flemish coil by taking the end of a line and laying it in a tight flat spiral on the deck. Used to keep line 'neat' but also safer and allows better drying.
Knot-Hitch-Bend-Splice	Knots are tied in a single line. Hitches are knots used to attach a line to an object. Bends are knots used to tie two lines together. Splices join two lines together with minimal increase in diameter and can typically run through a block.
Line-Rope-Hawser:	A line is rope configured for a specific purpose such as a halyard or sheet. Hawasers are lines 1" in diameter or larger and are typically used for large vessels and ships.
Long splice:	The strand of one line replaces the strand of the other line. The size of line is kept the same however, and it is weaker than the short splice.
Loop:	A circle of rope made by bringing two parts of the rope together without crossing them over each other.
Parceling:	Winding strips of canvas over, and in the same direction as, worming.
Seizing:	Wrapping twine or tape around two lines to bind two parts of line side by side.
Serving:	Winding small line against the lay and over worming and parceling to protect line from chafe and water damage.
Short splice:	The strongest way to connect two lines. This splice has 6 strands in the cross section and is thick and may not run through a block.
Splice:	Weaving strands of a line to itself or to a second piece of line.
Standing part:	The longer part of a line which is fixed during the tying of a knot.
Thimble:	A metal or plastic form inserted in the eye splice to prevent chafe.
Turn:	A loop formed around a post, rail, or the line itself.
Whipping:	Wrapping twine, whipping thread or tape around line to line's end to prevent unraveling.
Worming:	Laying smaller line in the spiral grooves (with the lay) between line strands.