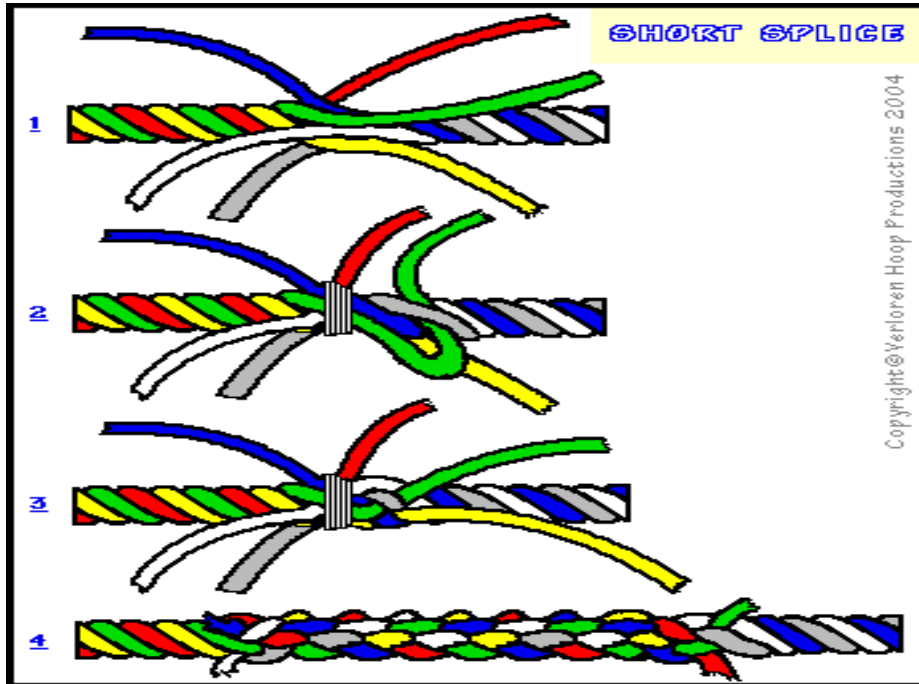


# Rope Splicing (made easy)

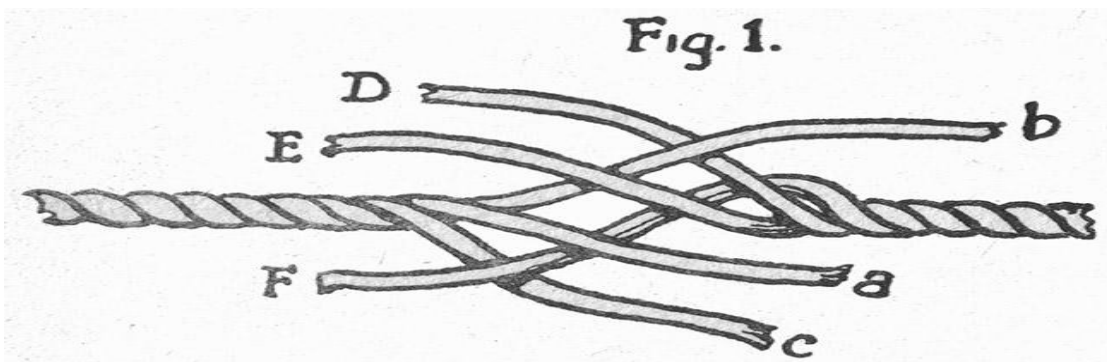
OK. The long and short of splicing is...well...long and short. Those are the two basic splices. The *long splice* is no bigger around than the original rope, but the splice itself is a weak link. On the other hand, the *short splice* preserves 90% of the rope's strength, but it's bulky. Not as bulky as a knot, maybe, but too bulky for some jobs. So the short splice is probably the one that we'll find most useful. Here it is in pictures...



The strands in the sketch are coloured to help keep things straight. Your rope won't be coloured, obviously, though you may want to number or mark the strands, at least at first. Before you start practising, be sure to give yourself enough rope. Three foot lengths are ideal.

## Short Splice Instructions

Unlay (untwist) the ends to be joined, by about six inches. Now “marry” the loosened strands (Fig 1). Before moving on, bind the strands on one side with tape or twine. This holds things together while you work with the free strands on the other side. Also bind the end of each strand ('A' Fig 2).



Starting with any one of these, lift it over its nearest neighbour in the married rope and then tuck it under the next in line, in the direction opposite the rope's natural twist. This is called *working against the lay*.

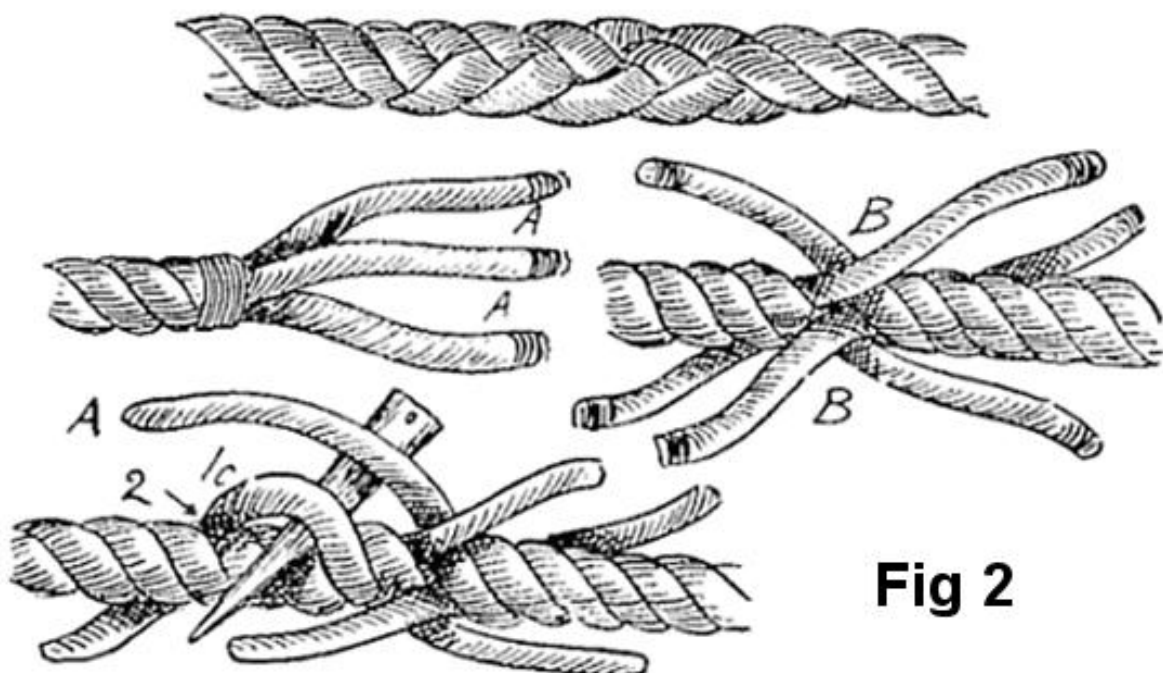
Now tuck the two remaining free strands (as above), turning the ropes as needed. The movements stay the same: lift over and then tuck under, always working against the lay. Don't be surprised if it gets harder as you go. The splice tightens with each tuck. Loosely laid stuff can be opened up with a simple twist of the wrist, but you may need the help of a marlinspike.



When all three free strands have been tucked once, go round and pull them as tight as possible. Turn the splice 180°, undo/cut the binding and tuck each of the newly freed strands (as above) and again pull as tight as possible.

Turn the splice 180° again and repeat, tucking all three strands and pulling as tight as possible. Repeat again. Turn splice 180° once again and repeat tucking, tightening, tucking, tightening. You should now have done a total of three rounds of tucks on both sides. After you've made the last tuck, place the splice on a hard surface and roll it with your foot.

Trim all loose ends and roll once again on a hard surface with your foot.

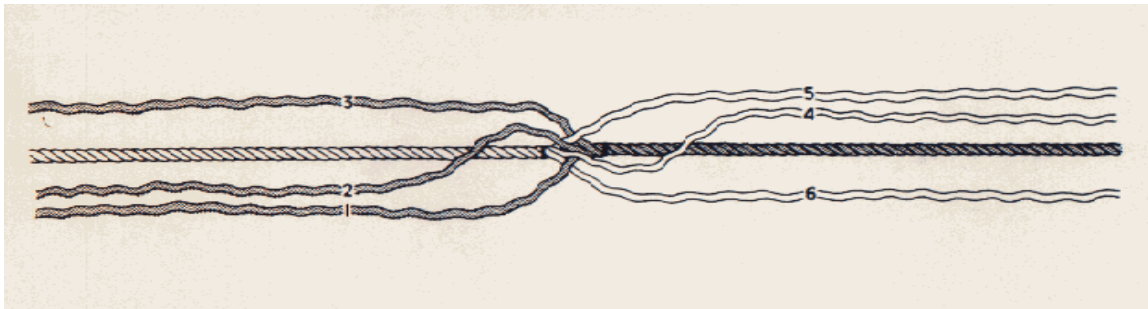


**Fig 2**

# Long Splice Instructions

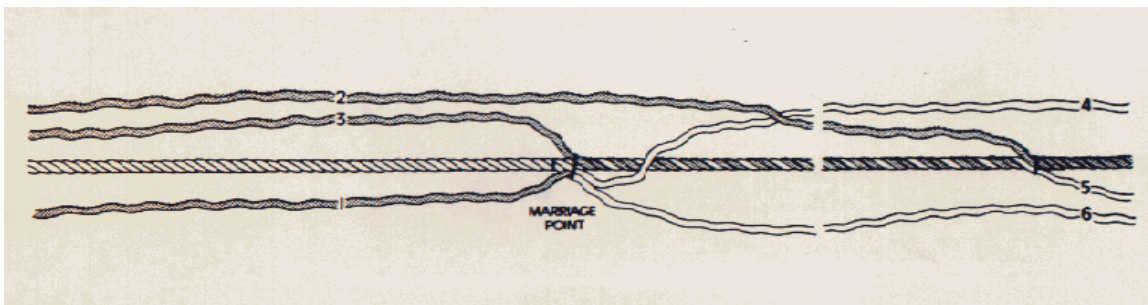
## Step 1

Unlay the end of each rope a minimum of 30 turns for manila, 6 to 10 turns more for nylon. Lash securely with twine as shown to prevent ropes from coming apart further. Place ropes together, alternating the strands from each. Note how strands are numbered to show their relative positions throughout the long splice procedure.



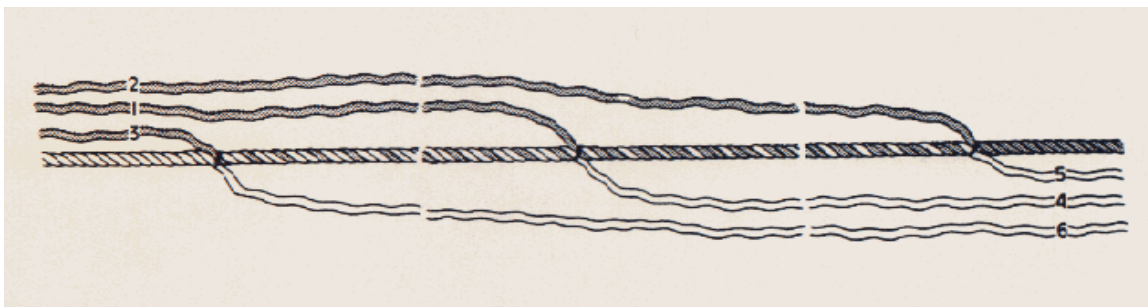
## Step 2

Take lashing off one side. Unlay one strand (2) a minimum of 25 turns and replace it with a strand from the other side (5) as it is being unlaied. Lash securely as shown to hold strands in place. Be sure to place lashing at the "marriage point" to hold strands securely.



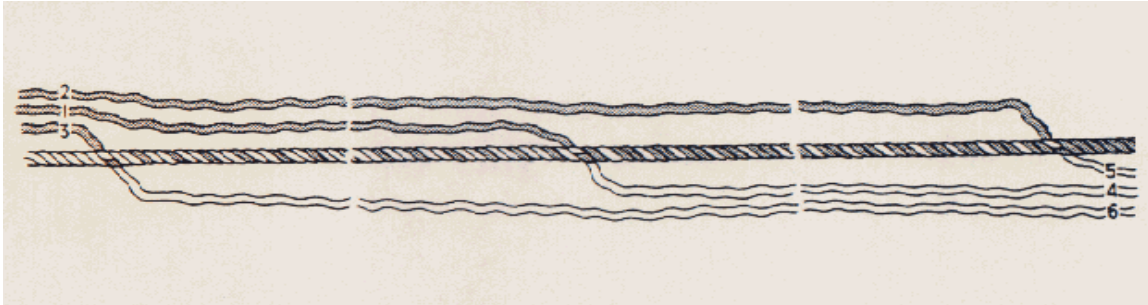
## Step 3

Step 3 is like step 2, except in the opposite direction. One strand (6) is replaced with another (3). Each point is securely lashed. This leaves strands 1 and 4 at the "marriage point."



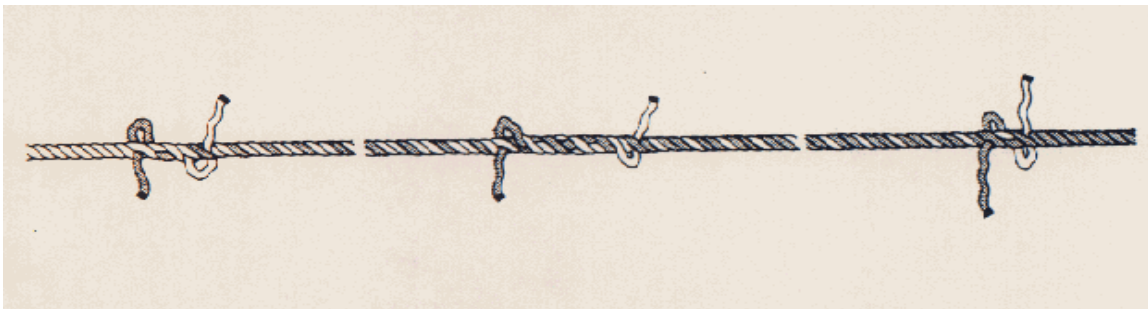
#### Step 4

Remove lashings and tie each pair of opposing strands (2/5, 6/3, 1/4) with an overhand knot. Be sure knot is tied in the direction of strand twist.



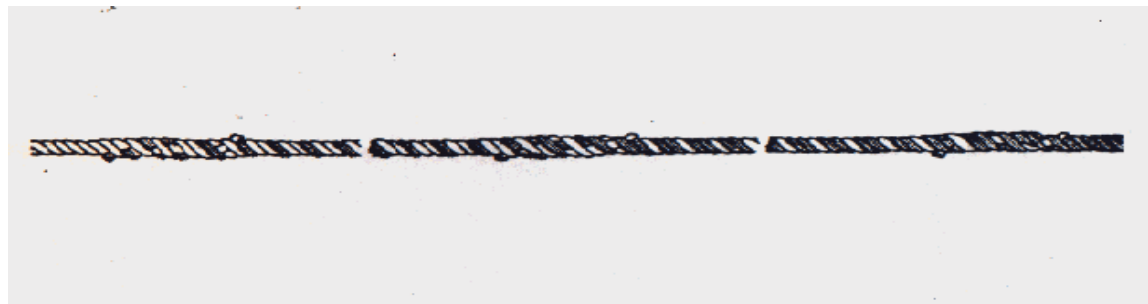
#### Step 5

Tuck each strand 4 times for synthetic fiber ropes, or 3 times for manila. These tucks should be at right angles to the direction of the twist in the rope.



#### Step 6

The splice may be tapered by adding an additional 2/3- and 1/3-strandtuck at each strand junction. Now roll and pound well. Finally cut the strands off close to the rope.



**Well done!**