



Closed & Open Climbing System Terminations

Many climbers have switched to open climbing systems (split-tail) but are holding onto their closed system knots. Termination knots that used to work in the old closed system can fail you with an open system. Recently, there was an accident because a climber tied into an open system with what amounted to an overhand knot (an unsecured half hitch). The climber fell almost 60 feet and lived, luckily.

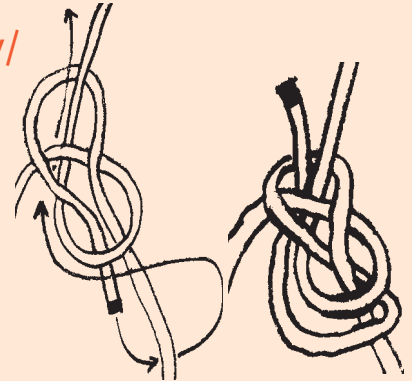
In the closed system, the friction hitch used to be tied with the tail of the climbing line. The tail would first be attached to rope snap or carabiner with a half hitch and then the taut-line or Blake's hitch was tied with the remainder.

In the closed system, the half hitch could not slip and allow the climber to fall.

In an open system, such as the split-tail systems that are being used, a different termination knot is needed. Knots like the anchor bend, buntline hitch or a bowline with a Yosemite lock-off - or a spliced eye - are more acceptable. However, if a half hitch is used with a split-tail system, what you have really tied is an overhand knot (a granny knot).

This knot can fail and cause the climber to fall.

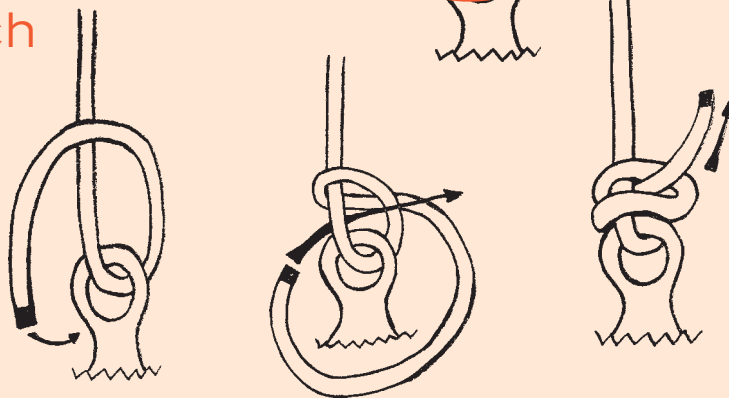
Bowline w/ Yosemite Lock-off



No half hitches!



Buntline Hitch



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