

How to Tie a Bowline Knot

1. Form a small loop, making sure that the running line (the loose end, and the part that moves as you tie the knot) passes over the standing line (the part that will bear the load, and the part that stays still as you tie the knot).



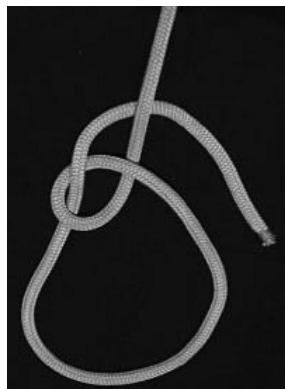
In this picture, the standing disappears off the top of the frame, and the running line is just to the left of the small loop.

The loop you've just made represents "the hole", and the running end is "the rabbit." The standing line is "the tree." It is important to know that the "hole" will become part of the knot, and is NOT the loop of the bowline.

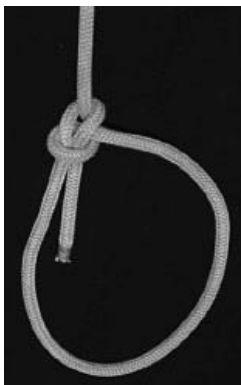
2. The rabbit comes up out of the hole...



3. ... around behind the tree...



4. ... and back through the hole.



5. Hold the tree in one hand and pull on both parts of the rabbit with the other hand. This will close the "hole" and finish the knot. The "body" of the rabbit becomes the loop of the bowline.

The most useful characteristic of the bowline is that (once you've finished tying the knot) the loop will not get bigger or smaller, no matter how much you tug on it.