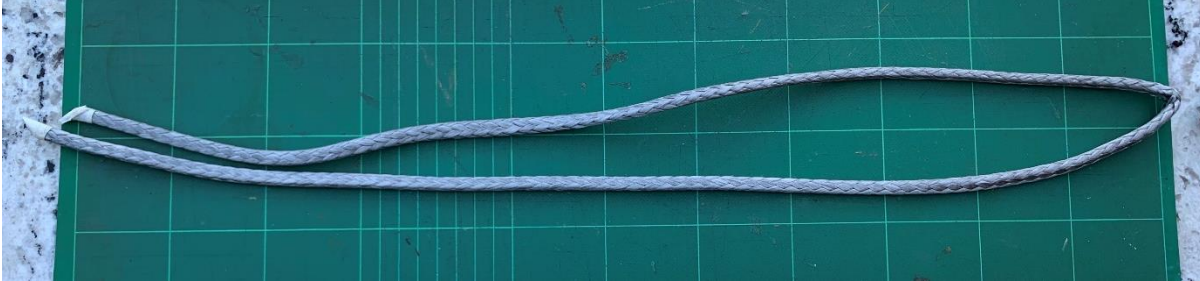


Dyneema soft shackle in 6mm Dyneema.

These instructions are for 6mm Dyneema giving an approximately 8cm diameter splice. Use smaller dimensions for smaller lines or loops and vice versa.

Measure out about 125cm of dyneema and mark the middle, more will make the button knot tying easier but can be wasteful. It is worth trying out the button knot on an offcut of rope until you feel confident. There is another style which uses a diamond knot which is easier to tie for beginners. When complete it will appear boatwork page.



Use a fid to make a hole through the dyneema near the mid mark. Ensure that there are equal numbers of strands on each side of the hole. Pass the longer end through the hole to make a loop. The loop should be just big enough to hold three or four pieces of the dyneema. Measure 25cm and tape the two parts together.



The Button knot

Most of the steps should be followed as shown in the pictures. Make a wall knot by passing the right cord over the top to form a loop.

Take the left cord, pass it over the top of the first cord, behind everything and up through the first loop.



Now tie the Crown knot, it looks like an overhand knot but this is because we are using only two cords. Note the orientation of the finished cords. Dress (tighten and arrange) the knot until it looks like the example below.



To bulk up the knot we now need to double it up by making the ends follow the existing structure. Take the right cord and pass it down through the left loop and under the left cord, do not tighten it yet.



Take the left cord over first cord as shown above, behind everything and up through the right loop.



To complete tying the knot you will need to pick it up by holding the joint tape between thumb and forefinger. You should have two cords each side and the crown knot in the middle.



Pass the end nearest your finger down through the middle of the crown to the thumb side of the joining tape.



Pass the end near your thumb down through the middle of the crown to the finger side of the joining tape.



The knot is complete and needs to be dressed by tightening all the strands in turn. The tighter you can make it, the stronger the finished soft shackle will be. Use a spike if available. The joining tape can be removed at this stage.



That is the hard bit over! The final step is to bury the ends. Remove the tape at the end of the cords, spread them out and cut a taper.



Using a D splicer, or in this case some doubled up garden wire. Start furthest from the knot pass the wire through the middle of the cord being careful not to catch any strands and out near the knot.



Put the feathered end in the wire and pull it through as far as you can.



Tools:- Fid, Dyneema scissors or ceramic knife or Stanley knife. Wire loop puller. Spike

Milk the cover back and the end will disappear leaving a tapered finish. Repeat for the other side of the splice.



The finished soft shackle.



Notes

Cutting dyneema will blunt scissors and knives very quickly. It is recommended that scissors designed for the purpose are used if possible. I invested in the d-splicer scissors which are expensive but make all types of splicing easier.

If the two legs are not quite equal, they will often settle out in use.

Tools:- Fid, Dyneema scissors or ceramic knife or Stanley knife. Wire loop puller. Spike