

# AQHA *eBooks*



How to  
Make a  
Rope  
Halter

Rope halters are a time-honored tradition for many horsemen. Practical and inexpensive, rope halters are perfect for throwing in the truck for emergencies or keeping under a bridle while on a trail ride. Best of all, though, is that the halters are easy to make.

Robyn Doloughan and Alex Devilbiss of Columbia Basin Knot Co. offer these tips on how to make your own knotted rope halter.

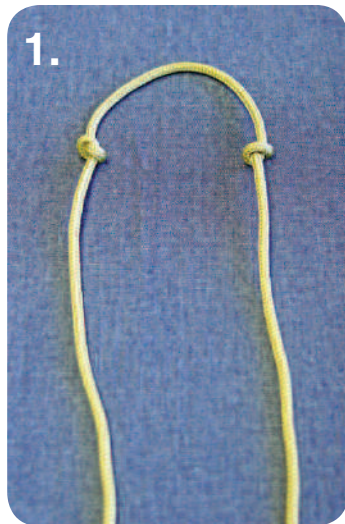
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# To Start

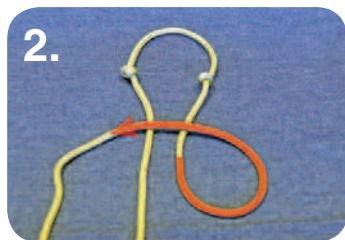
**1.** When tying halters for the first time, use 22 to 25 feet of rope. Once you become proficient, you can make a halter with about 20 feet of rope. Take your piece of rope and fold it in half. At the center point, tie a simple overhand knot. Snug the knot up. Then to the left of the knot, tie another simple



overhand knot. Now you have two simple overhand knots. The knots should be 11 inches from the middle of one knot to the middle of the other knot. Adjust the knots until they are 11 inches apart, and tighten them up. Then take the rope and fold it with the two overhand knots together.

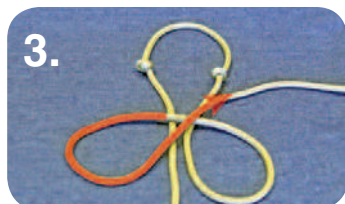
## Fiador Knot

**2.** Now tie the fiador knot. A large overhand knot can be substituted for this knot. See the box on Page 3 to learn how to substitute the fiador knot.



For the fiador knot, take the right side of the rope and loop over both strands.

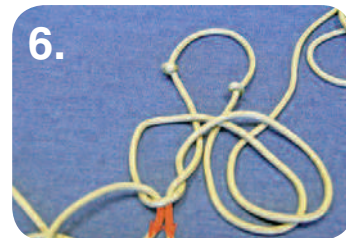
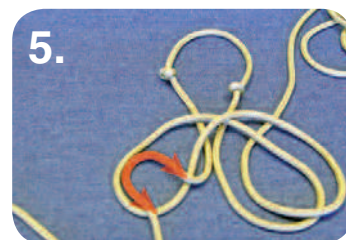
**3.** Take the same strand and cross it up and over, creating a second loop opposite of the first.



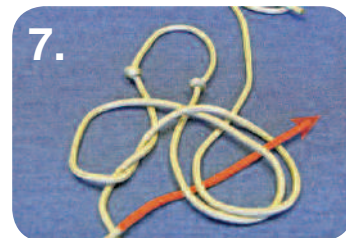
**4.** Anchor the rope with a finger, take the same strand of rope, and make another loop over the first loop and then under the first loop. Pull the rope all the way through and straighten out what you have just done. Now you are done with that piece of rope on the right-hand side.



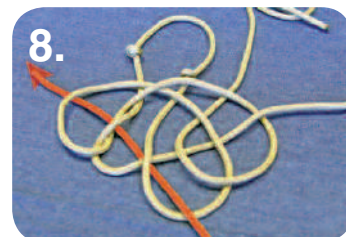
**5. & 6.** Moving to the left-hand side, anchor your knot and take the left strand of rope and put it over the left loop and then pull it all the way through the loop. Straighten out the loop.



**7.** Working still with the left piece of rope, take the end and put it under the right loop and the second right loop (three strands) and then pull it over the fourth strand of the loop.

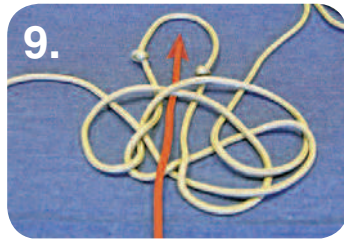


**8.** Working with the same piece of rope, loop it around, take the end and go over, under and under the two sections that cross and then split

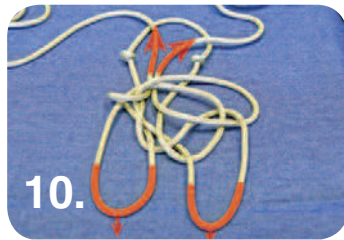


the bottom two – over the first one and under the second one – and finally under the last piece. Hold the knot to anchor it while you pull the rope through.

**9.** Then take the end of the same strand and go through the center under the two pieces of rope at the top of the loop. Pull it to tighten it but not too tight just yet.

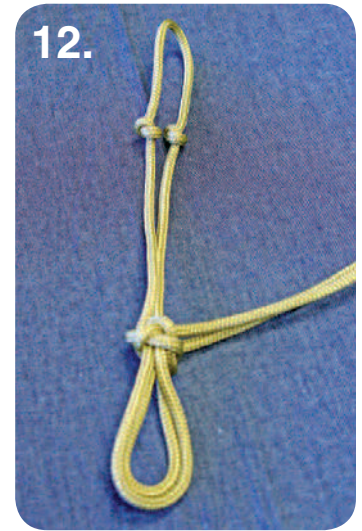


**10 & 11.** Then take the top strands of rope and put them together. Take the outside bottom loops and fold them together. Pull up on the top strands and down on the bottom loops. Gently adjust it. At this point, the loops on the bottom will probably not be even.



That is OK. Continue to pull up on the strands to tighten them. The two overhand knots also might be uneven to the fiador knot. What you will do is measure from the center of the fiador knot and the overhand knot. You want your measurement to be about 7 inches from the middle of one to the middle of the other. To get the loops to the correct length, push down on a piece of the rope to figure out where it is coming from. Then take the extra rope from the loop and pull it up. Adjust the knot. Measure again to make sure the overhand knots are 7 inches from the fiador knot. Now adjust the loops to be about 2 1/2 inches long. Push one of the pieces of rope into the fiador knot to figure out which it goes to then adjust the loop knot by pulling the loop rope back through. Then take the other loop, push it back into the fiador knot to see which it goes to and adjust the loop. Pull the access rope through the fiador knot and to the end of the rope. Pull and tighten the fiador knot.

**12.** Remember, the distance between the overhand knot and the fiador knot is about 7 inches. The loop knot is 2 1/2 inches long. Position the halter with the overhand knots on top and the fiador knot on the bottom with the strands of rope stretched out to the right.



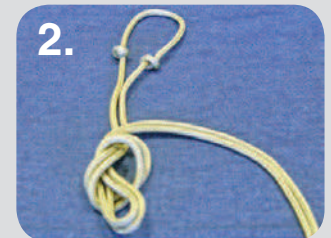
## ALTERNATE KNOT

**1.** Those who do not wish to attempt the fiador knot use the big overhand knot instead. Fold

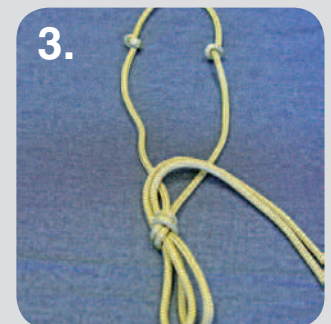


the rope up together, and then take the pieces together and cross them over.

**2.** Pull the loop down and through. This is like tying your shoe.

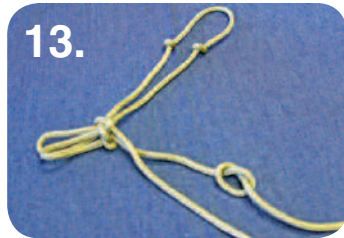


**3.** Then pull the knot tight. This is a quick replacement for the fiador knot.

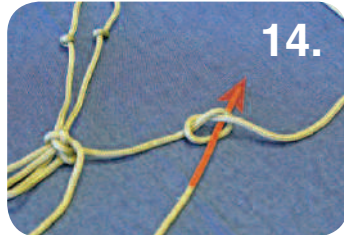


# Throat-Latch Knot

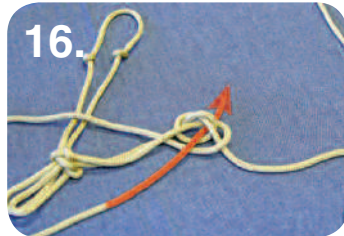
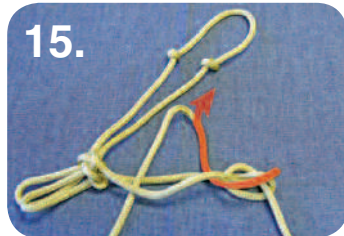
**13.** You will now put in a double overhand knot. Take the piece of rope that is furthest from you and tie a simple overhand knot. Tighten it.



**14.** Then take the other piece of rope and put the end through the center of the overhand knot.



**15 & 16.** Go up and over and back under the piece of rope you are working with, pull the rope out to the end and then through the loop right through the center of the knot. Pull the strands to tighten the knot.

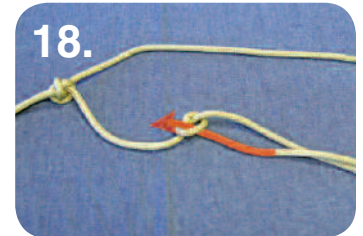


**17.** It should be 6 1/2 to 7 inches between the fiador knot to the double overhand knot. To loosen the knot, push the knot from both sides. Then move the knot up or down the length of the rope until it is the right distance from the fiador knot.

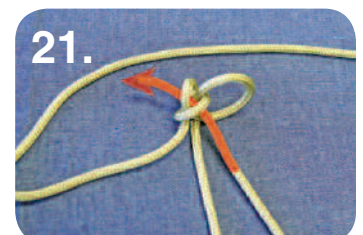
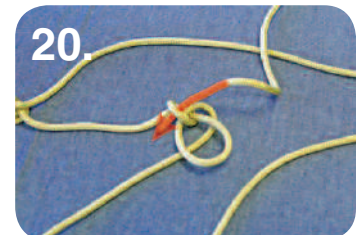


# Tie Loop

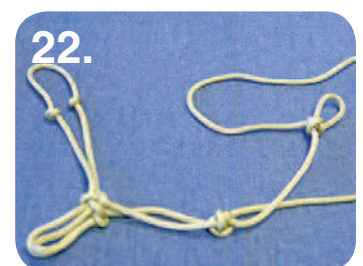
**18.** Now work with the piece of rope that is closest to you. Take the rope and tie a simple overhand knot. Between these two knots the measurement should be about 9 1/2 inches to 10 inches in length. Now you will tie a loop knot. Take the end of the piece of rope you are working with and put it through the center of your overhand knot. You will do a double overhand knot but you will leave a loop on the end. Pull the rope through until there is a loop that measures about two inches.



**19-21.** Take the same strand of rope, go up and over the overhand knot, bring it under the knot and then take the end of the rope and put it through the center of the loop and through the knot. Tighten the knot by pulling on the loop and the end.

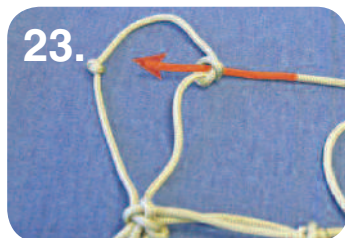


**22.** Check the measurements again. It should be 9 1/2 to 10 inches from the middle of one knot to the other.



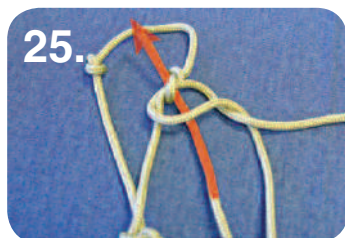
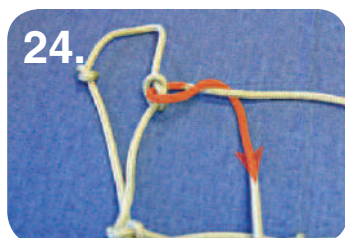
# Left Check Piece

**23.** Now you will work on the cheek piece, which should measure 11 inches from the loop knot to the noseband knot. Take the noseband

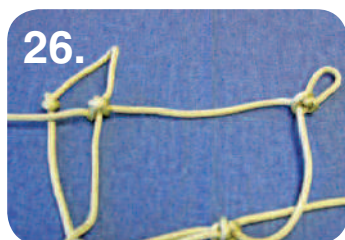


knot that is closest to you and loosen it. Take the piece of rope and slide it through the middle of the knot. Here you will be making another double overhand knot. Take the time to adjust the halter as you go along.

**24 & 25.** Cross the rope over and go under the cheek piece. Take the end and go through the loop and through the middle of the knot. Pull it and tighten the knot, sliding up and down in order to tighten it. Recheck your measurements. To adjust, loosen the knot and pull it tight.

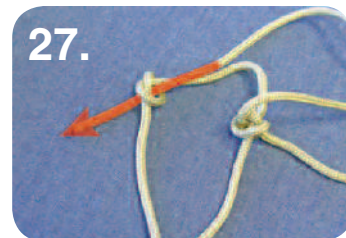


**26.** To straighten the halter, pull up on the noseband section and down on the fiador knot, making sure the knots are even.

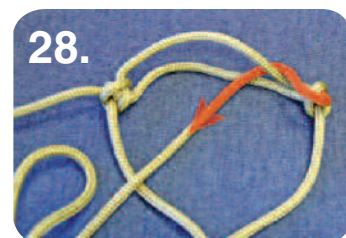


# Nose Band

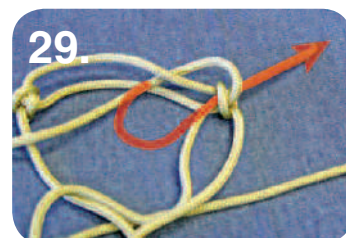
**27.** Now work on the noseband. Take the piece of rope and put the end through the center of the other simple overhand knot, making another double overhand knot.



**28.** Pull the rope through the center and go over the top. Take the piece of rope and go under and pull it through all of the access.

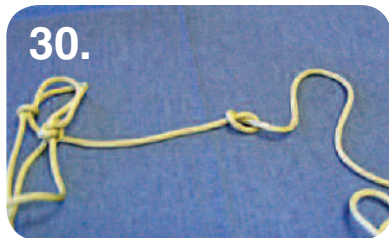


**29.** Then take the end, go through the loop you just created and through the center of your first simple overhand knot. Tighten the knot. Pull on the fiador knot and up on the noseband piece and make sure the knots are even.

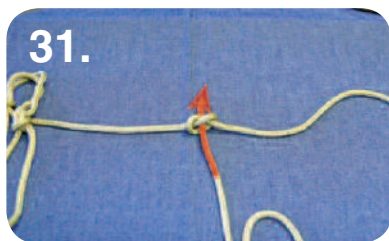


# Right Cheek Piece

**30.** Now you will work on the other cheek piece. It should also be about 11 inches in length. Take the strand of rope you have been working with and tie a simple overhand knot.

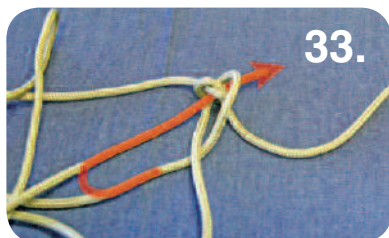
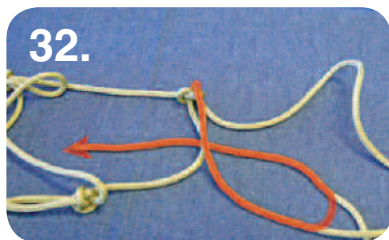


**31.** Now take the other piece of rope that was left to the side. Take it up and through the center of your overhand knot.



The cheek piece will measure 11 inches while the lower throatlatch piece should measure between 9 1/2 to 10 inches, the same length as the other.

**32 & 33.** Take the piece of rope that you just put through the center of the overhand knot and go up and over and then go underneath through the loop you just created and through the center of the simple overhand



knot. Then pull the end and tighten the knot by pulling on

the strands that lead into and out of the knot. Check your measurements again. Make any adjustments necessary.

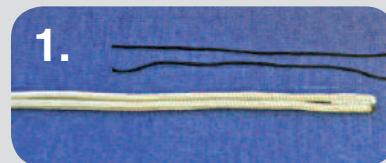
**34.** On the poll strap, measure both strands to 27 inches. Cut any excess off with a soldering iron or rope-cutting gun.



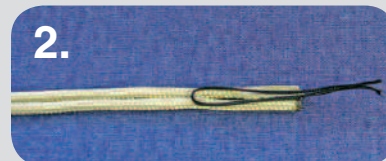
Do this in a well-ventilated place. Now you have completed your first horse rope halter. Remember, the first time you attempt to make a halter, you may spend a few hours tying and untying the knots and studying the instructions. Don't get discouraged if you make mistakes or have to start over from the beginning. Eventually, each rope halter you make will be a little bit easier until you're able to whip one out in about 10 minutes.

# CUTTING AND WHIPPING

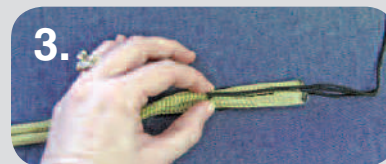
**1.** Take a soldering iron or rope-cutting gun, aim between the two sections of rope and melt them together. Do this in a well-ventilated place.



**2.** Take a small piece of parachute-type cord and make a loop at the end of the rope.



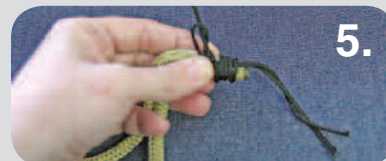
**3.** Then take a second piece of cord, place one side of it on the other side of the two pieces.



**4.** Wrap the other end of the cord around the end of your halter with five or six loops.



**5 & 6.** Take the cord and put it through the first loop you created. Then pull the end and the extra cord out.



**7.** Cut the cord and burn the end. Make sure you are in a well-ventilated area when burning the rope.

