

The Buddy Rope

(Modern variation of the Commando Rope)

The commando rope, or toggle rope as it is sometimes called, came into prominence in World War II with Commandos who often in the course of duty had to scale walls, climb cliffs, and cross ravines. Instead of carrying long, bulky ropes, each Commando had a 10-foot length of 1/2 inch rope with an eye-splice in one end and a toggle in the other, secured with an eye-splice. The open eye splice was just large enough to allow the toggle to fit through and be held firmly. The Commandos carried these ropes over their shoulder or around their waist. To make a long rope, several toggle ropes were simply interlocked.



The updated Buddy Rope serves the same purpose as the commando rope except today we tie an eye-splice on both ends, a thimble is placed in one eye-splice and a heavy-duty locking carabineer is used in place of the toggle. The Buddy Rope is still used to scale walls, climb cliffs, cross ravines or rivers and probably more often it is used to tie your backpack to a tree to keep it off the ground or to hang a bear-bag while backpacking in the backcountry.



Thimble

Carabiner



Troop 116's Buddy Rope



Materials:
1/2" Manila rope – 12ft.
1/2" metal thimble
Twine
Carabeener – 250lb. load

Step 1

(For **eye-splice**) Count back and unlay 5 rounds of the lay of the rope.



Fan the unlayed end of the rope and place it over the standing part of the rope.

The strand to the inside of the eye (purple) must look like it is coming out from under the other two strands and the other two strands must be fanned in such a way that they do not cross each other.



Step 2

While holding the inside strand in place, stick the middle strand (red) under one of the strands of the standing end of the rope..



Step 3

Pass the inside strand (purple) over the standing end strand and stick it under the next standing end strand. **[NOTE]** The inside strand (purple) goes in where the first strand came out.



Step 4

Turn the splice over.

Stick the third strand under the remaining strand of the standing end.

[NOTE] The third strand is stuck in where the second strand came out and comes out where the first strand went in. **[NOTE]** When the third strand is stuck it appears to go backward but when it is examined closely you will see that it is stuck in the same direction as the other two strands.



Step 5

Complete the splice by working the strands snug and adding 3 to 5 rounds of tucks.

You can use some twine or small rope to whip the ends of the eye-splice to keep them nice and neat.



[NOTE] When the strands are folded back over the eye, you will notice that there is one strand going in and one strand coming out between each of the strands of the standing end.

Step 6

Once you have carved your thimble you can begin making the eye-splice on the other end of your Buddy Rope. Do so by making your eye-splice around your thimble.

Whip the area directly below the thimble to prevent it

TRY THIS;
Using a 3/4 inch thick piece of hardwood that is cut to 2 1/2" x 2"
Whittle this hardwood into a thimble.
Finish the thimble by sanding and then applying several coats of weather proof stain.

