

Anyone Can Splice

SO MUCH has been written on the subject of splicing in recent years that to toss in my ha'penny's worth might seem to be useless repetition. My only defense is that newcomers who want to learn are constantly being added to the ranks of yachtsmen, and their inquiries seem to justify this effort.

For the sake of clarity the following instructions are numbered to correspond with the illustrations. So we will start with Diagram 1. Take a length of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch manila rope and clap a seizing on about 6 inches from the end. This will be known as the working end. Unlay the three strands to the seizing and whip the end of each strand. These strands are labeled A, B and C. Note that B is the uppermost strand. Now grasp the rope as shown and twist it so the strands are opened up a bit. You now have three strands exposed which are labeled *a*, *b* and *c*. It is here that the first tucks are made, and since all beginners seem to go wrong right at the start you should stop at this point and study the procedure. A, B and C are the left hand, the center and the right hand strands of the working end. *a*, *b* and *c* are the left hand, center and right hand strands of the standing part of the rope. Strand A is tucked under strand *a*, B under *b*, and C under *c*. Just remember how the strands are paired up, left under left, center under center, and right under right.

Diagram 2 shows the first tuck. Center strand B is tucked under center strand *b*, across the standing part of the rope to the left. Re-

member here that you always tuck the center strand first.

Diagram 3 shows the second tuck. Left hand strand A is tucked under left hand strand *a*. Notice that it passes over center strand *b*. You are now ready to tuck strand C, but in order to do so it is necessary to turn the whole works over as shown in Diagram 4. Right hand strand *c* is now easy to get at. Strand C, although it now appears on the left side, is still the right hand strand as in Diagram 1.

Diagram 5. Strand C is now passed around to the right of and tucked under strand *c* to the left. Note that all tucks are made against the lay of the rope, or to the left. Your first row of tucks has now been made and if you have mastered the sequence the worst part is over. Before you go any further you should take out the tucks and try to do it again without looking at the diagrams. Draw all three strands up until they lie snugly, each having equal tension.

Diagram 6 shows the second row of tucks started, with strand B passed over strand *a* and tucked under the next strand to the left. Continue by tucking strands A and C over one and under one to the left. All three strands will now have been tucked twice. Tuck each strand once more in turn and the splice is completed.

Diagram 7. Your finished splice should look like this. Do not cut the strands off too close. Leave at least $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch protruding. Notice that all three strands have been

tucked three times, and all emerge opposite one another. Lay the splice on the floor and roll it back and forth under your foot. This will even up the strands a bit and make the splice symmetrical.

These drawings and directions are as clear and simple as I know how to make them. They are directed to the beginner, and for that reason I have not mentioned the finer points such as tapering, etc. In splicing, as in everything else, practice makes perfect and in the doing you will learn more than from reading any ten books on rope work.



