

PRACTICAL MARLINGSPIKE SEAMANSHIP

3446. *Palm-and-needle whipping*, or *sailmaker's whipping*, is the most satisfactory of all. Two of them, a short distance apart, are put in the ends of every reef point, where the constant "whipping" against the sail makes the wear excessive; this is said to be the source of the name *whipping*. Where the whipping is a short one, the needle is thrust through one strand from one side of the whipping diagonally to the other as shown. To start: Wax a double thread and stitch twice through a strand to secure the end. After the correct number of turns is taken, the thread is wormed back to the left side, and then thrust as pictured and wormed again in the same way as before. The worming having been followed twice, the end is trimmed close, after a final diagonal stitch.

3447. A *second method for palm-and-needle whipping* is employed when the width of the whipping is too wide to be crossed with a single diagonal thrust of the needle. In this case the needle is thrust straight through a strand at one side of the turns and then is wormed to the other side of the whipping, where it is thrust through another strand. Then it is wormed back again to the first side. The needle is thrust either three or six times, to make the worming either single or double.

3448. The British Admiralty *Manual of Seamanship* gives a very ingenious way of whipping that superficially resembles palm-and-needle whipping. An ordinary three-strand rope is *opened* for one and one half to two inches, after first stopping the end of each strand. A waxed twine is middled and a loose loop laid around one strand, then both ends are brought out at the opposite cuntline. The rope end is carefully laid up again and stopped. The loop and the working end having been left long, with the working end make the required number of turns and put the loop that was left at the bottom over the top of the strand that it encircles. The standing end is now pulled taut, which draws up the loop and tightens the worming. The standing end is next wormed to the top and reef knotted to the working end, between the strands, where it does not show.

3449. In a similar way a whipping may be put on a four-strand rope. Open the rope for a couple of inches and with a waxed thread make a figure eight between the strands as pictured. The two loops are left well open. Turn both loops down and the *standing end up*. With the working end put on turns around the rope and the standing end, which has been led to the top. Worm the two loops to the top and put each over the end of the proper strand. With a pricker pull on the standing end and tighten both loops. Finally bring the two ends across the top between the proper strands and reef knot them together. The objection to these two whippings is that the lay is disturbed and the end of the rope tends to "blossom."

3450. *French whipping* is merely a series of HALF HITCHES. Start with a RUNNING EYE and finish up with the end tucked back under the last few hitches. The ridge of the hitches should follow the lay of the rope.

3451. *Crown whipping*. Knot or side splice a piece of marline or fishline to the center of another piece that is twice as long. Place it in the center of the rope and, with ends protruding at different cuntlines, crown them continuously to the right, pulling all tight at each operation. When the length is sufficient tuck each end back under the last two or three crowns, using a needle for the task.

