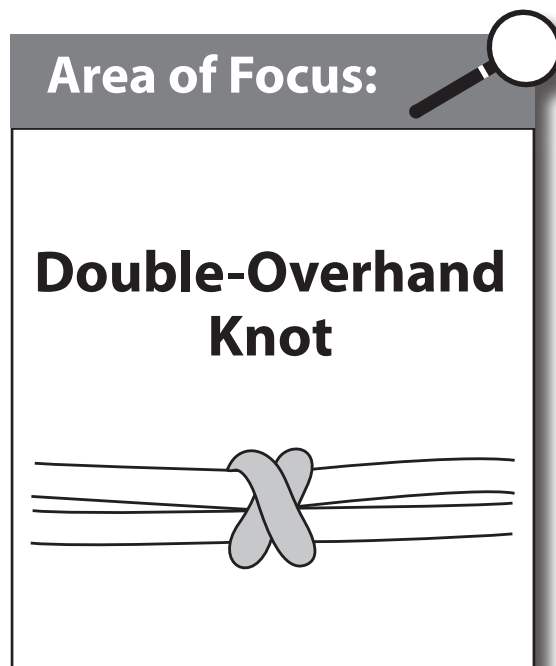


Unit 6

Practicing the Double-Overhand Knot

The Double-Overhand Knot is the X-shaped knot that forms when one Overhand Knot is tied into another. The basic rope halter being tied in this book has five of these intertwined knots. They are identified (on page 19) as the Left Noseband Knot, Right Noseband Knot, Throat Knot, Right Crown Knot, and Crown Loop Knot.

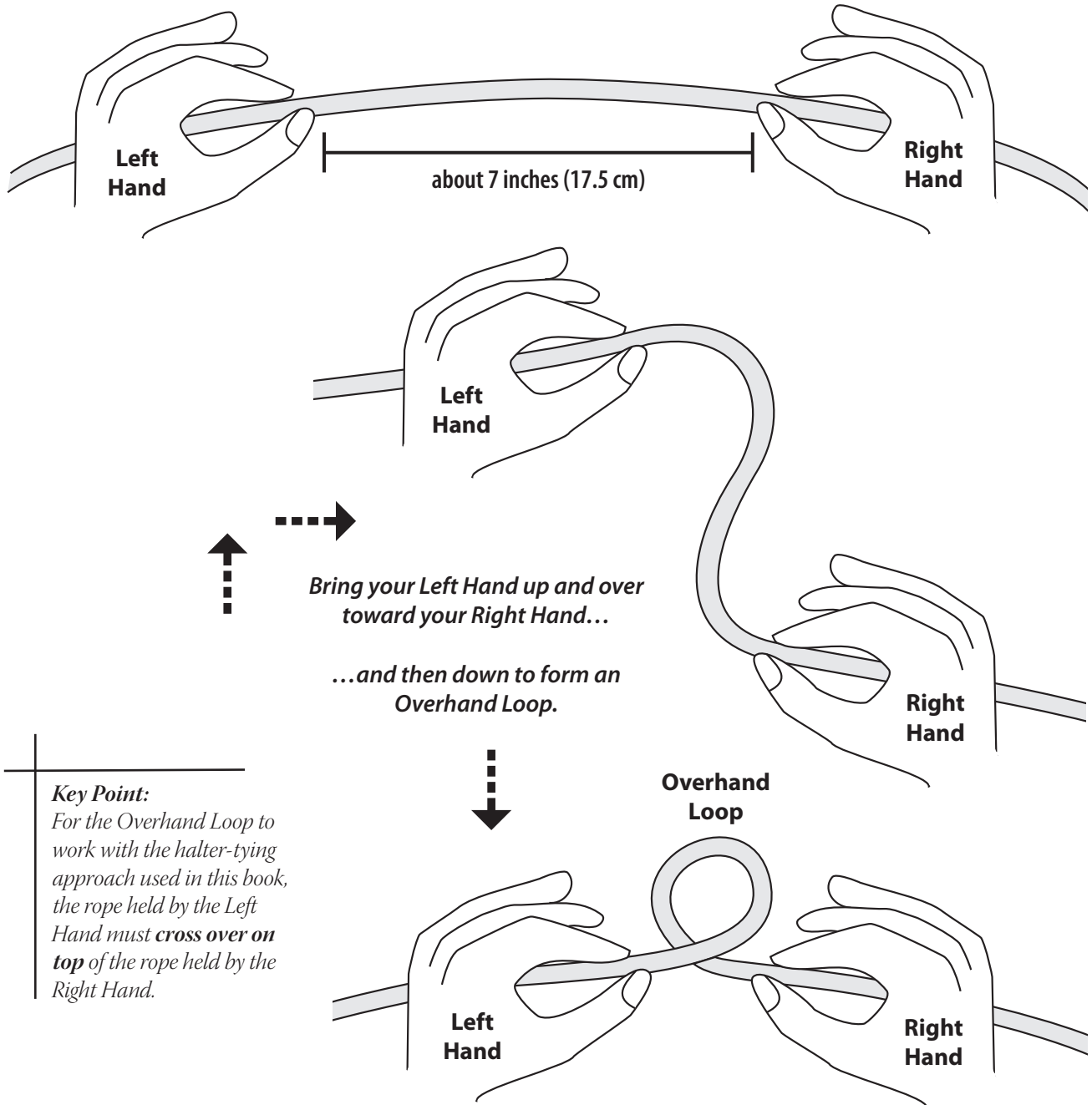
As you follow along and tie the Double-Overhand knot, you'll become familiar with how this knot is constructed. The length of rope you'll be tying your halter from can be used for this knot-tying practice session. (In the future, the handy guide inside the book's back cover offers a quick knot-refresher reference.)



Forming an Overhand Loop...Correctly

crossing over on top of the rope held by the Right Hand.

- Central to the halter-tying approach used in this book is an Overhand Loop that has the rope held by the Left Hand
- This Overhand Loop forms the base on which the First Overhand Knot, as illustrated on the next page, is then tied.



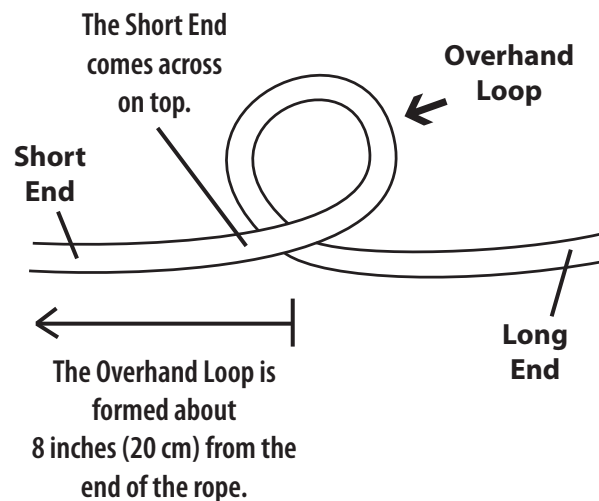
Key Point:
 For the Overhand Loop to work with the halter-tying approach used in this book, the rope held by the Left Hand must **cross over on top** of the rope held by the Right Hand.

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Double-Overhand Knot

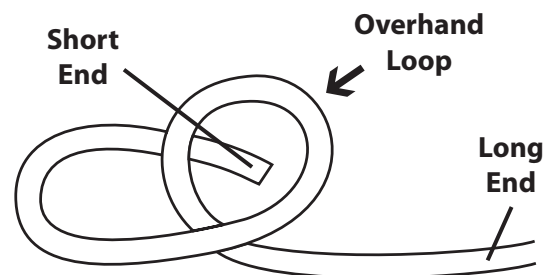
Step 1

- Select one end of the rope. This end will be called the Short End. The other end will be referred to as the Long End.
- About 8 inches (20 cm) from the end of the Short End, form an Overhand Loop that's roughly 2 inch (5 cm) across.
- This loop sets the foundation for the First Overhand Knot. The Short End must come across on top of the Long End, otherwise your knot will end up backwards from what's needed to work with this book's halter-tying instructions.



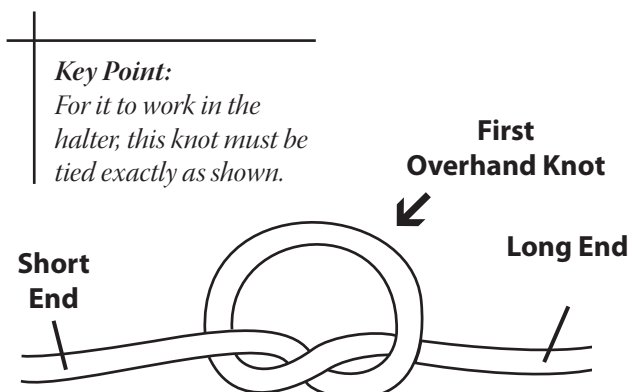
Step 2

- Because it's shorter and easier to handle, bring the Short End up from **behind** and poke it through the Overhand Loop. (**Note:** From the **front**, the Long End may be poked through instead, but the longer rope is not as easy to work with.)



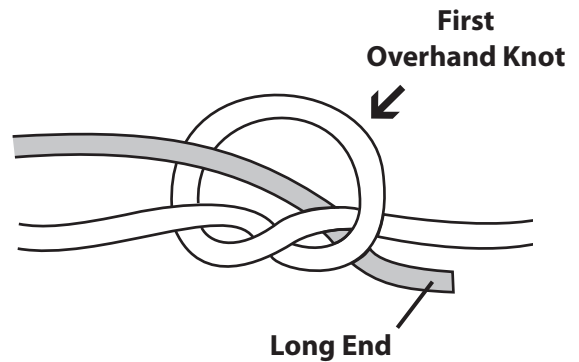
Step 3

- Bring the Short End on through the loop to complete the First Overhand Knot.
- So you'll be able to tie back into them to form the Double-Overhand Knots when tying a halter, all First Overhand Knots **must be configured exactly as shown.**



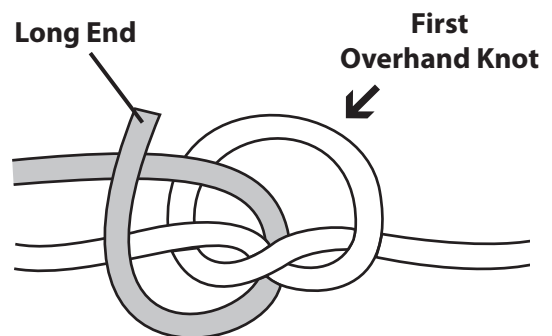
Step 4

- Take the very end of the Long End and thread about 10 inches (25 cm) of rope through the center of the First Overhand Knot.



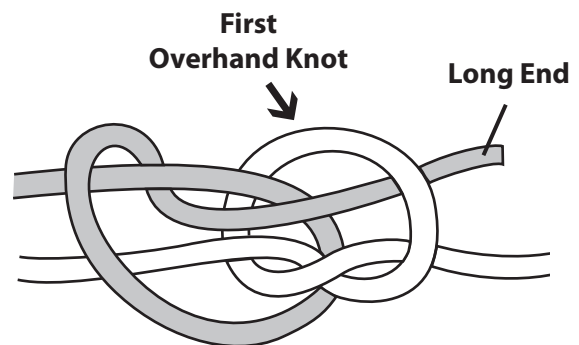
Step 5

- Bring the Long End down behind the crossed portion of the First Overhand Knot and up over itself. (Notice that you've just formed an Overhand Loop.)



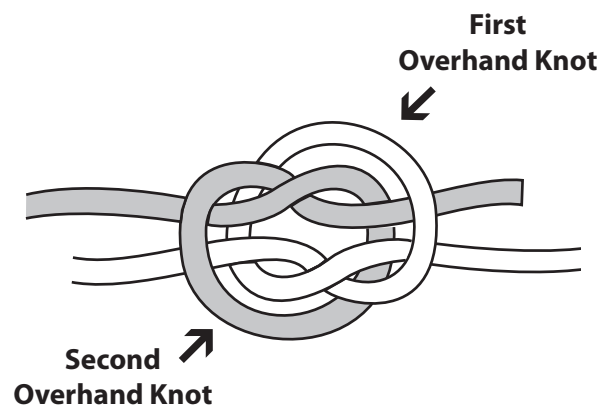
Step 6

- Bring the Long End on around itself and exit out through the First Overhand Knot. (You've now formed the Second Overhand Knot.)



Step 7

- Position the two Overhand Knots so their crossed sections line up across from each other.



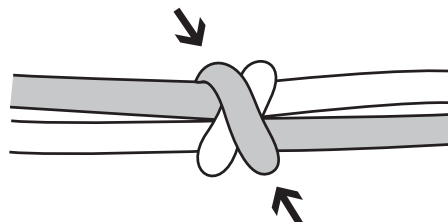
Step 8

✓ **Correct** - As you work the slack out of the two entwined Overhand Knots, they form the Double-Overhand Knot shown.

- **Check the knot by viewing it in its horizontal position—with the ropes going out to each side.** In this position, the “X” on the knot always crosses from the upper left down to the lower right.

✓ **Correct!**

This is correct.



Key Point:
The “X” is checked with the knot in this horizontal position—and the ropes going out to each side.

SPECIAL NOTE:

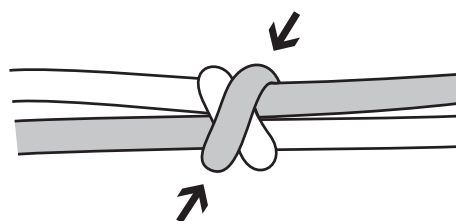
✗ **Wrong** - If your finished Double-Overhand Knot ends up with an “X” that crosses the knot from the upper right to the lower left, the knot has been tied incorrectly.

- Tie the Double-Overhand Knot again. Pay close attention to how the Overhand Loop is formed in Step 1—that loop’s structure dictates the “X’s” structure.

✗ **Wrong!**

Key Point:
The “X” is checked with the knot in this horizontal position—and the ropes going out to each side.

This is wrong.



Why Focus on the “X”?

As you tie a halter using the approach presented in this book, you’ll be tying back into each First Overhand Knot in a left-to-right direction to form the Double-Overhand Knots. But this will be possible only if each Overhand Loop has been correctly configured to the “standard” introduced on page 23.

When the “X” is checked—with *the knot in its horizontal position*—the upper-left-to-lower-right “X” is an effective check. It indicates that the Double-Overhand Knots will work with the halter-tying instructions presented in the pages ahead.