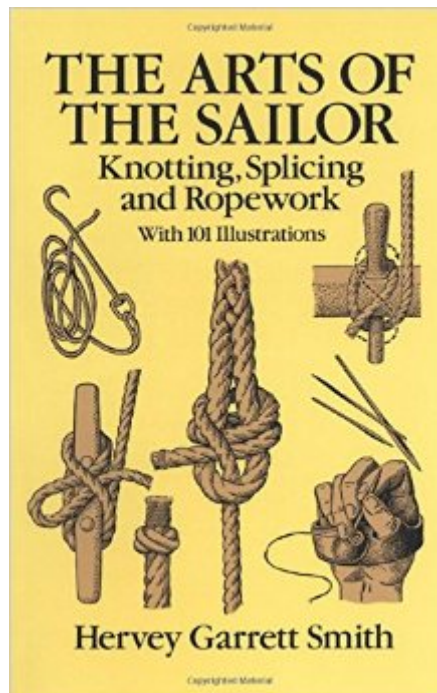


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# The Arts Of The Sailor: Knotting, Splicing And Ropework (Dover Maritime)



## Synopsis

Over 150 years ago, the skills needed to operate a merchant sailing vessel were many and varied. While not nearly as much in demand today as they were in the days of the Yankee clippers, these skills nevertheless remain important and necessary to today's yachtsmen and owners of smaller pleasure boats. In this excellent handbook on basic shipboard skills, marine expert Hervey Garrett Smith offers boating and yachting enthusiasts a complete course in rigging, working, and maintaining a ship. More than 100 illustrations help the reader grasp the fundamentals and fine points of handling a ship while the author describes in detail a sailor's tools, basic knots, and useful hitches as well as the arts of splicing, handsewing, and canvas work. Other topics equally important to safe, economical, and efficient boat maintenance and management include belaying, coiling, and stowing; towing procedures; how to make a chafing gear; and much more. Easy-to-follow instructions for fashioning decorative knots, ornamental coverings, and nettings, and even how to make a proper bucket round out this engaging and informative guide. Packed with useful "hands-on" information conveyed in a chatty, humorous style, *The Arts of the Sailor* is the perfect book to keep aboard ship for study and for ready reference when the need arises. It also makes delightful reading for armchair sailors and the legions of landlubbers with an interest in the sea.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There dozens and scores of books that will illustrate how to tie knots and wield the marlinspike in a

seamanlike manner, so why read one that was written nearly 60 years ago? The technology of rope has advanced with everything else, so too has the technology of yachting. It would be odd if a guide to nautical ropework wouldn't also need a little updating. Perhaps so, but it is not only for the techniques that "The Arts of the Sailor" is worth reading, it is for the author. A dab hand aloft and aloft, Hervey Garrett Smith could dab equally well in pen and ink, and his illustrations are marvelous. But so is his narrative. Written in the era before today's political correctness and social taboos, Smith could write, midway through describing the painstaking construction of rope-strapped blocks, "Right about now you should be ready for a drink or a smoke, or both." But then he assures us that after completing the first block the worst is behind us, for, "it is somewhat like having babies, or opening a bottle of olives--after you get the first the rest come easy." Mothers may want to debate this, and I've never cared enough for olives to try more than one, but by today's standards there's something rebellious in this sort of writing, and this adds to its appeal. Smith's bon-mots are scattered throughout the book, and one could easily leave off trying to learn knot-tying and just enjoy reading. Describing his preference for fixed-blade knives over folding blades, for example, Smith notes that the sheath for the knife (and, naturally, its accompanying marlin spike) is worn over the "starboard buttock," where it "at first feels rather awkward, but like the wearing of false teeth, you soon get used to it.

First off let me say, I've had this awhile, so I've had time to thoroughly read it, use it and enjoy it. I first had Mr. Hervey Garrett-Smith's other book the Marlinspike Sailor which is larger but thinner and has some similar things, and some different things, so it really is a good idea to get both. I wrote a review on the Marlinspike Sailor and then realized I had not told about my experience with this one (though I doubt I can outdo some of the highest rated reviews.) Well this book, though chock full of great illustrations, has a lot of text too. Whereas Marlinspike Sailor is more like individual specific projects, this book is like that but in overall context sometimes and he will put in where he thinks something fits. It is a good read and very insightful. Whimsical yet practical writing, a great and interesting mix that works, because sailing and marlinspike craft are practical and fun. Before long you'll be searching for projects to tie knots on, and doing the sailors' crafts from the book, collecting the tools outlined in the first part, if you don't have them yet. Since reading his books I have gotten piecemeal a lot. I started with practical knots, then decorative, then more marlinspike focused craft. Before long I had sail needles (type he mentions in book which are excellent), canvas, a left-handed sewing palm, and I've made several ditty bags out of the books to hold the supplies or give away to family and friends. I've made rope ladders, swings, hammocks, nets, rope boat fenders. The things

you can make from rope are amazing and you'll find very entertaining if you are at all into it.

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