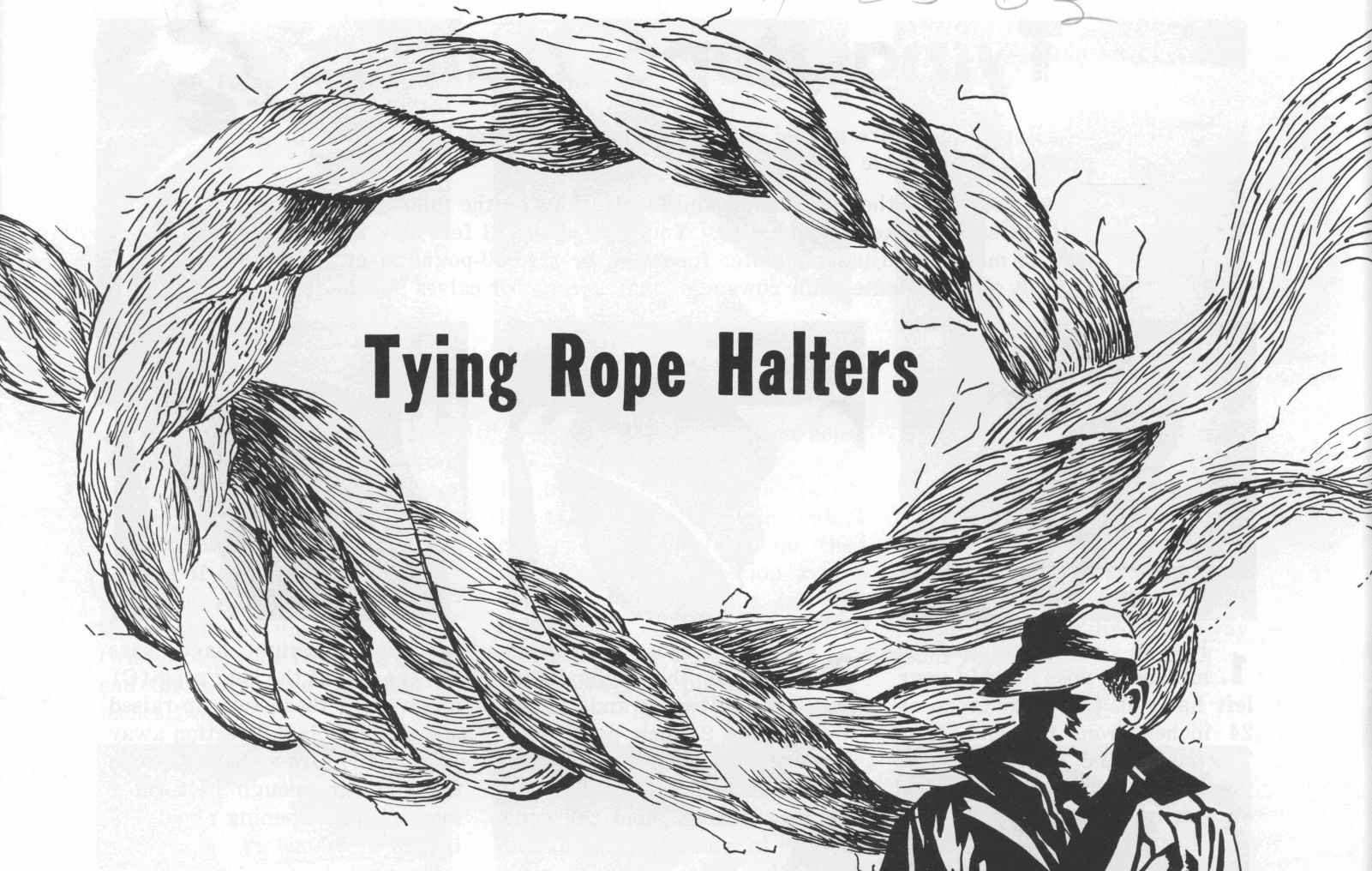


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Tying Rope Halters

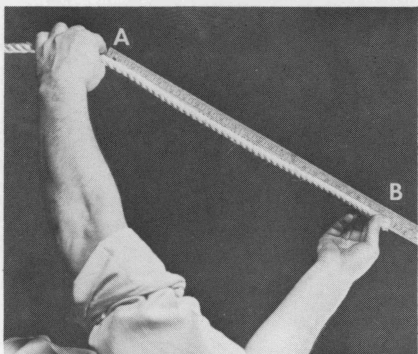


THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE OF TEXAS
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
J. E. HUTCHISON, DIRECTOR, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

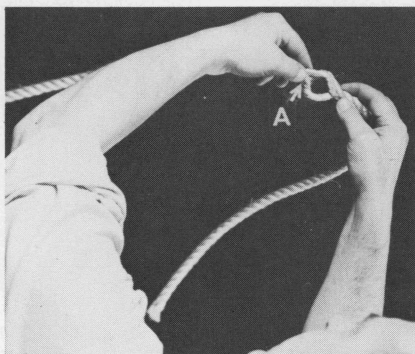
Tying Rope Halters

Rope halters are needed on farms where cattle are kept. They are practical, serviceable and inexpensive.

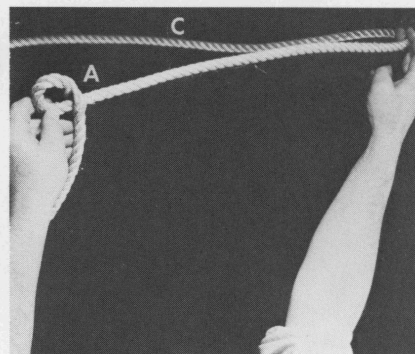
If you follow the instructions and illustrations on the following pages, you can easily make a rope halter. You need about 13 feet of a 3-strand rope to make an adjustable halter for a cow or a 1,000-pound steer. Use $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rope for halters for cows and smaller rope for calves and heifers.



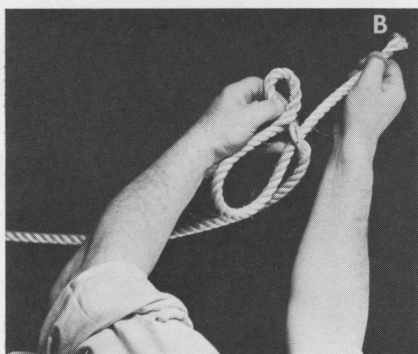
1. For a cow-sized halter, measure a nose piece in your left hand at (A) a distance of 24 inches from the end (B). The nose piece should be proportionately shorter for a calf or yearling.



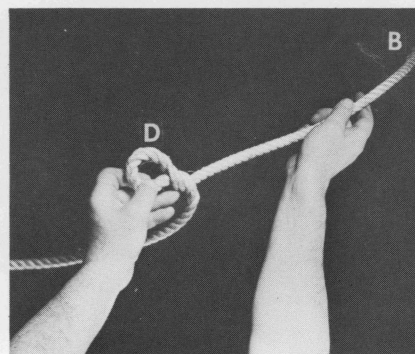
2. With your thumb and index finger of the right hand, raise the top two strands of the rope at the 24-inch point (A) where it is being grasped by the left thumb and finger. To raise the two strands, hold the rope tightly in your left hand and twist the rope clockwise with your right hand.



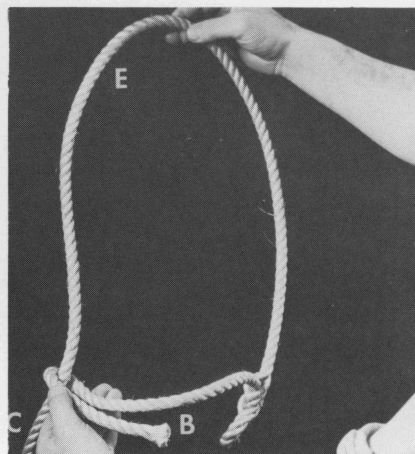
3. With the right hand, pass the end of the long rope (C) underneath these two up-raised strands (A) in a direction away from you. Draw the *long* rope through far enough to form a loop with an opening about 1½ inches in diameter.



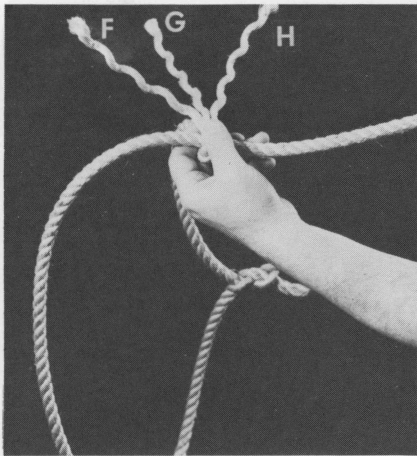
4. Continue to hold the rope in the left hand at the 24-inch point (A). Then raise up two strands on the long rope immediately in front of the loop and pass the end of the short rope or nose piece (B) under them in the direction away from you.



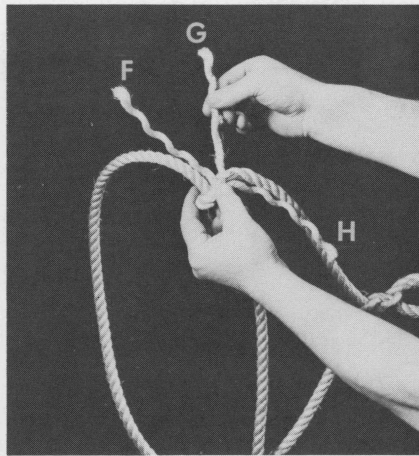
5. Draw the end of the nose piece (B) through far enough to complete and lock the loop (D). The best sized loop is about two and a half times the diameter of the rope.



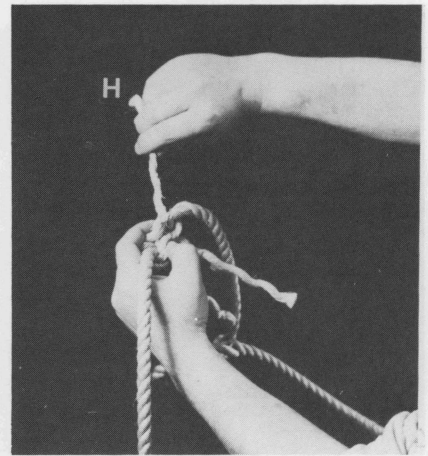
6. Splice the nose piece snugly around the head piece. To start the nose piece, raise the long rope (C) with the right hand as if to form a head piece (E). Then with the left hand, bend the last 6 inches of the short rope (B) abruptly around the head piece from the inside.



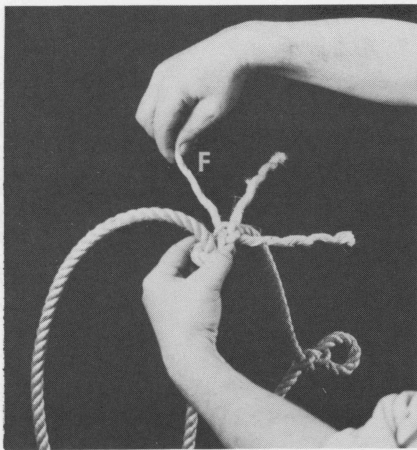
7. Now, turn the end of the short rope away from you at a right angle, remembering to hold the folded part firmly in position with the thumb and fingers of the left hand. Then, with the right hand, separate the strands by unlaying or untwisting the rope from the short end for a distance of about 6 inches.



8. Start to splice the three separated strands (F, G, and H) into the nose piece by tucking them one at a time under corresponding strands on the nose piece in a direction away from you. Begin this job by tucking the center strand (G) under the first visible strand on top of the nose piece.



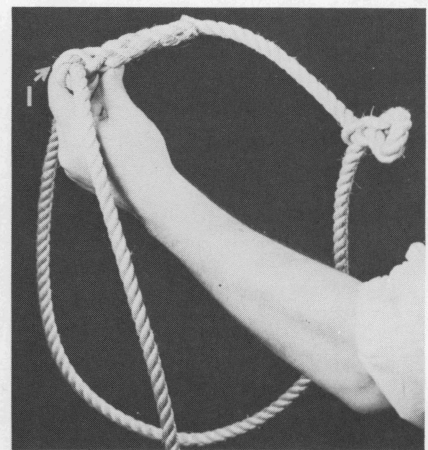
9. Now tuck the strand closest to your body (H). To do this, place your left hand under the long rope, then roll the rope away from you to expose the nearest nose-piece strand under which H is to be passed. Tuck the strand in the direction away from you.



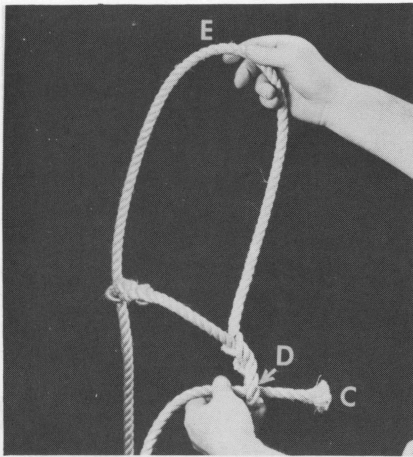
10. In a similar manner, tuck the third strand (F). Place your left hand on top of the long rope, roll the rope toward you, then tuck this strand over the strand closest to it and under the next. Each strand (F, G and H) must be passed under a different strand and in the direction away from you.



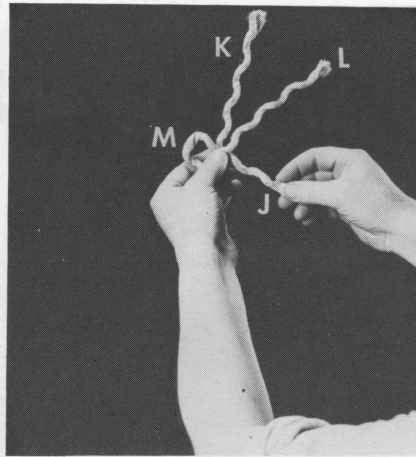
11. After each strand has been tucked once, each alternately should be passed over the next strand to it and then tucked under the next one. Continue this procedure until you have tucked each strand several times. Next, dampen the nose piece splice, roll it under your foot on a rough floor, and cut off the loose ends of the strands.



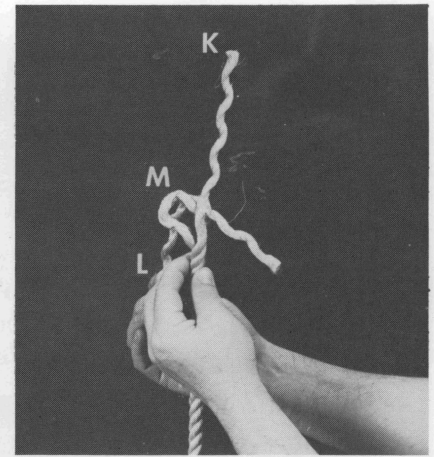
12. The nose splice is now completed. Note the evenness of the tucking. Eye splice (I) should be snug but not tight.



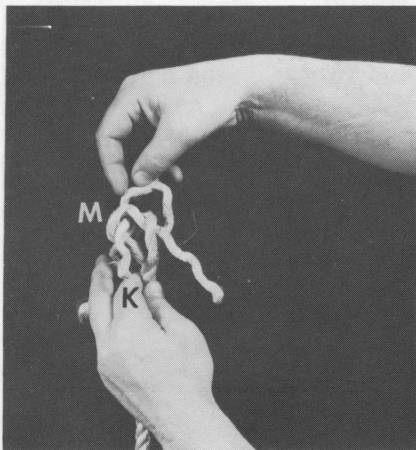
13. Assemble the halter by passing the end of the long rope (C) through the loop splice (D) from the inside. Then finish the end of the rope by crowning to prevent it from unlaying or fraying.



14. To start the crown, hold the rope in your left hand. With the right hand, unlay the rope about 6 inches from the end. Then place or lay the strand to your left (J) between the other two strands (K) and (L) to form a loop (M).



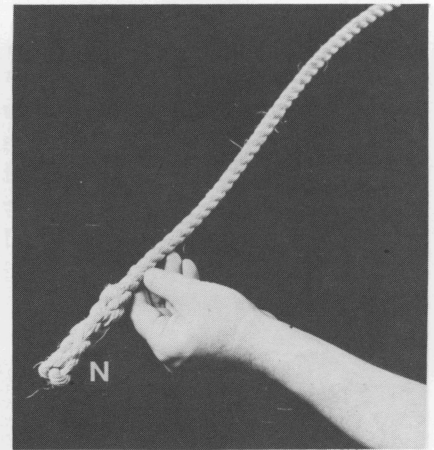
15. The next step in making the crown is to lay the strand to your right (L) between the loop (M) and the middle strand (K).



16. Next bring the end of the center strand (K) through the loop (M) from the rear in the direction toward you.



17. Draw each strand downward to lay in the same direction as the long rope. Now tuck each strand alternately into the rope as shown in figure 12 until each strand has been tucked several times. Dampen, roll, and then cut off any loose ends to complete the crown.



18. This end splice (N) is called a *crown splice*. It prevents the end of the rope from fraying and serves as a hand hold.

The finished halter is practical, inexpensive, and as useful for beef cattle as for dairy cattle. →

Reprinted, by permission, from Cornell 4-H Club Bulletin 105, "How to Make an Adjustable Rope Halter," by Harold A. Willman.

