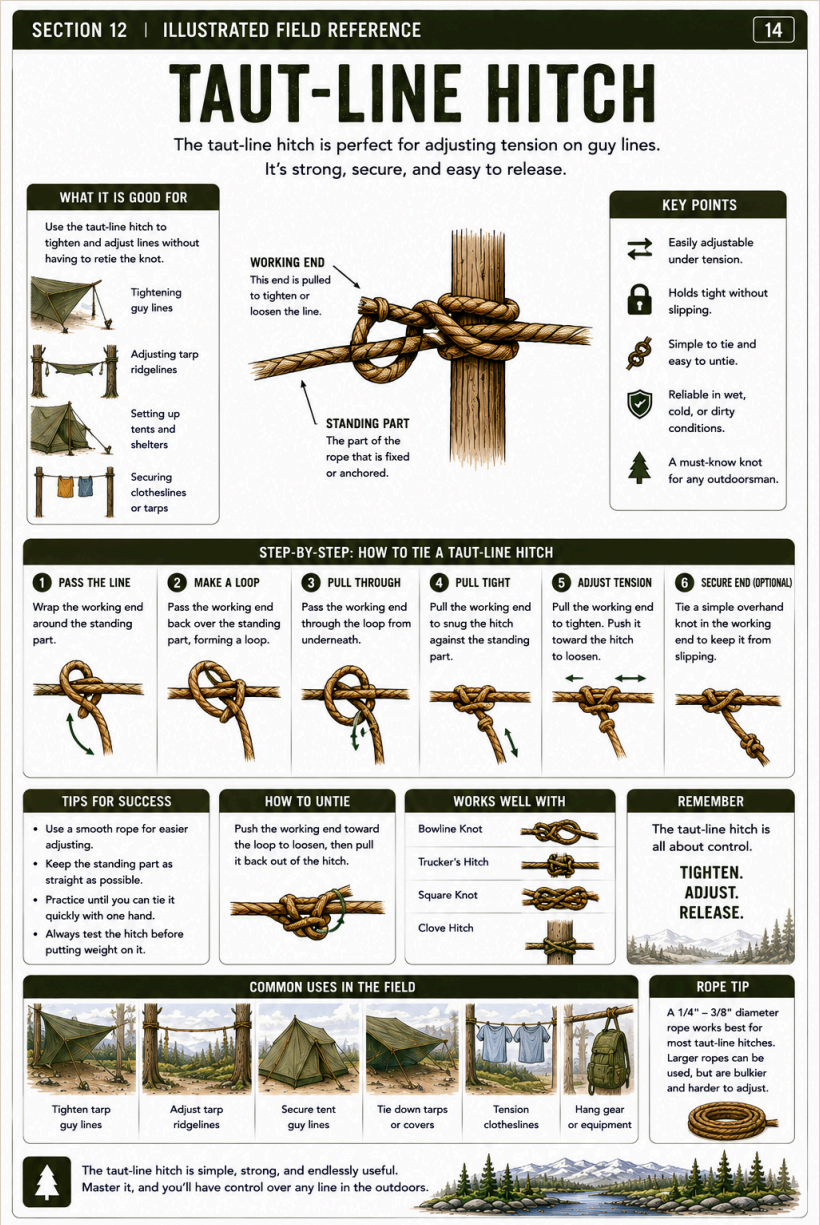
FIELD GUIDE · NO. 14

Taut-Line Hitch

An adjustable loop for tightening or loosening tarp and tent guy lines.



FROM THE BOOK

1. The taut-line hitch makes an adjustable loop for tightening or loosening tarp and tent guy lines.
2. Keeping corners and guy lines snug distributes tension across the fabric and reduces unnecessary flapping. A loose line lets a tarp sag and collect rain.
3. The campsite checklist in the book includes tightening guy lines if needed before you turn in, and checking that the shelter is secure.
4. Practice this knot before you need it. Adjustable tension is much easier to set when your hands already know the hitch.

PRACTICE IT

Pitch a tarp or guy out a corner of a tent and use a taut-line hitch to tighten, then loosen, the line without untying it from the stake.