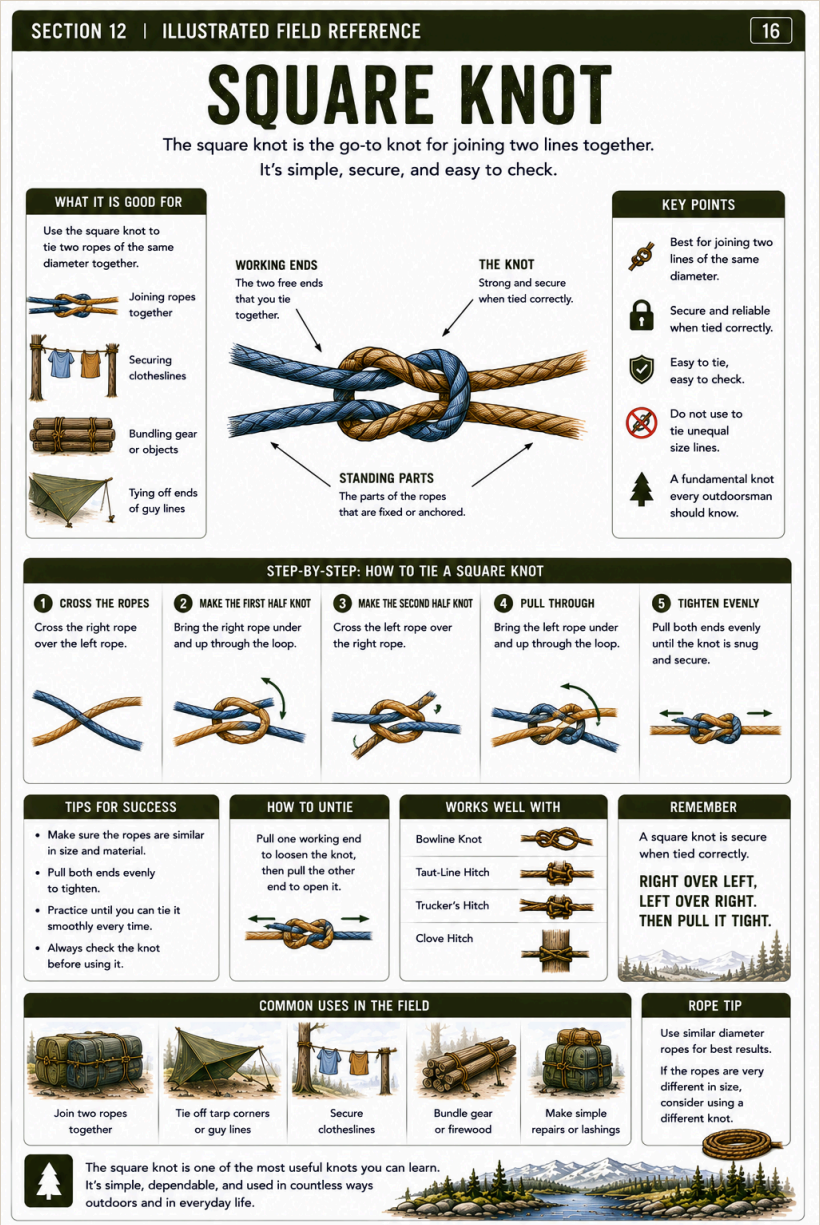
FIELD GUIDE · NO. 16

Square Knot

Joins two ropes of similar size for light-duty applications.



FROM THE BOOK

1. The square knot joins two ropes of similar size for light-duty applications. That is the use given in the book — not a general-purpose knot for every load.
2. A handful of dependable knots will solve most shelter-building tasks you will encounter in the field. Use each one for the job it is meant to do.
3. Keep the job light-duty: the book does not present the square knot as a knot for critical or heavy loads.
4. Practice it before you need it. It becomes much easier to tie after a little repetition, and easier still if you can distinguish it from a knot that will slip.

PRACTICE IT

Join two similar pieces of cord with a square knot, dress it snug, and then untie and retie it until the pattern is familiar.