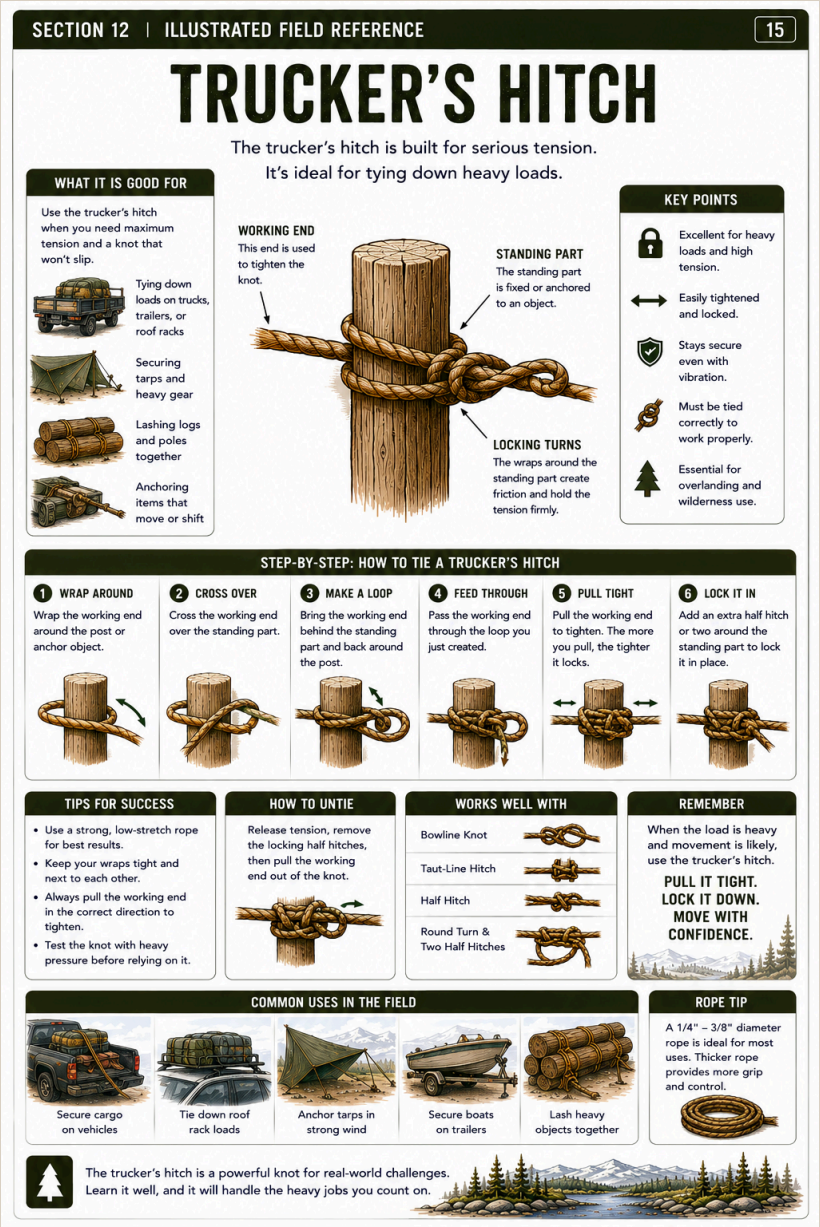
FIELD GUIDE · NO. 15

Trucker's Hitch

Tightens ridgelines and secures loads with added mechanical advantage.



FROM THE BOOK

1. The trucker's hitch tightens ridgelines and secures loads with added mechanical advantage — useful when a line needs to be truly taut.
2. A loose ridgeline allows a tarp to sag, creating low spots where rainwater collects and adding strain to the fabric and tie-outs. A taut ridgeline sheds water more effectively and is generally quieter on windy nights.
3. The same idea applies to securing a load: get the line tight enough to hold, then finish it so it stays that way.
4. Practice this hitch before you need it. Getting a ridgeline tight is much easier after a little repetition than at dusk in the wind.

PRACTICE IT

Stretch a ridgeline between two solid points and tighten it with a trucker's hitch until the line no longer sags, then release and tie it again.