

Main Sheet: Hanging The Coil

Once the Main Sheet is coiled (see the Main Sheet knots page), you have a long, doubled end with which to hang the coil off the deck and out of the way.



Step 1

Step 1:
Take the long, doubled end created when you coiled the main sheet and pass it from fore to aft through the bail under the boom on which the main sheet block travels. (The snubbing lines are also secured to this bail.)



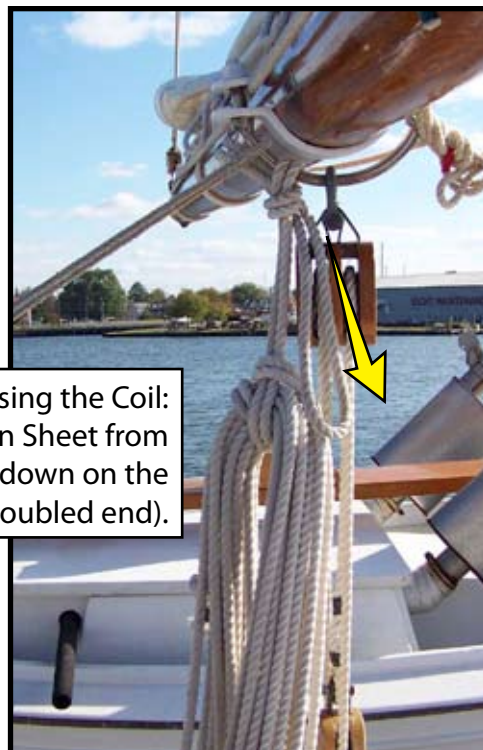
Step 2

Step 2:
Hold the weight of the coil with your left hand by pulling down on the line that was passed through the bail. Use your right hand to take the doubled end across the front, creating a loop around the bail.



Step 3

Step 3:
Use your right hand to push a loop of the doubled end through the wrap created around the bail, pulling it up with your left hand. Do not pull the doubled end all the way through—just pull up a loop. This is called a “slipped half hitch.” At the same time, releasing the weight of the coil from your left hand will tighten the knot as it slides up to the bail.



Releasing the Coil:
To release the Main Sheet from the bail, simply pull down on the lower loop (the doubled end).

The slipped half hitch is a useful variation of the widely used half hitch. It can be used to complete and strengthen other knots and releases easily with a sharp pull on the working end.

This method of coiling and stowing the Main Sheet should also be used in coiling and stowing other lines, such as spare dock lines. It minimizes twisting and tangling, making it easier to use a line when needed.