

Reefing Points

Tying the reefing points on the sail is one of those tasks that is not done often enough to become second nature, yet is important to know how to do quickly when the wind comes up suddenly.



Step 1

Step 1:
After bringing the far side through under the sail, but over the jack line, pull down firmly on the end you pulled through from the other side.



Step 2

Step 2:
Start by tying a basic half hitch, with the upper end coming out on the right and the lower end coming out on the left.



Step 3

Step 3:
Now, pull down on the right hand end.



Step 4

Step 4:
Cross the left hand end over the end you just pulled down.



Step 5

Step 5:
Wrap it around and pull up a loop through the wrap.



Step 6

Step 6:
Pull up on the loop firmly (without pulling the end through) to secure the knot.



Step 7

Step 7:
To untie the reefing point, simply pull down on the shorter end and undo the half hitch.

The knot is demonstrated here using the second reef (red ends), and is tied on the port side. The first reef (green ends) is tied off to starboard. If you need a third reef (white ends), especially with passengers aboard, **take the sails down!**

Knots: The *Nathan* Way