Shoelaces

18 Different Ways To Tie Shoelaces

My diagrams are all drawn as though looking down at your own shoes while tying, and are colour-coded to make it easier to follow where the lace runs. The lace end that starts on the left side is Blue and the end that starts on the right side is Yellow. For colour-blind visitors, Blue=Dark=Left, Yellow=Light=Right.

There really is such a website with 18 different ways to tie your shoelaces. It is worth learning the secure shoelace knot shown on the back of this page.

SECURE SHOELACE KNOTS:

- Ian's Secure Shoelace Knot - Recommended!
  This knot combines the best features of numerous secure shoelace knots, with particular emphasis on symmetry: Cross two loops and pass them both through the "hole" in the middle. Great for serious sports or for securing slippery laces.

- Surgeon's Shoelace Knot
  This is the most common secure shoelace knot: Make a Standard Shoelace Knot, but before pulling tight, run the loop around and through the middle for a second time.

- Turquoise Turtle Shoelace Knot
  Another less common secure shoelace knot: Make a Two Loop Shoelace Knot ("Bunny Ears"), but before pulling tight, pass the loop and adjacent loose end through the middle for a second time.

- Better Bow Shoelace Knot
  Another secure knot variation, again based on looping around more than once: Begin as for a Standard Shoelace Knot, only loop around twice before pulling through the loops thus made.

- FreedomKnot Shoelace Knot
  This is yet another of the secure knots on which my own Ian's Secure Shoelace Knot is based: Make an "O" and pass a loop through it from both the front and the back.

- Double Shoelace Knot
  A crude method of making a knot "permanent" or for consuming excess lace to keep the ends from dragging: Tie a Standard Shoelace Knot, then tie an overhand knot with the finished loops. Unfortunately, it's also very tricky to untie.

- Double Ian Shoelace Knot
  By hanging onto the loops and repeating the Ian Knot technique, the result is the more secure Double Ian Shoelace Knot. This is also handy for consuming excess lace to keep the ends from dragging.

- Mega Ian Shoelace Knot
  This is a more secure variation of my Ian Knot: Make a double-loop with both ends and simultaneously pull them through each other. The result is super-secure, though nowhere near as fast as the regular Ian Knot.

- Crossed Ian Shoelace Knot
  This knot is a curiosity that often results from tying the Ian Knot incorrectly. Twisting the starting loops in the wrong direction results in a knot with the ends crossed within the knot. It seems more secure, but can easily fall apart.

- Two Stage Shoelace Knot
  This knot is made in two distinct stages: Make and secure one loop, then make and secure the other loop. The result is slightly more secure because it's less likely for both stages to come undone.

- Loop the Loop Shoelace Knot
  Also known as the "Klets Knot", this method makes any regular shoelace knot more secure: Tie a Standard Shoelace Knot (or even an Ian Knot), then feed one loop through the other loop and pull it tight like a noose.

Grab some shoelaces or a piece of rope, get comfortable and give them a try!

REGULAR SHOELACE KNOTS:

- Standard Shoelace Knot
  Of all the shoelace tying techniques shown to me by others, this is by far the most common: Make a loop with one end, wrap the other end around it and pull a loop through the "hole" in the middle.

- Two Loop Shoelace Knot
  Commonly referred to as a "Bunny Ears" shoelace knot (due to its two loops): Make a loop with both ends, then simply tie a knot with them. It's often tied incorrectly, resulting in an un-balanced Granny Knot.

- Ian Knot = Ian's Fast Shoelace Knot - Recommended!
  I tie my shoelaces with an Ian Knot, the World's Fastest Shoelace Knot: Make a loop with both ends and simultaneously pull them through each other to form an almost instant knot. It's a truly revolutionary way to tie your shoelaces!

SPECIAL PURPOSE SHOELACE KNOTS:

- Halloween Shoelace Knot - Just for fun!
  A decorative knot that makes the perfect finishing touch for a Halloween outfit or for other "creepy" occasions: Tie your shoelaces with this miniature "Hangman's Nooses".

- Boat Shoe Knot
  Often used on boat shoes (deck shoes) with leather laces, the "Heaving Line Knot" creates decorative coils instead of knots: Each end is simply coiled around itself until all remaining lace is consumed.

- One Handed Shoelace Knot
  Here's the ideal way to tie shoelaces with one hand: Lace the shoe with the bottom end permanently tied off, then secure the top end with a simple loop knot.

- Reef Knot
  The Reef Knot is basically a Standard Shoelace Knot minus the loops. This is useful when the ends are not long enough to tie a regular bow, such as when a shoelace has broken and there is no ready replacement.

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A PDF of this document is available at blog.iharder.net/knots
Ian's Secure Shoelace Knot

Also known as the "Double Slip Knot"

This knot combines the best features of numerous secure shoelace knots, with particular emphasis on symmetry: Cross two loops and pass them both through the "hole" in the middle. Great for serious sports or for securing slippery laces.

It turns out that I'd re-invented an existing knot that was almost completely unknown, probably through having been given the technical name "Double Slip Knot", which makes it sound less secure than other knots. See my Technical Info page for more details.

**Step 1:**
Tie a Left-over-Right Starting Knot as shown, then make both laces into "loops" by simply doubling them back onto themselves. People often refer to these as "Bunny Ears".

**Step 2:**
Cross the two loops over each other so that the right (blue) loop ends up in front and the left (yellow) loop ends up behind. The yellow loop is now the right loop.

**Step 3:**
Begin to wrap the right (yellow) loop around the left (blue) loop to end up in front.

**Step 4:**
At the same time, begin to wrap the left (blue) loop around the back. You will end up with the ends of both loops on opposite sides of the "hole" in the middle.

**Step 5:**
Feed both ends of the loops through the hole in the middle. The right (yellow) loop goes out the back and the left (blue) loop comes out the front.

**Step 6:**
Now, simply pull the loops to tighten the knot. The whole twisted mess of the previous drawing will rearrange itself into a neat finished knot. Trust me, it works!

**Finished Knot**

The finished knot should be a tight, closed knot with a symmetrical, double wrap around the middle, as compared to the single wrap of either my Ian Knot or any Standard Shoelace Knot.

**TIP:** If your finished knot looks uneven or twisted, it may help to pull on the lace ends to partly un-tie your laces; this will bring the outer sections of the knot together, making the inner section more even. Then, pull on the loops once again to re-tighten the knot.

**How Much More Secure?**

"My own testing shows that the Ian's Secure Shoelace Knot needs almost three times the tension to pull it undone than either the Ian Knot or any Standard Shoelace Knot. See my Technical Info page for more details.

"This extra security is fast becoming indispensable as more and more shoes nowadays are sold with round, slippery laces. It's also great for people who are very active on their feet, such as when playing serious sports, mountain climbing or even dancing, as well as for yachtsies whose boat shoes are constantly getting wet. See my Testimonials page to read some of the varied benefits that others have discovered."

Ian

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