
CHAPTER 1

R o p e

Section 1. Fiber Rope

In the fabrication of fiber rope, a number of fibers of various plants are twisted together to form yarns. These yarns are then twisted together in the opposite direction of the fibers to form strands (see *Figure 1-1, page 1-2*). The strands are twisted in the opposite direction of the yarns to form the completed rope. The direction of twist of each element of the rope is known as the “lay” of that element. Twisting each element

in the opposite direction puts the rope in balance and prevents its elements from unlaying when a load is suspended on it. The principal type of fiber rope is the three-strand, right lay, in which three strands are twisted in a right-hand direction. Four-strand ropes, which are also available, are slightly heavier but are weaker than three-strand ropes of the same diameter.

TYPES OF FIBERS

The term cordage is applied collectively to ropes and twines made by twisting together vegetable or synthetic fibers.

VEGETABLE FIBERS

The principal vegetable fibers are abaca (known as Manila), sisalana and henequen (both known as sisal), hemp, and sometimes coir, cotton, and jute. The last three are relatively unimportant in the heavy cordage field.

Abaca, sisalana, and henequen are classified as hard fibers. The comparative strengths of the vegetable fibers, considering abaca as 100, are as follows:

- | | |
|------------|-----|
| • Sisalana | 80 |
| • Henequen | 65 |
| • Hemp | 100 |

Manila

This is a strong fiber that comes from the leaf stems of the stalk of the abaca plant, which belongs to the banana family. The fibers vary in length from 1.2 to 4.5 meters (4 to 15 feet) in the natural states. The quality of the fiber and its length give Manila rope relatively high elasticity, strength, and resistance to wear and deterioration. The manufacturer treats the rope with chemicals to make it more mildew resistant, which increases the rope's quality. Manila rope is generally the standard item of issue because of its quality and relative strength.

Sisal

Sisal rope is made from two tropical plants, sisalana and henequen, that produce fibers 0.6 to 1.2 meters (2 to 4 feet)

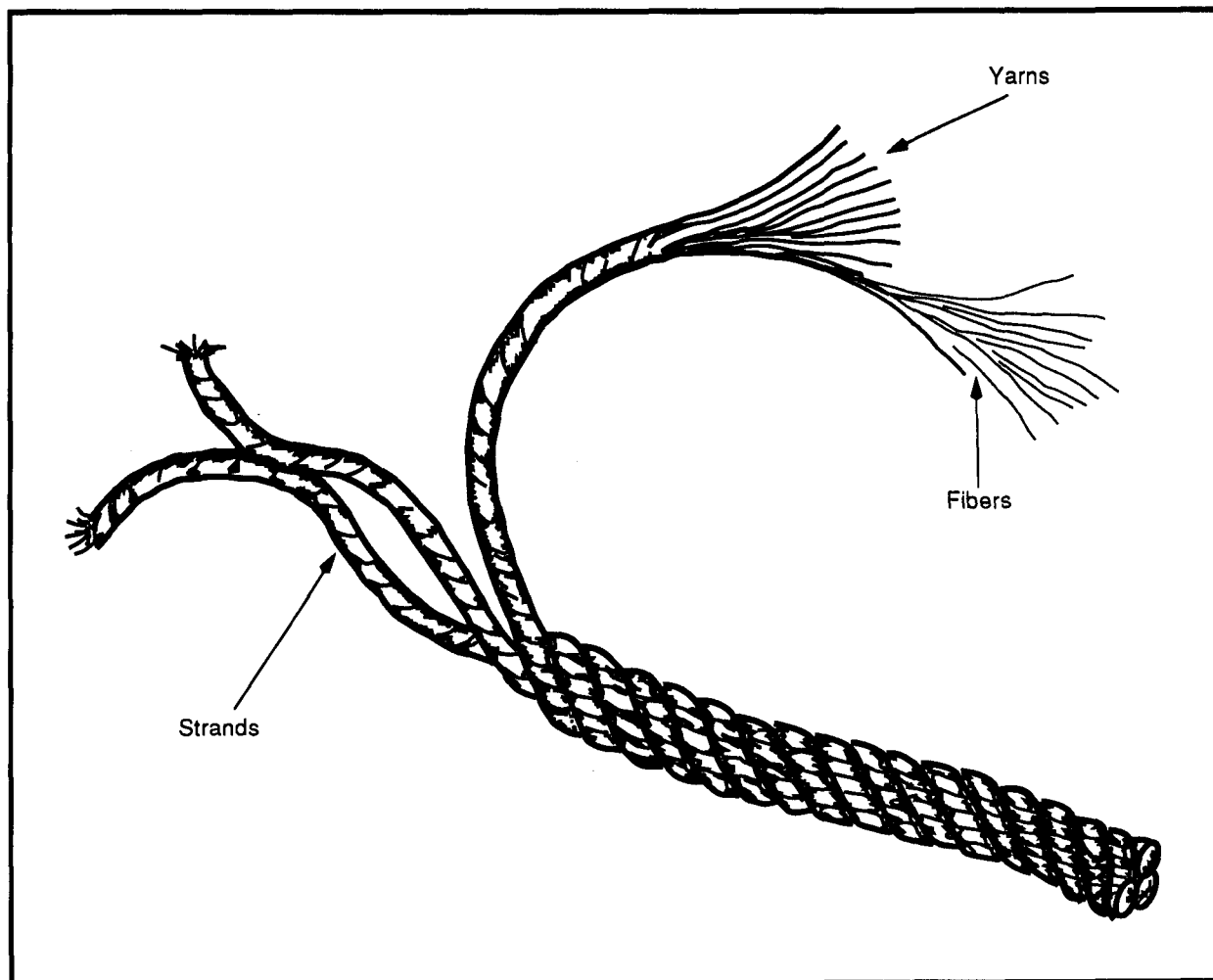


Figure 1-1. Cordage of rope construction

long. Sisalana produces the stronger fibers of the two plants, so the rope is known as sisal. Sisal rope is about 80 percent as strong as high quality Manila rope and can be easily obtained. It withstands exposure to sea water very well and is often used for this reason.

Hemp

This tall plant is cultivated in many parts of the world and provides useful fibers for making rope and cloth. Hemp was used extensively before the introduction of Manila, but its principal use today is in fittings, such as ratline, marline, and spun

yarn. Since hemp absorbs much better than the hard fibers, these fittings are invariably tarred to make them more water-resistant. Tarred hemp has about 80 percent of the strength of untarred hemp. Of these tarred fittings, marline is the standard item of issue.

Coir and Cotton

Coir rope is made from the fiber of coconut husks. It is a very elastic, rough rope about one-fourth the strength of hemp but light enough to float on water. Cotton makes a very smooth white rope that withstands much bending and running. These

two types of rope are not widely used in the military; however, cotton is used in some cases for very small lines.

Jute

Jute is the glossy fiber of either of two East Indian plants of the linden family used chiefly for sacking, burlap, and cheaper varieties of twine and rope.

CHARACTERISTICS OF FIBER ROPE

Fiber rope is characterized by its size, weight, and strength.

SIZE

Fiber rope is designated by diameter up to 5/8 inch, then it is designated by circumference up to 12 inches or more. For this reason, most tables give both the diameter and circumference of fiber rope.

WEIGHT

The weight of rope varies with use, weather conditions, added preservatives, and other factors. *Table 1-1, page 1-4*, lists the weight of new fiber rope.

STRENGTH

Table 1-1 lists some of the properties of Manila and sisal rope, including the breaking strength (BS), which is the greatest stress that a material is capable of withstanding without rupture. The table shows that the minimum BS is considerably greater than the safe load or the safe working capacity (SWC). This is the maximum load that can safely be applied to a particular type of rope. The difference is caused by the application of a safety factor. To obtain

SYNTHETIC FIBERS

The principal synthetic fiber used for rope is nylon. It has a tensile strength nearly three times that of Manila. The advantage of using nylon rope is that it is waterproof and has the ability to stretch, absorb shocks, and resume normal length. It also resists abrasion, rot, decay, and fungus growth.

the SWC of rope, divide the BS by a factor of safety (FS):

$$SWC = BS/FS$$

A new 1-inch diameter, Number 1 Manila rope has a BS of 9,000 pounds (see *Table 1-1*). To determine the rope's SWC, divide its BS (9,000 pounds) by a minimum standard FS of 4. The result is a SWC of 2,250 pounds. This means that you can safely apply 2,250 pounds of tension to the new 1-inch diameter, Number 1 Manila rope in normal use. Always use a FS because the BS of rope becomes reduced after use and exposure to weather conditions. In addition, a FS is required because of shock loading, knots, sharp bends, and other stresses that rope may have to withstand during its use. Some of these stresses reduce the strength of rope as much as 50 percent. If tables are not available, you can closely approximate the SWC by a rule of thumb. The rule of thumb for the SWC, in tons, for fiber rope is equal to the square of the rope diameter (D) in inches:

$$SWC = D^2$$

The SWC, in tons, of a 1/2-inch diameter fiber rope would be 1/2 inch squared or 1/4 ton. The rule of thumb allows a FS of about 4.

Table 1-1. Properties of manila and sisal rope

Nominal Diameter (inches) Circumference (inches) Pounds per Foot			Number 1 Manila		Sisal	
			Breaking Strength (pounds)	Safe Load (pounds) FS = 4	Breaking Strength (pounds)	Safe Load (pounds) FS = 4
1/4	3/4	0.020	600	150	480	120
3/8	1 1/8	0.040	1,350	325	1,080	260
1/2	1 1/2	0.075	2,650	660	2,120	520
5/8	2	0.133	4,400	1,100	3,520	880
3/4	2 1/4	0.167	5,400	1,350	4,320	1,080
7/8	2 3/4	0.186	7,700	1,920	6,160	1,540
1	3	0.270	9,000	2,250	7,200	1,800
1 1/8	3 1/2	0.360	12,000	3,000	9,600	2,400
1 1/4	3 3/4	0.418	13,500	3,380	10,800	2,700
1 1/2	4 1/2	0.600	18,500	4,620	14,800	3,700
1 3/4	5 1/2	0.895	26,500	6,625	21,200	5,300
2	6	1.080	31,000	7,750	24,800	6,200
2 1/2	7 1/2	1.350	46,500	11,620	37,200	9,300
3	9	2.420	64,000	16,000	51,200	12,800

NOTES:
 1. Breaking strengths and safe loads given are for new rope used under favorable conditions. As rope ages or deteriorates, reduce safe loads progressively to one-half of values given.
 2. Safe working load may be computed using a safety factor of 4, but when the condition of the rope is doubtful, divide the computed further load by 2.

CARE OF FIBER ROPE

The strength and useful life of fiber rope is shortened considerably by improper care. To prolong its life and strength, observe the following guidelines:

- Ensure that it is dry and then stored in a cool, dry place. This reduces the possibility of mildew and rotting.
- Coil it on a spool or hang it from pegs in a way that allows air circulation.
- Avoid dragging it through sand or dirt or pulling it over sharp edges. Sand or grit between the fibers cuts them and reduces the rope's strength.
- Slacken taut lines before they are exposed to rain or dampness because a wet rope shrinks and may break.
- Thaw a frozen rope completely before using it; otherwise the frozen fibers will break as they resist bending.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat and fumes of chemicals; heat or boiling water decreases rope strength about 20 percent.

HANDLING OF FIBER ROPE

New rope is coiled, bound, and wrapped in burlap. The protective covering should not be removed until the rope is to be used. This protects it during storage and prevents tangling. To open the new rope, strip off the burlap wrapping and look inside the coil for

the end of the rope. This should be at the bottom of the coil (see *Figure 1-2*). If it is not, turn the coil over so the end is at the bottom. Pull the end up through the center of the coil. As the rope comes up, it unwinds in a counterclockwise direction.

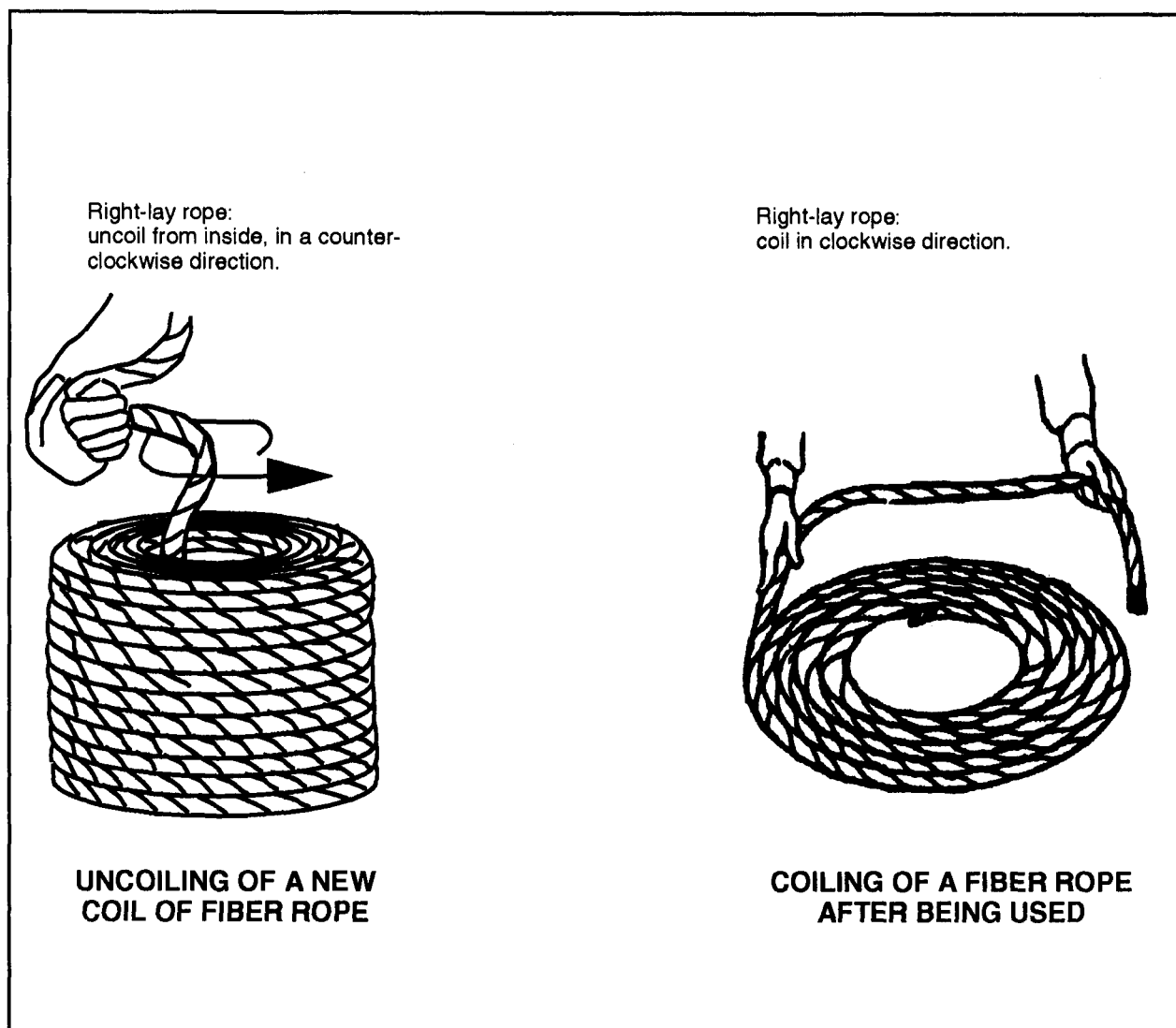


Figure 1-2. Uncoiling and coiling rope

INSPECTION OF FIBER ROPE

The outside appearance of fiber rope is not always a good indication of its internal condition. Rope softens with use. Dampness, heavy strain, fraying and breaking of strands, and chafing on rough edges all weaken it considerably. Overloading rope may cause it to break, with possible heavy damage to material and serious injury to personnel. For this reason, inspect it carefully at regular intervals to determine its condition. Untwist the strands slightly to open a rope so that you can examine the inside. Mildewed rope has a musty odor and the inner fibers of the strands have a dark, stained appearance. Broken strands

or broken yarns ordinarily are easy to identify. Dirt and sawdust-like material inside a rope, caused by chafing, indicate damage. In rope having a central core, the core should not break away in small pieces when examined. If it does, this is an indication that a rope has been overstrained.

If a rope appears to be satisfactory in all other respects, pull out two fibers and try to break them. Sound fibers should offer considerable resistance to breakage. When you find unsatisfactory conditions, destroy a rope or cut it up in short pieces to prevent its being used in hoisting. You can use the short pieces for other purposes.

Section II. Wire Rope

The basic element of wire rope is the individual wire, which is made of steel or iron in various sizes. Wires are laid together to form strands, and strands are laid together to form rope (see *Figure 1-3*). Individual wires are

usually wound or laid together in the opposite direction of the lay of the strands. Strands are then wound around a central core that supports and maintains the position of strands during bending and load stresses.

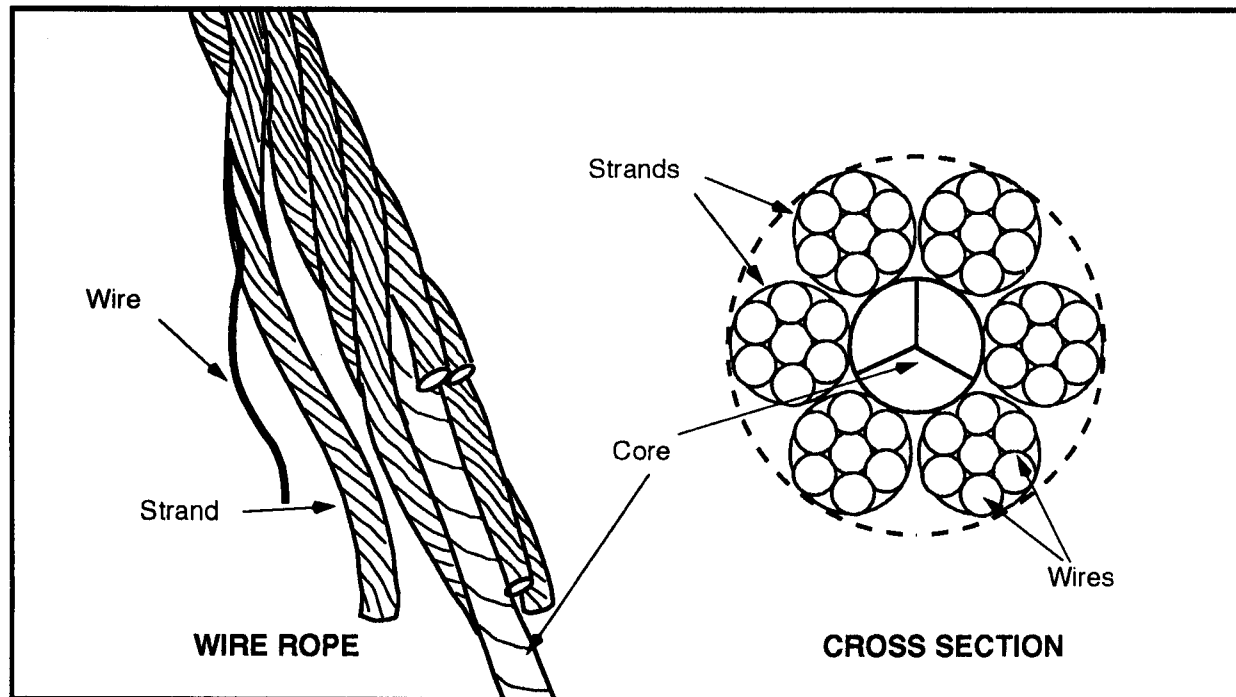


Figure 1-3. Elements of wire-rope construction

In some wire ropes, the wires and strands are preformed. Preforming is a method of presetting the wires in the strands (and the strands in the rope) into the permanent helical or corkscrew form they will have in the

completed rope. As a result, preformed wire rope does not contain the internal stresses found in the nonpreformed wire rope; therefore, it does not untwist as easily and is more flexible than nonpreformed wire rope.

TYPES OF WIRE ROPE CORES

The core of wire rope may be constructed of fiber rope, independent wire rope, or a wire strand.

FIBER-ROPE CORES

The fiber-rope core can be of vegetable or synthetic fibers. It is treated with a special lubricant that helps keep wire rope lubricated internally. Under tension, wire rope contracts, forcing the lubricant from the core into the rope. This type of core also acts as a cushion for the strands when they are under stress, preventing internal crushing of individual wires. The limitations of fiber-rope cores are reached when pressure, such as crushing on the drum, results in the collapse

of the core and distortion of the rope strand. Furthermore, if the rope is subjected to excessive heat, the vegetable or synthetic fibers may be damaged.

INDEPENDENT, WIRE-ROPE CORES

Under severe conditions, an independent, wire-rope core is normally used. This is actually a separate smaller wire rope that acts as a core and adds strength to the rope.

WIRE-STRAND CORES

A wire-strand core consists of a single strand that is of the same or a more flexible construction than the main rope strands.

CLASSIFICATION OF WIRE ROPE

Wire rope is classified by the number of strands, the number of wires per strand, the strand construction, and the type of lay.

WIRE AND STRAND COMBINATIONS

Wire and strand combinations vary according to the purpose for which a rope is intended (see *Figure 1-4, page 1-8*). Rope with smaller and more numerous wires is more flexible; however, it is less resistant to external abrasion. Rope made up of a smaller number of larger wires is more resistant to external abrasion but is less flexible. The 6-by-37 wire rope (6 strands, each made up of 37 wires) is the most flexible of the standard six-strand ropes. This flexibility allows it to be used with small drums and sheaves, such as on cranes. It is a very efficient

rope because many inner strands are protected from abrasion by the outer strands. The stiffest and strongest type for general use is the 6-by-19 rope. It may be used over sheaves of large diameter if the speed is kept to moderate levels. It is not suitable for rapid operation or for use over small sheaves because of its stiffness. The 6-by-7 wire rope is the least flexible of the standard rope constructions. It can withstand abrasive wear because of the large outer wires.

LAY

Lay refers to the direction of winding of wires in strands and strands in rope (see *Figure 1-5, page 1-8*). Both may be wound in the same direction, or they may be wound in

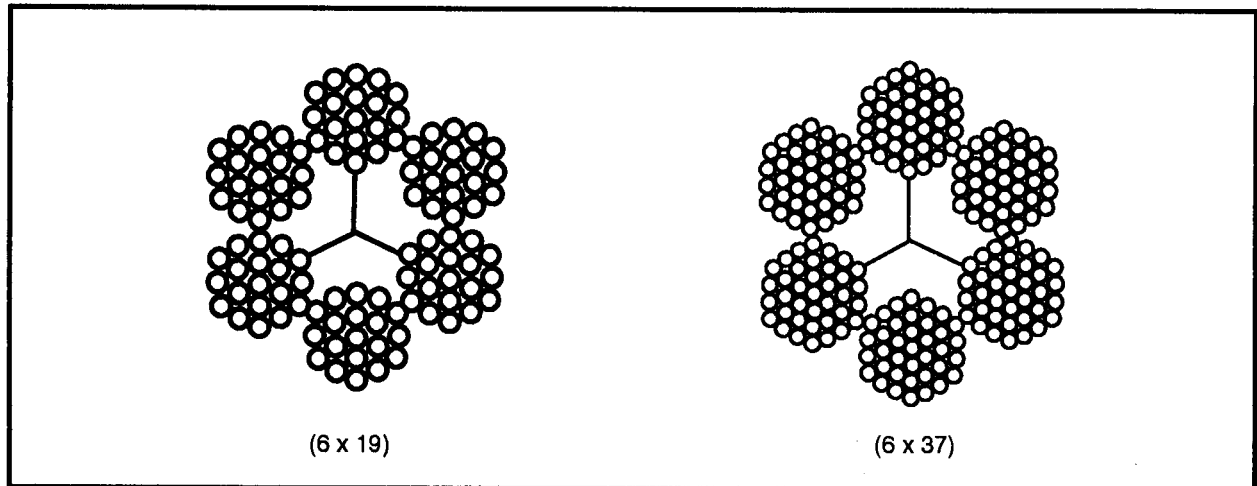


Figure 1-4. Arrangement of strands in wire rope

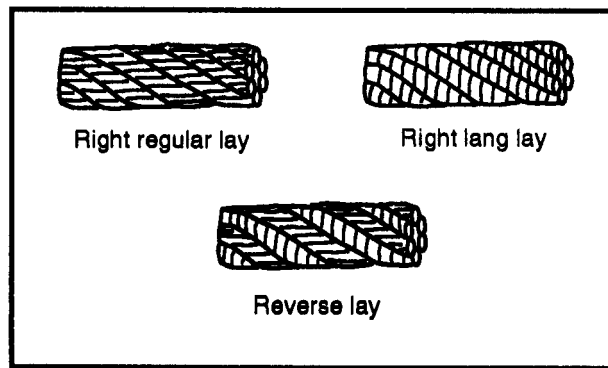


Figure 1-5. Wire-rope lays

opposite directions. The three types of rope lays are—

- Regular.
- Lang.
- Reverse.

Regular Lay

In regular lay, strands and wires are wound in opposite directions. The most common lay in wire rope is right regular lay (strands wound right, wires wound left). Left regular lay (strands wound left, wires wound right) is used where the untwisting rotation of the rope counteracts the unscrewing forces in

the supported load, such as in drill rods and tubes for deep-well drilling.

Lang Lay

In lang lay, strands and wires are wound in the same direction. Because of the greater length of exposed wires, lang lay assures longer abrasion resistance of wires, less radial pressure on small diameter sheaves or drums by rope, and less binding stresses in wire than in regular lay wire rope. Disadvantages of lang lay are its tendencies to kink and unlay or open up the strands, which makes it undesirable for use where grit, dust, and moisture are present. The standard direction of lang lay is right (strands and wires wound right), although it also comes in left lay (strands and wires wound left).

Reverse Lay

In reverse lay, the wires of any strand are wound in the opposite direction of the wires in the adjacent strands. Reverse lay applies to ropes in which the strands are alternately regular lay and lang lay. The use of reverse lay rope is usually limited to certain types of conveyors. The standard direction of lay is right (strands wound right), as it is for both regular-lay and lang-lay ropes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF WIRE ROPE

Wire rope is characterized by its size, weight, and strength.

SIZE

The size of wire rope is designated by its diameter in inches. To determine the size of a wire rope, measure its greatest diameter (see *Figure 1-6*).

WEIGHT

The weight of wire rope varies with the size and the type of construction. No rule of thumb can be given for determining the weight. Approximate weights for certain sizes are given in *Table 1-2, page 1-10*.

STRENGTH

The strength of wire rope is determined by its size and grade and the method of fabrication. The individual wires may be made of various materials, including traction steel, mild plow steel (MPS), improved plow steel (IPS), and extra IPS. Since a suitable margin

of safety must be provided when applying a load to a wire rope, the BS is divided by an appropriate FS to obtain the SWC for that particular type of service (see *Table 1-3, page 1-11*).

You should use the FS given in *Table 1-3* in all cases where rope will be in service for a considerable time. As a rule of thumb, you can square the diameter of wire rope in, inches, and multiply by 8 to obtain the SWC in tons:

$$SWC = 8D^2$$

A value obtained in this manner will not always agree with the FS given in *Table 1-3*. The table is more accurate. The proper FS depends not only on loads applied but also on the—

- Speed of the operation.
- Type of fittings used for securing the rope ends.
- Acceleration and deceleration.
- Length of the rope.

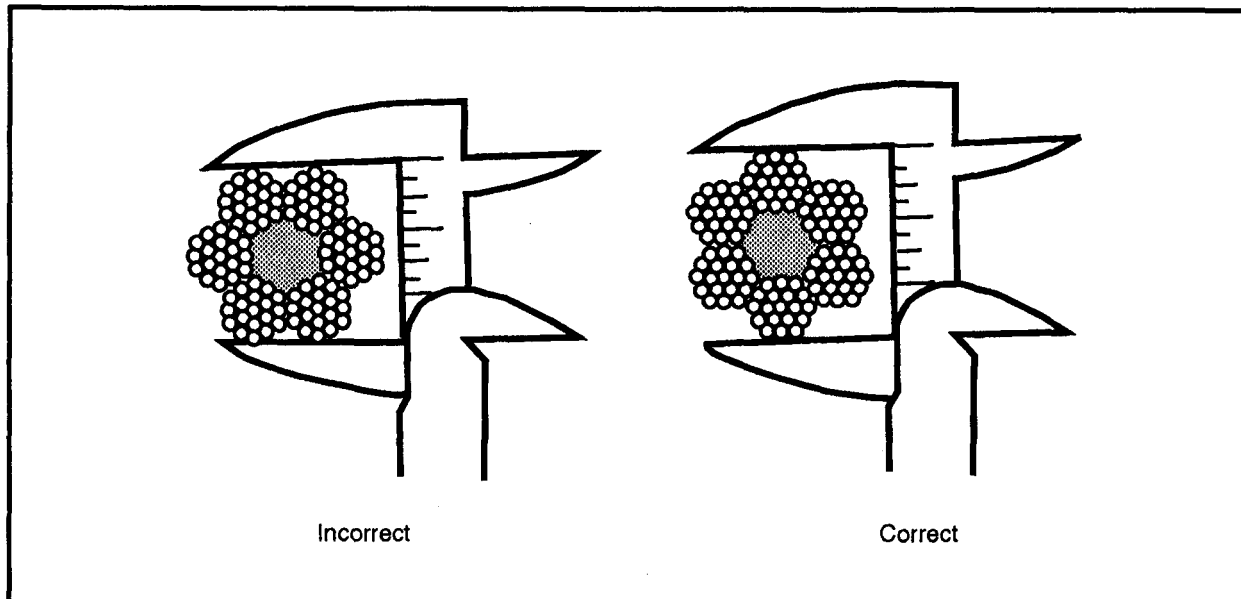


Figure 1-6. Measuring wire rope

Table 1-2. Breaking strength of 6 by 19 standard wire rope

Nominal Diameter (Inches) Approximate Weight (pounds per foot) Iron			Breaking Strength, Tons of 2,000 Pounds*			
			Traction Steel	Plow Steel	Improved Plow Steel	Extra Improved Plow Steel
1 1/2	3.60	29.7	56.6	108.92	123.43	123.43
1/4	0.10	1.4	2.6	2.39	2.74	
3/8	0.23	2.1	4.0	5.31	6.10	7.55
1/2	0.40	3.6	6.8	9.35	10.70	13.30
5/8	0.63	5.5	10.4	14.50	16.70	20.60
3/4	0.90	7.9	14.8	20.70	23.80	29.40
7/8	1.23	10.6	20.2	28.00	32.20	39.80
1	1.60	13.7	26.0	36.40	41.8	51.70
1 1/8	2.03	17.2	32.7	45.70	52.60	65.00
1 1/4	2.50	21.0	40.6	56.20	64.60	79.90
1 1/2	3.60	29.7	56.6	80.00	92.00	114.00
1 3/4				108.00	124.00	153.00
2				139.00	160.00	198.00

*The maximum allowable working load is the breaking strength divided by the appropriate factor of safety (see Table 1-3).

- Number, size, and location of sheaves and drums.
 - Factors causing abrasion and corrosion.
 - Facilities for inspection.
 - Possible loss of life and property if the rope fails.
- Table 1-2* shows comparative BS of typical wire ropes.

CARE OF WIRE ROPE

Caring for wire rope properly includes reversing the ends and cleaning, lubricating, and storing it. When working with wire rope, you should wear work gloves.

Table 1-3. Wire-rope FS

Type of Service	Minimum FS
Track cables	3.2
Guys	3.5
Miscellaneous hoisting equipment	5.0
Haulage ropes	6.0
Derricks	6.0
Small electric and air hoists	7.0
Slings	8.0

REVERSING OR CUTTING BACK ENDS

To obtain increased service from wire rope, it is sometimes advisable to either reverse or cut back the ends. Reversing the ends is more satisfactory because frequently the wear and fatigue on rope are more severe at certain points than at others. To reverse the ends, detach the drum end of the rope from the drum, remove the rope from the end attachment, and place the drum end of the rope in the end attachment. Then fasten the end that you removed from the end attachment to the drum. Cutting back the end has a similar effect, but there is not as much change involved. Cut a short length off the end of the rope and place the new end in the fitting, thus removing the section that has sustained the greatest local fatigue.

CLEANING

Scraping or steaming will remove most of the dirt or grit that may have accumulated

HANDLING OF WIRE ROPE

Handling wire rope may involve kinking, coiling, unreeling, seizing, welding, cutting, or the use of drums and sheaves. When

on a used wire rope. Remove rust at regular intervals by using a wire brush. Always clean the rope carefully just before lubricating it. The object of cleaning at that time is to remove all foreign material and old lubricant from the valleys between the strands and from the spaces between the outer wires to permit the newly applied lubricant free entrance into the rope.

LUBRICATING

At the time of fabrication, a lubricant is applied to wire rope. However, this lubricant generally does not last throughout the life of the rope, which makes relubrication necessary. To lubricate, use a good grade of oil or grease. It should be free of acids and alkalis and should be light enough to penetrate between the wires and strands. Brush the lubricant on, or apply it by passing the rope through a trough or box containing the lubricant. Apply it as uniformly as possible throughout the length of the rope.

STORING

If wire rope is to be stored for any length of time, you should always clean and lubricate it first. If you apply the lubricant properly and store the wire in a place that is protected from the weather and from chemicals and fumes, corrosion will be virtually eliminated. Although the effects of rusting and corrosion of the wires and deterioration of the fiber core are difficult to estimate, it is certain that they will sharply decrease the strength of the rope. Before storing, coil the rope on a spool and tag it properly as to size and length.

handling wire rope, you should wear work gloves.

KINKING

When handling loose wire rope, small loops frequently form in the slack portion (see *Figure 1-7*). If you apply tension while these loops are in position, they will not straighten out but will form sharp kinks, resulting in unlaying of the rope. You should straighten out all of these loops before applying a load. After a kink has formed in wire rope, it is impossible to remove it. Since the strength of the rope is seriously damaged at the point where a kink occurs, cut out that portion before using the rope again.

COILING

Small loops or twists will form if rope is being wound into the coil in a direction that is opposite to the lay. Coil left-lay wire rope in a counterclockwise direction and right-lay wire rope in a clockwise direction.

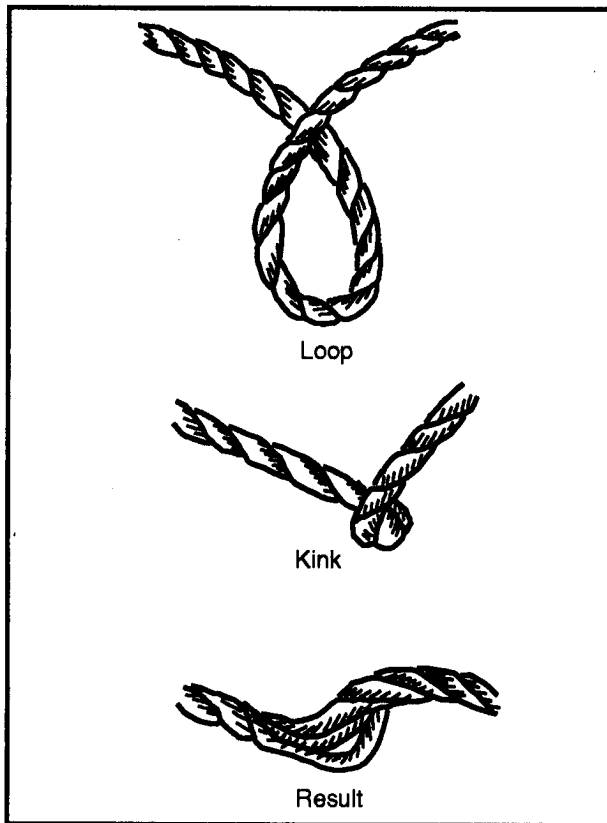


Figure 1-7. Kinking in wire rope

UNREELING

When removing wire rope from a reel or coil, it is imperative that the reel or coil rotate as the rope unwinds. Mount the reel as shown in *Figure 1-8*. Then pull the rope from the reel by holding the end of the rope and walking away from the reel, which rotates as the rope unwinds. If wire rope is in a small coil, stand the coil on end and roll it along the ground (see *Figure 1-9*). If loops form in the wire rope, carefully remove them before they form kinks.

SEIZING

Seizing is the most satisfactory method of binding the end of a wire rope, although welding will also hold the ends together satisfactorily. The seizing will last as long as desired, and there is no danger of weakening the wire through the application of heat. Wire rope is seized as shown in *Figure 1-10*, page 1-14. There are three convenient rules for determining the number of seizings, lengths, and space between seizings. In each case when the calculation results in a fraction, use the next larger whole number. The following calculations are based on a 4-inch diameter wire rope:

- The number of seizings to be applied equals approximately three times the diameter of the rope (number of seizings = $3D$).
- Example: $3 \times 3/4 (D) = 2 \ 1/4$. Use 3 seizings.
- Each seizing should be 1 to 1 1/2 times as long as the diameter of the rope. (length of seizing = $1 \ 1/2 D$).
- The seizings should be spaced a distance apart equal to twice the diameter (spacing = $2D$).

Example: $2 \times 3/4 (D) = 1 \ 1/2$. Use 2-inch spaces.

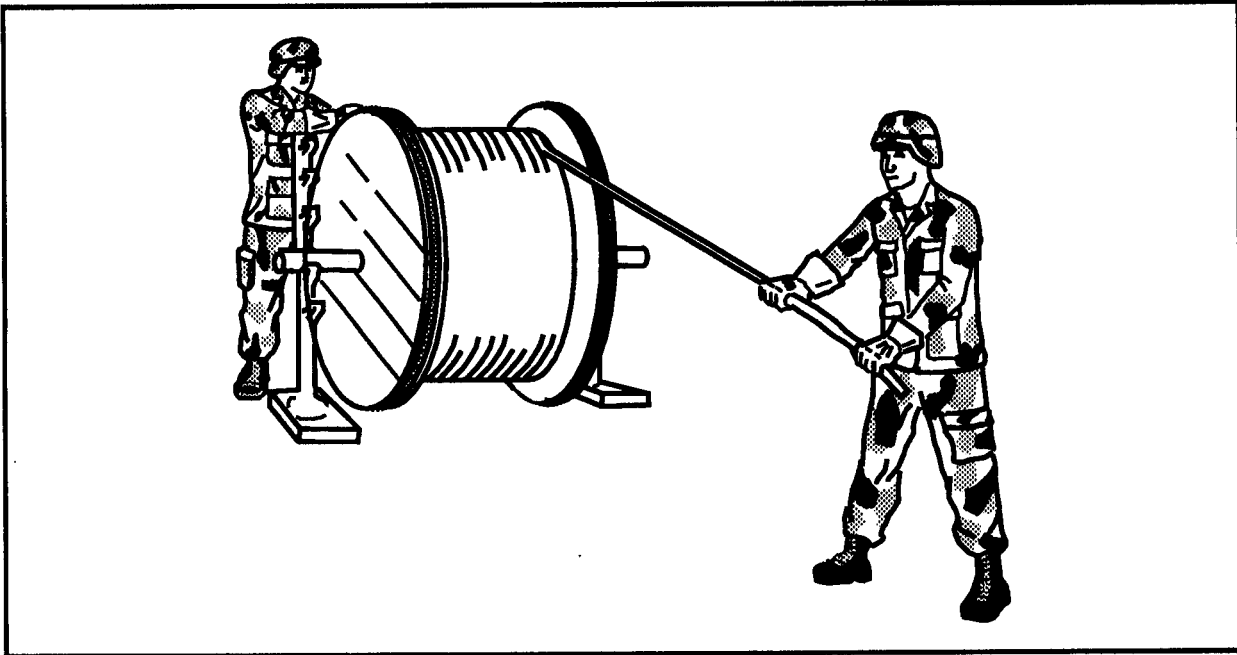


Figure 1-8. Unreeling wire rope

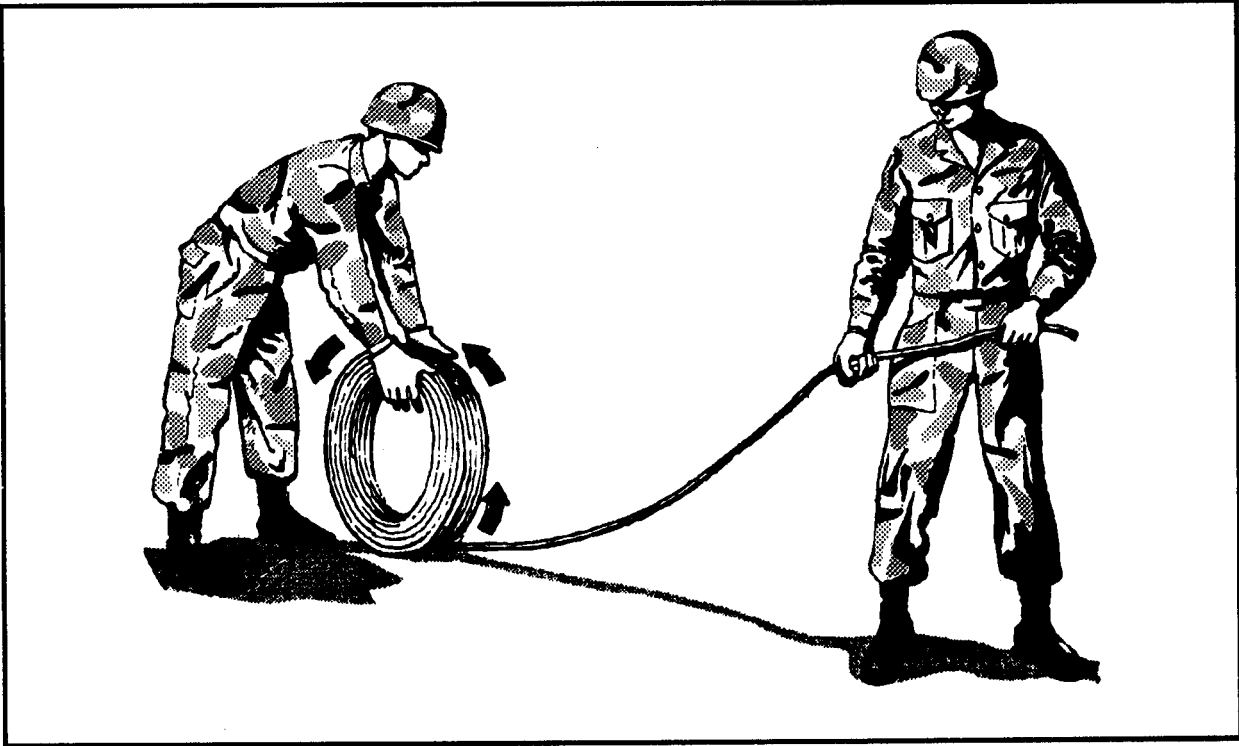


Figure 1-9. Uncoiling wire rope

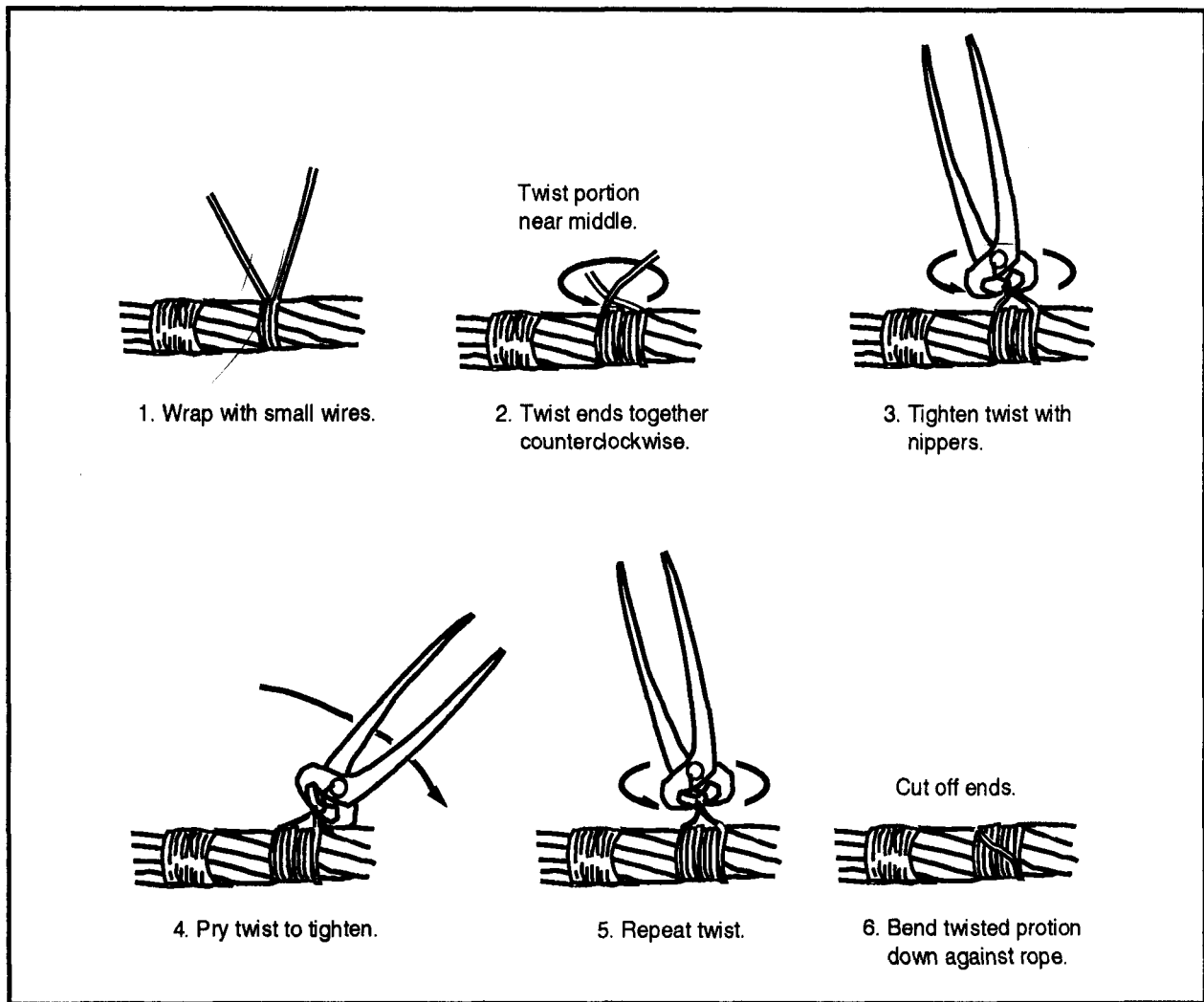


Figure 1-10. Seizing wire rope

Note: Always change the fraction to the next larger whole number.

apply more heat than is essential to fuse the metal.

WELDING

You can bind wire-rope ends together by fusing or welding the wires. This is a satisfactory method if you do it carefully, as it does not increase the size of the rope and requires little time to complete. Before welding rope, cut a short piece of the core out of the end so that a clean weld will result and the core will not be burned deep into the rope. Keep the area heated to a minimum and do not

CUTTING

You can cut wire rope with a wire-rope cutter, a cold chisel, a hacksaw, bolt clippers, or an oxyacetylene cutting torch (see *Figure 1-11*). Before cutting wire rope, tightly bind the strands to prevent unlaying. Secure the ends that are to be cut by seizing or welding them. To use the wire-rope cutter, insert the wire rope in the bottom of the cutter with the blade of the cutter coming between

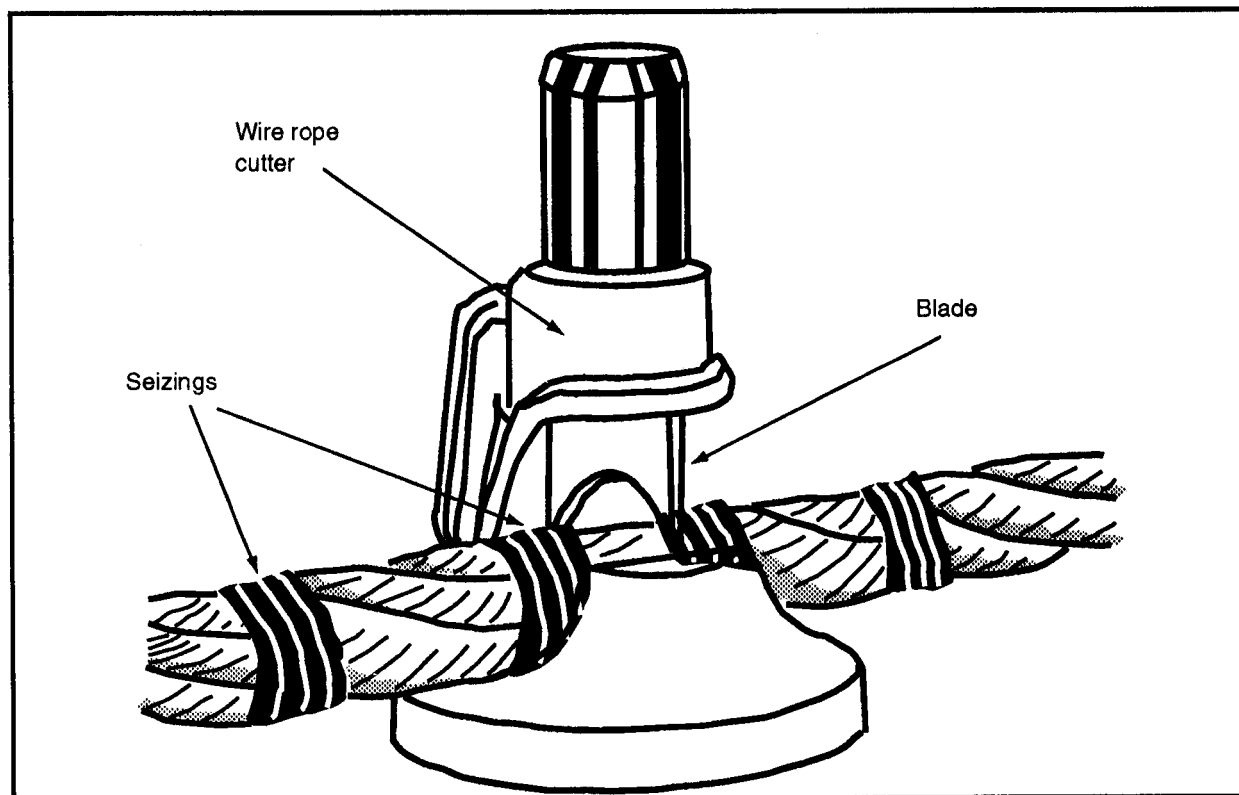


Figure 1-11. Wire-rope cutter

the two central seizings. Push the blade down against the wire rope and strike the top of the blade sharply with a sledge hammer several times. Use the bolt clippers on wire rope of fairly small diameter; however, use an oxyacetylene torch on wire rope of any diameter. The hacksaw and cold chisel are slower methods of cutting.

DRUMS AND SHEAVES

The size and location of the sheaves and drums about which wire rope operates and the speed with which the rope passes over the sheaves have a definite effect on the rope's strength and service life.

Size

Each time wire rope is bent, the individual strands must move with respect to each

other in addition to bending. Keep this bending and moving of wires to a minimum to reduce wear. If the sheave or drum diameter is sufficiently large, the loss of strength due to bending wire rope around it will be about 5 or 6 percent. In all cases, keep the speed of the rope over the sheaves or drum as slow as is consistent with efficient work to decrease wear on the rope. It is impossible to give an absolute minimum size for each sheave or drum, since a number of factors enter into this decision. However, *Table 1-4, page 1-16*, shows the minimum recommended sheave and drum diameters for several wire-rope sizes. The sheave diameter always should be as large as possible and, except for very flexible rope, never less than 20 times the wire-rope diameter. This figure has been adopted widely.

Table 1-4. Minimum tread diameter of drums and sheaves

Rope Diameter (Inches)	Minimum Tread Diameter for Given Rope Construction* (Inches)			
	6 x 7	6 x 19	6 x 37	8 x 19
1/4	10 1/2	8 1/2		6 1/2
3/8	15 3/4	12 3/4	6 3/4	9 3/4
1/2	21	17	9	13
5/8	26 1/4	21 1/4	11 1/4	16 1/4
3/4	31 1/2	25 1/2	13 1/2	19 1/2
7/8	36 3/4	29 3/4	15 3/4	22 3/4
1	42	34	18	26
1 1/8	47 1/4	38 1/4	20 1/4	29 1/4
1 1/4	52 1/2	42 1/2	22 1/2	32 1/2
1 1/2	63	51	27	39

*Rope construction is strands and wires per strand.

Location

You should reeve the drums, sheaves, and blocks used with wire rope and place them in a manner to avoid reverse bends whenever possible (see *Figure 1-12*). A reverse bend occurs when rope bends in one direction around one block, drum, or sheave and bends in the opposite direction around the next. This causes the individual wires and strands to do an unnecessary amount of shifting, which increases wear. Where you must use a reverse bend, the block, sheave, or drum causing the reversal should be of larger diameter than ordinarily used. Space the bend as far apart as possible so there will be more time allowed between the bending motions.

Winding

Do not overlap wire-rope turns when winding them on the drum of a winch; wrap them

in smooth layers. Overlapping results in binding, causing snatches on the line when the rope is unwound. To produce smooth layers, start the rope against one flange of the drum and keep tension on the line while winding. Start the rope against the right or left flange as necessary to match the direction of winding, so that when it is rewound on the drum, the rope will curve in the same manner as when it left the reel (see *Figure 1-13, page 1-18*). A convenient method for determining the proper flange of the drum for starting the rope is known as the hand rule (see *Figure 1-14, page 1-19*). The extended index finger in this figure points at the on-winding rope. The turns of the rope are wound on the drum close together to prevent the possibility of crushing and abrasion of the rope while it is winding and to prevent binding or snatching when it is unwound. If necessary, use a

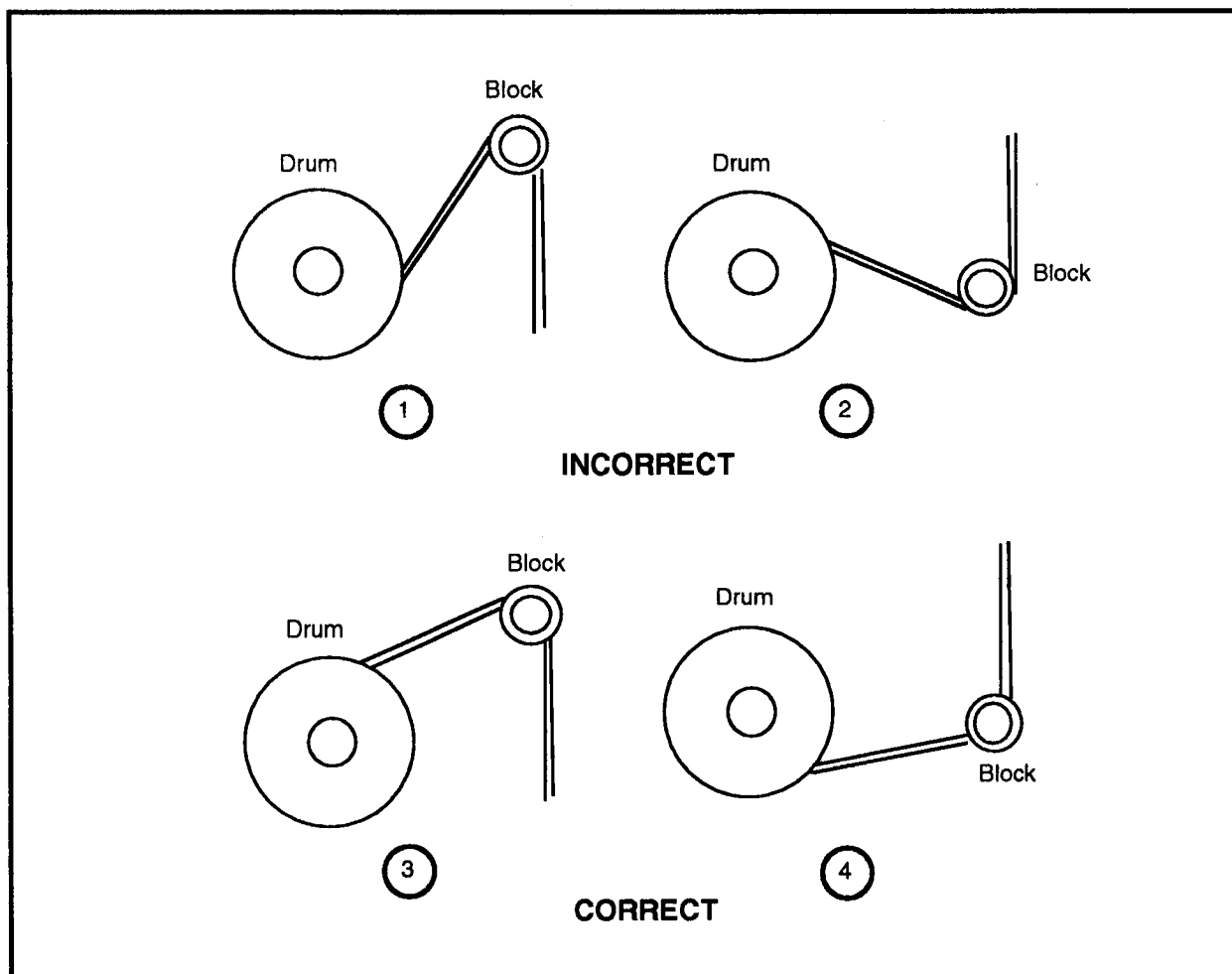


Figure 1-12. Avoiding reverse bends in wire rope

wood stick be to force the turns closer together. Striking the wire with a hammer or other metal object damages the individual wires in the rope. If possible, wind only a single layer of wire rope on the drum. Where it is necessary to wind additional layers, wind them so as to eliminate the binding. Wind the second layer of turns over the first layer by placing the

wire in the grooves formed by the first layer; however, cross each turn of the rope in the second layer over two turns of the first layer (see *Figure 1-15, page 1-20*). Wind the third layer in the grooves of the second layer; however, each turn of the rope will cross over two turns of the second layer.

INSPECTION OF WIRE ROPE

Inspect wire rope frequently. Replace frayed, kinked, worn, or corroded rope. The frequency of inspection is determined by

the amount of use. A rope that is used 1 or 2 hours a week requires less frequent inspection than one that is used 24 hours a day.

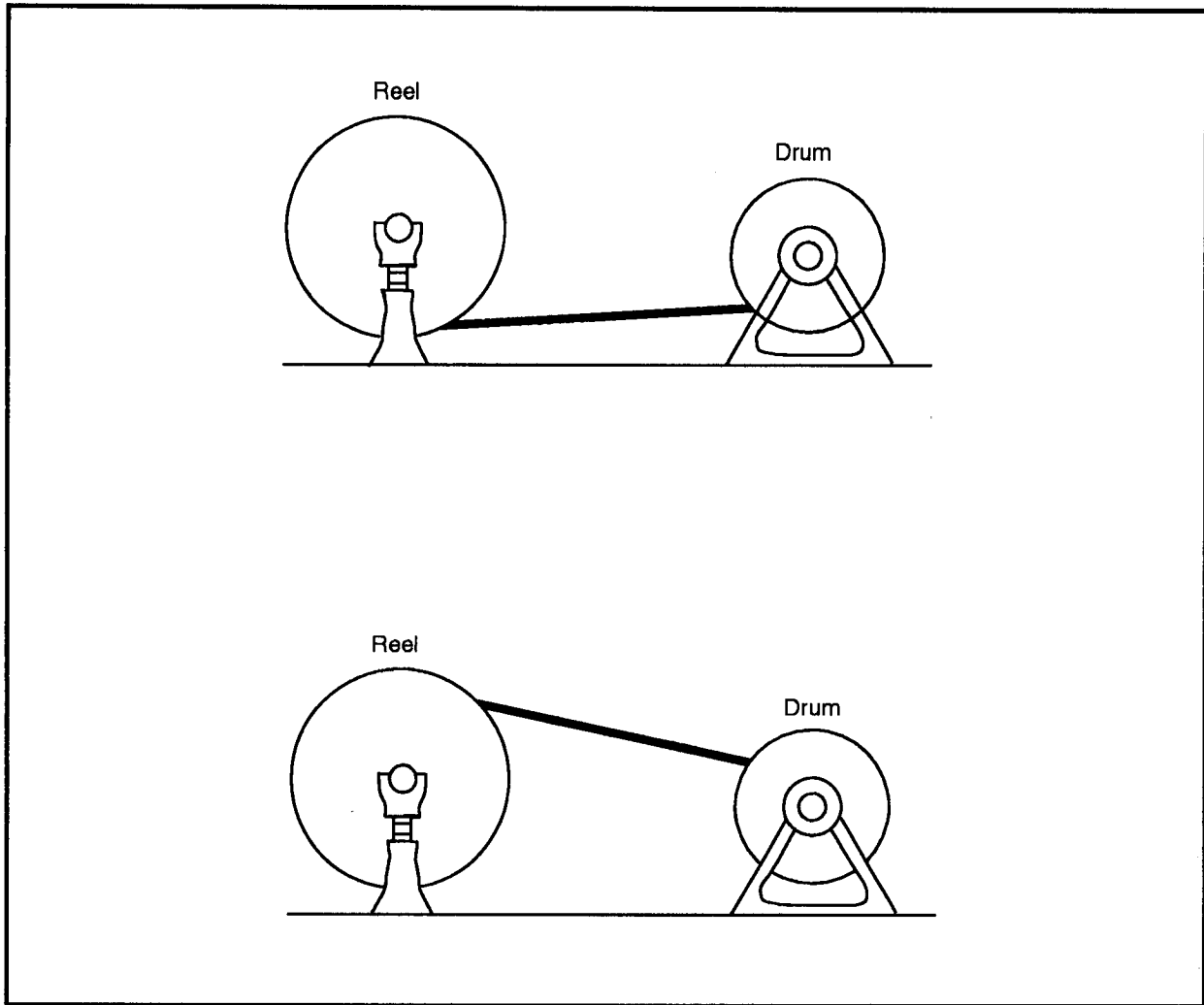


Figure 1-13. Spooling wire rope from reel to drum

PROCEDURES

Carefully inspect the weak points in rope and the points where the greatest stress occurs. Worn spots will show up as shiny flattened spots on the wires. If the outer wires have been reduced in diameter by one-fourth, the worn spot is unsafe.

Inspect broken wires to determine whether it is a single broken wire or several wires. Rope is unsafe if—

- Individual wires are broken next to one

another, causing unequal load distribution at this point.

- Four percent of the total number of wires composing a type of wire rope are found to be broken in one strand (the distance in which one strand makes one complete turn around the rope).
- Three broken wires are found in one strand of 6-by-7 rope; if six broken wires are found in one strand of 6-by-19 rope; or if nine broken wires are found in one strand of 6-by-37 rope.

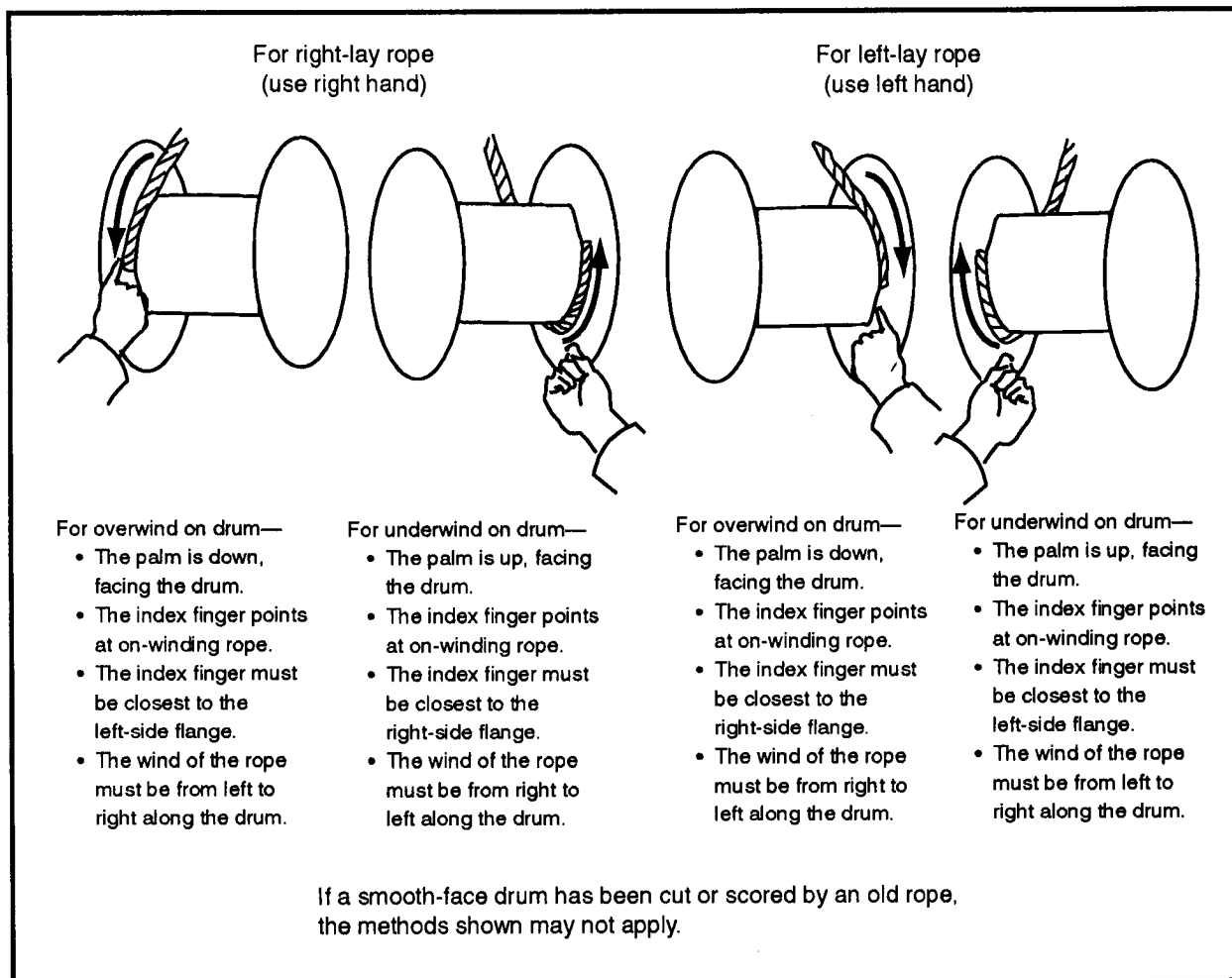


Figure 1-14. Determining starting flange of wire rope

CAUSES OF FAILURE

Wire rope failure is commonly caused by—

- Sizing, constructing, or grading it incorrectly.
- Allowing it to drag over obstacles.
- Lubricating it improperly.
- Operating it over drums and sheaves of inadequate size.
- Overwinding or crosswinding it on drums.
- Operating it over drums and sheaves that are out of alignment.
- Permitting it to jump sheaves.
- Subjecting it to moisture or acid fumes.
- Permitting it to untwist.
- Kinking.

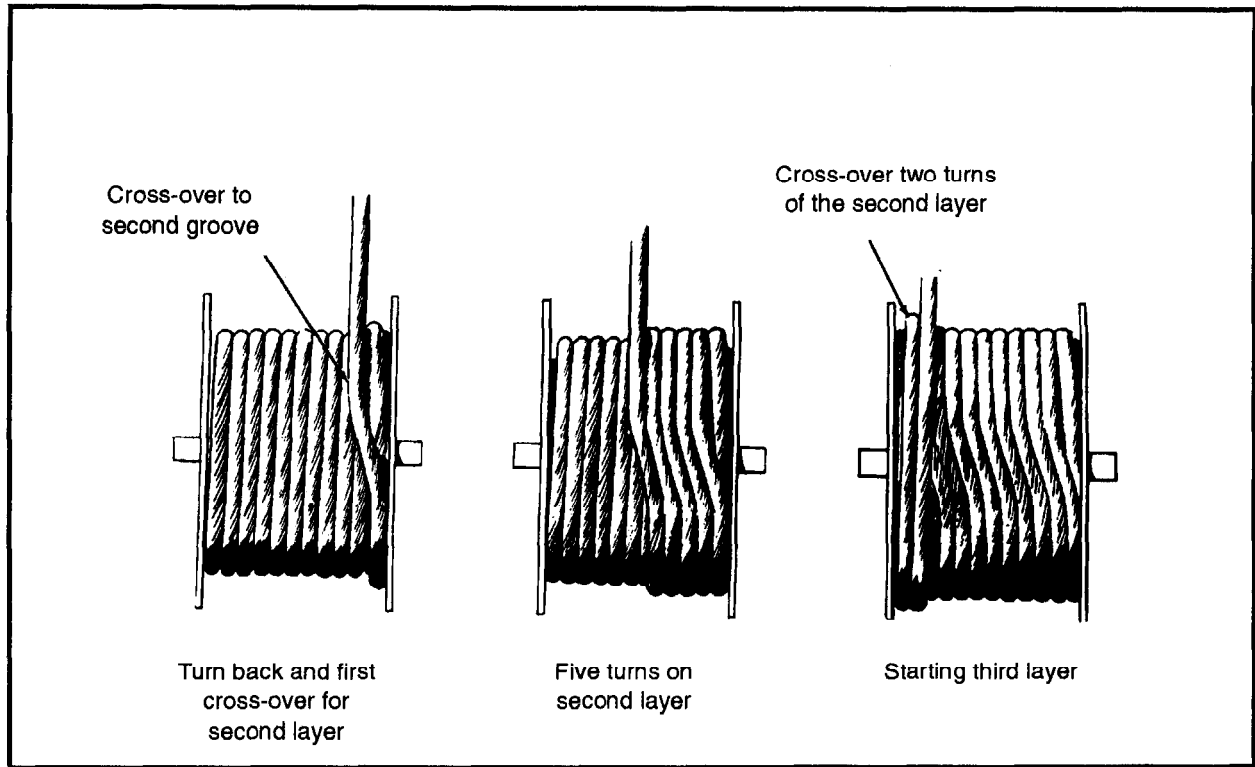


Figure 1-15. Winding wire-rope layers on a drum