

## Mike's Quick Rope Whipping

Posted on [October 26, 2011](#) by [captnmike](#)

This is the quick and secure whipping I use to whip the ends on double braid line. I have not seen this in any book. It has some of the elements of the classic quick temporary whipping but this method is much more secure and almost as quick as the classic quick temporary whipping. Properly whipped line ends in addition to keeping line ends from fraying also helps give your boat more "style points" and adds to your reputation as a knowledgeable sailor.



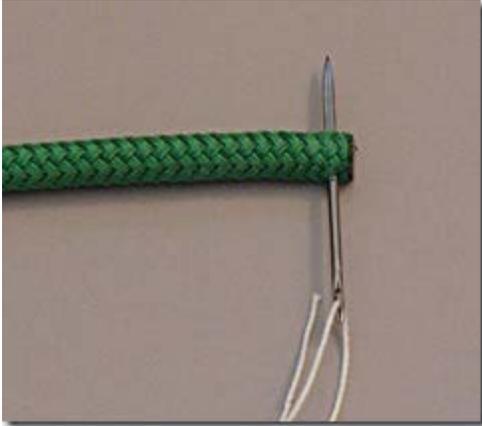
Whipping the ends of the line with this whipping is much easier for me to do than the classic regular whipping that has two frapping turns at 90 degrees from each other and the tough (for me anyway) ending knot and bury. I use a single set of frapping turns to hold the whipping together with a quick secure bury of the two ends of the whipping twine.

I have been using my quick rope whipping on my boat and boats of friends for many years and my quick rope whipping has worked well. I have had many friends specifically ask me to bring my ditty bag with whipping supplies in it when I go sailing with them to fix the ends of their lines.



The required materials: Waxed Whipping Twine, Sail Makers Needle, Sailmaker's Palm (to push the needle through the line), scissors and small fid (this is a modified awl from the hardware store). Having some Bee's Wax in case the wax on the whipping twine is not heavy enough or you decide to use line that is not pre-waxed.

The materials required for quick whipping the end of a line



Start by pushing the needle and twine through the center of the line using the Sailmaker's Palm to protect your hand. You will work from the end of the line toward the center. Sail maker needles are triangular in shape, the edges of the triangle are rounded to open up the material they pass through without damaging the fibers. The point of the needle is very sharp and care should be taken to not stick yourself.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Start



Form a loop with part of the tail of the twine. Leave several inches of twine for a tail, this tail needs to be long enough to grab onto and pull on quite hard.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 2



Lay down the loop as shown and wrap the whipping twine snugly around the line. The wrapped length should be about equal to the diameter of the line.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 3



After you have the desired length of whipping thread the whipping twine through the center of the line toward the loop side. Use your Sailmaker's Palm. Line up the entrance with the exit of the line at the start.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 4



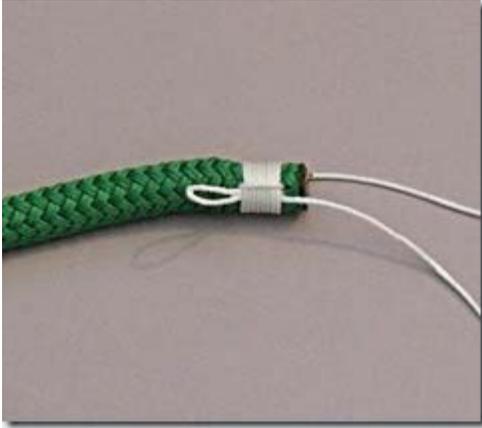
When you come through by the loop DON'T go through the loop, come up along side the loop.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 5



I only did a so-so job lining up my stitching through the line in this picture. But things should still work out fine they will just look a bit off.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 6



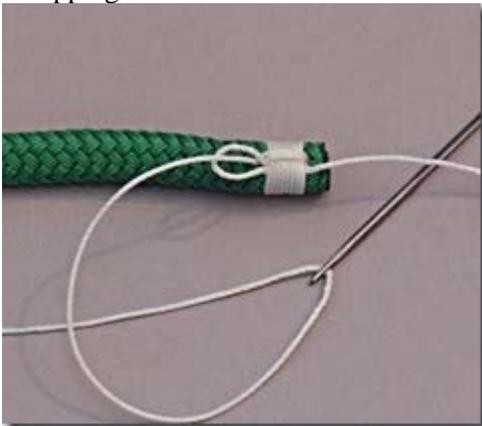
Wrap the whipping line length wise on the whipping then thread the whipping twine down through the center of the line and pull the stitching snug. This is the start of the frapping turns the will hold the whipping together securely.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 7



Thread the whipping twine back down where you started the first frapping turn. I usually try and capture the earlier threading through the line to help pull the whipping together a bit better and give a nicer looking whipping.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 8



After the second complete frapping turn is completed thread the whipping twine through the loop. The frapping turns should be smooth, tight and don't cross over each other. If one of the frapping turns crosses over the other, the frapping turn that crosses over will wear quicker.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 9



Pull the slack out of the loop and then tie the whipping twine to a fid or other object, this is to protect your fingers when the loop is buried. If the whipping is done correctly and snugly, burying the loop will be difficult.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 10



Pull the loop carefully to the center of the whipping. This will result in both ends of the whipping twine being buried with the crossover at the center of the whipping.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Step 11



Clip the extra whipping twine and you are finished. I usually leave a bit of a tail.

Whipping the end of a double braid line – Finished

Many books recommend putting two whippings on the end of a line in case one comes undone. I don't like the second whipping as that makes the end of the line stiffer and more difficult to handle. I make it a point to inspect the whipping on a regular basis and replace any that look tired. If a whipping starts to come loose a quick [Double Constrictor Knot](#) will keep the end of the line together until a regular whipping can be applied if enough time is not available for this quick rope whipping.

Whipping twine is available in many sizes, colors and types. I use colored whipping for coding and marking many of my lines. I use regular Dacron / Polyester waxed whipping twine for almost all rope whipping. I do keep a roll or three of the more exotic materials for the times I need stronger small stuff or twine.

A strand can also be taken from the cover of a scrap of line and used as whipping also, just remember to wax the strand with some Bee's wax. If you use a strand from the cover of a scrap of line it will match the base line color.

Whipping the ends of rope or line with this method sometimes does not look quite as nice as the fancier whipping but this is much easier for me to whip the end of the line than the more involved and traditional ways.

Now you have no reason for not replacing that ugly tape on the ends of your braided lines or having frayed lines on your boat.

Thanks for your interest in and support of boating safety.