

Practice doing this knot until you can do it without thinking. There are other knots, but this one has the great advantage of not becoming impossible to undo if it is pulled on, even very hard.

To remove it, ask for slight lateral flexion and then undo the knot. Be very careful not to abandon the horse or allow him to anticipate being released; maintain the connection, even putting the halter back on if necessary to prevent this anticipation.

HORSEMANSHIP CONCEPTS:

- In everything you do, look for confidence, respect, and connection.
- Real connection is stronger than any physical restraint.
- You should not have to catch a horse; he should come to your invitation.

TO SUCCEED

- I must prepare my equipment and my horse beforehand.
- I may use my fingers if necessary to guide the horse's head but not force him.
- I must remember to use smooth movements.
- I must not teach the horse to anticipate when I release him.
- I must ask him to stay connected for a while after the halter has been removed. A horse which anticipates being released can be very dangerous in the paddock, turning away quickly and kicking you.
- I leave him. Don't let him leave me.

ERRORS TO AVOID

- Do not try to put on a halter which has not been prepared and organized first.
- Do not try to put a halter on an uneducated horse without first practicing to develop smooth, instinctive technique.
- Do not forget to make the three adjustments.
- Do not allow the horse to anticipate the moment when you remove the halter, and pull his head away as soon as you undo it.
- Do not allow the horse to become accustomed to losing all connection with you as soon as the halter has been removed.

