

Quick sling tricks

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Squirrel Away that Double Length Sling

The *Squirrel Knot* makes for neat easy racking for anchor length runners. It's the same way that my grandmother used to twist together wool yarn, so it's got to be good!

Step One: Double up the sling.



Step Two: Using carabiners or your fingers begin twisting the doubled sling until it gets VERY tightly twisted.



Step Three: The twisted sling naturally wants to double itself up. Let it do so and bring the two ends that you were twisting together. Now clip the two ends together with a carabiner. Clip the sling onto your harness or rack beside the rest of your draws and gear.



Making a *Triplet* for racking shoulder length slings

Step One: Clip two carabiners into a sling at opposite ends. Take all kinks out of the sling to make it smooth and straight. Now pass one carabiner through the center of the other as in the photo.



Step Two: Continue bring the carabiner down and around until it can clip into the doubled portion of the sling as shown. Try to keep the strands smooth and kink free during this process for best results.



Step Three: You now have a completed triplet for racking neatly on your harness or rack. The triplet can be used as – is or it can be extended to full length (next step).



Step Four: Once you have clipped your sling into the protection you can decide to extend the sling back to full length. Begin by unclipping the bottom carabiner. (The other carabiner is clipped into the protection so you have little choice!)



Step Five: Clip the carabiner into any one of the strands coming from the sling. It doesn't matter which if you have followed the above procedure correctly. Continue extending the sling until it is full length.



Step Six:
Clip into the rope!



Make Quick Work of those two piece anchors

On routes with established two bolt or two piton anchors you can very rapidly rig the anchor if you have prepared your anchor sling in the right way. This technique has you carrying the doubled sling over your shoulder like they used to do it in the old days!

Step One: Start by doubling up your sling. Clip one carabiner into both strands and clip two more carabiners separately on each of the two strands as shown.



Step Two: Slide all of the carabiners together on the same side of the sling. Throw the sling over your head and shoulder being sure to put it over your rack and your pack or you will have to dig to get it out later.



Step Three (a): When you get to the next belay station take the sling off your shoulder and grab the two carabiners that are clipped into only a single strand. The third carabiner is automatically ready in an equalized configuration if you have done everything right. Check just to be sure though...



Step Three (b): If you want to keep the anchor in an equalized set-up but need to add limiting knots it's too easy. Just do so one at a time.



Step Three (c): If you don't want an equalized set-up but want to use a knot instead to make independent legs on the anchor then don't make the limiting knots above. Grab the carabiner which is connected to the double strands and pull it in the anticipated direction of pull. Then tie a figure eight or overhand knot into the doubled sling and away you go. Clip in and get set up to belay.



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