

## U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Exam

Able Seaman Unlimited, Limited, Special,  
Special OSV, Sail, Fishing Industry

Q451 Deck General – Safety

(Sample Examination)

**Choose the best answer to the following Multiple-Choice Questions.**

1. A seaman is reported missing in the morning and was last seen after coming off the mid-watch. Which type of turn would you use to return to the track-line steamed during the night?

A. Anderson  
B. Williamson  
C. 180° turn  
D. Racetrack

Correct answer: B

2. While taking on fuel oil from an offshore supply vessel, the transfer hose leaks, causing a sheen in the water. Which action should you take FIRST?

A. Immediately shut down operations  
B. Reduce the rate of transfer  
C. Continue transfer operations  
D. Repair the leak with duct tape

Correct answer: A

3. What type of knot in illustration D030DG below is indicated by the Letter "N"?

A. Rolling bowline  
B. Timber hitch  
C. Heaving line hitch  
D. Stopper hitch

Correct answer: D

4. The hoods over galley ranges present what major hazard?

A. Grease collects in the duct and filter and if it catches fire is difficult to extinguish.  
B. They concentrate the heat of cooking and may raise surrounding flammable material to the ignition point.  
C. In order to effectively draw off cooking heat they present a head-injury hazard to a person of average or more height.  
D. They inhibit the effective operation of firefighting systems in combating deep fat fryer or range fires.

Correct answer: A

5. What is the name of tackle number 2 as shown in illustration D029DG below?

A. Onefold purchase  
B. Whip  
C. Gun tackle  
D. Single purchase

Correct answer: C

6. How is the size of wire rope determined?

- A. The number of strands
- B. The number of wires in each strand
- C. The circumference
- D. The diameter

Correct answer: D

7. What is the main advantage of a Chinese stopper over the one line stopper?

- A. It is safer to use when under heavy tension
- B. It is stronger
- C. It will not jam on the mooring line
- D. It is easier to use when under heavy tension

Correct answer: C

8. What is the primary concern in aiding a back injury patient?

- A. preventing convulsions and muscle spasms caused by the pain
- B. avoiding possible injury to the spinal cord by incorrect handling
- C. relieving the patient's pain by giving aspirin or stronger medication
- D. providing enough fluids to prevent dehydration

Correct answer: B

9. If an attempt is made to hoist a load that exceeds the capacity of an electric winch, an overload safety device causes a circuit breaker to cut off the current to the winch motor \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. immediately
- B. after the line pull exceeds the rated winch capacity
- C. when the line pull reaches 99% of the rated winch capacity
- D. after a short build-up of torque

Correct answer: B

10. When instructing a crew member concerning the right way to lift a weight, how should you instruct him/her?

- A. Arch the back to add strength to the muscles
- B. Bend his back and stoop with arms straight
- C. Bend his knees and lift with his legs
- D. Bend his back and stoop

Correct answer: C

11. When rigging a stage, the standing part should be fastened to the horns of a stage with which of the following hitches?

- A. Double blackwall hitch
- B. Clove hitch
- C. Timber hitch
- D. Marlinespike hitch

Correct answer: D

12. Which part of an anchor is designed to dig into the bottom to increase holding power?

- A. The arm
- B. The flukes
- C. The base
- D. The stock

Correct answer: B

13. Who has the authority to grant an alternate procedure for oil transfer operations?

- A. The Captain of the Port
- B. The nearest Coast Guard office
- C. The Area Commander
- D. The Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection

Correct answer: A

14. When bunkering is complete, which is the correct procedure concerning the bunker hoses?

- A. The hose should be washed out with hot soapy water
- B. The hose must be cleaned internally with a degreaser
- C. The hose must be stowed vertically and allowed to drain
- D. The hose must be drained, blanked off, and stored securely

Correct answer: D

15. Which statement is TRUE concerning life jackets?

- A. Life jackets are designed to turn an unconscious person's face clear of the water.
- B. Buoyant vests may be substituted for life jackets.
- C. Life jackets must always be worn with the same side facing outwards to float properly.
- D. Lightly stained or faded life jackets will fail in the water and should not be used.

Correct answer: A

16. What is the primary hazard, other than fire damage, associated with a class C fire?

- A. Possibility of reflash
- B. Explosion
- C. Electrocution or shock
- D. Flashover

Correct answer: C

17. Which statement is FALSE regarding the operation of a crane?

- A. The cargo block is raised and lowered by the luffing winch.
- B. The crane jib is raised and lowered by the luffing winch.
- C. The cargo block is raised and lowered by the hoisting winch.
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: A

18. What are the symptoms of seasickness?

- A. Reddening of skin and hives
- B. Fever and thirst
- C. Stomach cramps and diarrhea
- D. Nausea and dizziness

Correct answer: D

19. While anchoring your vessel, when is the best time to let go the anchor?

- A. When the vessel is moving slowly astern over the ground
- B. When the vessel is moving fast astern over the ground
- C. When the vessel is moving fast ahead over the ground
- D. When the vessel is dead in the water

Correct answer: A

20. What happens when the handle of an all-purpose nozzle is pushed into the forward position?

- A. The nozzle will produce a straight stream
- B. The nozzle will produce high-velocity fog
- C. The nozzle will produce low-velocity fog
- D. The nozzle will shut off the water

Correct answer: D

21. Which statement(s) is(are) TRUE concerning the use of dry chemical extinguishers?

- A. You should direct the spray directly into the fire.
- B. You should direct the spray at the base of the fire.
- C. You should direct the spray at a vertical bulkhead and allow it to flow over the fire.
- D. On a weather deck, approach the fire from the leeward side.

Correct answer: B

22. If a hydraulic pump on a winch accidentally stops while hoisting, the load will stay suspended because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a centrifugal counterweight counteracts the force of gravity
- B. the electric pump motor will cut out
- C. the control lever will move to the stop position
- D. a check valve will close and prevent reverse circulation

Correct answer: D

23. Which rope is the lightest in weight?

- A. Dacron
- B. Polypropylene
- C. Nylon
- D. Manila

Correct answer: B

24. In order to correctly open a new coil of manila line, which procedure should you follow?

- A. Pull the tagged end from the top of the coil
- B. Secure the outside end and unroll the coil on the deck
- C. Pull the tagged end at the bottom, up through the eye of the coil
- D. Unreel the coil from a spool

Correct answer: C

25. What type of knot in illustration D030DG below is indicated by the Letter "J"?

- A. Marline hitch
- B. Bowline
- C. Becket bend
- D. Plain whipping

Correct answer: D

26. Which extinguishing agent is most effective for combating wood fires?

- A. Dry chemical
- B. Carbon dioxide
- C. Dry powder
- D. Water

Correct answer: D

27. In illustration D038DG below, what part of the anchor is indicated by the letter "K"?

- A. Crown
- B. Bending shot
- C. Shank
- D. Ring

Correct answer: D

28. How is the Master or operator of a vessel required to keep the crew informed of the regulations concerning the discharging of garbage overboard?

- A. Keep placards prominently posted.
- B. Have each person read and sign a copy of the regulations.
- C. Give each crewmember a copy of ANNEX V of MARPOL.
- D. Call an all hands meeting before sailing.

Correct answer: A

29. Which of the signals listed is required to be displayed at night while bunkering at a dock?

- A. One red light
- B. Two red lights
- C. One red light over a white light
- D. One red light over a yellow light

Correct answer: A

30. In the event of an oil spill a report must be made to which of the following entities?

- A. U.S. Coast Guard
- B. The local police
- C. U.S. Corps of Engineers
- D. The local fire department

Correct answer: A

31. What is the cause of most minor spills of oil products?

- A. Major casualties
- B. Equipment failure
- C. Human error
- D. Unforeseeable circumstances

Correct answer: C

32. It is the responsibility of the crane operator to, at all times, be aware of the location of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hook
- B. load
- C. boom
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

33. Which of the following is a rope ladder with wooden rungs?

- A. A Jacob's ladder
- B. A drop ladder
- C. A life ladder
- D. A jury ladder

Correct answer: A

34. "Herringbone" is a term associated with which activity?

- A. Mooring
- B. Sewing
- C. Splicing
- D. Anchoring

Correct answer: B

35. Which part of a conventional cargo gear rig provides for vertical control and positioning of a boom?

- A. Topping lift
- B. Cargo whip
- C. Gooseneck fitting
- D. Spider band

Correct answer: A

36. A situation has occurred in which your vessel must be towed. When the towing vessel passes the towing line to you, where should you secure the line?

- A. To the base of the foremast
- B. To the forwardmost bitts
- C. At the stern
- D. To the forward part of the deckhouse

Correct answer: B

37. Which term is given to the process of separating both blocks of a tackle to prepare it for reuse?

- A. Out-hauling
- B. Chockablocking
- C. Two-blocking
- D. Over-hauling

Correct answer: D

38. During oil transfer operations, who is responsible for ensuring that the posted transfer procedures are followed?

- A. The designated person in charge
- B. The oiler
- C. The senior able seaman
- D. The tankerman

Correct answer: A

39. When bunkering at anchorage which of the following signals must be displayed?

- A. A red flag by day, red light by night
- B. A red flag by day ONLY
- C. A red light by night ONLY
- D. No signal required at anchorage

Correct answer: B

40. Which of the following may result from improperly coiling manila line?

- A. 50% loss of efficiency of the line
- B. Kink in the line
- C. Number of fishhooks
- D. Increase deterioration of the line

Correct answer: B

41. Which would be considered pollution under the U.S. water pollution laws?

- A. Oil
- B. Hazardous substances
- C. Garbage
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D



42. What is the proper name for the fitting that allows a boom to move freely both vertically and laterally?

- A. Lizard
- B. Swivel
- C. Gooseneck
- D. Spider band

Correct answer: C

43. Which of the following is considered "discharge" as it applies to the pollution regulations?

- A. pumping
- B. spilling
- C. leaking
- D. All of the above

Correct answer: D

44. If you are operating on the Inland Waters of the United States, which of the following may you discharge overboard?

- A. Dunnage
- B. Bottles
- C. Metal
- D. None of the above

Correct answer: D

45. Fueling results in the collection of waste oil in drip pans and containers. Which is an approved method of disposing of the waste oil?

- A. Draining it overboard when the vessel gets underway
- B. Discharge to a proper reception facility
- C. Mixing it with dispersants before draining it overboard
- D. Adding sinking agents and discharging it into the water

Correct answer: B

46. Which statement concerning an accidental oil spill in the navigable waters of the U.S. is TRUE?

- A. A warning broadcast must be made by radiotelephone.
- B. The person in charge must report the spill to the Coast Guard.
- C. The Department of Interior is responsible for the cleanup of the spill.
- D. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for the cleanup of the spill.

Correct answer: B

47. Which is the BEST holding ground for conventional anchors?

- A. Rock
- B. Very soft mud
- C. Shale
- D. Hard mud

Correct answer: D

48. The vessel shown in illustration D025DG has broken down and you are going to take her in tow. The wind is on her starboard beam. Both vessels are making the same amount of leeway. Where should you position your vessel when you start running lines?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

Correct answer: C

49. In illustration D038DG below, what type of anchor is depicted?

- A. Danforth
- B. Patent
- C. Stock
- D. Old-fashioned

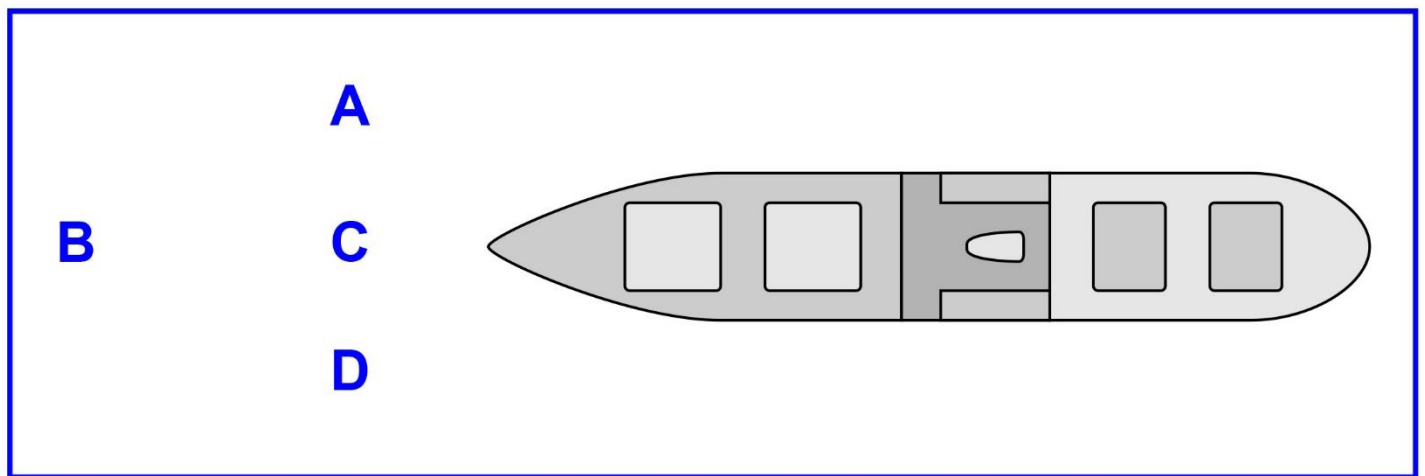
Correct answer: B

50. What type of knot in illustration D030DG below is indicated by the Letter "Q"?

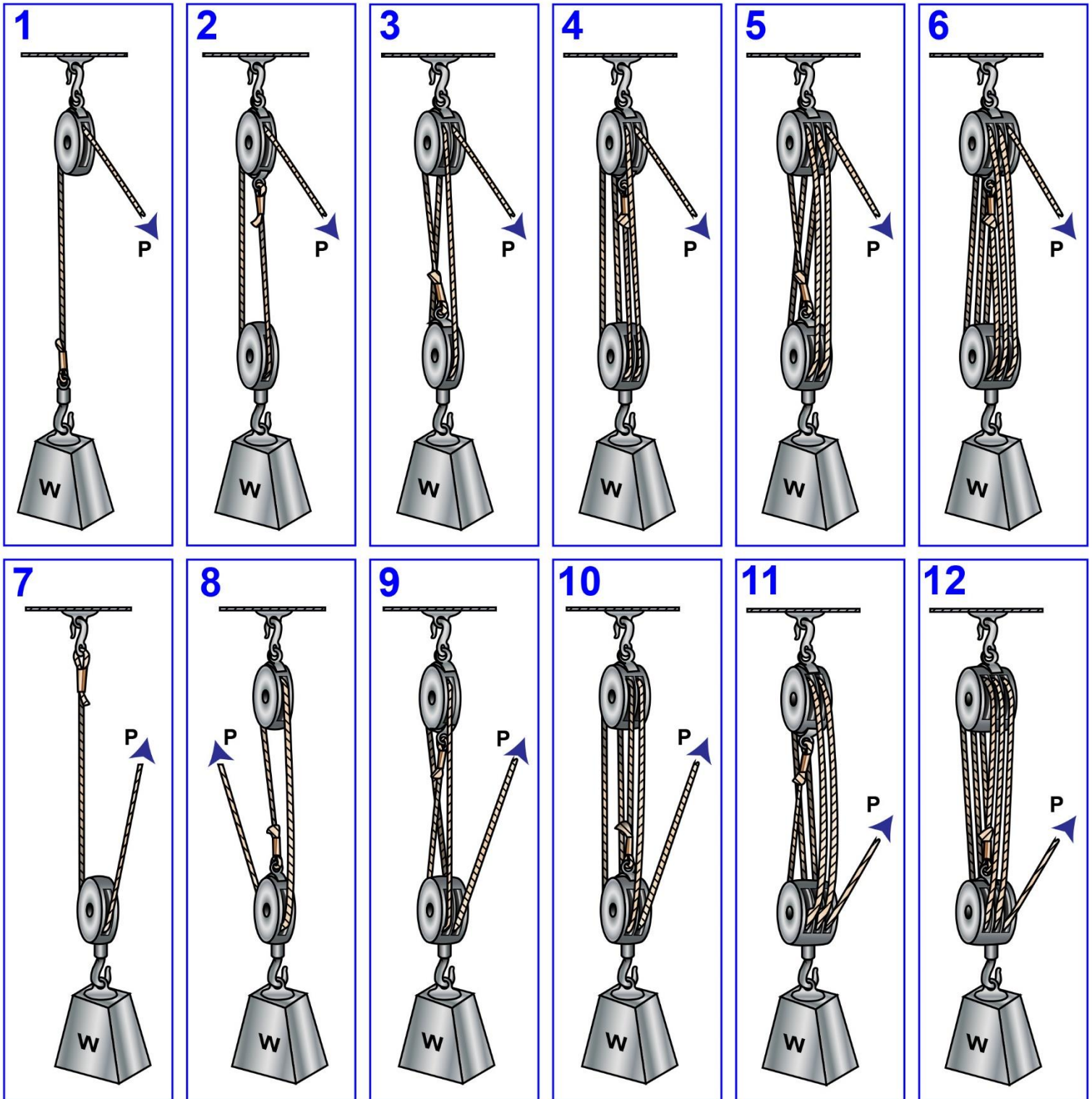
- A. Bowline
- B. Round knot
- C. Clove hitch
- D. Square knot

Correct answer: A

**D025DG**



## D029DG

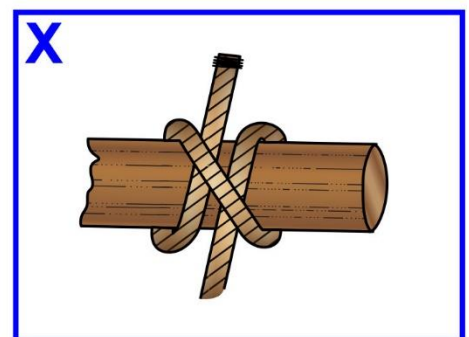
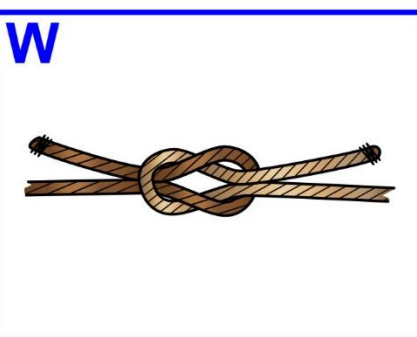
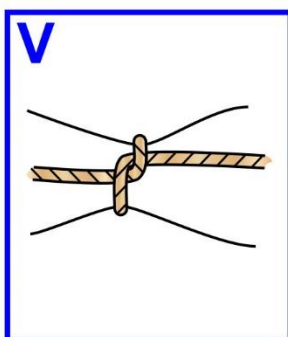
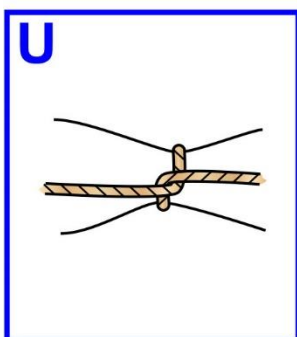
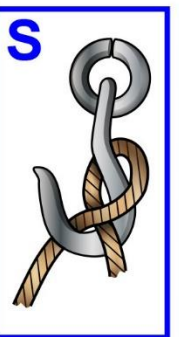
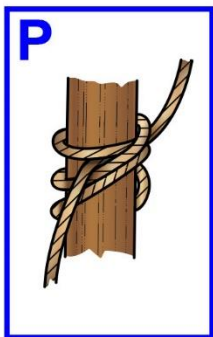
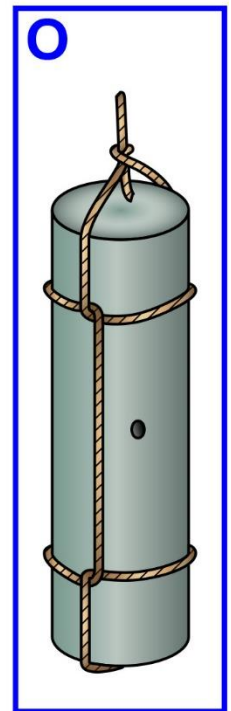
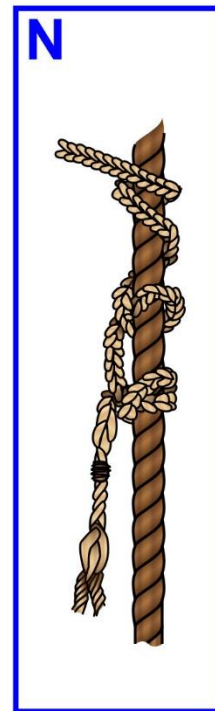
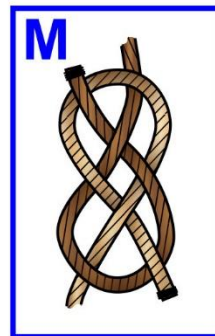
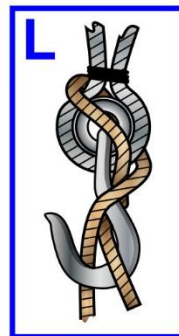
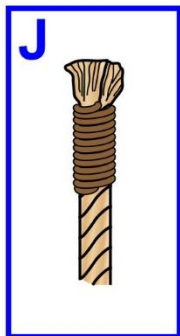
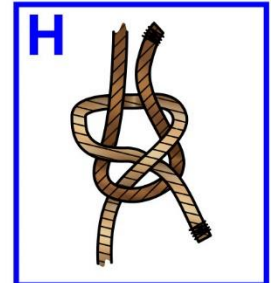
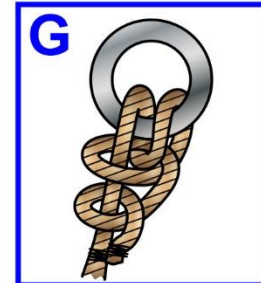
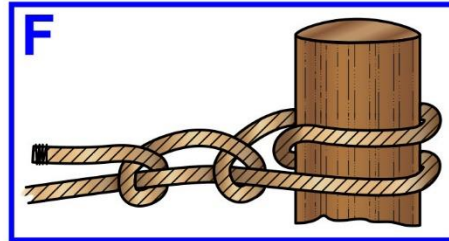
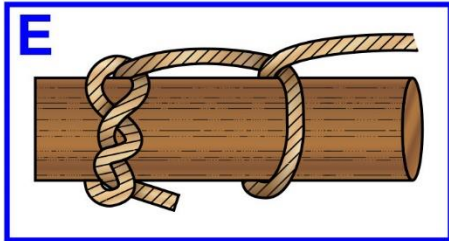


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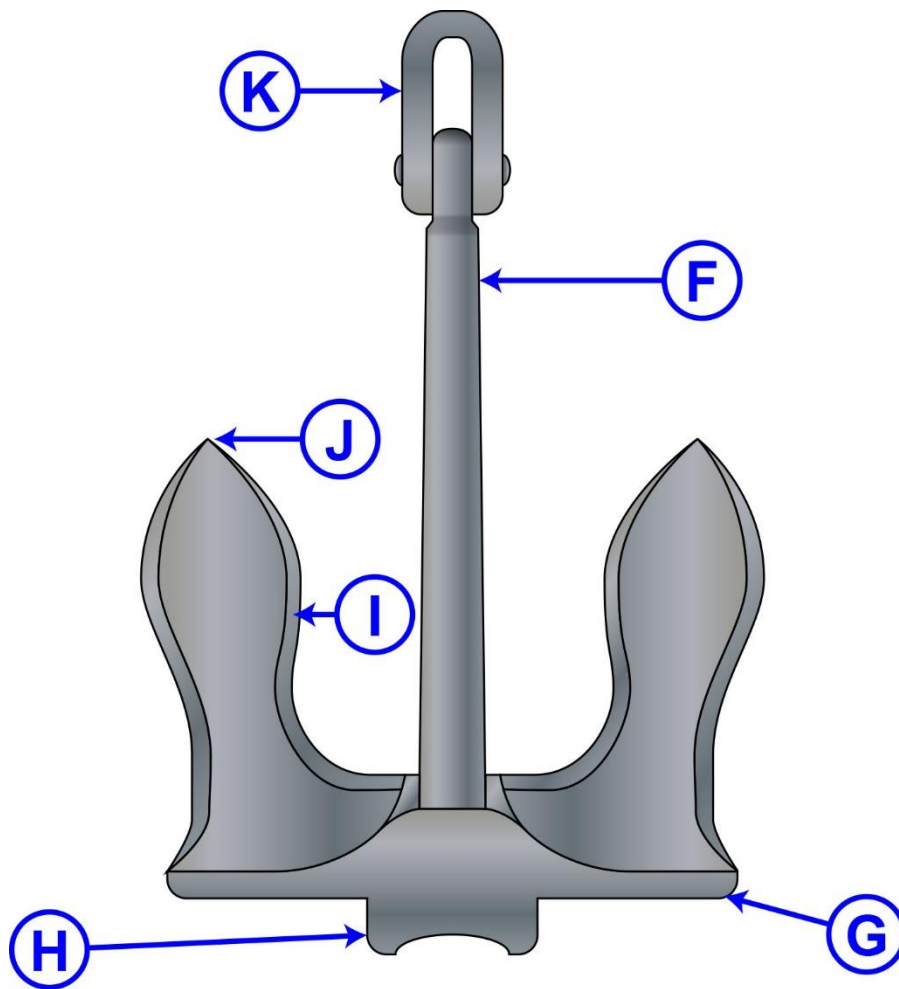
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## D030DG



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## D038DG



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