

# Fashion a fender

Follow these simple steps to fashion your very own fender.



## You will need:

- Suitable rope
- Whipping twine or strong tape
- Scissors

1. Give out fender rope, tape and scissors. Explain that a fender is a knotted length of rope often seen hanging from the sides of watercraft. Traditionally, they do the same jobs as bumpers on cars, protecting the hull from impacts with other boats and obstacles, but they're often decorative as well. Have everyone choose how long they'd like their finished fender to be, then cut a length of rope about 10 times this length.

You could show a fender you made earlier to give everyone an idea of what and how long a fender is.

2. Now, they should cut two more lengths of rope about five times the length of their finished fender. If there are different coloured ropes available, these could be the same colour, so that they can be told apart at a glance from the first length of rope, as pictured below.



3. Fold the longest length of rope in half and create a loop (or 'bight') in one end.



4. Secure the two halves of the rope together just below the bight, and then again further down, using strong tape. Be aware that the length between the two pieces of tape will be the final length of the fender, so space these with care. This fixes the loop (or 'eye') at the top of the fender, and the core.



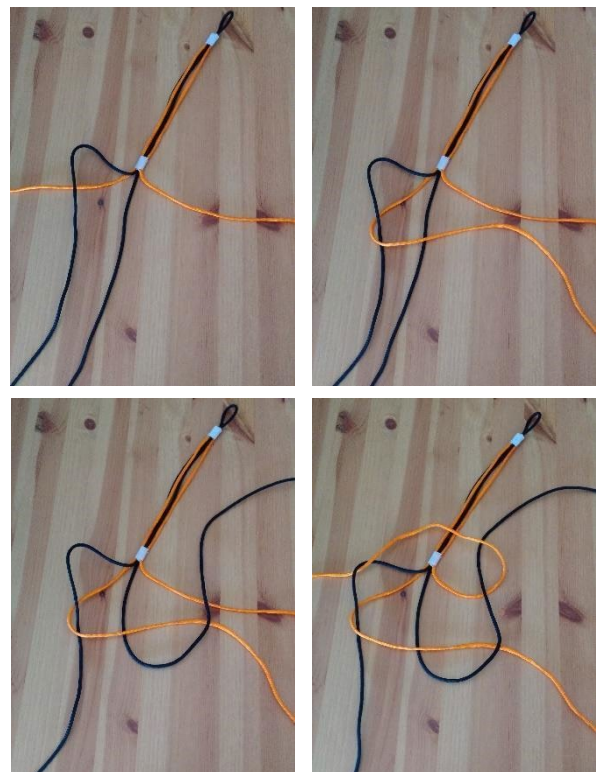
5. Attach the two shorter lengths of rope either side of the fender core and secure these in place with strong tape, then secure the ends below the eye as shown below.



6. To secure the four loose ends, tie a crown knot. Do this by turning the fender so the eye points down, then separate out the four strands so that they run in different directions, as shown below.



7. Take one strand and lay it over the strand clockwise from it, to form a loop. Take the next strand and do the same thing. Repeat this with the third strand and finally, lay the fourth strand over the core of the fender and down through the first loop. Pull each strand tight to secure the ends in the crown. This is illustrated below.



8. Continue tying this crown knot with the four loose ends up from the core towards the eye, now with the final strand going underneath the core of the fender and down through the first loop. Pull each strand tight to fix each crown knot to the first one tied.



9. Continue tying the crown knots until they reach the eye. Pulling the strands tight with each knot will make the fender stronger. The pattern formed by the knots, shown below, should make it clear if any mistakes have been made. The loose ends can be secured by tying them round the core, tucking them under a previous crown knot, or if the rope is nylon, the ends can be cut and melted to secure them.

