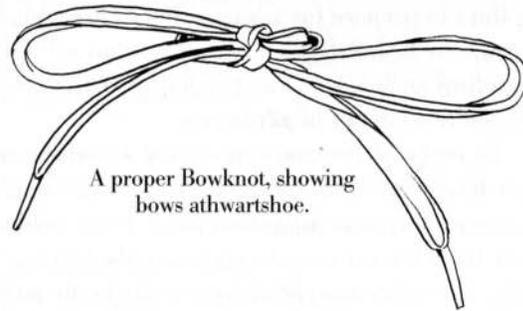


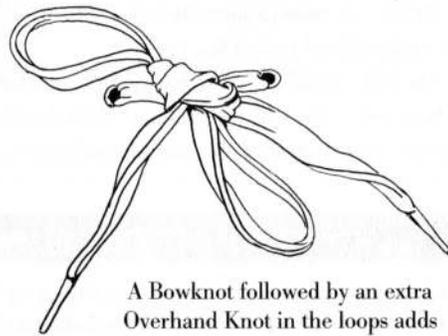
## Shoes

Moving along to bound feet, we come to what might be the best-known knot of all, the Bowknot, with which most people tie their shoelaces. I say "most" because this relative of the Square Knot is often mistied into a relative of the (shudder) Granny Knot. If your shoes have laces, look at them now. If the bows sit athwartshoe, they're Square; if fore-and-aft, Granny. Aside from superior appearance, the Square version offers superior security. If you've been tying the Granny, the easiest way to switch is to reverse the way you tie the Overhand Knot that is the first half of the Bowknot, then make the bow part as you always have. The new method will be second nature in no time.

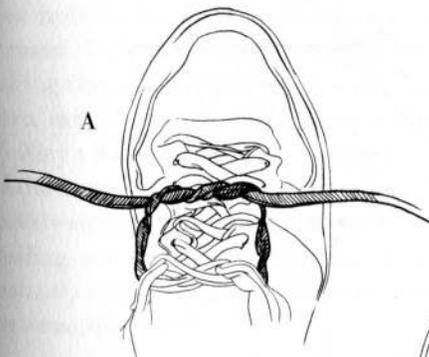
Even a properly made Bowknot is no paragon of security, especially in slick modern laces, or even in new leather ones. The usual way to improve security is to make an extra Overhand Knot with the bights. The result is secure but can be hard to untie when wet and is about as attractive as a hose clamp. The Turquoise Turtle Knot is a handsome alternative—simple, always easy to untie with a pull on the ends, and very easy to remember. Start with the usual Overhand Knot, but pass an end around a second time. Make the loops as usual, but leave a little space between them and the Overhand Knot. Pass the end and loop on one side through this space. Draw up as you usually would, by pulling on the ends.



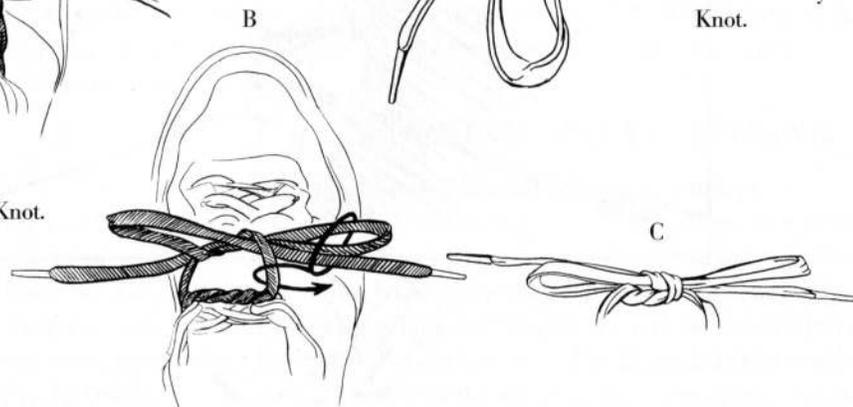
A proper Bowknot, showing bows athwartshoe.



A Bowknot followed by an extra Overhand Knot in the loops adds security at the expense of elegance.



The Turquoise Turtle Knot.



The execrable Granny Knot.