

Top.

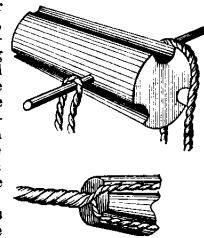
2. (*Rope-making.*) A plug with three grooves used to regulate the twist of a rope when three strands are being *laid up* (twisted).

Each strand occupies one of the grooves, and the *top* is held by a diametrical pin and two pieces of soft rope called *tails*. The three strands are attached to the hook of the *breast-board* and to the hook of the *sledge*; rotation is given to the cluster from the former; the top is forced as far as possible toward the *sledge-hook*, so as to allow the twist to commence at that end, the top giving way as the twist crowds it forward to the head end of the yarns. The process of twisting shortens the strands, and the sledge moves forward also, at which time the man at the sledge commences to rotate the hook at his end in a direction contrary to that by which the strands are twisted together.

The pins by which the block is held in the angles formed by the twisting rope are called *woolders*; the ropes are *tails*. These are wrapped around the rope so as to oppose, by their friction, the advance of the top.

The motion of the *top* is regulated to insure equal hardness to the rope.

Fig. 6548.



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