

Marlinspike Seamanship

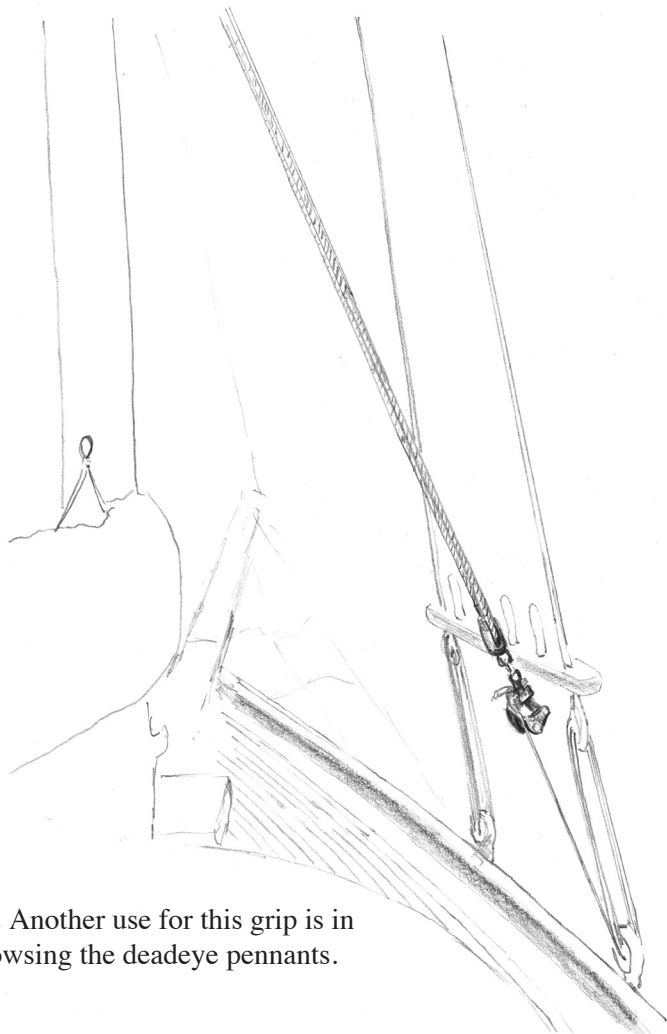
By Ted Walsh

Wire Pulling Grips

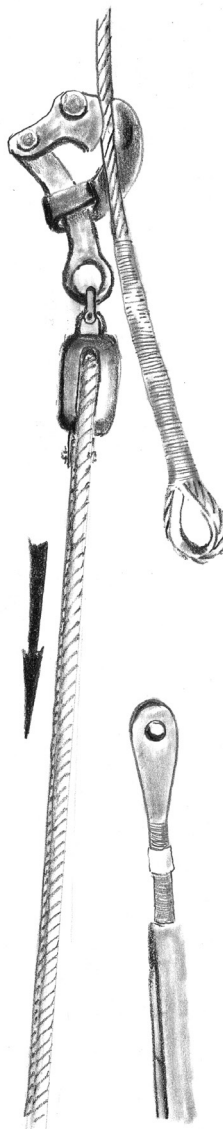
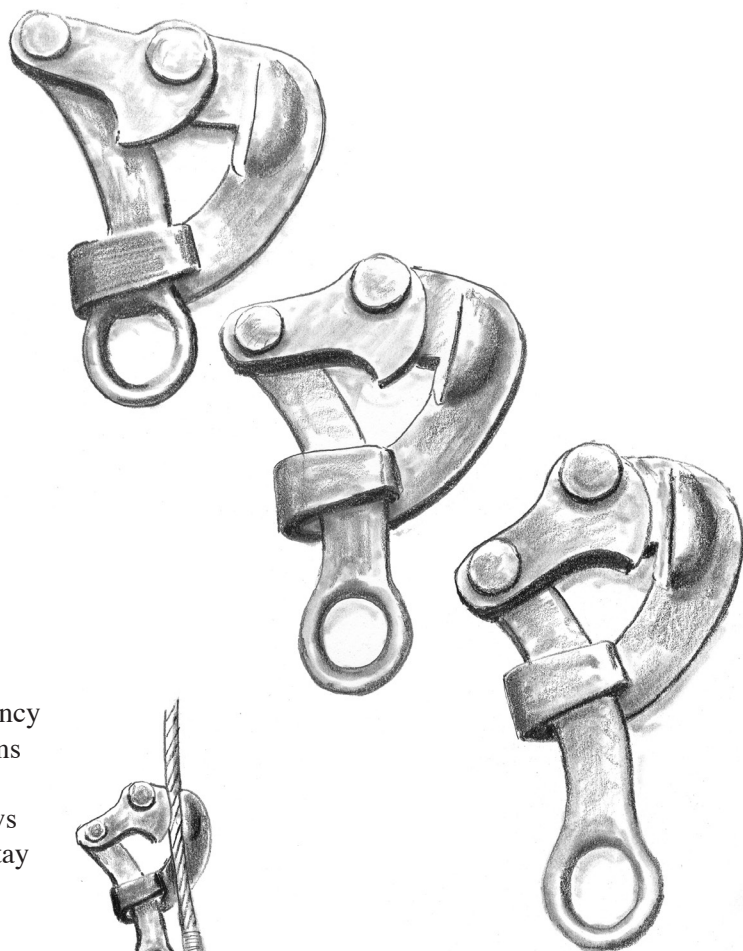
With rigging season right around the corner it seems like a good time to mention a slightly obscure rigging tool. A wire-pulling grip, sometimes called just a wire grip, or a Haven grip, is a cam device for quickly locking on to a wire cable so that it can be pulled.

If you set up your own shrouds this is one of those simple tools that can save you a lot of time. We keep one in our rigging bag and use it primarily at the beginning of the season. There are times when you need to pull on a line or a stay, for example, but leave the end of the line or stay free so it can be secured. A wire grip allows you to quickly grab a stay, shroud, or even a line, give you a purchase to haul on it so that the bitter end can be brought to the correct place.

For example: The mast on our boat has a tendency to lean aft just after it has been stepped. That means that the main stay will not reach the turnbuckle to which it is supposed to attach. The wire grip allows us to grab the stay, attach a tackle to haul on the stay until the eye reaches the turnbuckle on the stem.



Another use for this grip is in bowing the deadeye pennants.



Wire grips, or Haven grips can be found at some big-box stores like Home Depot, and at suppliers for arborists. They are not very expensive but can save you a lot of time setting up shrouds.