

Anchor aweigh

The moment the anchor, starts to leave the seabed when hauling up the anchor.

Anchor rode

A cable connecting the anchor to the vessel, used to hold a vessel fast to the anchor.

Bill-board - plate by the cat-head to receive the flukes of a stocked anchor when the it is hoisted and secured. A **Bill** is the far end of a fluke.

Bitter end - the inboard end of the anchor cable, ie nearest the capstan or windlass etc., secured to the **bitts** (which are like bollards on deck).

If a ship is to ride out a gale with no more line left to pay out, it is certainly in trouble when at the bitter end!

Capstan - upright cylinder with sockets in the **drumhead** near the top for placing **capstan bars**.

Watch this [Capstan demo on YouTube](#)
Pushing the **bars** makes the capstan revolve. A set of **pawls** at the bottom of the capstan prevent it from slipping back and running out the cable.



First, the inboard end of the rope is given few turns on the capstan to get a purchase. Then the capstan is turned enough to bring the line taut and the bitter end is secured to the bitts.

Capstans could be used for hauling any rope, not just for the anchor.

Cathead - projecting timber near the bow for hoisting the anchor (**catting the anchor**), into position ready for bringing the anchor inboard (onto the **anchor bed**) or letting it go.

Cat stopper - a piece of rope rove through the **ring** of an anchor to secure it for sea.

Shank painter - a short rope securing the shank of an anchor to the **bill-board** when stowed. Where a bill-board is not used it bears the weight of the fluke end of the anchor.

Fishing - after catting the anchor, hoisting its flukes upwards, preparatory to stowing the anchor on the **anchor bed**.

Winch or windlass - machines that replaced the capstan.

Parts of an Anchor



Admiralty anchor, via [wikimedia commons](#).

Crown - where the **arms** join the **shank**.

Fluke - a triangular flattened barb at the end of the anchor arm, which digs into the sea bed.

Shank - shaft joining the anchor ring (and stock) at the top of the anchor to the **arms** at the bottom.

Stock - crosspiece at the top of the shank, at right angles to the plane of the arms; it helps the anchor arms be vertical so the **flukes** can bite into the ground.

These nautical terms are explained with help from Web site **Sailing Issues**, pages on **Anchors and Anchor parts** at sailingissues.com/yachting-guide/anchors.html

Wikipedia page on **Anchor**, section **Anchor gear** at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anchor#Anchoring_gear

The Country Life Book of Nautical Terms Under Sail, by **Trewin Coppleston Publishing Ltd**,