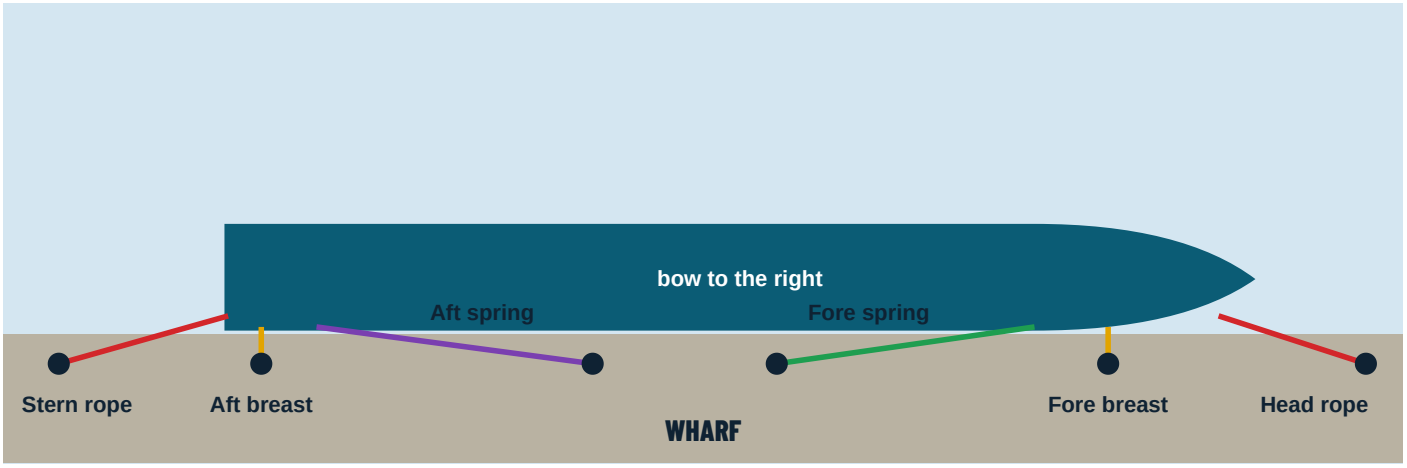
ZULU MARINER DATA CARD

24 MOORING LINES AND BERTHING

Name every line, know what it does, and stay out of the snap-back zone.

SIX LINES, SIX JOBS



Fore spring: from forward, leads aft. Aft spring (back spring): from aft, leads forward. Springs stop her surging along the wharf; breasts hold her in; head and stern ropes do a bit of both.

USING THE SPRINGS

Stern out	motor slow ahead against the fore spring, rudder towards the wharf: the bow is held, the stern swings off. Then go astern away.
Bow out	motor slow astern against the aft spring: the stern is held, the bow swings off.
Coming alongside	get a spring on first: it stops her and lets you work her in with the engine.
Single up	take in all but one line each end, ready to let go.

WORDS ON DECK

Make fast	secure it
Ease / slack away	let it out under control
Check	ease it but keep a strain
Heave	pull it in
Let go / cast off	free it ashore
All fast	every line secured

SNAP-BACK: WHERE PEOPLE GET HURT

- A line under load stores energy like a spring. If it parts it whips back at head height.
- Stay out of line with any loaded rope, and away from the line it would sweep if it broke, especially around fairleads and rollers.
- Never stand in a bight or step over a line under strain.
- Painted zones on deck do not show the whole danger. Think about where the rope would go.
- Keep hands well clear of bitts, cleats and drums when a line surges.

GOOD HABITS

- Chafe gear where a line crosses an edge.
- Lines doing the same job should be the same size and material, so they share the load.
- Tide and loading change the lead: tend the lines, or use long springs.
- Knots to know: cleat hitch, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, clove hitch.

Study aid only. Not for navigation.
Check the current official rules. Card 24 · v1.7 · © Nautical Bridge