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Knots to Know



There are many different skills associated with being a fisherman. One of them is the art of tying good knots. Most fishing gear stretches and is kind of slippery, so using the proper knot is what you want to keep your bait, lure, or fish from getting away.

This section will show you how to tie all of the knots needed to properly assemble your gear. In order to tie effective knots, you must realize that neatness counts. If a knot slips, it will probably break. Therefore, it is essential you completely tighten all knots. This is accomplished by lubricating the knot before you tighten it down. You can use water, saliva, or silicone fly floatant.

Close Ad

One word of caution should be exercised here.

You should never put any part of your line into your mouth to wet the knot. Many streams and lakes contain bacteria that can be harmful to you.

If you use saliva, drip or spit it on the knot instead.

When you tighten the knot, do so very slowly. What you are trying to do is tighten the knot without building up too much heat. If you tighten the knot quickly, friction will cause excessive heat, which in turn weakens the line. A smooth slow draw is best.

Here are a couple of knots worth learning:

The one and most important knot to know is The Clinch Knot or Cinch Knot (or Fisherman's Knot)

This knot is used for that most important place-where the hook (or the swivel or the lure) meets the line. A reliable knot here will save you lots of lost lures and fish!

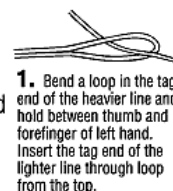


Menu of Knots

- [\[Albright\]](#) [\[Arbor\]](#) [\[Blood\]](#) [\[Braid\]](#) [\[Barrel\]](#) [\[Clinch\]](#) [\[Double Surgeons\]](#) [\[King Sling\]](#) [\[Nail\]](#) [\[Needle\]](#) [\[Palomar\]](#) [\[Perfection\]](#) [\[Snell\]](#) [\[Specialist Fly\]](#) [\[Stop Knot\]](#) [\[Trilene\]](#) [\[Triple Surgeons\]](#) [\[Uni\]](#) [\[Turtle\]](#) [\[Turtle\]](#) [\[Wedge\]](#)

Albright Knot

The Albright Knot is most commonly used for joining monofilament lines of unequal diameters, for creating shock leaders and when Bimini Twist is tied in the end of lighter casting line. It is also used for connecting monofilament to wire.



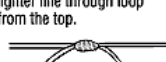
2. Slip tag end of lighter line under your left thumb and pinch it tightly against the heavier strands of the loop. Wrap the first turn



3. Insert tag end of the lighter line through end of loop from the bottom. It must enter and leave the loop on same side



4. With the thumb and forefinger of left hand, slide the coils of lighter line towards end of loop, stop 1/8" from end of loop



5. With your left hand still holding the heavier line pull on the standing part of the lighter line. Pull the tag end of the lighter line and the

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of the lighter line over itself and continue wrapping toward the round end of loop. Take at least 12 turns with the lighter line around all three strands.



Using pliers, pull tag end of lighter line tight to keep coils from slipping off loop.

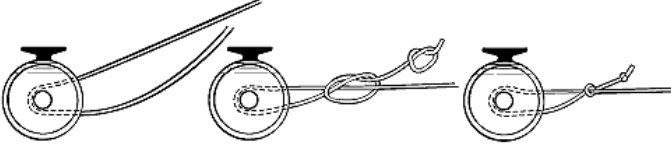
standing part a second time. Pull the standing part of the heavy mono and the standing part of the light line.

6. Trim both tag ends.



Arbor Knot

The Arbor Knot provides the angler with a quick, easy connection for attaching line to the reel spool.

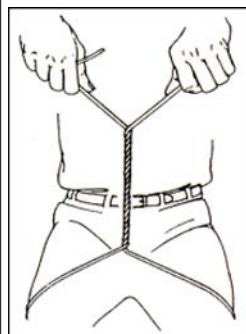


1. Pass line around reel arbor.
2. Tie an overhand knot around the standing line. Then tie a second overhand knot in the tag end.
3. Pull tight and snip off excess. Snug down first overhand knot on the reel arbor.



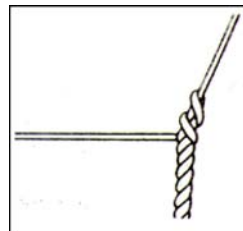
Bimini Twist Knot

1. Measure a little more than twice the footage you'll want for the double-line leader. Bring end back to standing line and hold together. Rotate end of loop 20 times, putting twists in it.

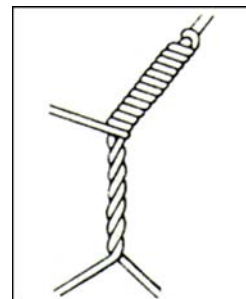


2. Spread loop to force twists together about 10" below tag end. Step both feet through loop and bring it up around knees so pressure can be placed on column of twists by spreading knees apart.

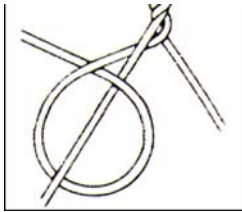
3. With twists forced tightly together, hold standing line in one hand with tension just slightly off the vertical position. With other hand, move tag end to position at right angle to twists. Keeping tension on loop with knees, gradually ease tension of tag end so it will roll over the column of twists, beginning just below the upper twist.



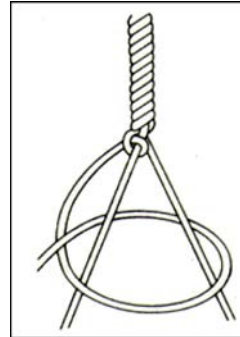
4. Spread legs apart slowly to maintain pressure on loop. Steer tag end into a tight spiral coil as it continues to roll over the twisted line.



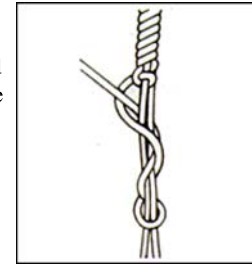
5. When spiral of tag end has rolled over column of twists, continue keeping knee pressure on loop and move hand which has held standing line down to grasp knot. Place finger in crotch of line where loop joins knot to prevent slippage of last turn. Take half-hitch with tag end around nearest leg of loop and pull up tight.



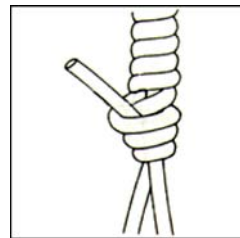
6. With half-hitch holding knot, release knee pressure but keep loop stretched out tight. Using remaining tag end, take half-hitch around both legs of loop, but do not pull tight.



7. Make two more turns with the tag end around both legs of the loop, winding inside the bend of line formed by the loose half-hitch and toward the main knot. Pull tag end slowly, forcing the three loops to gather in a spiral.



8. When loops are pulled up neatly against main knot, tighten to lock knot in place. Trim tag end about 1/4" from knot.



Berkley® Braid Knot

This special knot has been extensively tested by the Berkley R&D staff and has proven to be one of the best for use with the new braided lines.

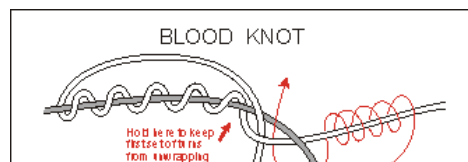


1. Run double loop through eye of hook or lure.
2. Loop around end of line and standing part of braided line 8 times. Thread double loop back between the eye and coils.
3. Tighten knot with a steady, even motion without hesitation. Trim double loop and end of braided line leaving about 1/4".



Blood Knot or Barrel Knot

This is a high strength knot to join two similar thicknesses of line. It's main advantage is it's low profile enabling it to run smoothly through rod line guides.



Know Your Knots

1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.
2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.
3. Pull tightly and clip ends closely.

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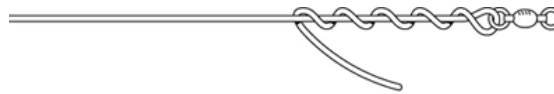


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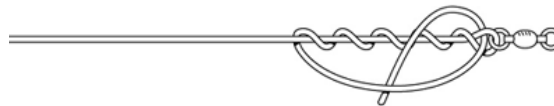
Clinch / Cinch Knot (Fisherman's Knot)

This knot is used for that most important place—where the hook (or the swivel or the lure) meets the line. A reliable knot here will save you lots of lost lures and fish!

1) Pass the line through the eye of the hook, swivel, or lure. Double back and make five turns around the standing line.



2) Holding the coils in place, thread the tag end of the first loop above the eye, then through the big loop.



3) Hold the tag end and standing line while pulling up the coils. Make sure the coils are in a spiral, not overlapping each other. Slide against the eye.



4) Clip the tag end.

BACK

The Improved Clinch Knot

The Improved Clinch is very easy to tie, which is the main reason it's so popular for connecting monofilament to terminal tackle. It's most effective on lines under 20-pound test.

1.

4.



Run several inches of line through the hook eye. Don't be stingy here. Make it comfortable and easy to tie.

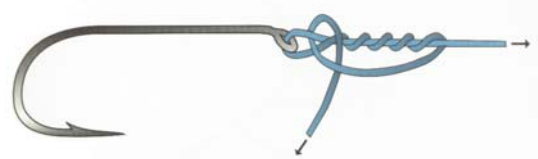
Push the loose end through the new loop you just created. Wet the knot with a little spit. This will lubricate the line and make your knot easier to tighten.

2.



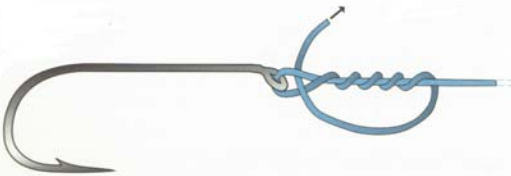
Wrap the loose end of your line around itself five or six times.

5.



Tighten the knot slowly by pulling on the line with one hand and the hook with the other.

3.



Pass the loose end through the loop in the line next to the eye in the hook.

6.

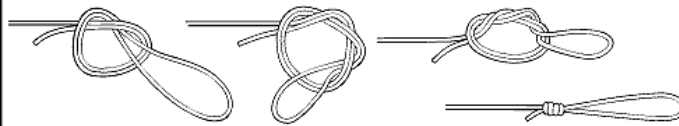


Trim off the loose end of the line with a pair of fingernail clippers.



Double Surgeon's Loop

The Double Surgeon's Loop is a quick, easy way to tie a loop in the end of a leader. It is often used as part of a leader system because it is relatively strong.



1. Double the tag end of the line. Make a single overhand knot in the double line.

2. Hold the tag end and standing part of the line in your left hand and bring the loop around and insert through the overhand knot.

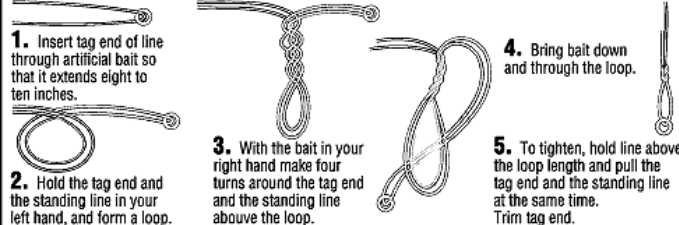
3. Hold the loop in your right hand. Hold the tag end and standing line in your left hand.

4. Moisten the knot in water and pull to tighten. Trim tag end to about 1/8".



King Sling Knot

The King Sling Knot offers the angler an easy -to-tie end loop knot which is used primarily as a connection for crank baits. This knot allows the lure to work freely, making it more lifelike, and resulting in more strikes.



1. Insert tag end of line through artificial bait so that it extends eight to ten inches.

2. Hold the tag end and the standing line in your left hand, and form a loop.

3. With the bait in your right hand make four turns around the tag end and the standing line above the loop.

4. Bring bait down and through the loop.

5. To tighten, hold line above the loop length and pull the tag end and the standing line at the same time. Trim tag end.



Nail Knot

The Nail Knot is generally used to attach fly line to fly line backing. This knot can also be used to attach a leader to the line. This makes a strong smooth knot that rolls out when casting. The nail knot is good for attaching two lines of different diameters.



1. Hold nail or needle, tip of fly line and backing material between thumb and forefinger. Wrap backing 6 or 7 turns. Wind carefully for a tight, smooth knot. Stick end of backing between nail and fly line.

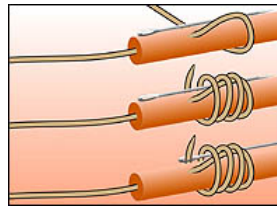
2. Remove nail. Holding coils carefully between thumb and forefinger, alternately pull both ends of backing with free hand to tighten.

3. Snip off excess backing and end of fly line.



Needle Knot

This knot can be used to attach permanently a thick length of nylon to the end of the fly line, to which, in turn, the leader is attached.



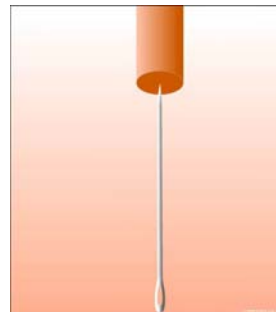
Use: Attaching [backing](#) to fly line.

Description: This is a good knot to use to attach the end of the backing to the fly line or a thick nylon leader butt. It can be tied with a nail or, more easily, with either a tube or a needle.

Tying:

1.

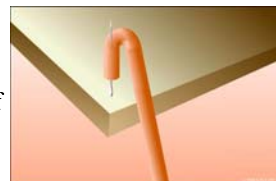
To tie this knot you will need a strong needle with an eye large enough to take the [backing](#) or nylon that you are using.



[Click image for an enlarged view](#)

2.

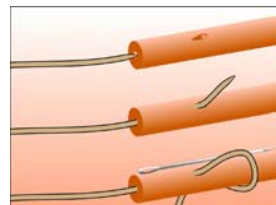
Push the needle into the center of the core of the fly line and out through the side wall, about 5mm from the end of the line.



[Click image for an enlarged view](#)

3.

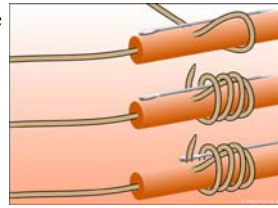
Thread the end of the backing or nylon through the eye of the needle and use the needle to pull about 100mm of backing or nylon through the fly line, out through the side.



[Click image for an enlarged view](#)

4.

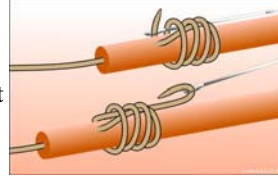
Now lay the needle against the fly line with the eye in line with the end of the line. Make three turns of the backing or nylon around the line and needle, working toward the eye of the needle. Thread the backing or nylon through the eye and withdraw the needle and nylon.



[Click image for an enlarged view](#)

5.

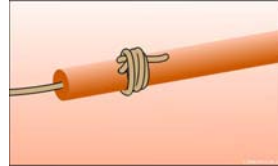
Remove the needle and carefully tighten the turns, taking care that they do not overlap. Do not over-tighten the knot as this can cause a dog-leg in the fly line.



[Click image for an enlarged view](#)

6.

Trim off the tag end of the backing or nylon close to the line.



[Click image for an enlarged view](#)

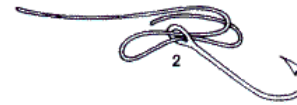


Palomar Knot

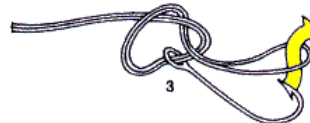
1. Start with plenty of line.



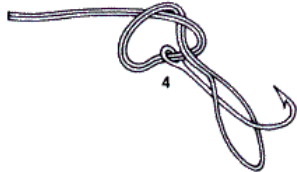
2. Double the line and pass the end through the hook's eye.



3. Tie an overhand knot (*like you were tying your shoe strings*) but do not pull it tight yet.

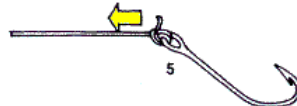


4. Pass the hook through the loop.



5. Pull the loose end of the line to tighten the knot.
Trim the end.

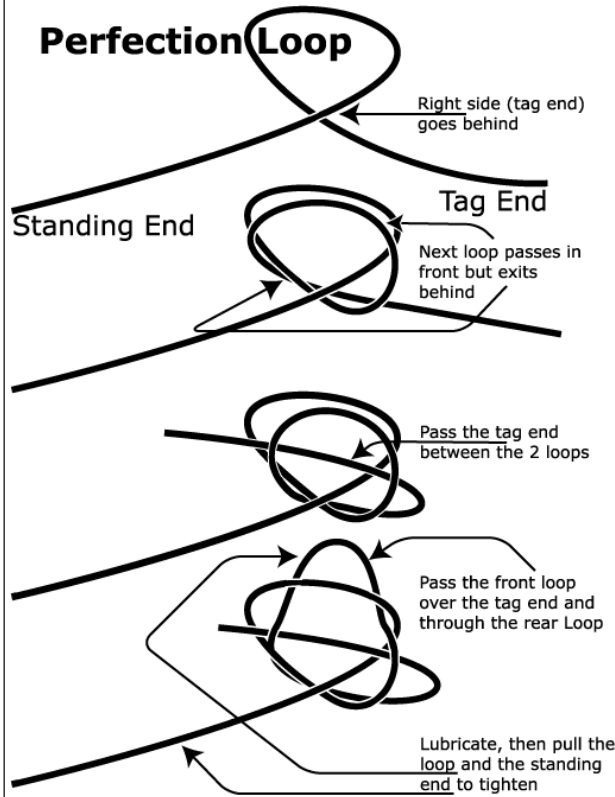
Leave at least 1/8 inch of your line at the knot.



Perfection Knot

The Perfection Loop knot is the perfect knot for the leader butt section when attaching fly lines to leaders with a loop to loop connection.

Although the illustrations seem complicated, the knot is a breeze to tie.



Step 1

With the standing end in your left hand and the tag end in your right form a loop. Make sure the tag end is behind the standing end. Hold the lines in place by pinching with your thumb and index finger.

Step 2

With the lines pinched in your left hand make a loop in front of the first loop with the tag end. Again, make sure the tag end exits behind both loops.

Step 3

Pass the tag end between the 2 loops, continuing to pinch all lines with the left hand.

Step 4

Pass the loop closest to you over the tag end and through the rear loop.

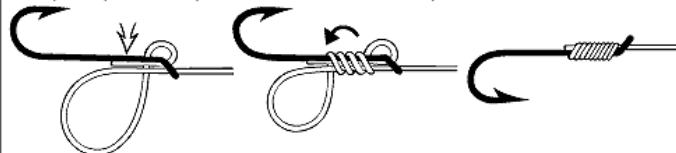
Step 5

As with all knots, lubricate before tightening. Pull the loop (the one passed through the rear loop) and the standing end in opposite directions and tighten down firmly.



Snell Knot

The Snell Knot provides a strong connection when fishing with bait and using a separate length of leader. You can only use a snell with a leader.



- 1.** Insert one end of the leader through the hook's eye extending one to two inches past the eye.
- 2.** Take the part of this loop that is closest to the eye and wrap it over the hook and shank and both ends
- 3.** When the knot is almost tight, slide it up against the eye of the hook. Grip the short end lying

Know Your Knots

Insert the other end of the leader through the eye in the opposite direction pointing toward the barb of hook. Hold the hook and leader ends between thumb and forefinger of your left hand. Leader will hang below the hook in a large loop.

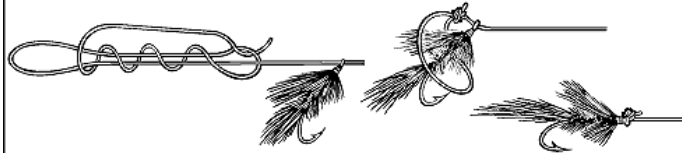
of the leader toward the hook's barb. Wrap for 7 or 8 turns and hold wraps with left hand. Grip the end of leader that is through the eyelet with your right hand and pull it slowly and steadily. Hold the turns with your left hand or the knot will unravel.

along the shank of the hook with a pair of pliers. Pull this end and the standing line at the same time to completely tighten the knot. Trim the tag end.



Specialist Fly Knot

The Specialist fly knot is used to attach the fly to leader.



1. Place leader through fly eyelet and slide fly up the leader out of the way before beginning knot.

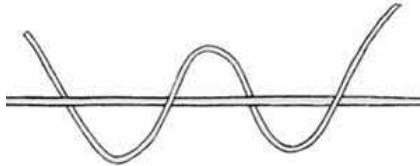
2. Make an oval loop and hold each end while wrapping the leader around the loop center 3 or 4 times.

3. Stick end of leader through loop closest to fly and cinch knot snug.

4. Trim tag end then place the fly through the loop and pull snug.

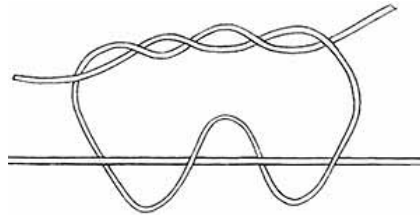
HOW TO TIE A STOP KNOT

Whenever you want to use a sliding float you will need to tie a stop knot on your line that will grip the line without damaging it.



Step 1

Twist a piece of line 2 to 3 times around the main line, at the chosen point



Step 2

Bring both ends around to form a Surgeon's Knot.



Step 3

Tighten into shape bringing the coils close together.



Trilene® Knot

The Trilene Knot is a strong, reliable connection that resists slippage and premature failures. This knot can be used in joining line to swivels, snaps, hooks and artificial lures. The knot's unique double wrap design and ease of tying consistently yields a strong, dependable connection.



1. Run end of line through eye of hook or lure and double back through the eye a second time.

2. Loop around standing part of line 5 or 6 times. Thread tag end back between the eye and the coils as shown.

3. Tighten knot with a steady, even motion without hesitation. Trim tag end leaving about 1/4".



Triple Surgeons Knot

1 Cut off about 36" of leader. Lay the leader and Power Pro together overlapping about 8".

Form an overhand knot in this doubled section by forming a loop, bringing the leader and the end of the Power Pro around and through the loop (treat these two as if they were a single strand). Do not tighten the knot yet.

2 Go through the loop three times, then wet the knot and draw it tight holding both lines at one end of the knot in one hand and both lines at the other end of the line in the other hand.

Trim the tag ends as close as you can without cutting the knot.

3

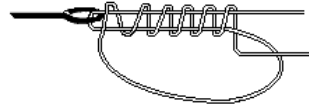
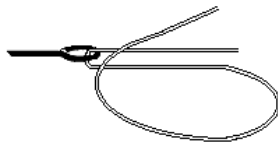
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The Uni-Knot

1. Run line through eye of hook, swivel or lure at least six inches and fold to make two parallel lines. Bring end of line back in a circle toward hook or lure.

2. Make six turns with tag end around the double line and through the circle. Hold double line at point where it passes through eye and pull tag end to snug up turns.



3. Now pull standing line to slide knot up against eye.

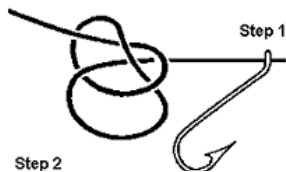
4. Continue pulling until knot is tight. Trim tag end flush with closest coil of knot. Uni-Knot will not slip.



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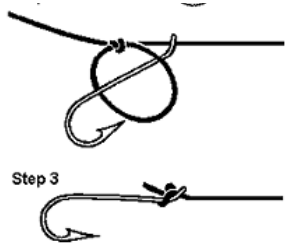
Turtle Knot

Also known as the Turtle Knot, and Major Turle's Knot, it is simplicity itself to tie, but is one of the weakest knots. It should never be used for light lines, and there are better knots for use with heavy ones.



1. Pass the line through the eye of the hook.
2. Make a simple loop.

Know Your Knots



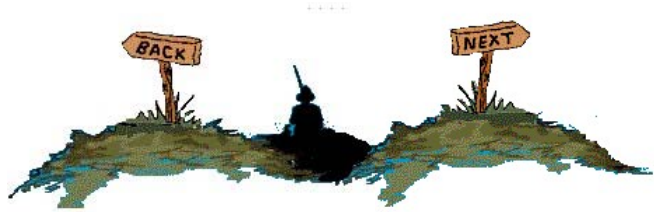
- 3. Carry the end of the line on to make a Simple Overhand Knot upon the loop.
- 4. Pass the loop over the hook.
- 5. Draw up into shape.



Wedge Knot
 The Wedge Knot is a general-purpose connection used in joining fishing line to a leader with a loop.

1. Tie a knot in the end of fly line. 2. Pass the fly line and knot through the leader loop and back around to form a simple knot. 3. Pull both ends to cinch up tight.

Before applying the final pull to tying knots, moisten the knot with saliva so as to lubricate it and make easier the final coiling of the line. Always make sure you do gradual pulls, rather than fast, jerky pulls, as this may lead to line degradation.



If you have any hints, suggestions, techniques or anything that you would like to share or have me put onto this web page, please feel free to [Email me](#)

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