

2010 Knot Guide

Federation of Fly Fishers Twin Tiers Five Rivers Chapter

Illustrations from and modified from www.globalflyfisher.com

The following knots are listed in general importance for beginners to learn.

Note, for strongest knots, lubricate with saliva before tightening. Close knots in one slow and smooth stroke. Both are critically important when using fluorocarbon.

Clinch Knot

Commonly used knot to tie fly to tippet. Though other knots have higher strength or allow fly movement, this is the knot to learn to get started.



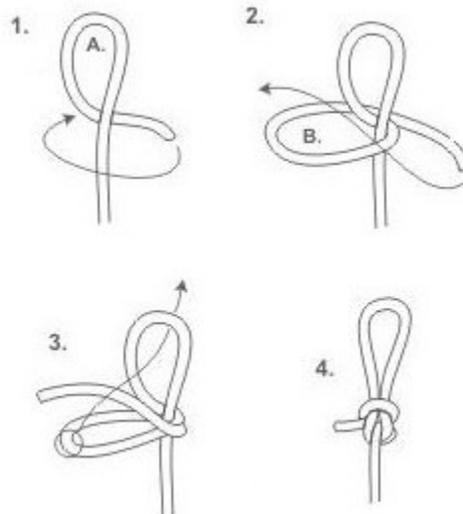
Double Surgeon's Knot

This knot is used to connect tippet to leader. It is strong and the preferred leader knot in connecting different monofilament sizes together.



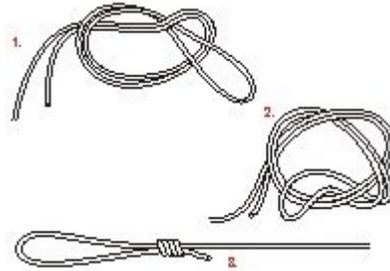
Perfection Loop (Bowline) Knot

The perfection loop is an alternative to the surgeon's loop. It makes a straighter connection – but is a little trickier to tie. For former scouts, this knot is also called a bowline hitch – and is often used for boat moorings or in rescue.



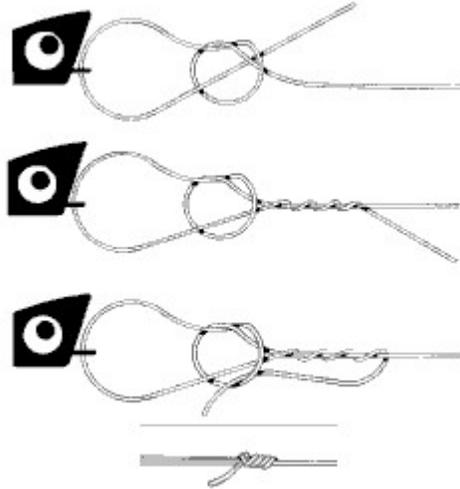
Surgeon's Loop Knot

This knot is used for loop to loop connections – to allow changing leaders and changing fly lines easily.



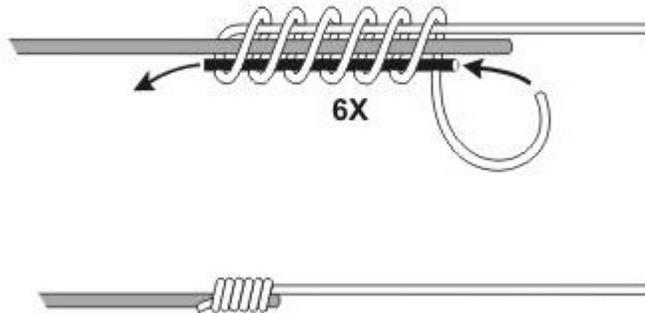
Non-Slip Loop

For connecting flies to tippet, yet allowing easy fly movement. This knot is critically important for saltwater and bass fishing – and improves effectiveness of flies like Clouser minnows, streamers, poppers, woolly buggers, etc. Use 4 to 5 turns (less for heavier mono)



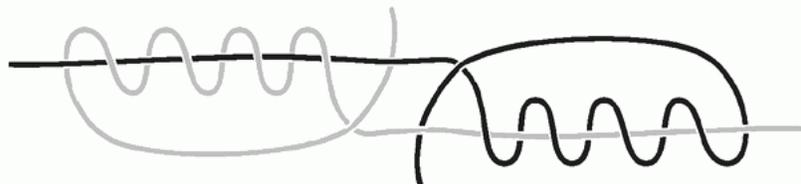
Nail Knot

Used for connecting leader to fly line. Can also connect short heavy mono section to fly line and loop to loop connect leader. Need small diameter tube – hollow stirrers commonly used for coffee or cocktails - come in handy and can be easily carried in vest.



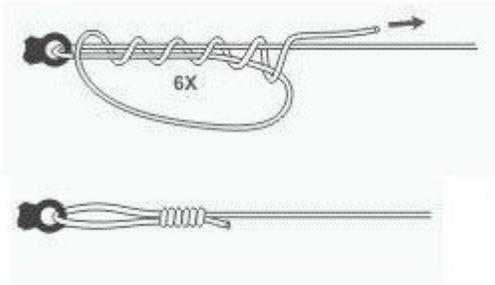
Blood Knot

For building leaders & tying tippet to leaders. The connection is straighter than a surgeons knot, but slightly less strong. Use 4-6 turns, less with larger mono.



Uni Knot

This adjustable loop knot is used to connect backing to a reel arbor and to connect fly to tippet - allowing action in the same way as the non-slip loop – but its loop size is adjustable.

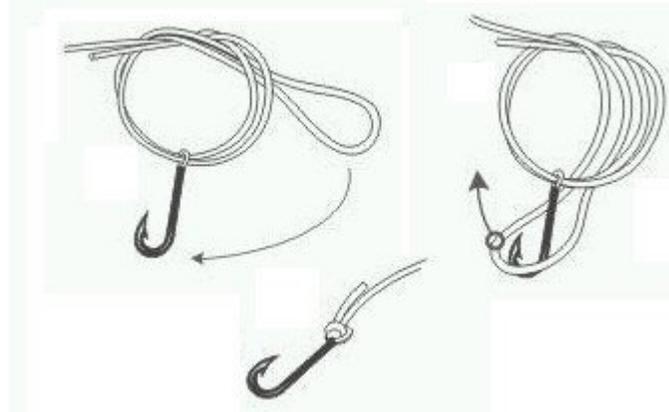


Palomar Knot

Very strong knot.

Requires a bigger hook (to allow two passes through hook eye), but real useful for huge fish.

This is the knot for using on the new gel spun “Spiderwire” high strength material.



Trilene Knot

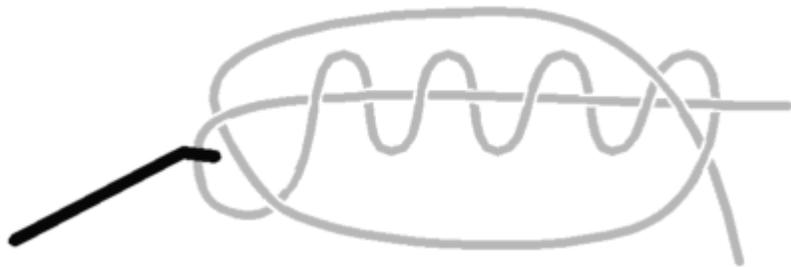
Very strong knot.

Like the Palomar requires two passes through hook eye. Real useful for large fish.



Improved Clinch Knot

A modification of the clinch – believed to be stronger – but not by all



Web resources:

www.globalflyfisher.com good descriptions & diagrams (graphics above taken or modified from this site).

www.animatedknots.com well done step by step photos (used for presentation material).

www.videofishingknots.com well done instructional videos with voices

www.netknots.com good diagrams & instructions

Monofilament Tippet Sizes

X-Rating	Mono Strength	Diameter	Approx Fly Size	Basic Trout	Basic Bass/ Pond
	(lbs)	(inches)			
7X	1.9	.004"	#20-#28		
6X	2.8	.005"	#18-#26		
5X	3.9	.006"	#14-#20		
4X	5.2	.007"	#6-#14		
3X	6.6	.008"	#6-#12		
2X	8.3	.009"	#4-#10		
1X	10	.010"	#4-#8		
0X	12	.011"	#4-#6		
	14	.013"	#8-#12		
	17	.015"	#4-#8		
	19	.017"	#1/0-#4		
	22	.019"	#3/0-#1/0		
	25	.021"	#5/0-#3/0		