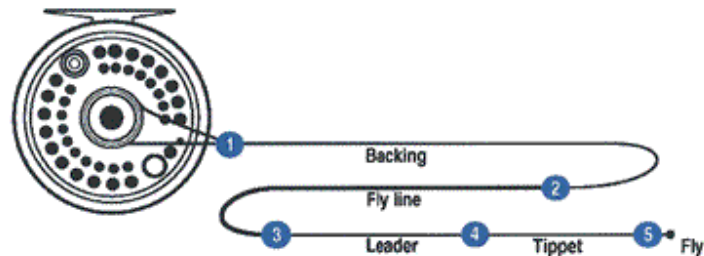


## ~ *Knots to Know* ~

Knowing just a few simple knots is all you need to start fly fishing. Moisten and lubricate all knots with stream water or spit before you pull and cinch them tight!



### **Knot #:**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

### **Purpose:**

- Attach backing to reel
- Attach fly line to backing
- Attach leader to fly line
- Attach tippet to leader
- Attach fly to tippet

---

### **Knot#: 1**

**Knots:** Arbor Knot



The Arbor Knot is very easy to tie and is used to fasten your backing to the reel.

**Step 1.** Wrap the line around the arbor of your spool and tie an overhand knot around the standing line.

**Step 2.** Tie a second overhand knot on the tag end a few inches from the first.

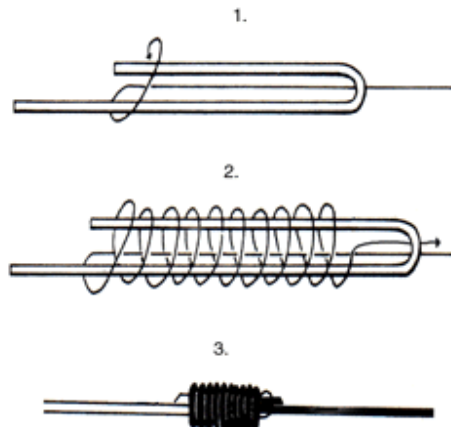
**Step 3.** Moisten the line and the two overhand knots. Tighten the smaller knot and holding the spool in your left-hand pull on the standing line with your right hand sliding the first overhand knot against the arbor of the spool. The second overhand knot will keep this from slipping. Trim the tag end.

**Knot#: 2**

**Knots:** Albright Knot, Nail Knot

The *Albright Knot* is a good knot to attach the fly line to the leader. You can also use the *Nail Knot*.

**Step 1.** Loop the heavier line (wider diameter) and place it between your thumb and index finger of your left hand. Pass the lighter line through the formed loop leaving yourself about 8 inches. Pinch the lighter line in with the line already in your left hand. (See illustration 1)



**Step 2.** Make approximately 10 wraps with the lighter line wrapping away from you and working from left to right. With each wrap, work your thumb and index finger along holding these wraps in place, trying not to let up any pressure on your left hand. On the 10th wrap, come around and then through the remaining loop. Taking the standing line in your right hand pull gently as you push the wraps with your left hand towards the closed loop. Alternate between the end of the lighter line and on the standing part until the wraps are against the tag end. Make sure the wraps do not go over each other and that you don't push them to far. Pull the tag tight then pull on the standing part of both lines until the knot is secure.

**Step 3.** Finally, clip the two short pieces close to the knot

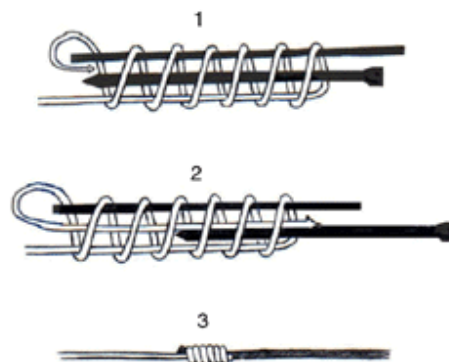
---

**Knot#: 3**

**Knots:** Nail Knot, Loop-to-Loop Connections with the Perfection Loop

With the *Nail Knot*, the angler can use a tube or a needle in replacement of the nail. With a little practice, this knot can be tied very quickly. Most common area for use is attaching the leader to the fly line. It can also be used to attach the fly line to the backing.

**Step 1.** Place a nail between the fly line and leader. Wrap the leader back towards the end of your fly line about 6 times. (See illustration 1)



**Step 2.** Pass the end of your leader back through the loops you just made. After the leader is through, pull on both ends of the fly line and leader trying not to have the loops cross each other. Holding with fingers, remove nail.

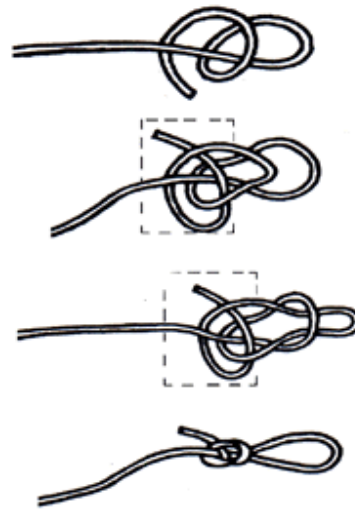
**Step 3.** Moisten and snug down by pulling both ends away from each other. Clip excess line and leader close to the formed knot.

Sometimes used for a quick change of leaders, *Perfection Loops* are very easy to tie. Loop gets tied into end of fly line, and end of leader you are connecting to fly line.

**Step 1.** Take the standing line in your left hand and form a loop by crossing the tag end over itself with your right hand. Pinch between the thumb and index finger in your left hand where it crosses leaving about 5 inches of the tag end exposed to work with. Form a smaller loop in front of the larger loop by bringing the tag end in front of the first formed loop. Pinch this in with the first crossover.

**Step 2.** Take the tag end, wrapping it around the back of both loops and then between the two loops. After you go between both loops add that to what you are pinching down between your fingers.

**Step 3.** With your right hand, reach through the first formed loop taking the second smaller loop between your thumb and index finger and pulls it through the first loop. Moisten and slowly pull on the standing line continuing to hold the smaller loop that you pulled through. Trim the tag end close and the loop knot is complete.



---

**Knot#:** 4

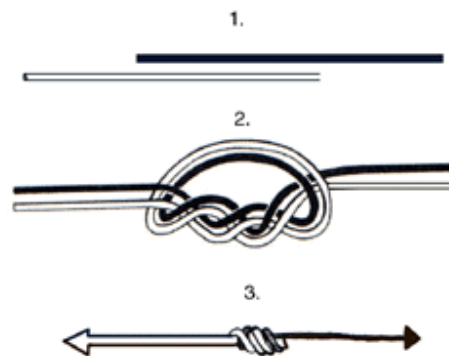
**Knots:** Surgeons Knot, Blood Knot

The *Surgeons Knot* is a very fast and easy knot to tie and is usually preferred more than the blood knot. Great for joining two pieces of mono that are greatly different in diameter. When you building a tapered leader, tied correctly, this knot is generally stronger than the blood knot. Very quick and easy knot for attaching 4X-5X-6X-7X tippet to each other.

**Step 1.** The main line should come in from the left and the line to be attached should come from the right. Overlap the two pieces approximately 6 or so inches. (See illustration 1)

**Step 2.** Pinch the overlapped lines together on the left between your thumb and index finger. Do the same with the sections on the right and make a loop by crossing it over itself. Take the long and short lines that are in your right hand and pass them through the formed loop. around, and back through a second time. (See illustration 2)

**Step 3.** Pull both pieces being held in each hand away from each other closing the knot. Moisten and pull tight. Once this not is secure you can tighten it further by pulling individual pieces. I would not recommend this knot for line over 30lbs because it will be hard to tighten and the strength of the knot will only be there if tightened all the way.

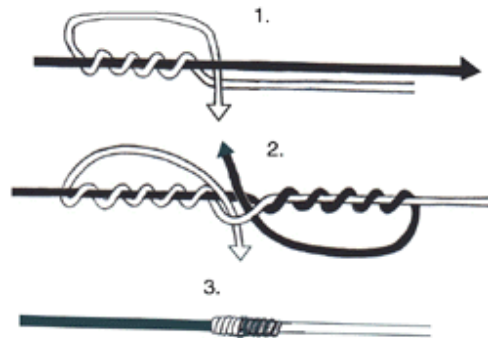


The *Blood Knot* is a knot used for attaching two pieces of monofilament together, primarily for rebuilding tapered leaders. This is an extremely strong knot when formed properly and should be tied with monofilament close in diameter.

**Step 1.** Lay both sections of monofilament across one another. Wrap one section 5-6 times around the other bringing the end back down through the loop formed by both. (See illustration 1)

**Step 2.** Wrap the other line 5-6 times around the remaining portion of the first line and pass its free end up through the formed loop. (See illustration 2)

**Step 3.** Moisten the knot with your mouth, and while holding the long ends pull the knot tight. Clip the short ends close and the knot is complete

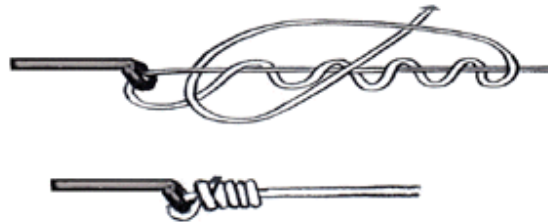


---

**Knot#: 5**

**Knots:** Improved Clinch Knot,  
Palomar Knot

The *Improved Clinch Knot* is used for fastening the leader to the fly. If you are using over 12 Lb. test line, this is not a recommended knot.



**Step 1.** Thread your leader tippet through the eye of the hook. Wrap the end of the leader around the standing line 5 times for lines up to 8lb test and 4 times for lines from 8-12lb test. (You can also turn the hook 5 or 4 times)

**Step 2.** Take the tag end of the leader and pass it through the gap between the eye of the hook and the first wrap. Continue the tag end back up through the main loop just formed.

**Step 3.** Moisten the knot with your mouth, and while holding the hook in your left-hand pull on the standing leader allowing the knot to seat tightly against the hook. Clip the excess line.

The *Palomar Knot* is easy to tie correctly, and consistently the strongest knot. Use for attaching to larger streamers.

**Step 1.** Double about 4" of line and pass the loop through the eye of fishing hook.

**Step 2.** Let the fishing hook hang loose, and tie an overhand knot in the doubled line. Avoid twisting the lines and do NOT tighten the knot.

**Step 3.** Pull the loop end of the line far enough to pass it over the hook, swivel or lure. Make sure the loop passes completely over the attachment.

**Step 4.** Pull both the tag end and the standing line until the knot is tightened. Clip off the tag end of the fishing line.

