

Fishing Knots

The average angler needs perhaps no more than three or four basic knots, but the knot can make all the difference between boating a big fish, or losing it.

I suggest that you select only those few knots that are of the greatest use to you, and practice, practice, practice tying them until they become second nature to you.

It is most important that you use knots that can be tied in an easily remembered manner.

There is little point using a knot that can only be tied by reference to a book.

Knots For Attaching Hooks & Lures

There are many good knots for attaching hooks. Here are some we can recommend.

Clinch Knot

This is probably the most popular fishing knot used today.

When tied properly it is very strong and doesn't slip. It is perfect for lures.

Step 1



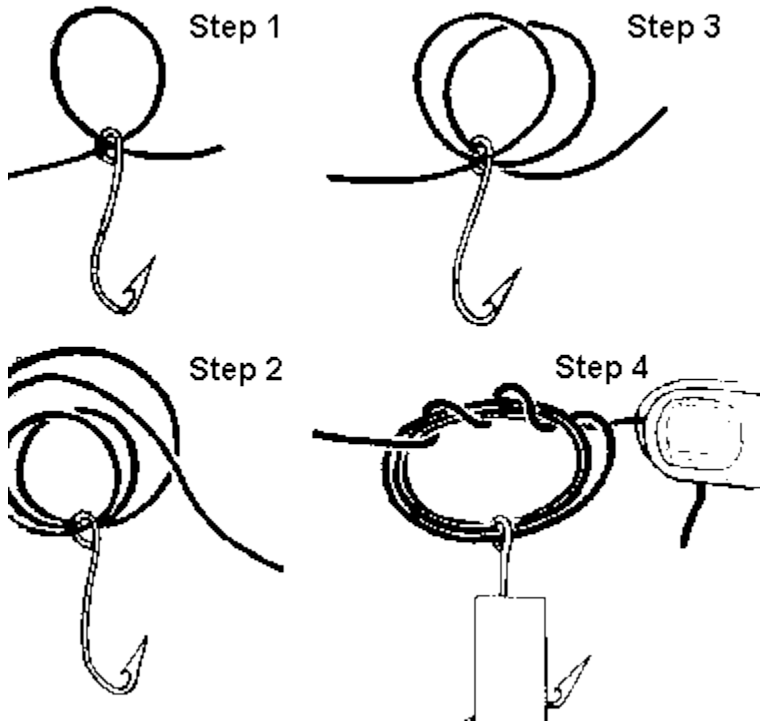
Step 2



1. Pass the line through the eye of the hook, or swivel.
2. Double back. make five turns around the line.
3. Pass the end of the line through the first loop, above the eye, and then through the large loop. Draw the knot into shape.
4. Slide the coils down tight against the eye.

The Jansik Special

Another beautifully simple knot that can be tied in the dark, The Jansik Special is a high strength knot.

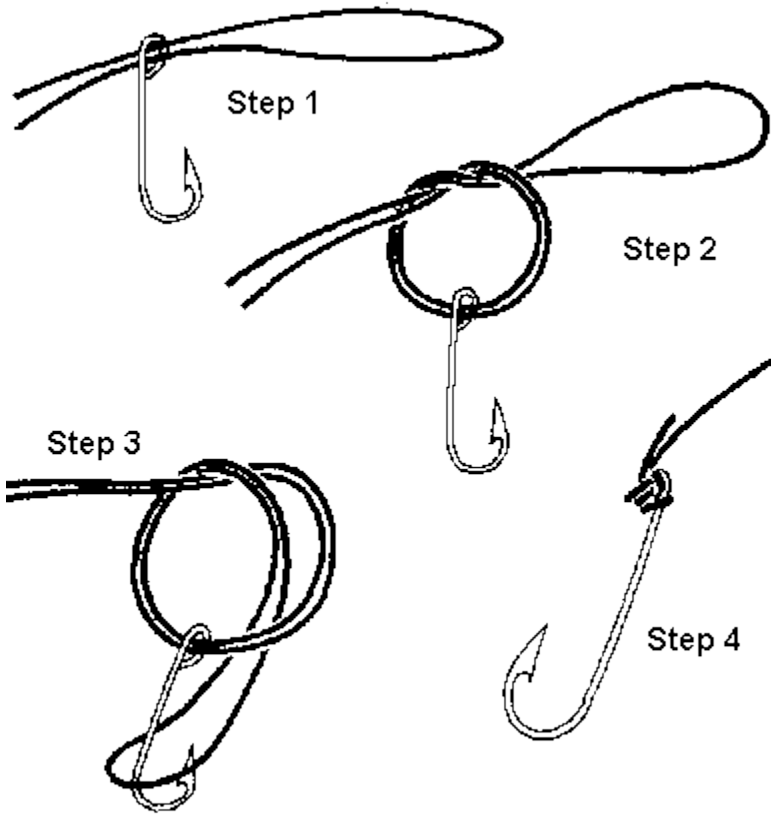


1. Put 15cm of line through the eye of the hook.
2. Bring it around in a circle and put the end through again.
3. Making a second circle, pass then end through a third time.
4. Holding the three circles of line against each other, wrap the end three times around the circles.
5. Either hold the hook steady with pliers, or make it fast to boat's rigging or safety lines.
6. Holding strain on the hook, pull on both ends of the line to tighten.

The Palomar Knot

The Palomar Knot is another very simple knot for terminal tackle. It is regarded by the International Game Fish Association consistently as the strongest knot known.

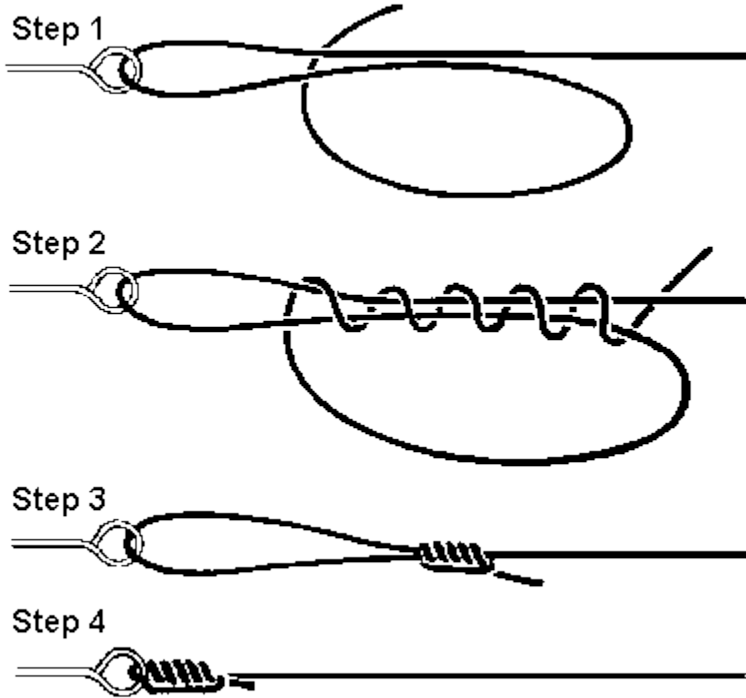
It's great virtue is that it can safely be tied at night with a minimum of practice.



1. Double about 5 inches of line, and pass through the eye.
2. Tie a simple Overhand Knot in the doubled line, letting the hook hang loose. Avoid twisting the lines.
3. Pull the end of loop down, passing it completely over the hook.
4. Pull both ends of the line to draw up the knot.

The Hangman's Knot

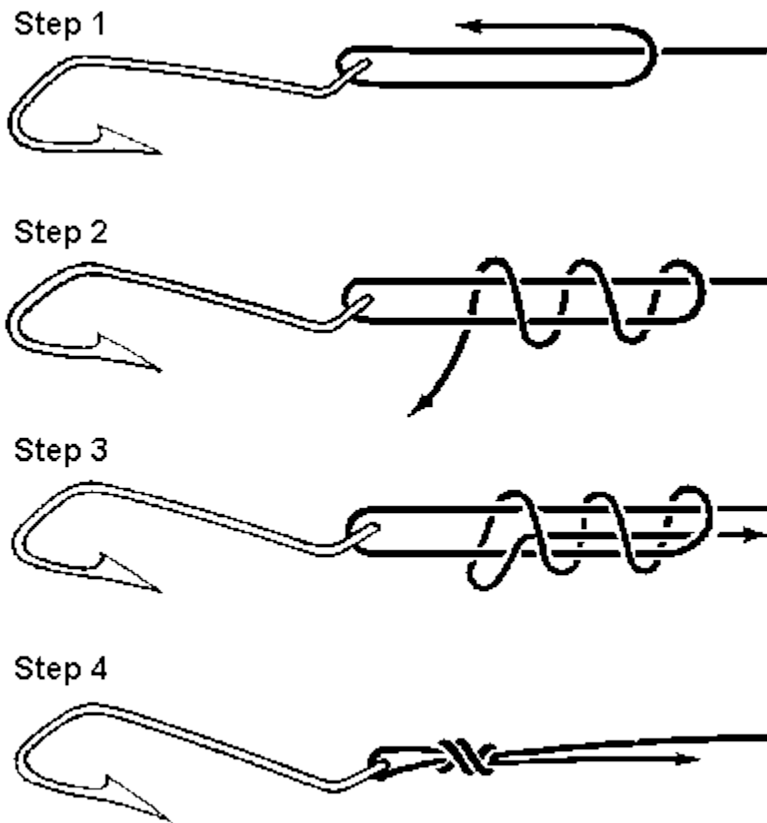
There are at least 6 variations of the Hangman's Knot, - all of them excellent for terminal tackle, swivels and hooks. The "standard" Hangman's Knot holds only five turns when tied in monofilament nylon. If tied in rope, and used for its stated purpose, it takes eight turns.



1. Pass a 15cm loop of line through the eye.
2. Bring the end back on itself, passing it under the doubled part.
3. Make five loops over the doubled part.
4. The formed knot is worked into shape.
5. The knot is sent down the line, against the eye of the hook or swivel.

The Scaffold Knot

This is a good strong knot that is fairly simple to tie. This knot is used by some flathead fishermen.



1. Pass a 15cm loop of line through the eye.
2. Lock the upper part between thumb and forefinger, making a loop.
3. Make two more loops over the double part, holding them too, between thumb and forefinger.
4. Pass the end through the two loops just made, plus the first loop made in step 2.
5. The formed knot can now be drawn into shape, and worked down against the eye of the hook or swivel.

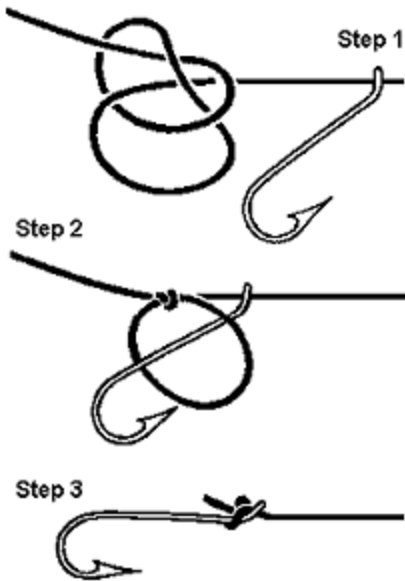
Turle Knot

This knot makes a straight connection through the hook eye that won't cause a small fly to cant or tilt unnaturally. -"John Merwin

1. Thread the leader through the hook eye and form a loop around the leader behind the fly. Pass the tag end twice through the loop, forming a double overhand knot that also serves as a simple slip knot.
2. Hold the loop in your left hand and pull on the tag end with your right hand to tighten the double overhand knot. Now pass the fly through the loop.
3. Pull on the main leader portion to seat the knot around the fly's head right behind the hook eye, adjusting the position with your fingers as you tighten. Trim the tag end.

I have included the still-used Turle Knot for old times sake. Also known as the Turtle Knot, and Major Turle's Knot, it is simplicity itself to tie, but is one of the weakest knots.

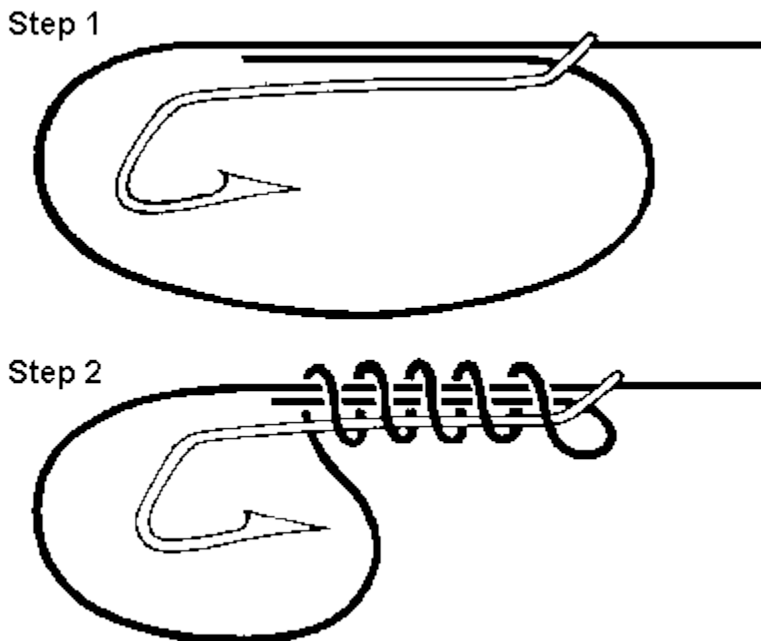
It should never be used for light lines, and there are better knots for use with heavy ones.



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

Snelling A Hook

Snelling a hook is a simple process once you know how it's done.



1. Pass the end of the line, trace or tippet through the eye twice, leaving a loop hanging below the hook.
2. Hold both lines along the shank of the hook.
3. Use the loop to wind tight coils around the shank and both lines, from the eye upwards. Use from 5 to 10 turns.

4. Use the fingers to hold these tight coils in place. Pull the line (extending from the eye) until the whole loop has passed under these tight coils.

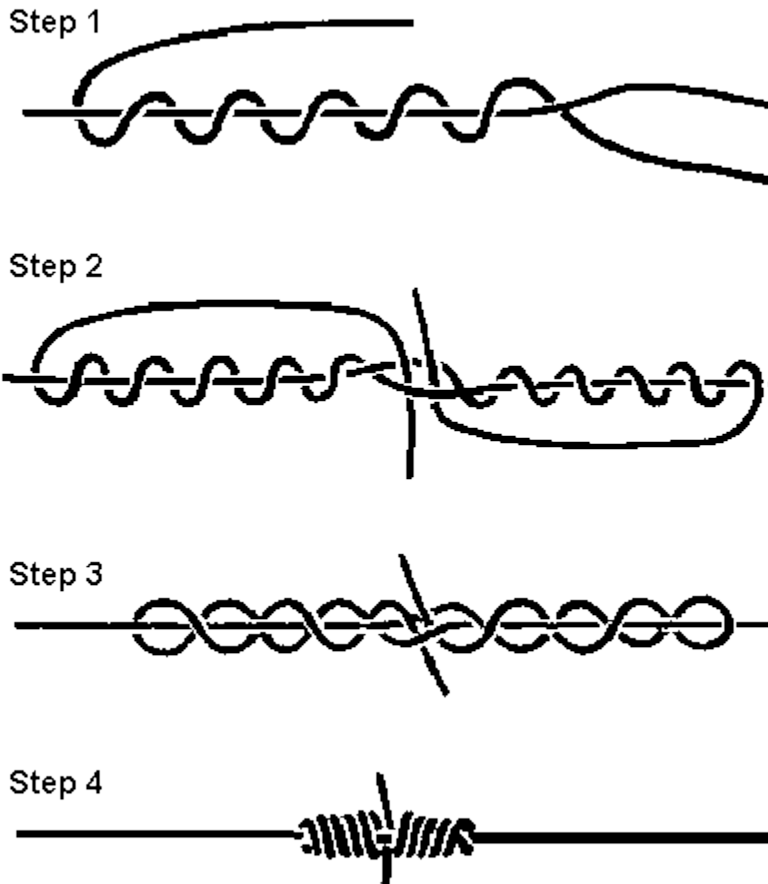
5. With coils drawn up, use pliers to pull up the end of the line.

Joining Line To Line

There are two top grade knots used to join one line to another, where these are approximately of the same thickness. These are the Blood Knot and the Hangman's Knot - also called the Uni Knot by the International Game Fish Association.

When the diameters are very dissimilar, either the Surgeon's Knot should be used, or the thinner line should be doubled where the knot is formed.

The Blood Knot



1. Lie the ends of the two lines against each other, overlapping about 6 inches.

2. Take 5 turns around one line with the end of the other, and bring the end back where it's held between the two lines.

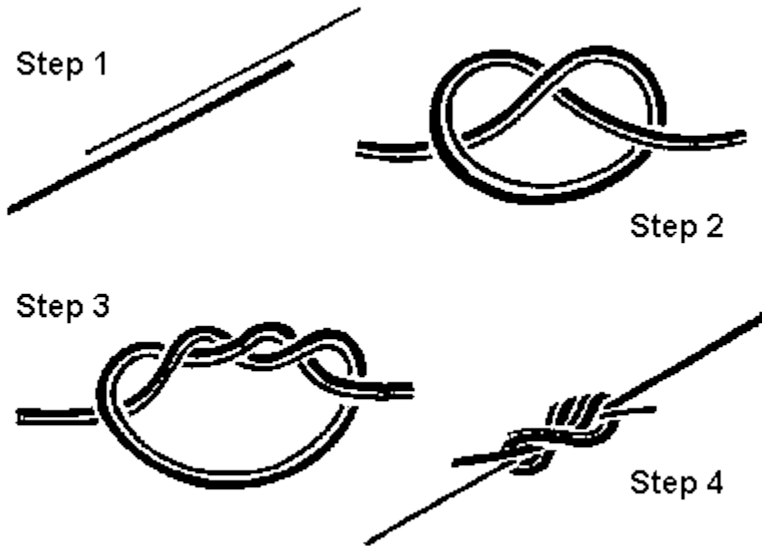
3. Repeat by taking 5 turns around the other line, bringing the end back between the two lines. These two ends should then project in opposite directions.

4. Work the knot up into loops, taking care that the two ends do not slip out of position.

5. Draw the knot up tightly.

The Surgeon's Knot

Earlier mention was made that if the two lines to be joined vary greatly in their diameters, the lesser line may be doubled at the knot, or the Surgeon's Knot may be used. In the latter case, it will probably be necessary to have one of the lines rolled on a spool, or perhaps wrapped on a temporary card, so that it may be passed through the loop.



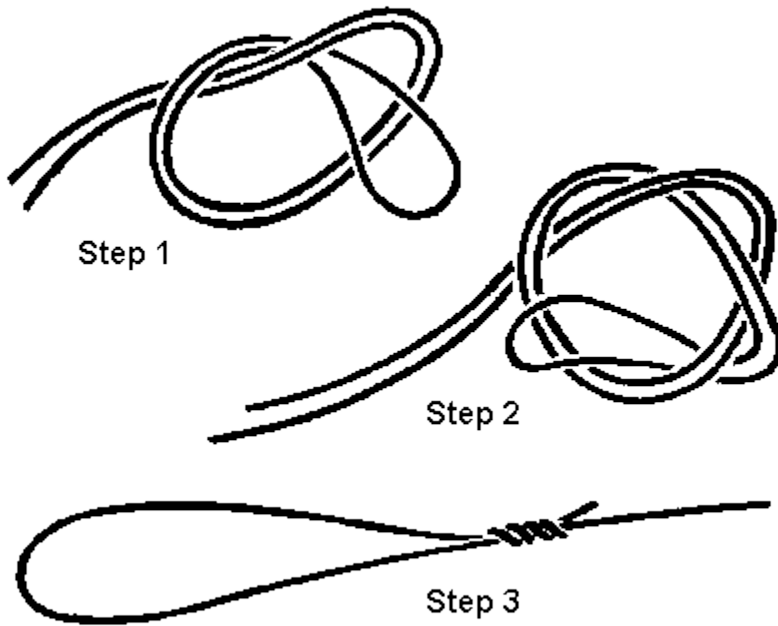
- 1.Lay the two lines against each other, overlapping about 9 inches.
- 2.Working the two lines as one, tie an Overhand Knot. It will be necessary to pull one line (say the leader) completely through this loop.
- 3.Pull the leader through this loop again.
- 4.Pass the other end through the loop.
- 5.The formed knot can now be worked into shape.

Knots For Making Loops

Loops are made for the purpose of attaching leaders, traces or other terminal tackle.

The Surgeon's End Loop

If you need a loop, the Surgeon's End Loop is an easy way to go. It can be tied quickly and in the dark.

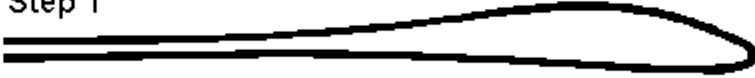


1. Take the end of the line and double it to form a loop of the required size.
2. Tie an Overhand Knot at the desired point, leaving the loop open.
3. Bring the doubled line through the loop again.
4. Hold the line and the end part together, and pull the loop to form a knot.

The Blood Bight Knot

Another end loop can be tied quickly and easily using the Blood Bight Knot.

Step 1



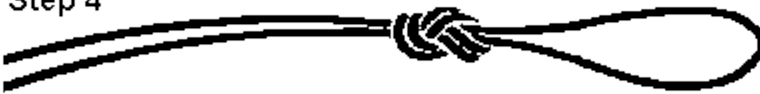
Step 2



Step 3

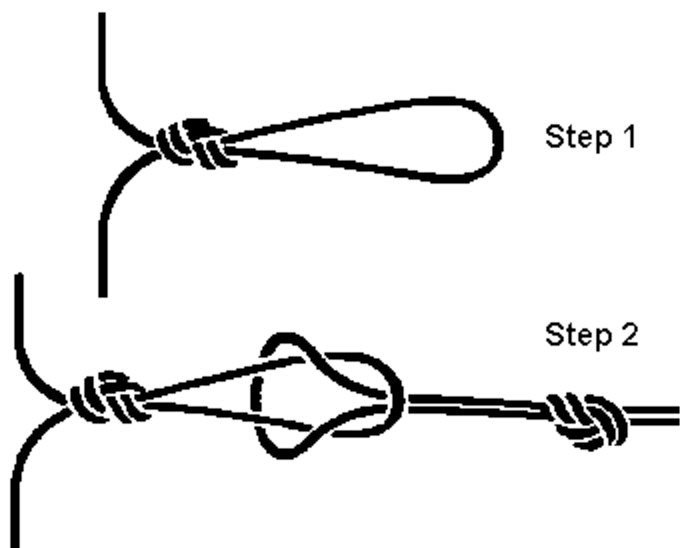


Step 4



1. Double the line back to make a loop of the size desired.
2. Bring the end of the loop twice over the doubled part.
3. Now pass the end of the loop through the first loop formed in the doubled part.
4. Draw the knot up into shape, keeping pressure on both lines.

The Blood Bight Knot is often used for attaching a dropper when fishing deep water with several hooks.



Some anglers attached the hook directly to the end of the loop, which should be at least 30cm from the end of the line. This is not a good practice, especially when the fish are shy. Far better to attach a single strand of nylon to a short Blood Bight Knot, using another Blood Bight Knot, or a Surgeon's Knot.

The Dropper Loop

A better method of forming a loop, or loops, in the line above the sinker is to use the old Dropper Loop. This draws into a knot that stands out at right angles to the line. If desired, the loops can be made long enough to have a hook set on them. And once again, this is not a good practice unless the fish are biting-mad, which they rarely are.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



1. Form a loop in the line.
2. Take hold of one side of the loop, and make 6 or more turns around the line itself.
3. This is the tricky part - keep open the point where the turns, or twists, are being made.
4. Take hold of the other side of the loop, and pull it through the center opening use a finger in this loop so that it is not lost.
5. Hold this loop between the teeth. Pull gently on both ends of the line, making the turns gather and pack down on either side of the loop.
6. Draw up the knot by pulling the lines as tightly as possible. The turns will make the loop stand at right angles to the line.

The Float Stop

The float fisherman uses a running float for casting and general handiness, and stops the float from running up the line by using the Float Stop. It has the advantage that the stop moves readily over the rod guides, but grips the monofilament nylon so tightly that it will not slide over the line. It should be made with about 5 inches of nylon, usually the same diameter as the line itself.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



1. Take 2 turns (3 if necessary) around the main line at the chosen point.
2. Bring both ends around to form a Surgeon's Knot (see above).
3. Tighten into shape bringing the coils close together.